Dear BTSS members –

Welcome to the 2017 winter edition of the BTSS newsletter. The 2017 SOT Annual Meeting is just around the corner, and we look forward to seeing you all in Baltimore. We especially hope to see you all at the Specialty Section reception that will take place on Tuesday, March 14, at 6:00 pm at Hilton Baltimore Key Ballroom 11. The reception is a great venue to network, meet colleagues, and learn more about the activities of the BTSS. Please join us as we will have an exciting guest speaker this year. Continuing in our tradition to host local speakers with scientific topics of local interest, this year Benjamin Reed will be joining us from the regional NASA facilities and will give a presentation on The Evolution of Satellite Servicing. We will also be presenting awards to winners of the 2017 Awards Program. I am happy to announce the winners as follows:

Career Achievement Award: Ann Pilaro, FDA
Outstanding Young Investigator Award: Yu Shrike Zhang, Harvard Medical School
Battelle Posdoctoral Award in Biotechnology: Prathap Kumar Mahalingaiah, Abbvie
Student Achievement Awards: Adhithiya Charli, Iowa State Univ; and Logeswari Ponnusamy, Texas Tech Univ.

Please come out and support your colleagues at the reception as we will be honoring award winners for these prestigious achievements. Back by popular demand we will be providing free drink tickets for all attendees.

As President of BTSS, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the BTSS officers for their service over the past year, which has certainly made my job much easier. Special thanks also go out to the many BTSS members who have volunteered their services for participation in BTSS-sponsored webinars, mentoring events and newsletter authorship. Lastly, we would also like to announce our newly elected BTSS Executive Council members.

Vice President-Elect: Kelly Flagella, Ultragenyx
1st Year Councilor: Robert (Jinze) Li, Genentech
Graduate Student Representative: Joseph Jilek, University of California, Davis

It is also not too early to start planning session proposals for the 2018 SOT Annual Meeting to be held in San Antonio. For anyone interested in sponsoring a Session Proposal for next year’s meeting, the deadline is rapidly approaching and now is the time to start organizing your proposal and arranging potential speakers. For the 2018 meeting, the deadline for proposals is May 15. If you intend to submit a proposal, please consider contacting any of the BTSS council members if you are in need of any assistance. As Council members have some visibility into the reasoning behind prior proposal acceptance/rejections, they are in a unique position to help optimize your chances of success and also can act as a networking resource to help you identify speakers. Should you have questions or ideas for proposals, contact Jorg Blumel (blumel.jorg@gene.com) Program Committee chair, or Janice Lansita (jlansita@toxstrategies.com); it’s not too early to start planning. I’d also like to make everyone aware that for 2018, SOT will be implementing a new pilot program that will provide each Specialty Section with one guaranteed proposal acceptance on a 3 year rotational basis (each SS ranks proposals they are asked to endorse). Therefore, there is increased chance for your proposal acceptance if you align well with the SS’s mission. For 2018, this policy will be applied to the Biotechnology Specialty Section.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the SOT Meeting in Baltimore!

Tom Gelzleichter
President, Biotechnology Specialty Section
2016-2017 BTSS Team

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*Thomas Gelzeichter, Ph.D., DABT*

Vice President
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1. **BTSS Co-Sponsored ACT webinar**

   Topic: Adversity in Nonclinical Reporting: Myths, Legends, and Reality.

   The speaker was Roy Kerlin BVSc, PhD, Diplomate ACVP, Sr. Director of Toxicologic Pathology, Pfizer Inc. Conducted on October 26, 2016.

2. **BTSS endorsed Workshop sessions at SOT meeting, 2017**

   **Monday Afternoon, March 13, 2:00 PM to 4:45 PM, CC Hall A**

   Topic: Bispecific Molecules: Nonclinical and Clinical Development Challenges

   Chairperson(s): Pedro Del Valle, US FDA, Silver Spring, MD; and, Patricia Ryan, MedImmune, LLC, Gaithersburg, MD.

   Endorser(s): Biotechnology Specialty Section, Immunotoxicology Specialty Section, Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section

   **Wednesday Morning, March 15, 9:30 AM to 12:15 PM, CC Ballroom IV**

   Topic: Challenges and Novel Approaches Evaluating Developmental and Reproductive Toxicity of Biotherapeutics

   Chairperson(s): Christopher J. Bowman, Pfizer, Groton, CT; and Joy A. Cavagnaro, Access BIO, Boyce, VA.

   Endorser(s): Biotechnology Specialty Section, Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section, Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section

   **Thursday Morning, March 16 8:30 AM to 11:15 AM, CC Ballroom II**

   Topic: Biological Advances to Help Navigate the Nonclinical Safety Assessment Strategy in Cancer Immunotherapy: Utility, Limitations, and Future Direction

   Chairperson(s): Robert Li, Genentech, South San Francisco, CA; and Jacintha Shenton, Janssen, Philadelphia, PA.

   Endorser(s): Biotechnology Specialty Section and Immunotoxicology Specialty Section
BTSS Reception

This year the BTSS is once again proud to organize the Annual Reception at the 56th Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. This event will highlight some of the events and sessions relevant to our speciality section. Also, this will be a great evening event for socializing with the fellow BTSS members and supporters.

The reception location:

Room: Hilton Baltimore, Key Ballroom 11, Tuesday (03/14/2017), 6-7:30 PM.

We are also very excited to announce our award recipients for this year at our reception.

This year we have a guest, Dr. Benjamin Reed (Deputy Division Director) from NASA working under the satellite servicing projects division. He will be giving his guest lecture on “Satellite Servicing Evolution.” This is definitely going to be new and interesting!!

Looking forward to meeting you all at our reception!
2017 BTSS award Winners

- **Career Achievement Award:**
  Ann Pilaro, FDA

- **Best Paper Award:**

- **Outstanding Young Investigator Award:**
  Yu Shrike Zhang, Harvard Medical School

- **Battelle Postdoctoral Award in Biotechnology:**
  Prathap Kumar Mahalingaiah, Abbvie

- **Student Achievement Awards:**
  Adhithiya Charli, Iowa State University and Logeswari Ponnusamy, Texas Tech University
**BTSS Mentoring Sessions at SOT**

The BTSS was very happy to organize the mentoring events during SOT 2017.

**Lunch and Learn Event**

The lunch and learn event is mainly targeted for the graduate students (mentees) who were interested in planning their career path and needed experts from the fields (academia, industry and government) to clarify some of their questions. The session was very well received by the mentees in the past years and we have around 25 participants from various universities enrolled for this year’s session as well. This platform for discussing career related options provides a great opportunity for the students to have direct interaction with the panel of qualified experts from the field of Toxicology and Biotechnology.

**The expert panel consists of:**

1. Hanan Ghantous, Ph.D. (Toxicologist in the Division of Antiviral Products, US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA).
2. Hong Wang, Ph.D., DABT (Associate Director and Sr. Scientist in Development Toxicology, Safety Assessment at Genentech).
3. Amy M. Sharma, Ph.D. (Lead scientist - Comparative Biology & Safety Sciences at Amgen Inc.)
4. Aileen Keating Ph.D. (Associate Professor, Animal Sciences Department, Iowa State University)

**The session location:** Hilton Baltimore, Key Ballroom 11, Tuesday (03/14/2017), 12:15-2:00 PM.
Coffee with Mentor –

The Coffee with Mentor event is a casual session/meeting between the mentors and mentees, which happens over coffee. A small group of 2-3 mentees will be matched with a mentor from their corresponding career field of interest. The meeting between the mentor and mentees will be decided and scheduled to be conducted during the 56th SOT Annual Meeting at a suitable time and location in accordance to the convenience of the mentor and their respective mentees. The idea of this light and informal mentoring session is to enable network development, which is definitely an instrumental factor for a career path and job search. Around 30 students enthusiastically enrolled to participate in this event and have been designated to their mentors. We would like to convey our sincere thanks to all the mentors for making this event possible and also for their valuable time with the mentees.

Mentors for this event were:

- Thomas Gelzleichter (Genentech)
- Jorg Blumel (Genentech)
- Joseph Francisco (Charles River)
- Janice Lansita (ToxStrategies Inc.)
- Jacintha Shenton (Janssen BioTherapeutics at Janssen R&D.)
- Amy M. Sharma (Amgen Inc.)
- Vijay Kale (Battelle Memorial Institute)
- Prathap Kumar Mahalingaiah (Abbvie)

For membership information and regular updates follow us on our Facebook page -
https://www.facebook.com/btsssot2016/

BTSS FINANCIALS
Net Assets at the end of February 2017: $18,374