Another SOT has come and gone, and once again the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section was well represented in CE courses, Symposia, platform and poster sessions. Many thanks to the people who developed the CE and Symposium sessions, to all of the speakers, and to everyone who spent time putting together talks and posters. Thanks also to the 2005 ISS Program Committee, Chaired by Ken Hastings, for working diligently to ensure that symposia and CE proposals were in top shape before submission to the SOT program committee, and to Dori Germolec for presenting and supporting the ISS-endorsed programs on the SOT Program Committee.

A new type of program was announced at the Presidents' and Vice-President's meeting in New Orleans. Historical Highlights sessions will be 90 minutes long, may have one or more speakers, and are to highlight how various labs and individuals moved toxicology forward. As James Popp put it, the session must recount contributions but should not be structured as a review of one compound or take on the air of a memorial lecture. We were also reminded that SOT sponsors (administrative and financial support) Contemporary Topics in Toxicology meetings. Members are encouraged to organize CCT meetings and to apply for support. Details can be found on the SOT website: (http://www.toxicology.org/memberservices/meetings/cct_guidelines.html).

At the risk of boring repetition, everyone is encouraged to nominate individuals for office in the ISS, and to nominate members for awards. As I pointed last time, we had only one nomination for the Young Immunotoxicologist Award and I know that there must be another qualified scientist within our 278 members. Please see Jeanine Bussiere's Awards Committee report for details on awards for 2005.

A bit of administrative detail: We had a good turnout this year for the ISS business meeting/social hour. In fact, the room was pretty crowded, and we had originally been slated for a room that was about 40% smaller. Headquarters is now working on allocating space based on membership numbers, so hopefully we will have more space in the future. I’d appreciate your comments on our business meeting. Based on the survey Tom Kawabata put together last year, people wanted less formal meeting time and a greater chance to socialize. Are we meeting that request? Were the reports too long? Was an appropriate

Continued on page 2
amount of time dedicated to awards? One last business meeting–related item - the quantity of food ordered for the business meeting. In the last few years we have ordered food for fewer people than we expected at the meeting; the per person catering charge was more than the $15/member dues we pay and food was always left over at the end of the meeting. If you think that the food order should be adjusted up or down in the future, please let me know. This isn't exactly the most exciting stuff to put in an outgoing president’s message, but it is your time and money….how do you want spend it?

Finally, thanks for the opportunity to serve as an officer in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. It has been an enjoyable and educational experience, and I encourage other members of ISS to get involved.

See you in San Diego, if not before.

Bob Luebke

**Incoming President’s Message**

**Ken Hastings**

Well, I hope all have recovered from the Big Easy experience - I know I'm going to wait a while before eating oysters again. It was a great meeting and I hope you found it as rewarding as I did. First, let me say what an honor it is to serve as President of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section: this is especially true for someone like me who spends most of his time reading - and admiring - the work of others in the field. I really don't get to go into the lab anymore (probably a good thing) but have the task of trying to translate science into what is, for all practical purposes, public policy. "Regulatory science" is, I think, a particularly arcane specialty - one that I enjoy but without question dependent on excellent laboratory science.

Which brings me to the first item on my list: NIH funding of immunotoxicology specifically, and toxicology generally. Many ISS members have experienced frustration with the NIH review process, and particularly the lack of a reasonable "home" for having grants reviewed by scientists qualified to make reasonable and informed decisions. My own hunch is that this situation isn't likely to improve without significant input from folks like you - we need to make sure that our specialty (and toxicology generally) doesn't suffer from lack of adequate support. Several of us attended an ILSI sponsored meeting a couple of years ago on immune-mediated drug hypersensitivity reactions - and especially how to ensure that adequate funding is available to deal with this vexing and persistent problem. At one point in the meeting, the issue of NIAID funding was discussed - and we were told that although the Institute recognized drug allergy as a serious public health issue, they were not in a position to fund research in this area. My opinion is that this is short-sighted and arguably neglecting the mission of the Institute. But my opinion doesn’t count for much - only when a committed group of scientists pursues a remedy to a problem will a solution be found.

Many of you have read my reports on development of an immunotoxicology guidance document as part of the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH). I suspect many are not sure exactly what’s going on here and why this effort is important. My apologies to those who already know this, but ICH is an effort to produce a standard set of expectations for demonstrating safety and efficacy of marketed drug products. Currently, there are six parties involved in this process: the regulatory authorities of Japan, the European Union, and the United States (respectively, the Japan Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (JMHLW); the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA); and the US FDA) and the pharmaceutical industries of these regions. In addition, many other regulatory agencies have been involved as observers (as well as the World Health Organization - which has a drug development component). The idea is to have harmonized guidances on drug development, including standards for nonclinical studies. Immunotoxicology is one of the safety topics that was accepted for negotiations, primarily because of differences in expectations between EMEA and FDA on what would constitute adequate methods for testing. The primary difference is that the EMEA Committee for Proprietary Human Pharmaceuticals Note for Guidance on S8 (the official ICH designation of the immunotoxicology guidance) will be discussed.

Meet in Brussels in May where a final negotiations (that I can answer - or at least know who could) to contact me. My office number (direct) is (301) 827-5922 and my e-mail is hastingsk@cder.fda.gov. I love to talk, so don't hesitate. - Ken
An issues forum was organized by the SOT Task Force on Study Section Restructuring at the SOT meeting in New Orleans. The format was a panel discussion, and the major stakeholders on this issue were represented on the panel. On the encouraging side, Michael Martin (a division director at the Center for Scientific Review, which runs the study sections), noted that some problems had been recognized and that some degree of "consolidation" was planned to allow immunotoxicology and other toxicology applications to be focused in fewer study sections, presumably with the addition of some expertise to these study sections. Dr. David Eaton, who chairs the SOT Task Force, indicated that the present practice of using ad hoc reviewers to handle toxicology applications in study sections that are not toxicology oriented is not appropriate. He correctly pointed out that ad hoc members seldom have as much influence on a study section as regular members and that ad hoc members generally are unable to change the culture of the study section to value a particular area of research. A representative of NIEHS noted that the new structure has made the job of the Program Staff very difficult, because they can no longer attend all the relevant study section meetings. The SOT Task Force met with the new Director of NIEHS, David Schwartz, and they report that he is concerned about the issue and willing to work with SOT toward developing a solution.

On the discouraging side, no commitment was expressed by CSR to implement the only suitable remedy for this situation, the creation of a new toxicology study section that would serve as a home for molecular mechanisms, immunotoxicology, developmental toxicology, cardiovascular toxicology, and possibly other areas. Perhaps even more discouraging was the presentation the day before the panel discussion by Dr. Pat Mastin (NIEHS), whose data indicated that only a small number of immunotoxicology applications had been scored and none had been funded since the restructuring. Another problem was discussed by one of the panelists with regard to the criteria that would be used by CSR to justify a new toxicology study section. It seems that the number of applications submitted with an investigator request for review by the XNDA study section is being used, in part, to estimate the "demand" for another toxicology study section. However, immunotoxicologists have learned after one submission that their application will not be assigned to XNDA, and most do not request XNDA. Thus, it would seem advisable at present for immunotoxicologists to request XNDA in the cover letter, with the understanding that most immunotoxicology applications will be assigned to the Innate Immunity and Inflammation study section (which has only 1 immunotoxicologist as a regular member).

A colleague of mine here at LSU Health Sciences Center, Dr. Tammy Dugas, is a cardiovascular toxicologist. She is organizing a grass roots letter writing campaign in an attempt to keep attention focused on this issue until a fair solution is achieved. She has mentioned to me that this issue is especially acute for new investigators in academia, who have a very limited period of time to secure NIH funding, which is generally required for tenure. Therefore, further study and a gradual "consolidation" of study sections is an entirely inadequate response. I plan to participate in this letter writing effort, and I would encourage anyone who may be affected by this situation to do so as well. Requesting a new study section would be appropriate, and investigators who have had experience with the new study section structure are especially encouraged to write. I believe letters from persons in government and industry would be as useful as letters from persons in academia (maybe even more useful), because they would indicate that the actions of CSR on this matter could have broad adverse effects on human health and economic activity. The following are persons to whom you might consider sending a letter:

Dr. Antonio Scarpa
Director of CSR (after July 1, 2005)
Department of Physiology & Biophysics
School of Medicine, E541
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4970
Toni-scarpa@cswr.u.edu

Dr. Brent Stanfield
Acting Director CSR
(until July 1, 2005)
RKL2 - Two Rockledge Ctr,
Room 3016
6701 Rockledge Dr
Bethesda, MD 20892
stanfieb@csr.nih.gov

Dr. Michael Martin
Director, Division of Physiology and Pathology, CSR
RKL2 - Two Rockledge Ctr,
Room 6160
6701 Rockledge Dr
Bethesda, MD 20892
martinm@csr.nih.gov

Continued on page 4
We had a great round of submissions this year for the best graduate student submission, eight in total. We did not have any submissions for the best postdoctoral submission, so first, second and third place prizes were given to the top graduate student presentation. After review by seven members of the awards committee, the following awards were given:

**First Place:** Gautham K. Rao (from MSU in Norbert Kaminski's lab) for a presentation entitled "delta 9-Tetrahydricannabinol (delta 9-THC) elicits a calcium elevation in T cells through the TRPC channels."

**Second Place:** Sabine Teske (from WSU in Paige Lawrence's lab) for a presentation entitled "Increased numbers of neutrophils in dioxin-treated mice infected with influenza A virus are caused by an Ah receptor-mediated mechanism that is likely specific to the lung."

**Third Place was a tie:** Castle Funatake (from OSU in Nancy Kerkvliet's lab) for a presentation entitled "Exposure to TCDD augments expression of CD25 on recently activated T cells" and Sheung P. Ng (from NYU in Judy Zelikoff's lab) for a presentation entitled "Smoking during pregnancy reduces immune tumor surveillance mechanisms in the offspring: A toxicological model."

The ISS gave $150, $100 and $50 for first, second and third place, respectively and Taylor & Francis matched the prizes. In addition, all winners received a free subscription to the Journal of Immunotoxicology. Finally, the first place winner also received a free copy of the Encyclopedia of Immunotoxicology from Springer.

For the best immunotoxicology paper of the year award, after a desperate last call, we had 8 submissions which were evaluated by the committee. The best paper chosen was entitled "Cell proliferation arrest within intrathymic lymphocyte progenitor cells causes thymic atrophy mediated by the Aryl Hydrocarbon receptor." by Michael D. Laiosa, Amber Wyman, Francis G. Murante, Nancy C. Fiore, J. Erin Staples, Thomas A. Gasiewicz and Allen E. Silverstone.

The Career Achievement Award was presented to Ian Kimber. Dr. Kimber was recognized for his substantial contributions to immunotoxicology and to the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. Ian credited several colleagues with important roles the accomplishments recognized by this Award.

Unfortunately, we did not receive sufficient nominations for the Young Immunotoxicologist Award this year. We’d like to encourage all of you to nominate people and papers for these awards, as well as encourage your graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to apply. Many thanks to the awards committee who have to do a tremendous amount of work in a very short period of time prior to the annual meeting. Committee members included Tai Guo, Helen Haggerty, Lisa Ryan, Ian Kimber, Michael McCabe, and Prakash Nagarkatti.
IMTOX MIAs

ARE YOU ON THIS LIST??

Just before the meeting in New Orleans, our membership according to SOT stood at 375 individuals. Just after, the official numbers on the SOT Website indicated that we now only had 275!! Clearly, some student members have moved on in their careers, other members have changed their fields of focus, and some have retired. However, there is also the possibility that there have been some clerical problems at SOT. The Executive Committee looks forward to keeping our Specialty Section as one of the top five in membership in SOT and to keep growing.

That said, could you please look over the list below of members who are "MIA" to see if your name or that of a colleague is there? If so, and you believe there is some mistake, please contact George DeGeorge or Ken Hastings (by e-mail would be best) so that the process to correct the oversight can be started. If your name is there simply because your 2005 dues have not yet been paid, you can contact SOT (or go to their website) to remedy the problem.

Please feel free to let the Executive Committee know how it can be of any help in this matter or any other issue that you feel needs to be addressed.

Anderson, Robert S  Eyer, Russell, J.  Kavanagh, Terrance J.  Reid, Lynda
Ansari, Ghulam A. Shakeel  Flaherty, Dennis K.  Kelman, Bruce J.  Riley, M. Gary
Asano, Satoshi  Frantz, Jerry D.  Kim, Hwan Mook  Rockwell, Cheryl E.
Azri-Meehan, Shana  Gallucci, Randle M.  Lavin Williams, Amy L.  Ryu, Heui-Young
Ball, Douglas J.  Garg, Ramesh  Lawrence, David A.  Shedlofsky, Steven I.
Bentivegna, Stephen S.  Gelzleichter, Thomas R.  Lebrec, Herve N.  Sherwood, Robert L.
Bezdeceny, Steven A.  Gilmour Ian M.  Legrand, Jean-Jacques  Silverstone, Allen
Black, Lauren E.  Glomot, Remi  LeSauteur, Lynne  Singer, Thomas
Blank, James A.  Goodman, Gay  Li, Daming  Srinivasan, Viny
Bluemel, Joerg  Gutting, Bradford W.  Li Xinguang  Stuart, Bruce O.
Booker, Carmen  Harrod, Bradford W.  Mahaffrey, Kathryn R.  Taylor, Michael J.
Bui, Quang Q.  Hayes, Terence J.  Maher, Robert W.  Thomas, Peter T.
Bunaciuc, Rodica P.  Heck, Diane  Mann, Cynthia  Thorne, Peter S.
Camacho, Iris A.  Henry, Barbara  McCue, Jessica M.  Thurmond, Linda M.
Cao, Ling  Heo, Yong  McLain, Daniel E.  Tsunoda, Marashi
Dalal, Abraham  Hinton, Dennis M.  Meade, B. Jean  Verdon, Sylvie L.
Dong, Wumin  Holian, Andrij  Meyers, Laraine L.  Walsh, Anne C.
Dougherty, Kathleen K.  Holsapple, Michael P.  Mortimer, Elisabeth  Willis, Robyn A.
Draper, Ken  Horn, Thomas L.  Murante, Francis G.  You, Li
Duffy, Jessica E.  Howell, Michael D.  Narayanan, Padma K.  Zanardi, Thomas A.
Dutchak, William J.  Jerrells, Thomas R.  Ndifor, Anthony M.  Zelikoff, Judith T.
Esber, Henry  Kacham, Raju N.K.  Panteleyev, Andrey A.  Zheng, Jiang
Exon, Jerry H.  Kaminski, Norbert E.  Popovic, Marija R.  Zwickl, Craig M.

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Dr. Helen Ratajczak has served the specialty section for the past several years by receiving and compiling the list of immunotoxicology publications that have been published in our newsletters. Now that she has been elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Specialty Section, we need someone to volunteer to do this important job. Please contact Helen at hratajcz@rdg.boehringer-ingelheim.com if you would be willing to do this.

**Head of Contract Research & Clinical Trials**

A biotechnology laboratory specializing in clinical immunology and molecular diagnostics is recruiting a scientist to manage the company's pharmaceutical services program. The laboratory is expanding its services in the areas of cellular immunology, molecular genetics and immunotoxicology. This key executive will have the responsibility to lead a team of scientists in this effort.

Requirements include a PhD, technical experience in molecular immunology and knowledge of the clinical trials business.

Qualified applicants respond with resume to:

Director of Human Resources
ProGene Biomedical Inc./IBT Reference Lab
11274 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, Kansas 66219
ibt@ibtreflab.com

**CIT New Fac Position**

**Tenure-Track Faculty Position at Michigan State University**

The Center for Integrative Toxicology (CIT) at Michigan State University is accepting applications for a tenure-track academic year faculty position at the Assistant Professor level. We are seeking candidates with an interest and expertise in immunotoxicology and/or inflammation as it relates to adverse consequences of drugs or other chemicals in living systems. Candidates should have a Ph.D. degree in Toxicology or related discipline, postdoctoral research experience and demonstrated success in obtaining extramural funding.

The candidate will be jointly appointed in the CIT and in a basic science department (e.g., Pharmacology & Toxicology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) consistent with his/her expertise and interests. In addition to contributing to the CIT, the candidate will have the opportunity to participate in one or more other interdisciplinary research and training programs including the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center, the Cell and Molecular Biology Program, the Center for Biological Modeling, the Genetics Program and the Neuroscience Program. The successful candidate will be expected to establish an independent and extramurally-funded research program and to contribute to the teaching and service missions of the department and the CIT.

Interested individuals should send their curriculum vitae, statement of research interests and future research plans, and 3 letters of recommendation to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Center for Integrative Toxicology, C-231 Holden Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Review of applications will begin on April 1, 2005 and will continue until the position is filled. MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.

**Program Committee Report**

*Report from the Program Committee – Mitch Cohen*

The following proposals for the 2006 SOT meeting were recommended by the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Program committee to the SOT Program committee.

**Indirect Mechanisms of Toxicity: Advancing Our Understanding of Neuroendocrine - Immune Interactions**

Suggested format: Symposium
Chair: Leigh Ann Burns Naas. Co-Chair: Virginia M. Sanders.

**Models and Mechanisms of Occupational/Environmental Asthma**

Suggested format: Symposium
Chair: Jean Regal, Co-Chair: Mike Luster.

**The Bases for Inter-Individual Differences in Susceptibility to Allergic Disease**

Suggested format: Symposium
Chair: Ian Kimber, Co-Chair: Frank Gerberick.

**Immunogenicity of Protein Therapeutics: Assessment and Impact on Study Design and Interpretation**

Suggested format: CE (BASIC)
Chair: Yanli Ouyang, Co-Chair: Lynne LeSauteur.

**Immunotoxicity Evaluation by Immune Function Tests**

Suggested format: Workshop
Chair: Danuta Herzyk, Co-Chair: Michael Holsapple.

**Regulatory Application of the Mouse LLNA: New Challenges and Opportunities**

Suggested format: Workshop
Chair: Michael Woolhis, Co-Chair: Greg Ladics.
COMMITTEE ROSTERS 2004-2005
(from sign up sheets and subsequent contacts)

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Journal of Immunotoxicology* is a peer-reviewed journal that provides a needed singular forum for the international community of immunotoxicologists, immunologists, and toxicologists working in academia, government, consulting, and industry to both publish their original research and be made aware of the research findings of their colleagues in a timely manner. Research from many subdisciplines are presented in the journal, including the areas of molecular, developmental, pulmonary, regulatory, nutritional, mechanistic, wildlife, and environmental immunotoxicology, immunology, and toxicology. Original research articles as well as timely comprehensive reviews are published.

Some of the articles that have appeared in recent issues include:

- **Trichloroethylene Does Not Accelerate Autoimmune Diabetes in NOD Mice** — Guillaume Ravel, Marielle Christ, Marie-France Perron-Lepage, Fabienne Condevaux, and Jacques Descotes
- **Screening New Drugs for Immunotoxic Potential: I. Assessment of the Effects of Conventional Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs and Selective COX-2 Inhibitors on In Vitro and In Vivo Phagocytic Activity** — Sylvia M. Furst, Wendy J. Komoscar, K. Nasir Khan, Kimber L. White, Jr., Vanessa L. Peachee, and John H. Menneer
- **2,3,7,8 Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD) Directly Enhances the Maturation and Apoptosis of Dendritic Cells In Vivo** — Carl E. Ruby, Castle J. Finatake, and Nancy I. Kerkvliet
- **Particulate Matter Immunomodulatory Effects on Autoantibody Development in New Zealand Mixed Mice** — Mary Hassani, Jared M. Brown, Maria T. Morandi, and Andrij Holian

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ANYTIME you have a new publication to report, please send it to hratajcz@rdg.boehringer-ingelheim.com It will be included in the next newsletter.

ASTHMA, ALLERGY AND HYPERSENSITIVITY


Reviews


AUTISM


Reviews


CYTOKINES AND CHEMOKINES


DEVELOPMENTAL IMMUNOTOXICITY


Vorderstrasse BA, Cundiff JA, Lawrence BP. Developmental exposure to the potent aryl hydrocarbon receptor agonist 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin impairs the cell-mediated immune response to infection with influenza A virus, but enhances elements of innate immunity. J. Immunotox. 1(2), 103-112, 2004. [Correction of citation listed in Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Newsletter Oct, 2004.]

EFFECTS: COMPOUNDS


**EFFECTS: ENVIRONMENT**


**Reviews**


**GENETICS AND IMMUNOLOGY**


**MODELS AND METHODS**


**GENERAL IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY**


**Reviews**


