Incoming President’s Message

Submitted by Rafael A. Ponce, PhD.

As I gather my thoughts after the celebration of the 30th birthday of the ITSS at the SOT Annual Meeting, I am incredibly proud of how our members and the discipline of immunotoxicology are so prominently impacting public health, the development of new treatments for serious disease, and in contributing to basic science. These vital contributions, and the growing prominence of our discipline in many areas of public health, research, and clinical practice, are placing increasing demands on us as we consider how to stay current with recent research and evolving methods, and the novel technologies that press against the bounds of our understanding. This pace of change and the access to information challenge us to remain current, and the ITSS Executive Committee is committed to ensuring that we are evolving new ways for our members to stay informed and to recognize our members for outstanding achievements and contributions as immunotoxicologists.

Last year, under the leadership of Danuta Herzyk, the ITSS streamlined its structure under four Committees (Awards, Communication & Membership, Education, and Program) and generated Best Practice Guides for activities and responsibilities of Awards Committee and Program Committee. In addition, the ITSS initiated a new “Mentor – Student/Postdoc Event” with a pilot meeting organized prior to the Annual Reception.

Dr. Rafael Ponce
President, ITSS
2015-2016
This event provided an informal discussion between young career scientists (students and post-docs) and established scientists practicing immunotoxicology in academia, government, contract research, and industry (thanks Ashwini!). In addition to these achievements, the ITSS was prominent as a contributor to the scientific program at the Annual Meeting with three symposia, two CE courses and workshops (each), and a roundtable. The contributions from our membership to the Annual Meeting were truly outstanding.

The ITSS Executive Committee is composed of both returning members, who provide continuity, and new members, who bring fresh ideas to the table. We congratulate and welcome Victor Johnson (as VP Elect), Kristen Mitchell (Secretary-Treasurer, Communications & Membership Committee Co-Chair) and Haley Neff-LaFord (Junior Councilor) as newly elected members of the Executive Committee. Thank you for your engagement and involvement with our Specialty Section. We also recognize the achievements and contributions made by Danuta Herzyk (who is now Past President, Councilor) and Jamie DeWitt (who retired from the ITSS as Senior Councilor). It is inspiring to me to have been able to work closely with both of you. Thank you for your efforts to shepherd our Specialty Section into its fourth decade!

Turning to the year ahead, the ITSS leadership and Committees are considering new opportunities for member engagement, education, and interaction. Of particular interest are new opportunities for basic and advanced education opportunities in immunotoxicology, outreach to new members, and collaboration (both externally and with other SOT committees and specialty sections). The primary mission of our specialty section is to ensure that our members have the means to interact and thrive, tap into our collective expertise, and share new research insights. While we have an active and engaged Executive Committee, we encourage and welcome your input and involvement. Please feel free to contact any of us on the Executive Committee if you have thoughts or concerns.

In addition, if you have news, including article submissions or publications, that you would like to share with our community, please send to Ashwini Phadnis (phadnis@msu.edu) or Kristen Mitchell (kristenmitchell@boisestate.edu), as Co-Chairs of the Communications and Membership Committee. On behalf of the ITSS Executive Committee, we look forward to another productive and inspiring year for our specialty section. Many thanks for all you do to make our group so very special.

Rafael Ponce, PhD
President, ITSS (2015-2016)

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**Outgoing President’s Message**

*Submitted by Danuta Herzyk, Ph.D*

It was a great honor to serve as President of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section over the 2014-2015 term, and to work with a wonderful group of officers and members of our section. I have truly enjoyed this experience and want to thank the Executive Committee members for their support and great collaboration.
At the same time, the continuation and expansion of many activities undertaken by the new ITSS Executive Committee led by the current President, Rafael Ponce, is already evident and I look forward to further participation in the work and life of the ITSS.

Wishing the ITSS a growing success!
Danuta Herzyk

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**Student & Postdoctoral Report**

*Submitted by Aimee Hillegas*

Hello to all student and postdoctoral members of the ITSS! I hope you are having a great and productive summer!

I would also like to thank everyone who made it to the big Student/Postdoc mixer during the 54th SOT meeting in San Diego. For the first time, the Immunotox Specialty Section hosted a mentoring session for grad student and postdoctoral members prior to the annual reception. We had a great turnout with ~ 20 students/postdocs who were able to speak with members of the ITSS Executive Committee with a wide range of backgrounds (Academia, Industry, and Government) and learn how these Executive Committee members got started in their career and what led them to their current positions. If you were able to attend, keep an eye out for information regarding the 2nd Annual ITSS Specialty Section Mentoring Session to be held next year at the 55th Annual SOT Meeting in New Orleans!

*Also, Congratulations to our Student/Postdoc Award Winners!*  
**Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee Award**  
Dr. Imir Metushi for “The Use of Animal Models in Investigating the Mechanism of Idiosyncratic Drug-Induced Hepatotoxicity”  

**Best Presentation by a Student Award**  
**First Place:** Carrie Long, West Virginia University, for “Increased Expression and Immunoregulatory Potential of MicroRNA 210 in a Murine Model of TDI Sensitization”  
**Second Place:** Alexandra Turley, Michigan State University, for “The Food Additive tBHQ Inhibits Activation of Primary Human CD4T Cells”  
**Third Place:** Sarah Attreed, New York University, for “Exposure to Produced Water from “Fracking” Induces Immunotoxicity in Male Mice”

We would also like encourage new students and postdocs to engage actively in the ITSS. You can do so by volunteering for a committee of your interest. These activities can help you connect with fellow immunotoxicologists and give you experience to state on your CV!

SOT and the Continuing Education Committee invite the Immunotox Specialty Section to register for online continuing education courses offered by CEd-Tox. Currently there are approximately 40 online courses available for viewing: [http://www.toxicology.org/education/ce/onlineCourses.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/education/ce/onlineCourses.asp). A few of these courses may be of special interest to Immunotoxicology Specialty Section members.
New World of Cancer Immunotherapy: Challenges in Bench to Bedside Translation (2015)
Drug Hypersensitivity Reactions: Risk Assessment and Management (2011)
Comparative Biology of the Lung (2010)

Immunotoxicology Specialty Section
Committee Lists – 2015/2016

Awards Committee
Cheryl Rockwell
Haley Neff-LaFord
Aimee Hillegas
M. Firoze Khan
Jessica Lynch
Berran Yucesoy
Gary Burleson
Rafael Ponce
Peyton Myers

Program Committee
L. Peyton Myers
M. Firoze Khan
Saurabh Chatterjee
Berran Yucesoy
Marc Pallardy
Rochelle Mikkelsen
Susan McKarns

Education Committee
Cheryl Rockwell
Ratanesh Seth
Susan McKarns
Joe Zagorski
Aimee Hillegas
Ashwini Phadnis
Yu Feng
Bassam Kashgari
Alex Turley

Communications & Membership Committee
Ashwini Phadnis
Jiajun Zhou
Susan McKarns
Kristen Mitchell
Haley Neff-LaFord
Kaulini Burra

If you would like to join a committee, there are still openings on the Communications & Membership and Education Committees.

Please contact the ITSS Secretary/Treasurer or the Chairperson of the committee(s) if you are interested in joining.
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MPI Research located in Mattawan, MI is currently seeking an enthusiastic immunotoxicologist to join our Biomarker and Investigative Pathology team. Successful candidate should be familiar with the design, conduct, analyses, and interpretation of mechanistic studies for understanding alterations in innate and adaptive immunity. In addition, the candidate should be familiar with a broad base of immunotoxicology methods in various laboratory animal species, including but not limited to flow cytometry, cell proliferation and ligand binding assays. Candidate will join a team of veterinary pathologists, biomedical scientists, and toxicologists in support of preclinical drug development studies. Requirements: PhD in Immunology, 1-2 years’ experience in Immunology, Immunotoxicology, or related field. Previous experience in toxicology, biopharmaceutical development or CRO environment is desirable.

If you are interested in this position please visit our website: www.mpiresearch.com/careers
MPI Research is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer. Thank you for your interest in joining the team at MPI Research.
MPI Research is an EO employer – M/F/Veteran/Disability.

Principal Scientist, Immunotoxicologist OR Senior Principal Scientist, Immunotoxicologist - Non-Clinical Drug Safety - Boehringer Ingelheim, Ridgefield CT USA

Qualified candidate will be hired at the appropriate level commensurate with education/experience.

Description:
This senior laboratory position supports R&D projects to improve safety assessments during discovery, development and clinical development phases with a specific focus on immunology and immunotoxicology. The incumbent develops and communicates immunotoxicology strategy and applies accepted approaches and/or develops novel immunology approaches to achieve project goals. This includes prioritization of projects and supervision of research scientists assigned to projects.

Duties & Responsibilities:
Assumes leadership role as primary immunotoxicology subject matter expert to cross-functional and cross-therapeutic area R&D projects and contributes to overall program goals. Directs and supervises junior scientific staff in the conduct of established immunology or immunotoxicology experiments (in vitro/in vivo) in support of small molecules and biologics. Lead in proposing and implementing new experimental designs and methodologies to understand immunotoxicity mechanisms and risks (i.e. immune stimulation/suppression).
Principal Scientist, Immunotoxicologist Requirements
PhD, DVM degree or equivalent with 5+ years of relevant experience in immunology or immunotoxicology

Senior Principal Scientist, Immunotoxicologist Requirements:
PhD, DVM degree or equivalent with 7+ years of relevant experience in immunology or immunotoxicology in addition to experience in lab management

Scientist IV, Cellular Immunologist – Boehringer Ingelheim, Ridgefield CT USA

Job Description
Description:
Boehringer Ingelheim’s nonclinical drug safety is seeking a talented and motivated senior level Cellular Immunologist who will provide comprehensive scientific and technical expertise in cellular immunology. This position requires strong expertise in flow cytometry applications with experience in cell imaging techniques a desired plus. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development, qualification and execution of high value, fit-for-purpose cell-based immunoassays to support Boehringer-Ingelheim’s biologic and small molecule candidates in development. The candidate will have a critical role in the development and implementation of established and novel flow cytometry assays, data analysis and generation of technical reports. Candidate will also interface with contract labs for outsourced method transfer and data oversight and review. Candidate must have proven experience in the delivery of flow cytometry-based assays for use in preclinical studies, and possess knowledge and understanding of cellular imaging techniques, to enable achieving project timelines and milestones.

Requirements:
Bachelor’s degree with 10+ years experience or Master’s degree with 6+ years experience in a relevant scientific discipline such as Immunology, Cell Biology or Biochemistry with pharmaceutical or biotech experience.
Demonstrates experience in flow cytometry operation, maintenance, assay development and optimization, data analysis and interpretation.
Knowledge in the development, characterization, and implementation of cellular immunoassays strongly desired.

Contact:
Haley Jaroski
Talent Acquisition Recruiter for Science
Cielo Partner on behalf of Boehringer Ingelheim
215-630-9746
haley.jaroski.ext@boehringer-ingelheim.com

If you are aware of a job opening in the specific area of Immunotoxicology that you would like to see posted here, please email the details to Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe at phadnisa@msu.edu.
Each awards cycle, the Awards Committee receives a high number of excellent nominations. A high number of nominations indicates that not only do we have members who are doing amazing work, but that we have members who are willing to nominate their students, post-docs, and colleagues. However, it can be challenging for the members of the awards committee to rank the various nominees and determine the award recipients. Although scoring criteria are clear for all of the awards so that each member of the awards committee evaluates the strengths and weaknesses appropriately, they may each value strengths and weaknesses slightly differently. Most of the time, these small differences in valuation are minimized by averages, but occasionally, final ranks must be confirmed by additional scoring techniques. The sum total of points given by each awards committee member as well as the average relative ranking of each nominee by awards committee members can help the chair of the awards committee determine if the average is fair and equitable to all nominees, especially for scores that have large standard deviations or that are separated by very few points. The update to the Awards Committee Best Practices document drafted by Peyton Myers and the 2014-2015 Awards Committee includes a scoring template with these suggested scoring approaches. In cases where scores are extremely close, tied, or highly disparate, members of the Awards Committee schedule a conference call to reach consensus. In the years that I have served on the Awards Committee, scores are usually in agreement for the highest and lowest scoring nominations and discussion is needed to reach agreement for third place awardees. All members of the Awards Committee understand how precious these awards are for nominees and do their absolute best to ensure fairness and equity in the process. So please, keep the Awards Committee busy and send in those nominations when you see the call for awards this winter!

Recognizing the scientific contributions of students, postdoctoral trainees, and colleagues is one of the highlights of the ITSS reception at the Annual Meeting. At this year’s meeting we presented ten awards. The following two pages list the different award winners and our colleagues who have made significant contributions to the field of immunotoxicology.
The first award presented at the ITSS reception is the Vos Award for Lifetime Career Achievement in Immunotoxicology. This award is presented to an individual in recognition of career achievements in advancing the field of immunotoxicology through service, leadership, and scientific contributions. This year’s honoree was Dr. David Lawrence from New York State Department of Health’s Wadsworth Center.

Dr. David Lawrence, New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center

Outstanding Senior Immunotoxicologist Award

Dr. Kenneth Hastings, Hastings Toxicology Consulting

Nominated by Dr. Jack Dean
2015 Awards (continued)

**HESI Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Travel Award**

Dr. Fenna Sillé, University of California Berkeley

**Outstanding Young Investigator Award**

*Dr. Saurabh Chatterjee*

University of South Carolina

**Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee Award**

*Dr. Imir Metushi*

The Use of Animal Models in Investigating the Mechanism of Idiosyncratic Drug-Induced Hepatotoxicity
Best Presentation by a Student Awards

First Place

Carrie Long  
West Virginia University

Increased Expression and Immunoregulatory Potential of MicroRNA 210 in a Murine Model of TDI Sensitization

Second Place

Alexandra Turley  
Michigan State University

The Food Additive tBHQ Inhibits Activation of Primary Human CD4T Cells

Third Place

Sarah Attreed  
New York University

Exposure to Produced Water from “Fracking” Induces Immunotoxicity in Male Mice
Immunotoxicology Awards Continued

**Best Paper of the Year Award**
Genetic Variants in the Major Histocompatibility Complex Class I and Class II Genes are Associated with Diisocyanate-Induced Asthma.
*Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 2014, **56**:382-387.

Authors: Berran Yucesoy, Victor J. Johnson, Zana L. Lummus, Michael L. Kashon, Marepalli Rao, Hansen Bannerman-Thompson, Bonnie Frye, Wei Wang, Denyse Gautrin, André Cartier, Louis-Philippe Boulet, Joaquin Sastre, Santiago Quirce, Susan Tarlo, Dori Germolec, Michael I. Luster, and David I. Bernstein

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**News and Noteworthy**

- Dr. Michael Pollard received the ViCTER (Virtual Consortium for Translational/Transdisciplinary Environmental Research) award from NIEHS that will help establish a virtual consortium of investigators from Scripps, University of Montana Center for Environmental Health Sciences and University of Florida. For more about this award please see the link- [https://www.scripps.edu/news/press/2015/20150709pollard.html](https://www.scripps.edu/news/press/2015/20150709pollard.html)

- Dr. Rathanesh Seth, a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Saurabh Chatterjee’s laboratory at the University of South Carolina received the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO)-SIG best postdoctoral presentation abstract Award at the SOT Annual Meeting

- Dr. Saurabh Chatterjee was elected Councilor of ASIO-SIG (Term May 2015-April 2016).
Compiled by Haley Neff-LaFord. Anytime you have a new fully-published or electronically-available article to report, please send the citation to Haley Neff-LaFord at hnlaford@seagen.com

Asthma, Allergy, Autoimmunity & Hypersensitivity


Eaton LH, Roberts RA, Kimber I, Dearman RJ, and Metryka A. Skin sensitization induced Langerhans' cell mobilization: variable requirements for tumour necrosis factor-α. Immunology 144:139-148, 2015.


Developmental Immunotoxicology


**Recent Immunotoxicology Publications**

**General Immunotoxicology**


Recent Immunotoxicology Publications

General Immunotoxicology Continued:


Methods/Models


Reviews/Books/Commentaries
Recent Immunotoxicology Publications

Reviews/Books/Commentaries Continued


SAVE THE DATE!

Abstract Submission: October 7, 2015
Award Nominations: October 9, 2015