



Society of Toxicology Immunotoxicology Specialty Section NEWSLETTER

December 1995

President's Message

Peter Thomas
Vice-President and Chairman, Program Committee

Since Dan Wierda is a bit under the weather, I have agreed to take on some of his Specialty Section responsibilities. As I reported to you in the June Newsletter, the four programs sponsored by our Specialty Section will be presented at the national meeting in Cincinnati this Spring. They are:

- 1) Immunotoxicity of Medical Devices (symposium)
- 2) Aquatic Pollution-Induced Immunotoxicity (symposium)
- 3) Modulation of T-helper Cell Subsets: Potential Mechanism for Immune Suppression (symposium)
- 4) Identification of Respiratory Allergens (workshop)

Driscoll and Judith Zelikoff, both members of the National Program Committee, have informed me that all is on track with these programs for the upcoming national meeting in Anaheim. It looks like this will be another well attended meeting. The total number of abstracts for the Anaheim meeting is the second highest ever (New Orleans 1993 was the highest). On behalf of the Program Committee, I encourage you to attend the meetings, our symposia and the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section business meeting. It is clear that immunotoxicology continues to grow in importance and visibility on the national level. This is evident by the growth in both Specialty Section membership and in the number of programs we offer. Recognizing the limited meeting schedule, the Program Committee has assured us that it is doing everything possible to minimize the number of potential conflicts. No symposia are being scheduled for Thursday afternoon. Suggestions for improvements in this process can be made to either Kevin or Judith.

In addition to a strong scientific program, the Specialty Section is promoting other initiatives such as our 1996 Student Award Presentation being organized by George Shopp. Other concepts being discussed are the creation of a Specialty Section promotional brochure and soliciting outside articles for the Newsletter. Details of these will follow in a future newsletter.

Join me in wishing Dan a speedy recovery.

Peter Thomas

Section Officers:

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Dan Wierda
Eli Lilly & Co.

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Peter Thomas
IIT Research Institute

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Univ. of New Mexico

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Genentech

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Somatogen, Inc.

Tom Kawabata
Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals

Michael Luster
NIEHS
(Past President)

Newsletter Editors

Thomas T. Kawabata
Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals
P.O. Box 538707
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8707
T: (513)627-1026
F: (513)627-1433
Kawabata.tt@pg.com

Judith T. Zelikoff
Institute of Environmental Medicine
New York Univ. Medical Center
Long Meadow Road
Tuxedo, NY 10987
T: 914-351-5624
F: 914-351-5472
judyz@charlotte.med.nyu.edu

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee (1996 SOT Meeting)

Chairperson, George Shopp

ANNOUNCEMENT 1996 Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Awards in Immunotoxicology Society of Toxicology

The Awards Committee of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology will be granting up to five monetary awards at the Annual SOT meeting in Anaheim, in 1996. These awards will be in recognition of scientific excellence and achievement for the best papers in immunotoxicology submitted for presentation by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Candidates for these awards are requested to submit copies of their abstracts, all figures and data tables, summary, and conclusions, of their poster or platform presentation. The student or postdoctoral fellow must be the first author on the abstract. It is important that the submission be complete because the decision on the awards will be based on the written submission only, and not the actual presentation at the meeting. The submissions will be judged by the Awards Committee, and the winner will be announced at the annual meeting of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section in Anaheim. All material should be submitted by February 1, 1996. Send to:

George Shopp, Ph.D.
Genentech
Mail Stop 9
460 Point San Bruno Blvd.
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Tel: 415-225-3713
Fax: 415-225-2797

Education Committee

Chairperson, Judith T. Zelikoff

We've been noticed! While the Committee still has not received much input concerning source references or course outlines for teaching immunotoxicology, there has been a great deal of interest from investigators all over the country beginning to teach immunotoxicology. Their major need is for a course outline and a place to get started. Since we never received enough information to formalize a course syllabus, I have been sending out the one which Mitchell Cohen and I developed and have used for our course in Environmental Immunotoxicology at New York University Medical Center. It seems to be working. It is exciting to think that "the word" is being carried to new, open minds. But we still need your help in "carrying the message" and sending successful course outlines to the Committee so we can formalize the program.

Concerning another aspect of education, the annual Virginia Beach Immunotoxicology meeting was held this past September and the turnout and presentations by

students and technical staff was again impressive. Off the record, I was particularly stirred by the large number of women attending this meeting and entering the field of immunotoxicology. Bravo!

Just a reminder, the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section is interested in having a student representative at its executive session. If you are interested please contact me by email at judyz@charlotte.med.nyu.edu or by fax (914-351-5624).

Regulatory Committee

Chairperson: Liz Sikorski

EPA

Roy Schoblad at the Office of Pesticide Programs reports that the EPA immunotoxicology testing guidelines have been drafted and the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel comments have been incorporated. Sheryl Reilly is currently integrating these guidelines into existing guidelines and harmonizing them with those of other subdivisions. The guidelines propose that chemical pesticides should undergo immunotoxicity testing that includes the standard assessment of extended histopathology, spleen and thymus weights and hematology. In addition, they are proposing that immunotoxicity testing of chemical pesticides include the sheep red blood cell assay, measurement of serum immunoglobulin, and flow cytometric analysis of the spleen. This document is not expected to come out until after the first of 1996. It should be noted that these guidelines are separate from those for biochemicals.

Gary Timm at the EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxicity has been working on proposed immunotoxicity test rules for analysis of twenty one hazardous air pollutants with the help of Vicki Dellarco (Office of Research and Development) and input from Mary Jane Selgrade (immunotoxicologist at EPA). He has discussed these proposed rules with industry and environmental groups. They are proposing that immunotoxicity testing of air pollutants include those parameters used in immunotoxicity testing namely, histopathology of bone marrow, spleen, thymus and lymph nodes (draining and distal), spleen and thymus weights, and hematology. In addition, they will recommend use of the sheep red blood cell assay as well as lung lavage. This document is awaiting in-house review and is not expected to come out until 1996.

ILSI

A summary of the Workshop on Immunotoxicology Testing and Risk Assessment (June 16-17, 1995) organized and sponsored by the Immunotoxicology Technical Committee of ILSI will be published in Food and Chemical Toxicology. Reprints of the article can be obtained by contacting Dr. David Neumann (FAX (202) 659-3617 or david@dc.ilsi.org) at ILSI's Health and Environmental Sciences Institute.

Immunotoxicity Testing and Risk Assessment: Summary of a 1994 Workshop
HESI Immunotoxicology Technical Committee
Food and Chemical Toxicology 33(10) 887-894

FDA

Dennis Hinton has indicated that the FDA is currently finalizing the draft of the immunotoxicity testing section of Redbook II. Regarding the content of this document, Dr. Hinton has stated that there is additional emphasis on allergy and hypersensitivity and that it contains information which will clarify issues that have generated controversy in the immunotoxicology community such as the use of maximum tolerated dose. The timetable for the release of the revised draft of the Redbook II has not been announced nor is there a projected date of publication.

SECOND CALL FOR ARTIFACTS

History of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section

I have volunteered to be the historian for the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. I would like to put together a portable poster that would be displayed at the annual meeting each year. The poster would highlight the historical development of the field of immunotoxicology and the growth of the specialty section with pictures and other memorabilia. I hope to keep it up-to-date with pictures taken at the meeting each year. I am in need of member to search their photo albums and files for pictures, etc. that could be used for the poster. Also, any special ideas for the poster will be appreciated. Please send your contributions to:

Dr. Nancy Kerkvliet
Dept. of Agricultural Chemistry
ALS 1007
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

NEW IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

We would like to spruce up our Newsletter. We plan to change the logo on the newsletter that would best symbolize the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. We have previously used the SOT Emblem. The drawing should be the size of the logo shown in this newsletter (upper left corner of front page). Please submit your entries to the following address by March 1, 1996 to be considered. We will post the drawings at the Specialty Section Meeting for a ballot vote. Any other suggestions for changes to the newsletter will be appreciated.

Newsletter Editors

Tom Kawabata and Judith Zelikoff

Tom Kawabata
Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals
Box 538707
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8707