Outgoing President’s Message

Dori Germolec

Once again we had a record showing at the Annual Meeting. I’d like to thank all of you who participated in making the meeting a success for our Specialty Section. I’d also like to thank everyone who contributed to the Specialty Section Poster for the 40th Anniversary Celebration. I hope you had a chance to see what turned out to be a wonderful representation of where we have been, what we are about and where we think we are going. We listened to what you asked for, and this year our Specialty Section reception and business meeting was bigger, the food was better and the program shorter. I am especially grateful to Sanofi-Synthelabo (thanks to Dr. Jack Dean) and Covance (thanks to Dr. Robert House), who provided funds to sponsor the reception.

As in 2000, the highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the awards for Best Student and Postdoctoral presentations, Paper of the Year, Outstanding Young Investigator and Career Achievement. Michael Laiosa took home the award for Best Student presentation and Dr. Yanli Ouyang received the award for Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr. Petia Simeonova was announced as the winner of the Young Investigator Award and Dr. Arati Kamath won the Paper of the Year award. At our business meeting the Executive Committee discussed ways to expand the field of potential nominees for several of the awards, so be on the lookout for some minor changes in the criteria for the nominations. It was a special honor for me to present the Career Achievement Award to Dr. Michael Luster. Dr. Luster has been a leader in the use of immunotoxicology data for risk assessment and the application of molecular techniques to our discipline. His “Top 10 Reasons Why It’s Good to be a Famous Immunotoxicologist” had the crowd roaring.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as Specialty Section President this past year. You, as members, made the job an easy one. Your cooperation when asked to serve on committees, to provide information when needed and your level of scientific excellence, allows Immunotoxicology to make a significant impact on the SOT at the National level. You continue to submit excellent suggestions for the program so that we shine at the annual meeting. If you have not yet served on a committee, submitted a program proposal, nominated a peer or trainee for an award, or helped out in some other fashion, please consider doing so. We need fresh faces and ideas to keep our Specialty Section vital. My sincerest thanks to all of the officers who have served as a sounding board and a continuous resource, particularly Bob Luebke, our Secretary-Treasurer, and who I never could have gotten through the year without, our incoming President, Mary Jane Selgrade and Vice-President, Robert House. I have especially enjoyed the opportunities to interact with our student and post-doctoral trainees, and I look forward to seeing their contributions in the years to come. I know Immunotoxicology has a great future in their hands.
Incoming President's Message

MaryJane Selgrade

I’m looking forward to a great year. I want to start out by thanking all those who made the 2001 program such a success. Many willing contributors made it easy for me to put together a good program. For the coming year I need help from the membership in several areas.

Student Representative

We need a new one. Susan McKarns has done a great job, but her term expires in May. She will be happy to break in a new student. Mentors please encourage your students to do this. I need nominations (via email) by the end of May. Students can nominate themselves, but we need assurance from the mentor that they will be able to travel to the meeting.

Committees

We need chairs for the Communications and Methods Committees. We need someone with desktop publishing expertise (or access to this expertise) to help get out the newsletter. Call or email me or Robert House if you can help.

Outstanding Young Investigator Award

The Executive Committee asked me to explore potential modifications to our criteria for this award to address two problems:

1. Requiring that the recipient have less than 10 years experience since their highest degree may be too restrictive and
2. the emphasis on research contributions may prevent deserving individuals on the industry side from qualifying.

I propose that we modify the requirement to 15 years beyond the highest degree. In addition, if someone’s career has been interrupted (e.g., maternity or paternity leave) or they have migrated to immunotoxicology from another field or after time spent in clinical practice, this could be documented in the nomination and allow for an extension beyond the 15 years. “Young” might not always be an entirely accurate descriptor, but I don’t think we should change the name of the award. Hardly anyone is insulted by that adjective. The second issue is a bit more problematic, and I would like input from the membership on accomplishments other than research that represent “significant contributions” to the field of immunotoxicology. Having a significant impact on regulatory actions comes to mind. Please email me any suggestions you have for modifying criteria for this award.

Awards

Please take the time to nominate your fellow members for awards. The Executive Committee decided that for all award categories a minimum of 3 nominations need to be received (including holdovers from the previous year) in order to give an award. (Awards are described in more detail in the Awards committee column).

Mentoring

One of my goals for the year is to improve the Specialty Section mentoring of students and postdocs. I’m open to all suggestions. As I mentioned at the meeting, I would like to organize an activity at next year’s meeting where senior immunotoxicologists eat dinner one night with students and postdocs. I’d like to get together groups of about 6 (3 senior toxicologists and 3 students or postdocs). There will be more on the organization of this in future newsletters.

Talk to Me

It’s your Specialty Section, and I want it to serve your needs, but I need your input on the above issues and any other that come to your mind. My email is Selgrade.MaryJane@EPA.Gov. Or call 919-541-2657.

Publication to Watch For...

Mike Luster is putting together a special issue of International Immunopharmacology, to be published in November, devoted to Occupational Immunology. There will be about 20 short papers ranging from TDI asthma, latex etc to autoimmunity, and UV-B suppression.
Membership Committee Report

Submitted by Paige Lawrence

In late 2000, Dori Germolec charged the Membership Committee with improving the accuracy with which membership in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section is documented by SOT and our Specialty Section. With the help of Mitch Cohen, we are working on this. Many thanks to those of you who have responded to Mitch’s email regarding your status in the Specialty Section. For those of you who know you have paid your most recent SOT dues, including Immunotoxicology Specialty Section dues, but whom SOT does not list as members of this Specialty Section, please know we are working on this problem. If you have paid your dues for 2001, please let someone on the Membership Committee know. This will help us confirm the accuracy of our information regarding membership.

Last fall we asked for your input on ways to recruit more student and postdoctoral members. The main feedback received was that encouragement needs to come from the people who mentor and supervise students and postdocs. Therefore, please encourage students and postdocs in your research team to join this Specialty Section. SOT allows student members to join one Specialty Section for free.

Our membership is growing and diverse. Since inception in 1985/86, membership in this Specialty Section has doubled (Figure 1). According to SOT, our Specialty Section currently has approximately 270 members, who are employed in universities, governmental agencies, industry and privately as consultants (Figure 2). Based upon the collection of dues, approximately 5% of our members are graduate students. The actual number of students who participate in Immunotoxicology Specialty Section-sponsored sessions at SOT meetings is much higher than this, further indicating the need to encourage students to check the Immunotoxicology box on their SOT membership form. Finally, our Specialty Section represents scientists from around the world (Figure 3).

If you have any concerns or ideas, please contact us by email at:

B. Paige Lawrence, Chair  bpl@wsu.edu
M. Ian Gilmour  gilmour.ian@epamail.epa.gov
T. Scott Thurmond  thurmons@envmed.rochester.edu
Kathleen Phillips  kphillips@mriresearch.org

![Membership in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section has doubled since the Specialty Section was started](image1.png)

**Figure 1.** Total membership numbers were obtained from Society of Toxicology records. Special thanks to Sherry Zack for her time and effort delving into the archives to obtain this information.

![The Immunotoxicology Specialty Section represents SOT members from twelve countries. Values are based upon self-reported members in 1999-2000 (273 members).](image2.png)

**Figure 2.** The Immunotoxicology Specialty Section represents SOT members from twelve countries. Values are based upon self-reported members in 1999-2000 (273 members).

![The Immunotoxicology Specialty Section represents scientists from around the world](image3.png)

**Figure 3.** Profile of current membership in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. Values are based upon self-reported members in 1999-2000 (273 members). The Academic category includes faculty, staff and postdoctoral fellows at universities and research hospitals. The Industry category includes non-governmental research institutes and corporations.
Awards Committee Report

The Awards Committee judges the Best Presentation by a Graduate Student and the Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Fellow awards. There were 5 submissions for the student award this year. Michael Laiosa was the winner of the Graduate Student Award for his presentation “2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) activates the arylhydrocarbon receptor (AhR) in the lymphocyte stem cells of the murine thymus and causes cell cycle arrest resulting in thymic atrophy”. He received a plaque, a check for $250, and a $130 gift certificate from Taylor and Francis. Carmen Booker was the runner up for the Graduate Student Award for her presentation “Benzo(a)pyrene-induced anemia and splenomegaly in the female NZB/WF1 mouse”. She received a gift certificate ($100) from Taylor and Francis. (photograph not available).

Yanli Ouyang received the Award for Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Fellow. His presentation was entitled “Suppression of human cytokine gene expression by the vapor from cigarette smoke extracts is mediated by decreased NF-B and AP-1.” He received a plaque, a check for $250 and a gift certificate ($100) from Taylor and Francis. (photograph not available).

The Specialty Section Councilors judge the Outstanding Young Investigator Award. This year Petia Simeonova, a Project Leader in the Toxicology and Molecular Biology Branch at NIOSH in Morgantown, WV, was the winner. Her research interests include the relationship between oxidative damage and induction of the inflammatory response, and the molecular mechanisms responsible for arsenic toxicity. She has published over 30 papers and numerous book chapters, and is also a recipient of the Alice Hamilton Award for excellence in occupational research at NIOSH.

The councilors also judge the Best Paper of the Year in an SOT Journal award. This year’s award was presented to Arati B. Kamath for “Role of Fas-Fas ligand interactions in 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD)-induced immunotoxicity: Increased resistance of thymocytes from Fas-deficient (lpr) and Fas ligand-defective (gld) mice to TCDD-induced toxicity”, published in Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology 160, 41-55 (1999). Dr. Kamath received a plaque as an award for this paper. (photograph not available).

Finally, Dr. Michael Luster was honored as the winner of the 2001 Career Achievement Award for his contribution to the field of Immunotoxicology, and the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. He has been a leader in many facets of immunotoxicological research, from classical descriptive immunotoxicology screening studies to identifying molecular mechanisms of chemically-induced immunosuppression, inflammation and autoimmunity. His contributions to immunotoxicological risk assessment include a major role in development of the NTP immunotoxicology tier tests, and he was one of the first to formally assess the predictive value of functional assays for changes in host resistance in the whole animal. Mike also served as President of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section from 1994-1995. The Nominating Committee (President, last 3 Past Presidents and Vice President Elect) judges this award.
Regulatory Committee Report

Submitted by Kenneth Hastings

The Regulatory Committee has primarily functioned to provide information on ongoing regulatory issues for the Specialty Section newsletter. In particular, we have followed closely the development of EMEA/CPMP guidelines on immunotoxicity assessment of drugs and the ICCVAM process with respect to the local lymph node assay. We have proposed a roundtable session for SOT 2002, in conjunction with the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section, on immunotoxicology guidelines in the US, Europe, and Japan.

The US FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research has released for public comment a draft Guidance for Industry document entitled “Immunotoxicology Evaluation of Investigational New Drugs” (www.fda.gov/cder/guidance/3010dft.htm). This document is the result of several years of effort within CDER to formulate a useful guide to sponsors and much of the content has been presented publicly at various meetings. Any comments will be greatly appreciated; please feel free to contact Dr. Joseph DeGeorge at 301-594-5476 (degeorge@cdr.fda.gov).

I am also happy to discuss any of the content of the document (301-827-2336; hastingsk@cdr.fda.gov), although official correspondence should be directed to Dr. DeGeorge. As a personal note, I would like to thank the folks at FDA/CDER who are the anonymous authors; this was a tremendous effort, to which anyone who has been involved in writing guidance documents can attest. In addition, much thanks to numerous folks for their suggestions and comments, many of which are reflected in the content of the guidance.

Student Representative

Submitted by Susan McKarns

I am pleased to announce that our student membership has increased over 100% over this past year. Our new student members include: Erick Shriver, Gabriel Knudson, Nicole Diotte, Kim Klink, Peyton Meyers, Kristen Mitchell, Carmen Booker, and Jessica Duffy. Additionally, Drs. Barbara Kaplan Faubert, Beth Vorderstrasse, and Michael Whitekus have moved on to postdoctoral status.

The second annual Immunotoxicology Specialty Section student/postdoctoral mixer, co-sponsored by Covance Laboratories, Inc. and Sanofi–Synthelabo Inc., was held during the SOT annual meeting. This student mixer provides an excellent forum for networking and student camaraderie, and on behalf of the student body, I sincerely thank the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section for the efforts that they continue to put forth to make such a tremendous success. Excellent presentations were made by Dr. Carol Shreffler, director of the NIEHS NRSA training program, and Dr. Mike McClure, administrator of the NIEHS TIPS (training to independent funding) regarding grant funding. These presentations were extremely informative and well received. A special thanks to Dr. MaryJane Selgrade for initiating the idea to bring in speakers as well as identifying and securing this year’s speakers. A copy of Fundamental Immunology, 4th Edition by Paul was presented as a door prize. Drs. Germolec, Selgrade, and Luebke also took time out of their hectic schedules to attend the mixer to personally meet the students and solicit their input for how the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section can provide better mentoring. The students would like the opportunity to have more interactions with senior investigators. In light of this, I would like to ask senior investigators and students alike to make an extra effort to meet each other during poster sessions. Dr. Selgrade also suggested additional plans for increasing student mentoring. These plans are in progress.

For the first time, and as a strong positive sign of the willingness of our students to become involved in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section, we had several students sign up this year to serve as Immunotoxicology Specialty Section committee members.

Communication Committee

Submitted by Robert House

Since the inception of the Communications Committee, we have tried to keep the membership supplied with current information regarding not only Specialty Section-specific items, but with useful scientific items as well. Several years ago (before this Committee existed), Bob Luebke initiated and ran a listserver that was intended to serve as a resource for rapid exchange of information and announcements specific to immunotoxicology. With the eventual ubiquity of the Internet, we saw an opportunity to reach a larger audience. To this end, we were one of the first Specialty Sections to post a site on the SOT homepage.

Some of our efforts have not been as successful; witness our efforts to provide members with a “Resource Guide” that was intended to identify immunotoxicology researchers and their particular area of expertise, and to make curricula vitae accessible online. Although this effort eventually crashed and burned, we still believe it to be a useful concept; expect to see it reappear, probably in a different format.

Finally, one of my goals has been to provide the Specialty Section with a newsletter that is attractive, useful, and interesting. With the gratis contribution of my wife Brenda, I believe that the first goal has been accomplished.
However, I now have other duties and am resigning as chair of this Committee. Therefore, it is time for the tasks of producing the newsletter and maintaining the website to pass on to other individuals. The Communications Committee needs help from any of you with experience in desktop publishing, graphics, and web design. If you can help in any of these areas, please contact Dr. Jean Regal.

**Methods Committee**  
*Submitted by Frank Gerberick*

The primary role of the Methods Committee is to promote the development, standardization and validation of assays useful in the detection of immunologic changes. The committee also promotes the sharing of technical expertise among members and non-members of the Society and Specialty Section. Current members of the Methods Committee are Jeanine Bussiere, George DeGeorge, Ken Hastings, Robert House, Deborah Keil, Robert Luebke and Ed Yurkow.

One future activity of the Methods Committee is to look into developing a virtual meeting on the web that would serve to focus on specific immunotoxicology methods of interest to our membership. The virtual meeting would be hosted on a secure web site and would allow researchers to share/exchange information regarding methods in immunotoxicology. This virtual web meeting could feature 2-3 methods per year. The committee plans to continue to pursue this idea as well as others over the coming year. If you’re interested in helping out, please let us know.

**Program Committee Report**  
*Submitted by Robert House*

Although not quite as ambitious in number as in recent years, the slate of programs submitted for the 2002 annual meeting were all of high quality and high potential interest (see right).

In addition to the proposals that were chosen, a number of topics were suggested but were not thought to be developed enough for submission. These include a symposium on “Immunomodulation by Edible Things”, a symposium entitled “Immunotoxicity of Biofuels”, and a Continuing Education course on signal transduction. These topics will almost certainly be proposed for the 2003 annual meeting.

As evident from this slate, the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section is working to foster cooperation with other Specialty Sections within SOT. We urge all of you to start thinking now about ideas for the 2003 annual meeting, since it’s never too soon (and, regrettably, all too often too late) to begin developing your ideas into a program.

**TOPICS for 2002 SOT PROGRAMS**

A workshop entitled “Approaches to the Assessment of Food Allergenicity” chaired by Gregory Ladics and Wumin Dong, co-sponsored by the Food Safety Specialty Section.

A symposium entitled “War and Peace: Immunomodulation as a Defense Against Biowarfare and Bioterrorism” chaired by Robert House and Robert Casillas.


A symposium entitled “Altered Gene Expression and Cutaneous Toxicity” chaired by Frank Gerberick and Ian Kimber, co-sponsored by the Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section.

A symposium entitled “Molecular Mechanisms of Smoking-Induced Immune Suppression” chaired by Brian Freed and co-sponsored by the Mechanisms Specialty Section.

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**Guillible’s Travels**

As if we needed (further) evidence that the state of science education in the U.S. has gone completely off the rails, the CDC now finds it necessary to run a web site debunking health rumors spread via the Internet. For the latest installment of foolishness, check it out at:  

http://www.cdc.gov/hoax_rumors.htm
Meeting Announcement

Biotechnology-Derived Therapeutics
The 2001 Annual Symposium Biotechnology-Derived Therapeutics: Current Perspectives in Preclinical Development will be held June 4-5 in Kirkland, WA (near Seattle). The program description is as follows:

This two-day symposium will provide a practical approach to the development and registration of therapeutic products derived from biotechnology. Now in its eighth year, the series continues to focus exclusively on the preclinical R&D and regulatory issues preceding the entry of human therapeutics into the clinic and onto the market. Industry speakers will share their unique perspectives garnered from their own companies’ R&D experiences. Therapeutic products will include polypeptides and proteins (including MAbs), synthetic oligonucleotides, carbohydrates and gene therapies. “Case by case” examples are emphasized for presentation and discussion.

For general conference information, contact: Doug Kornbrust, Sr. Vice President/Scientific Director, Sierra Biomedical, Inc., email dkornbrust@sierrabiomedical.com or Ben Marafino, Biotechnology Consultant and Symposium Chairperson, e-mail benfino@aol.com

Allergenic Potential of Genetically Modified Foods
There is growing concern among the general public and the scientific community regarding the potential toxicity of genetically modified (GM) foods. Of specific interest is the ability of GM proteins to illicit potentially harmful immunologic responses including hypersensitivity and/or autoimmunity. The lack of information on the potential toxicity of these products has created a considerable backlash against the producers and users of these crops.

To address these issues, NIH, EPA and FDA are sponsoring a workshop on the Assessment of Allergic Potential of Genetically Modified Foods, to be held at the Marriott at the Civic Center in Durham, NC on September 24-26, 2001. This meeting will gather experts in food allergy, GM crops and the regulatory aspects of these products, along with bench scientists and clinicians to examine the current state of knowledge in the area, identify the critical issues regarding these materials and develop testing strategies to examine the toxicity of these compounds. For additional information please contact Dr. Dori Germolec at germolec@niehs.nih.gov or 919-541-3230.

American College of Toxicology
The American College of Toxicology (ACT; www.actox.org) Meeting will be in Washington, DC, November 4-7 at the Renaissance Washington Hotel. There are tentative plans for the following immunotoxicology presentations:

- Symposium: New Methods in Immunotoxicology - Ken Hastings, Chair
- CE Course: Regulatory Update (to include short immunotox presentation)
- Mini-CE Course: Immunotoxicology Guidelines - Dennis Miller, Chair (to follow the other CE course, not concurrent.)

Immunotoxic Potential of Human Pharmaceuticals
A Drug Information Association workshop will be held in Noordwijk, The Netherlands November 19-20 entitled Assessment of Immunotoxic Potential of Human Pharmaceuticals. The Drug Information Association’s web page is located at www.diahome.org. Click on View List of Meetings, then View Meetings in Europe. Scroll down to find the November 19-20 date. Francois Verdier, Ken Hastings, Jack Dean, and Henk van Loveren are on the scientific committee for this meeting.

The “Bad Bug Book”, available at http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~mow/intro.html, provides basic facts regarding foodborne pathogenic microorganisms and natural toxins. It brings together in one place information from the Food & Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service, and the National Institutes of Health.

Some technical terms have been linked to the National Library of Medicine’s Entrez glossary. Recent articles from Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports have been added to selected chapters to update the handbook with information on later outbreaks or incidents of foodborne disease. At the end of selected chapters on pathogenic microorganisms (bacterial, viral, protozoal, you name it), and hypertext links are included to relevant Entrez abstracts and GenBank genetic loci. A treasure-trove of interesting information.

Sickening!
METHODS


VARIOUS AGENTS


Wong, S.-s. et al. (2001). Superinduction of TNF- and IL-6 in macrophages by vomitoxin (deoxynivalenol) modulated by mRNA stabilization. Toxicology. 161(1-2): 139-149.

**REVIEWS AND OVERVIEWS**


**TCDD**


**MISCELLANEOUS**


**ASTHMA, ALLERGY AND HYPERSENSITIVITY**


Karrow, N.A. et al. (2001). Dermal exposure to cinnamaldehyde alters lymphocyte subpopulations, number of interferon-gamma-producing cells, and expression of B7 costimulatory molecules and cytokine messenger RNAs in auricular lymph nodes of B6C3F1 mice. Am J Contact Dermat. 12(1):6- 17.


Pichowski, J.S.et al. (2001). Allergen-induced changes in interleukin 1beta (iL-1beta) mRNA expression by human blood-derived dendritic cells: inter-individual differences and relevance for sensitization testing. J Appl Toxicol. 21(2):115-121.


OTHER SPECIES


SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND