

Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Newsletter



2001 - 2002

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Student Representative

Mr. L. Peyton Myers

The Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Newsletter is published 3 times/year (May, August and November). If you would like to share a book review, meeting report, interesting web site or any other item of interest with members of the Specialty Section, please send it to us by the middle of the month preceding the planned publication date. All comments on, or suggestions for, the newsletter are welcome.

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Typesetting provided by Lexicon Services.

President's Message

MaryJane Selgrade

Your Executive Committee has been busy carrying on the work of the Specialty Section. In the next few months there are five really important things we need from all our members:

- Pay your SOT dues and be sure to include the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section
- Nominate someone for an award
- Propose a symposium, workshop, round table, or a continuing course for the 2003 meeting
- Volunteer to chair a committee
- Nominate someone (including yourself) for an office in the Specialty Section.

For more information on all of these please read the committee chairs' reports that follow.

My job is made easy by the efforts of our many committee chairs. I particularly need to thank Paige Lawrence and her Membership Committee for their efforts reconciling our membership list with the official SOT list. The bottom line is that many people who think they have paid Specialty Section dues have not. It's important that you pay your dues because SOT headquarters is now making us stick to our budget. I also need to thank Jean Regal, our treasurer, who has been working hard to understand what things cost and creating a budget we can live with. We may have to trim some of the fluff in our operation, but we are working hard to maintain our important activities and to seek corporate sponsorships for things we might otherwise be unable to afford. Also, thanks to Peyton Meyers, our student representative, who has been getting our student and postdoc membership rolls together.

I also need to thank Mitch Cohen who is doing double duty as Awards Committee chair and Communications Committee chair. We could not find anyone to spearhead the Communications Committee this year. Robert House is helping out with awards.

We need you!

When your SOT dues statement arrives-

Check the box labeled Immunotox!

And pay the extra \$25.

The activities of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section depend on it!!

Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Membership What do you get for your \$25?

Annual meeting and reception

An opportunity to connect with the Immunotoxicology community at the Specialty Section membership meeting and reception in Nashville

Awards

Recognition of outstanding Immunotoxicology research conducted by students, postdocs and specialty section members

Web site and Newsletter

Stay connected year round with the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section newsletter and website.

These two fellows do an awful lot of work for the Specialty Section. We need to spread the load around so please consider taking on the Communications Committee. When the time comes to sign up at the annual meeting, we would really like someone to step forward.

Nominations for all but the student awards are due November 30. Surely you know someone who deserves one of these awards. We will also need to have a slate of candidates for the Specialty Section (vice-president elect and councilor) to SOT Headquarters by mid December. I'll be happy to relay all suggestions from the membership to the Nominating Committee. Although the 2003 meeting may seem far away, it's time to start thinking about possible programs. Contact Tom Kawabata with any ideas you may have.

My pet project for this year's annual meeting is the organization of small dinner groups that mix students and postdocs in roughly equal numbers with more senior immunotoxicologists. Pete Thomas and Peyton Myers are helping to organize this. Peyton has more to say on student activities in his column.

The Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) has asked us to join them as a partner society. SOT has agreed, and Paige Lawrence will be our representative to their program committee. Their next meeting is June 28-July 1 2002 in San Francisco. More information will be coming to you by mail. We hope this will be a fruitful relationship.

Finally, it seems like the world has really turned upside down since the last newsletter. I hope no one suffered a personal loss as a result of September 11th and the ensuing anthrax problems. I know that all of us have been affected, and I suspect that the world will be looking to toxicologists to deal with some of the problems we are currently encountering. All of this has made me very appreciative of the place where I was born, a place where among other things, science can flourish and the goal is to support humanity, not destroy it.

Membership Committee Report

Submitted by B. Paige Lawrence

First of all, we would like to thank all of the Specialty Section members who took the time to respond to e-mail inquiries from the Membership Committee. About 70% of the Specialty Section membership responded. We learned a tremendous amount from this e-mail survey and would like to share several of our findings with you.

- The good news is that membership in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section is growing. In 2000-2001, we had 266 self-reported members. We now have 320 members. That is a 20% increase in our membership.

- The bad news is that Society of Toxicology records indicate we have only 213 members. This means that not all of our self-reported members are paying their dues. This is disappointing, and the Membership Committee is open to suggestions for increasing compliance in dues-paying.

- We also discovered that there has been a bit of record-keeping confusion. Not to pick on SOT Headquarters, because managing a professional society is an enormous endeavor; however, our survey revealed that 13% of our membership paid their Specialty Section dues to SOT, but were not counted as Immunotoxicology Specialty Section members by SOT. The Executive Committee asked SOT to look into this, and they did. According to SOT, there were three main reasons:

- 1 People who pay their dues late slip through the cracks when SOT tallies up Specialty Section members. *The message to us? Pay your dues, pay them on time, and verify with SOT that they received your payment and recorded it properly.*

- 2 About 30% of folks who think they are Specialty Section members pay their annual dues to SOT but neither check the box for joining the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section, nor include the extra fees associated with Specialty Section membership (\$25 for Associate and Full members). *The message to us? Please check the box for the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section and include the extra payment for membership in our Specialty Section.*

- 3 About 30% of people who think they have paid their annual dues to SOT simply have not done so. *The message to us? Please pay your dues 😊.*

- Finally, our e-mail campaign brought to our attention some confusion among our student and postdoctoral members with regard to joining the Specialty Section. Student and postdoctoral members of SOT are permitted to join one Specialty Section for free (they can join more than one, but must pay dues to do so). However, you must be a member of SOT. Moreover, to join a Specialty Section gratis, you still need to check the appropriate Specialty Section box on the annual dues/renewal form and return it to SOT. *Mentors: please encourage your students and postdoctoral fellows to join SOT and check the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section box.*

SOT will be mailing out the 2002 annual membership renewal forms shortly. Please take the time to renew your membership in both SOT and the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section.

Once again, thank you for responding to our e-mail survey. We have updated our membership e-mail listing and gained valuable information about our membership. If you have concerns or ideas, please feel free to share them with us. If you are moving, please send us your new e-mail address and contact information.

The current roster for the Membership Committee and our email addresses are as follows:	
B. Paige Lawrence, Ph.D. (chair)	bpl@mail.wsu.edu
M. Ian Gilmour, Ph.D.	gilmour.ian@epa.gov
Ranulfo Lemus, Sc.D	lemus@imap.pitt.edu
Kathleen Phillips McKeever, Ph.D.	kpm@gene.com
L. Peyton Myers	lmyers@lsuhsc.edu
Prakash Nagarkatti, Ph.D	pnagark@hsc.vcu.edu
T. Scott Thurmond	Scott.Thurmond@cfsan.fda.gov
Beth Vorderstrasse, Ph.D.	vordersb@wsu.edu



AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Mitch Cohen

Immunotoxicology Specialty Section awards which will be available for the 2002 meeting in Nashville, along with the requirements for eligibility for each, are provided below. **Note that the deadlines are coming up fast!!!!!! Please nominate individuals you feel deserve recognition for their work in Immunotoxicology.**

By November 30, 2001

Career Achievement Award

For a Senior Investigator whose body of work represents an outstanding achievement in Immunotoxicology. Nominators must provide a letter which discusses the role that the nominee's work has played in advancing the field of Immunotoxicology, along with the nominee's *curriculum vitae* and bibliography. Additional letters of recommendation are suggested but not required. Please send nominations to:

Dr. MaryJane Selgrade
MD-92, USEPA
RTP, NC 27711
(T) 919-541-1821,
(F) 919-541-4284,
e-mail: Selgrade.MaryJane@EPA.Gov

Best SOT Journal Paper of the Year Award

For the Author(s) of the best paper in the area of Immunotoxicology published either in *Toxicological Sciences* or *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001. **THE ENTIRE LIST (75 ARTICLES) TO CHOOSE FROM IS AVAILABLE AT THE IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY WEBSITE.** Nominator should provide a full citation of the paper and a short discussion of the value of the research to the field of Immunotoxicology. Please send nomination to:

Dr. Mitch Cohen
Department of Environmental Medicine
New York University
57 Old Forge Road
Tuxedo, NY, 10987
(T) 845-731-3527
(F) 845-351-5472
e-mail: cohenm@env.med.nyu.edu

Outstanding Young Immunotoxicologist Award

For a Young Investigator whose body of work has made significant contributions to the field of Immunotoxicology.

Award is **NOT LIMITED** to those in academia. Investigators who have had an impact upon regulatory issues or within industry will also be considered. Nominee must have **less than 15 years of experience** since obtaining their highest degree. Exceptions can be made if careers have been interrupted for family or health reasons, by clinical practice, etc. Reasons for an exception should be documented in nomination. Nominators must summarize the contributions of the candidate and provide a *curriculum vitae* and bibliography. Please send nominations to:

Dr. Robert House
Covance Laboratories Inc.
Department of Toxicology
P.O. Box 7545
Madison, WI, 53707
(T) 608-241-7226
(F) 608-242-2736
e-mail: robert.house@covance.com

By February 8, 2002

Best Presentations by a Student and by a Post-Doctoral Trainee Awards

For the student(s)/post-doctoral trainee whose work is judged to be the best of all the year's applicants. Requirements are submission of a complete written version (including all graphs and tables) of an Immunotoxicology presentation to be made at Nashville. While electronic submissions are encouraged, a hard copy must also be submitted. This is to

be accompanied by a letter of nomination by the nominee's advisor.

NO MANUSCRIPTS PLEASE. Please send submissions to:

Dr. Mitch Cohen
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New York University
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e-mail: cohenm@env.med.nyu.edu

Important Deadlines...

Immunotoxicology Specialty Section

November 30, 2001

Deadline for nomination for the following awards:

- Career Achievement,
- Best SOT Journal Paper of the Year,
- Outstanding Young Immunotoxicologist.

February 8, 2002

Deadline for submission of presentations for the following awards:

- Best Presentation by a Student,
- Best Presentation by a Post-Doctoral Trainee.

Proposed Change to Bylaws

MaryJane Selgrade

At our March 2002 meeting we will vote on the following change to the Article IX (Committees) of the Bylaws. Section 4 currently reads: *The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice President Elect and the three most recent past Presidents.* The proposed would read as follows: *The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Vice President Elect and the three most recent past Presidents.* The reason for the change is to include the Vice President in the nominating process because that person will be presiding over the process the following year.

Program Committee Report

Submitted by Tom Kawabata

I would like to thank the following people for signing up for the Program Committee for the 2003 SOT meeting.

Mitch Cohen, Dori Germolec, Ian Kimber, Greg Ladics, Micheal Lynes, LeighAnn Naas, David Sherr and David Shepherd

Our committee will be soliciting ideas for Continuing Education, Symposia, Workshop and Roundtable Discussion topics. Please contact or send your idea to any member of the committee. We are also encouraging students, postdocs and new investigators to provide ideas. The Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Program Committee will be meeting in Nashville at the 2002 meeting to review the ideas. These ideas will then be discussed later that week at the Executive Committee meeting of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section. Ideas selected at the Executive Committee meeting will be formalized and submitted to the SOT Program Committee for final selection. Thus, it is advised that you have your idea well formulated and sent to an Immunotoxicology Program Committee member by the 2002 SOT meeting.

When thinking of ideas, please consider the following:

- 1) Objective and rationale for the session
- 2) Timeliness and controversy of the topic
- 3) If similar topics have been presented over the past few years
- 4) The target audience
- 5) Specific speakers and topics to be discussed (you do not need commitment from the speakers when submitting ideas for discussion at the 2002 SOT meeting)
- 6) Format (CE course, symposia etc.)

Continuing Education Courses

- Basic courses are intended to familiarize investigators with a defined knowledge base or to assist them in developing, implementing or learning techniques or approaches
- Advanced courses are intended to be of interest for those already working in the field

Symposia

Cutting-edge science, new areas for toxicologists, new concepts or approaches, new data

- 3 hours or less
- Chairperson and 4-5 speakers (30 minutes per speaker)
- Summary of symposium by last speaker

Workshop

Topics requiring intensive study and discussion

- 3 hours or less
- One to five speakers
- Informal, interactive presentations
- Emphasis on discussion

Roundtable

Controversial subject matter

- 1.5 hours
- Moderator and 2-4 speakers
- Moderator presents overview
- Each speaker makes a 3-5 minute statement (Moderator coordinates the comment)
- Balance of time for questions and discussion

Student Representative

L. Peyton Meyers

Planning is well underway for two events for students and post-docs at the upcoming meeting in Nashville. The student mixer is tentatively planned for Monday afternoon (4:30-6:00) and the dinner is tentatively planned for Tuesday night (after the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section general membership meeting). These events should be a great success.

So far, we have 22 students and post-docs who have shown an interest in the upcoming events. If you are interested and have not yet contacted me, please do so soon (lmyers@lsuhsc.edu).

Also, I would like to encourage any students and post-docs to refer to the Membership Committee Report regarding student/post-doc membership.

Some of the students and post-docs who have shown an interest in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section are not listed in the roster of Immunotoxicology Specialty Section members. The Specialty Section receives payment for each student and post-doc who joins the Specialty Section. Since students and post-docs can join one Specialty Section for free, please make sure to mark the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section as your Specialty Section when renewing your membership to SOT.

Thanks again for everyone's responses to my inquiries for student and post-docs for the upcoming events. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

IN NASHVILLE

Save Tuesday night for the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section membership meeting and reception.

Regulatory Committee Report

Submitted by Ken Hastings and Denise Sailstad

Update on implementation of the Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA).

Since the ICCVAM Peer Review of the LLNA (1998) and general ICCVAM acceptance (1999), agencies have wrangled with the procedures used to modify existing guidelines and any specific regulatory factors associated with the assay.

As an update, the EPA has a Science Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting on the LLNA scheduled for December 11, 2001. While the scientific validity of the LLNA has been assessed via the ICCVAM independent peer review and ICCVAM process, the EPA will present revised harmonized OPPTS 870.2600 Skin Sensitization Guidelines to the panel. Since the ICCVAM peer review already evaluated the science of the LLNA, this panel will discuss the regulatory applicability of the LLNA within the context of the OPPTS (Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances) testing programs.

Internationally, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has reviewed the LLNA. Minor changes were made to the version considered at the 13th National Coordinators Meeting in May, and it was passed on for approval at the 32nd Joint Meeting in June. After some editorial changes it will be sent on to undergo the final steps in becoming a formal OECD Test Guideline.

Individuals interested in finding out more information may want to check the ICCVAM website:
<http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>

Communications Committee Report

Submitted by Mitch Cohen

Just want to remind everyone that a site has been established for those Immunotoxicology Specialty Section members who want to post positions to be filled and for those who want to advertise that they are seeking positions. The information can be found under the EMPLOYMENT tag at our Immunotoxicology Specialty Section webpage in the SOT website, and will be updated monthly. As a backup, for these

first and the next few months, all members will receive an e-mail to let them know that the site has been updated and to suggest that they check it out. The same information will also be available in the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Newsletter which comes out three times a year.

Please, if you have new or updated information about positions in academia, government, or industry that can be placed onto the site, send that information to me at cohenm@env.med.nyu.edu and we will update the website promptly.

Interesting URLs

Thanks to Bob Luebke for this information

Looking for money? The National Center for Environmental Research, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, maintains a web site at <http://es.epa.gov/ncercqa/> that provides information for grant and fellowship funding. The site includes announcements of upcoming grant topics, all forms required for application, plus progress reports and summaries of currently funded research. Subscriptions to various e-mail lists are available, including "Grant and Funding Announcements" that provides notification of RFAs as they are posted to the site.

Compiling the references for a manuscript? Here is a useful non-commercial website that has official abbreviations for biological journals at <http://www.hsc.usf.edu/bja>

Not exactly immunotox, but worth a look: Lots of folks probably know about BioMedNet (<http://www.bmn.com/>), since the site claims close to 900,000 subscribers. The site is owned by Elsevier, and has the typical access to various journals, Medline, jobs in science, and product reviews and so forth found on other sites. Brief (!) daily summaries of scientific conferences are online, with e-mail notification available. One of the most interesting items on the site is a publication called HMS Beagle, an electronic magazine with articles on a wide variety of science subjects, preprints of articles to appear in the Trends in _____ series, reviews of scientific books and fictional works, interviews with well known scientists, software reviews and more. Register and sign up for e-mail notifications of new issues on the home page.

In case you have not found it yet, the National Library of Medicine has a new database named TOXNET at <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>. The site includes a hazardous substances database, EPA IRIS data, the NCI chemical carcinogenesis system, plus others, all in searchable format. There is also a literature search engine (TOXLINE), access to the Toxics Release Inventory from 1995-1999, and more.

Meeting Announcement for December

The NIEHS/NTP workshop on the "Assessment of the Allergenic Potential of Genetically Modified Foods" is rescheduled for December 10-12, 2001 at the Sheraton in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This workshop was previously scheduled to be held on September 24-26, 2001 in Durham, North Carolina, but was postponed. For further details about this meeting and information about registration please visit the NTP web site at <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/htdocs/Liason/GMFoodWorkshopFR.html>

Compiled by Helen Ratajczak

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

ASTHMA, ALLERGY AND HYPERSENSITIVITY

Alp H, Yu BH, Grant EN, Rao V, Moy JN. Cockroach allergy appears early in life in inner-city children with recurrent wheezing. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* 86:51-54, 2001.

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AUTOIMMUNITY, HYPERSENSITIVITY

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Erratum Correction in bold letters:

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CYTOKINES AND CHEMOKINES

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Kaplan AP. Chemokines, chemokine receptors and allergy. *Int Arch Allergy Immunol* 124:423-431, 2001.

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