

Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Newsletter



2003 - 2004

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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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President's Message

Thomas Kawabata

Greetings Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Members,

Hope you had a good summer. For this newsletter, I would like to encourage all members take part in future Specialty Section activities. This includes students to senior colleagues whom have not had a chance to participate in some of the ISS activities.

Here are some of the reasons that I've heard or used in the past not to get involved. After each reason, I've noted why you should get involved (in italics).

1 I've tried to sign up for the committees at the business meetings and all of the slots were filled.

As announced at our business meeting at the last SOT meeting, we are developing ISS goals and specific action plans. GOOD NEWS, we plan to develop more committees to address each of the action plans. A draft list will be sent out to the ISS this fall and finalized by the next newsletter. Please sign up for these committees.

2 I know very little about ISS and SOT policies and procedures. I'll let the "old guys" handle it.

You got to start sometime and you will be one of the "old guys" sooner than you think. We will try to setup the committees so that veterans are mixed with rookies. It helps bring in fresh ideas, allow you to meet fellow specialty section members and allow you to learn Specialty Section and SOT policies and procedures.

3 I'm just starting my career and too busy generating preliminary data and writing grants to get involved at this time.

Although you are very busy now, you will be even busier and over committed in the future. Thus, NOW is a good time. Committee participation is an excellent way to network with others in the field. Who knows, it may lead to future collaborations and better career opportunities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1 We plan to send out a questionnaire to the ISS in September. Please respond and add any suggestions. The information obtained from this questionnaire will be included in our goals.

2 We plan to send out a draft of the goals and specific action plans this fall. Please carefully review and promptly send in your comments.

3 The final list of goals / action steps will be sent out in our next newsletter and will be discussed more at the 2004 ISS business meeting. If you see a specific goal / action step that is of interest, please volunteer for that committee.

Remember, like the immune response our specialty section is dependent on numerous components to function. So all you T cells out there, we need your HELP (not suppression).

*Best Regards,
Tom Kawabata*

President, Immunotoxicology Specialty Section (2003-2004)

Program Committee Report

Submitted by Ken Hastings

Folks: its never too early to begin planning for the next meeting, which in this case is New Orleans in 2005. Please put on your thinking caps (if you haven't already): let's put together a good (make that great) package of proposals when we meet in Baltimore! If you have ideas, please pass them on to me or anyone else on the Program Committee (Mitch Cohen, Dori Germolec, Bob Luebke, Ian Gilmour, Mitzi Nagarkatti, Greg Ladics, Peyton Myers, Frank Gerberick, Jean Regal, Ian Kimber, or Susan McKarns). Remember: it's always best to have your proposal put together *before* the annual meeting. I'm glad to help out!

Program Committee for 2004 Contact Information

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Treasurer's Report

Immunotoxicology Section
July 2002 - June 2003



Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	100
Dues - '03	2,685
Student Dues - '03	-
Grants - Food Safety	-
Grants - Mechanisms	-
Misc. Income	-
Registrat'n	3,758
Interest	177
Total Income	6,720
Expense	
Awards - Sections	500
Plaques	508
Ballot	-
audiovisual-Utah	2,151
Prog. Comm. Breakfast	114
Newsletter	200
Reception	2,558
Steno/Clerical	-
Symposia	-
Web Development	-
Total Expense	6,031
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	688
Net Assets Beginning of Year	3,022
Transfers from General Fund	-
Net Assets Beginning of Year After Transfers	3,022
Net Assets End of Year	3,711

Regulatory Committee Report

Submitted by Ken Hastings

The European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals has published a document entitled *Contact Sensitisation: Classification According to Potency* (Technical Report No. 87; April, 2003) which can be obtained from the secretariat (see www.ecetoc.org). This document deals with the difficult problem of classifying contact allergens according to relative potency and thresholds for induction and elicitation. Of note is the conclusion that the murine local lymph node assay (LLNA) should be considered the method of choice of determining skin sensitizing potential for the purpose of categorization. The document also considers results obtained using the guinea pig maximization test and the Buehler occluded patch test and concludes "[these data] can, if interpreted judiciously, provide information of value in assessment of skin sensitization potency." The document proposes the following descriptors be used to classify potency: 'extreme', 'strong', 'moderate', or "weak". This is an interesting and useful guide to using these assays for risk assessment. While checking out the ECETOC website, you might want to look at some other documents that have been published on immunotoxicology (Monographs 10, 14, 19, 21, 29, 32; Technical Reports 77, 78), as well as others of interest.

On a related note, Dee Sailstad provided the following website address for information on the LLNA:

iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/llna.htm

Preview Book Announcement

Preview Announcement of an important new textbook in immunotoxicology

Title: Developmental Immunotoxicology

Editor: Steve Holladay

The textbook will begin with two chapters that provide an overview of development of the rodent and human immune systems. These will be followed by a chapter of risk assessment perspectives for developmental immunotoxicology, and four chapters that examine utility of different animal models for studying developmental immunotoxicology. A third section of the book will consist of five chapters that review different classes of developmental immunotoxicants and associated postnatal immune suppression. The fourth section will then examine developmental immunotoxicant exposure and exacerbated immune responses, including asthma and autoimmune disease. A final section will consider relationships between developmental neurotoxicity and postnatal immune deficits, and maternal malnutrition and impaired postnatal immune responses.

The publisher will be Taylor and Francis, with a publishing date of 2004.

New Immunotoxicology Conference Held in Montana

The 2003 Northwest Immunotoxicology Conference was held on August 15th and 16th at the University of Montana's Salmon Lake Conference Center. This event was sponsored by the University of Montana's Center for Environmental Health Sciences (CEHS), with generous funding provided by NSF-EPSCoR, NCRP and the CEHS. The conference brought together scientists in the northwest region that are currently exploring the effects of synthetic and natural chemicals on the immune system. Immunotoxicologists from Oregon State University, University of Washington, Washington State University, Bastyr University's Research Institute and the University of Montana were in attendance. The conference was held over two days, the first day focused on compounds that suppress immunity and included presentations by Dr. Nancy Kerkvliet (OSU), Dr. B. Paige Lawrence (WSU), and Dr. David Shepherd (UM). The second day concentrated on various xenobiotics that enhance immunity and included presentations by Dr. Andrij Holian (UM), Dr. Jean Pfau (UM), and Dr. Cynthia Wenner (Bastyr).

The combination of formal presentations and informal break out sessions served to facilitate collaborations and discussion among principal investigators, postdocs, graduate students and research staff. It is the hope of the conference organizers, Dr. Andrij Holian (aholian@selway.umt.edu) and Dr. David Shepherd (shepherd@selway.umt.edu), that this meeting will grow in size and scope over the next few years to attract other immunotoxicologists from the West coast, or perhaps even from across the country. For more information, please contact the conference organizers at the University of Montana.

Awards Reminder

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

The award requirements are submission of a complete written version (including all graphs and tables) of an Immunotoxicology presentation to be made at the SOT annual meeting. This presentation is to be accompanied by a Letter of Nomination from the Student's or Post-doctoral Fellow's advisor. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. No manuscripts will be accepted. Winners will receive a plaque and cash award.

The deadline for submission is February 6, 2004.

Please submit nominations to:

Dr. Paige Lawrence
Washington State University
College of Pharmacy
Washington State University
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pullman, WA 99164-6534
USA
Email: bpl@mail.wsu.edu

As some of you may recall, we did not award a Best Immunotoxicology Paper of the Year at our 2003 meeting. This came as a disappointment to many people, especially because some excellent papers were published in 2002. The solution to this problem rests with the membership. If you read an exceptionally good paper, please take the time to nominate it for this award.

To assist with this process, some changes have been made in the criteria for Best Immunotoxicology Paper of the Year Award. The two major changes pertain to the scope and time frame. This award is no longer restricted to papers published in Toxicological Sciences or Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology. **You may nominate immunotoxicology papers published in any peer-reviewed journal.** To

*Keep Your
Eyes Peeled*
for a
**Great
Immunotoxicology**
paper and
Nominate It For An Award!

address concerns about the lag between acceptance for publication and actual publication, we have extended the dates that define eligibility. **Papers published between July 1, 2002 and December 31, 2003 will be eligible for nomination.** An additional change is that authors may no longer nominate their own papers. The deadline for nominating a paper is January 31, 2004.

Nominations may be submitted via email to bpl@wsu.edu. The nomination for this award should provide the full citation of the paper and a short description of the value of the research

to the field of Immunotoxicology. Nominations will be evaluated by the members of the Awards Committee, and the winner will be announced at the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section business meeting, held at the SOT annual meeting in Baltimore, MD.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION

NHEERL, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC

3-yr Term appt -
GS9-GS13 (\$38,588 -\$72,746)
depending on experience &
qualifications

Application deadline October 31.

The purpose is to develop a rodent model of food allergy that could be used to assess the allergenicity of genetically modified foods and answer specific concerns regarding cross reactivity, dose response, relative potency, aggregate risk from multiple routes of exposure, sensitive populations, and structure activity. Research may develop along a variety of lines including explorations of the mechanisms underlying the development of oral tolerance, genetic susceptibility, adjuvancy, the potential role of concomitant exposures, etc. The project provides the opportunity to work in a brand new facility with a group that has had significant success in the development of rodent models of respiratory allergy as well as infectious diseases.

For more details see:

<http://www.epa.gov/nheerl/postdocs/>
(Experimental Toxicology Division
06/05/01-35) or contact
MaryJane Selgrade
selgrade.maryjane@epa.gov

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION

A postdoctoral position is available through a cooperative training agreement with the University of North Carolina to work with investigators in the Immunotoxicology Branch, Experimental Toxicology Division, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, US EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC. The focus of this research is to assess the potential sensitivity of the developing immune system to toxicant-induced immunosuppression. The goal of this research is to apply a panel of *in vivo*, *ex vivo* and *in vitro* assays to determine whether the developing (i.e., prenatal, neonatal and/or post-weaning/juvenile periods of development) immune system of the rat exhibits increased susceptibility to immunosuppressive chemicals compared to the adult.

For more information contact:

Ralph J. Smialowicz
B143-04
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

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POSTDOCTORAL POSITION

β 2-Adrenergic Receptor Signaling and Cytokine Gene Regulation in CD4⁺ T-Cell Subsets

A full-time postdoctoral research position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Virginia Sanders at The Ohio State University in the Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology & Medical Genetics. The research position will be funded by NIH grants, including a NIAID-funded Training Program in Integrative Immunobiology. The primary area of research involves β 2-adrenergic receptor signaling and cytokine gene regulation in CD4⁺ T-cell subsets. Requirements for application include a Ph.D. degree in Immunology, Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Pharmacology, Neuroscience, or a closely related field, as well as research experience in cell signaling, gene expression, and/or T-cell immunology.

Please send a letter of research interest, CV, and the names of three references to:

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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

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AUTOIMMUNITY, HYPERSENSITIVITY

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