

Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section

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The *Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section* newsletter is published 2 times/year (spring and fall) in electronic format. If you would like to share any item of general interest to the specialty section, please send it to Jeff Yourick at (jeffrey.yourick@dtra.mil)

The Mission of DTSS

The objectives of the Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section (DTSS) are to provide a forum for the interaction of individuals involved in risk assessment, pharmacokinetics, dermal penetration/ absorption, hypersensitivity and dermal toxicity, regulatory issues, basic skin biology and other professionals working in the field of dermal research. Members who wish to receive more information on the specialty section should contact George DeGeorge by e-mail or any of the other Officers.



President's Message



George L. DeGeorge, PhD, DABT DTSS President

As the President of the Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section (DTSS), on behalf of the Executive Council, I'd like to recognize the contributions of the leadership that has guided DTSS since its inception in 2000. Since that time, we have had tremendous contributions from

many leaders in the field of dermal toxicology that have been willing to share their busy scientific lives as officers and committee members in our specialty section. We thank them! We appreciate their efforts!

The purpose of the DTSS is to serve as a focal point for SOT members interested in Dermal Toxicology and provide an environment for networking and research collaboration. My personal goals for this year are 1) to increase and enhance student participation and 2) to encourage participation in the exciting opportunities to enhance visibility of Dermal Toxicology that are becoming available.

Our membership has increased to 152 members. Specialty Section membership (first one) is free for students, and it's a great way for them to get to know people in the field, network and find jobs. Please encourage all your students and postdocs to join so they can also compete for travel and poster/paper awards.

One of the most important functions of the Specialty Sections is to develop proposals for scientific sessions at the annual meetings. Bill Reifenrath (President Elect) is the chair of the Program Committee and he is responsible for facilitating development of proposals for Symposia, Workshops, and Continuing Education Courses for the 2010 meeting. Please contact Bill if you would like to participate in the Program Committee or have ideas for proposals.

We have an informative Newsletter that is sent to the Specialty Section membership at least twice a year. In one issue of this Newsletter, published papers in the area of dermal toxicology over the past year

by all Specialty Section members are listed. Jeff Yourick (VP-elect) is chair of the Communication Committee that is responsible for the Newsletter and the Web site. Please contact Jeff if you have announcements or ideas for the newsletter or Web site. If you have any ideas about how DTSS can serve you better, please contact me or one of the other members of the executive council.

Best Regards,
George DeGeorge
DTSS President

Announcements

Mark your calendars. Our DTSS Reception and Business Meeting will be held on Monday evening, March 8, from 6 to 7:30 pm. We hope to see everybody attend and especially to support our DTSS award winners.

Awards Awards are discussed in a separate section, but we want to take this opportunity to thank Battelle via Carol Sabourin, for continuing with two \$2500 Battelle student research awards.! While we are giving thanks, thanks also to MB Laboratories via George DeGeorge, Stratacor, Inc. and Port Royal Research via Bill Reifenrath, Sinclair Research via Marc Tayman, and Informa via Wally Hayes for continuing to provide money to support DTSS awards.

Program Committee



Bill Reifenrath

DTSS President Elect

Program – SOT 2010 Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, DTSS members submitted some excellent program proposals for this meeting. It appears that several other sections did also and the competition was steep. The Program Committee reported that they were able to select fewer than half of the submitted

proposals. So, we will have two DTSS-endorsed programs at the meeting this year: a workshop, co-chaired by Carol Sabourin and Jeff Yourick, entitled “Systems Biology Approach to Understanding Cell Signaling in Dermal and Ocular Toxicity”, and a workshop co-chaired by Bill Reifenrath and John Ross, entitled “The Process of Defining Risk for Environmental Chemicals Having Significant Skin Exposure and Absorption Potential.” Thanks to Carol, Jeff, Bill and John and congratulations on being selected.

One of the most important contributions of our Specialty Section is the active participation in the scientific program at the national meeting. Our task is to put together suggested sessions (including speakers) for symposia, workshops, roundtables and continuing education courses for the Annual Meetings. In the past our Specialty Section has made important contributions primarily by the initiative of our individual members coming forward with sessions and speakers. We would like that to continue, but we would also like to try a more “global” or “top down” approach to brainstorm important topics in the skin area and then try to identify individuals who could be session chairs and come up with speakers. The 2011 meeting seems like a long way away, but we need to submit our list of recommended sessions next spring shortly after the 2010 annual meeting. If you are interested in serving on this committee or already have a session in mind please contact:

William G. Reifenrath
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Program Committee Chair

Communications Committee



Jeff Yourick Vice President

The communications committee puts together this newsletter and keeps the Dermal Specialty Section website up to date. Check it out at: <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/dtss/index.html>

We are always looking for information to share with members, such as meetings, announcements, job openings, postdoctoral positions, etc. that can be posted on the website or included in the newsletter. We are hoping to include updates on hot topics in dermal toxicology and other updates and information of interest to our members. If you have information or new ideas/suggestions for inclusion in the newsletter contact:

Jeff Yourick
jeffrey.yourick@dtra.mil

Special Reports

Old Lab Rat Tales

At our last DTSS Reception at the Annual SOT meeting, Tom Franz was one of our guests, and I had a chance to visit with him briefly about bygone days of dermatology research at Letterman Army Institute of Research (LAIR), at the Presidio of San Francisco. Tom arrived at LAIR in 1967 to join a team of 4 researchers headed by the late Marion Sulzburger, who was one of the pillars of dermatology and dermatology research in the United States. Most will cite Marion as one of the five greats in American dermatology of the 20th century. He was European-trained, former head of the Department of Dermatology at New York University School of Medicine, and came to LAIR upon his “retirement”. He was ideally suited for the position as he had served in Pacific during World War II and had firsthand knowledge of the skin problems faced by American soldiers in Vietnam as a result of the high heat and humidity they encountered there. Dermatology research was focused on malaria, friction blisters, fungal infections, immersion foot, mosquito repellents, etc., and it was during this time that Tom started his skin permeability studies that eventually

led to the development of the Franz Cell. It was Dr. Sulzberger's instruction to Tom that led to the development of the Cell. He felt that one of the reasons the treatment of fungal skin infections was so poor was the lack of adequate penetration of the drug into the skin. He wanted Tom to initiate studies into the permeability of the skin, but not do it the way Blank and Scheuplein did. That is, don't mount skin between two aqueous phases; the skin is dry on the outside. Study it under realistic conditions. Skin samples (actually pure stratum corneum) were frequently obtained from blisters. Friction blisters were always a problem with new combat boots and could be reproduced in the laboratory using the eraser end of a pencil and rapidly twisting it back and forth. Miliaria rubra, or "prickly heat" was studied by wrapping the entire trunk of volunteers in Saran Wrap.

Tom's office and laboratory were in an old military barracks surrounded by a tennis court, greenhouse, and officer's club. In those days, Letterman Army Hospital was housed in a 2 story wooden complex, typical of the sprawling design of World War II hospitals that hoped to limit damage from aerial attack by being spread out. A new high rise hospital was completed later in the 60's and dermatology research and LAIR were moved into the old hospital. I did not arrive at LAIR until the fall of 1975, when I interviewed for my first real job with the late Colonel Bill Akers, who headed dermatology research. I remember Bill's office was set up something like a small sunken living room, and there were so many papers scattered about the floor, that it reminded me of stepping into a Nebraska snow drift. A new 300,000 square foot laboratory building was completed on the Presidio in 1975 and dermatology research moved into the new building the following year. In the early 90's dermatology research was discontinued at LAIR and shortly thereafter the hospital and lab research buildings were abandoned by the military. The Presidio itself was given to the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Authorities from GGNRA declared that the new hospital and lab buildings were of no historical importance and these buildings were torn down. Tom's

old laboratory was torn down long ago along with the greenhouse, where flowers were once grown for the hospital patient's rooms. The only thing that remains today is the tennis court.

Many thanks to Dr. Thomas Franz, MD, Dr. Peter Schmid, Ph.D., and Ms. June Jaeger for filling in the gaps in the old lab rat's memory. I hope to see you all at the next SOT meeting and the DTSS reception.

by **William Reifenrath**

Treasurer's Report



Carol Sabourin
DTSS Secretary/Treasurer

The last Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section financial summary provided by SOT was November 2009 showing net assets of \$14,049.11.

Student Activities

A major goal of the SOT Specialty Section Student Representatives has been to increase student membership in the specialty sections. We determined that more students may join a specialty section if additional information about each group was provided to prospective members than just a listing of the names of the sections. A good starting point was the Student/Postdoc Mixer during the 2006 SOT Annual Meeting where each representative presented a poster providing information about their specialty section. The DTSS poster attracted a number of students and each student was invited to enter into a drawing for an IPOD by answering some general questions about the skin. In addition, the SOT student newsletter that was distributed this fall contained a paragraph about each specialty section, including its general purpose, interests, member information and student awards.

Students please visit with our DTSS Student Representatives at the 2010 Annual meeting to further discuss your potential involvement in DTSS.

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Lauren Mordasky Markell
Student Representative
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Student Research Grants

The Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section is pleased to announce we are able to continue to support two research grant awards sponsored by Battelle-DTSS. Each grant is awarded the amount of \$2,500. An awardee of this research grant must send a report of accomplishments to the DTSS after completion of the selected research project. These grant awards will be presented at the March Annual Meeting of the SOT in Salt Lake City.

Student Awards

Our Section is again sponsoring Student Awards in recognition of outstanding papers (poster or platform) in the field of dermal toxicology that will be presented at the 2010 Annual SOT Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. The Student Awards will be presented at the DTSS Reception on Monday evening, March 8, 2010. Winners will receive a certificate and cash award of \$500.



Jens T Mortensen
DTSS Senior Councilor
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DTSS Best Paper Award

The Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section is once again able to present our fourth annual "Paper of the Year" Award in recognition of an exceptional recent publication in the field of skin toxicology and pharmacology. The nominations are in the hands of the awards committee and the winner will be announced at the DTSS reception. The award will

consist of a plaque and a \$500 honorarium.

Last year, the DTSS selected recipients for two Best Abstract Student Awards, one winner for the DTSS Best Paper Award and announced the winner of the Informa Best Paper Award. For more information contact Jens Mortensen.

Announcements

Informa

We hope to have Informa (Taylor and Francis) Publishers again sponsor an award for the Best Dermatological Paper in Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology. The winner of the best paper will be honored at the dermal specialty section annual meeting with a certificate and a one-year subscription to the journal.

DTSS Members - Would you like to become more active in DTSS?

If you have any suggestions or recommendation on how to make our specialty section better or better able to serve your needs, please email your suggestions to:

George L. DeGeorge
DTSS President
degeorge@mbresearch.com

Send program suggestions to:

Bill Reifenrath
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