In my last letter, I noted the goals underway by the ITSS Executive Committee to ensure that our members have access to continuing education and training opportunities in immunotoxicology for both early and mid-career scientists across all professional disciplines, to develop highly relevant programs for our annual meeting, and to maximize opportunities for engagement with our colleagues. I am pleased to note that we are making progress on all of these fronts. Some of these efforts are already available, such as an expanded mentoring interaction at the 2016 annual meeting. In other cases, we are working diligently with the goal of sharing our progress at the annual meeting.

We are very interested in hearing from you regarding ideas for novel sessions for the 2017 annual meeting, for which submissions will be due in April. Please feel free to discuss these with Vic Johnson, who will take over as the ITSS program chair from Peyton Myers. Our specialty section has historically been highly represented at the annual meeting, and we look forward to discussing your ideas for sessions that will be both scientifically impactful and broadly interesting to the general membership. We will also be voting for new ITSS officers for the 2016-17 term. Please be sure to participate!

I sincerely hope you have a restful holiday season in advance of the bustle of preparations for the annual meeting. As always, please let us know if you have feedback – we would love to hear your ideas for ensuring we remain a robust and energized specialty section. I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Rafael Ponce, Ph.D.
President, ITSS (2015-2016)
As the end of the year approaches, I hope that you are all getting excited for the 55th annual SOT meeting in New Orleans, LA. Remember that there are many great opportunities for students and postdocs to get involved, including Chat with an Expert, Poster Tours, the Student/Postdoctoral Scholar Mixer, and the Tox Showdown.

At the 55th annual SOT meeting, the ITSS will again be hosting a Networking/Mentor panel discussion for students and postdocs on Wednesday, March 16 from 4:45 to 5:45 pm. Be sure not to miss out on speaking with immunotoxicologists from academia, industry, and the government! Last year's event was a great success, and students and postdocs really valued the interaction they had with the mentors. Be on the lookout for more information.

Don’t forget that the deadline for award nominations is quickly approaching. Awards available to students and post doctoral ITSS members include Best Presentation by a Student, Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee, and Best Paper of the Year. Many travel awards are also available through the specialty section and through SOT; check out the websites for details and deadlines.

Lastly, I’d like to remind everyone to make sure their SOT member information is current and correct so you don’t miss email reminders of the numerous events and activities available to students and postdocs! If you would like to get involved in planning events, or have any comments/suggestions, please contact Aimee Hillegas (ahillegas@mail.usciences.edu) or Ashwini Phadnis (phadnisa@msu.edu).

**Announcements!**

**Immunotoxicology networking event for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers**

Wish there was more time to network with Immunotoxicologists?

Join us for the 2nd Annual ‘Immunotoxicology Networking/Mentoring Event’ where you can meet a panel of immunotoxicologists from industry, academia, government and consulting firms. It is an opportunity not to be missed, especially if you are a graduate student or postdoc wondering about a future career in this field! This event will be held on Wednesday, March 16 from 4:45 to 5:45 pm. More details are soon to follow including a questionnaire to facilitate matching to a mentor. Please watch this space in the next newsletter for more information. Email reminders with questionnaires and a link for signing up will be sent to the graduate student and postdoctoral members of the specialty section soon!
ITSS-sponsored sessions at the 2016 SOT Annual Meeting

The Program Committee received a total of 8 submissions for evaluation for the 2016 annual meeting. All of the submissions were quality proposals, which made ranking them tough work. Of the eight sessions that the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section (ITSS) sponsored for review by the program committee, five were ultimately accepted as sessions at the annual meeting. This reflects the general interest in our discipline and the science we pursue, the broad interactions that immunotoxicology has with other areas of toxicology, and the high quality work conducted by our membership. The sessions sponsored by the ITSS at next year’s meeting promise to be extremely compelling and timely. The program for the 2016 meeting in New Orleans is posted on the SOT website. Listed below are the titles, chairs, and date/time of the ITSS-sponsored sessions that were accepted for the 2016 meeting. One ITSS session is scheduled for each day of the meeting, and no sessions are overlapping. In addition to these sessions, immunotoxicology is represented in numerous poster sessions, and inflammation is the theme for the pair of plenary lectures on Tuesday morning.

Congratulations to those who had sessions accepted, and many thanks to all who submitted session proposals! Your efforts in putting these session proposals together are highly appreciated and extremely valuable to our discipline and the broader community. In addition, I want to thank those volunteers who helped review these proposals as we put them forward for consideration by the SOT Program Committee. As we prepare for the year ahead, it’s not too soon to begin thinking about important, high impact areas of immunotoxicology that should be discussed in 2017. The clock for these session proposals begins at the end of the annual meeting, with formal proposals due at the end of April, 2016! I’m looking forward to seeing you all in what promises to be a fascinating meeting.

All the best,
L. Peyton Myers, Program Committee Chair

Continuing Education Session (Chairs)
Advancing the Detection, Imaging, and Pitfalls in Monitoring Oxidative Stress in Health and Disease (Maria B. Kadiiska, NIEHS/NIH, Research Triangle Park, NC; and Ronald P. Mason, NIEHS/NIH, Research Triangle Park, NC.) Sunday, March 12, 2016 at 8:15 AM–12:00 Noon

Workshop Session (Chairs)
Developmental Immunotoxicology—Are We Adequately Evaluating Safety? (Peyton Myers, United States Food and Drug Administration and Gary Burleson, Burleson Research Technologies, Inc) Thursday March 17, 2016 at 9:30am – 12:15pm

Roundtable Session (Chairs)
Combination Toxicology: Are We Testing the Right Things? (Leigh Ann Burns-Naas, Gilead Sciences, Inc and Helen Haggerty, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company) Wednesday March 16, 2016 at 12:30pm – 1:50pm

Symposium Session (Chairs)
New, Mechanistic Insights into How the Immune System Drives Adverse Drug Reactions (Robert Roth, Michigan State University and Bob van de Water, University of Leiden) Tuesday March 15, 2016 at 2:00pm – 4:45pm

Historical Perspectives Session (Chairs)
Toxicologic Legacies of Major 21st Century Man-Made/Natural Disasters. (Mitchell Cohen, New York University School of Medicine and Mitsuaki, Institute of Radiation Emergency Medicine, Hirosaki University) Monday March 14, 2016 at 2:00pm – 4:45pm
Call for Nominations from the Awards Committee

Did you read an outstanding immunotoxicology paper this year? Read a presentation abstract that was amazing? Work with someone who you think embodies excellence in the field of immunotoxicology? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then I urge you to nominate the author, the presenter, or the colleague for an award from the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section (ITSS). Recognizing these important contributions of ITSS students, postdoctoral scientists, and colleagues is one of the most important undertakings of our specialty section. Additionally, acknowledging the excellence of the scientists within ITSS helps to demonstrate how our science furthers the mission of SOT.

Please make it difficult for the Awards Committee to choose recipients for these awards! Please nominate a student, postdoctoral scientist, or colleague for one of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Awards. You also may nominate yourself! Descriptions of awards, Awards Committee contacts, and due dates are listed below. For a more detailed description of the awards and their nomination criteria, please visit the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section website: http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/imtox/deadlines.asp

Cheryl Rockwell, Awards Committee Chair

**Vos Lifetime Career Achievement Award in Immunotoxicology**
This award was named for the late Professor Jeff Vos and will be presented to a senior investigator whose body of work represents an outstanding career in immunotoxicology. Please submit nominations to Rafael Ponce by January 15, 2016.

**Outstanding Senior Immunotoxicologist Award**
This award will be presented to a senior investigator with more than 10 years of experience since obtaining the highest degree and whose work has made significant contributions to the field of immunotoxicology. Please submit nominations to Peyton Myers by January 15, 2016.

**Outstanding Young Immunotoxicologist Award**
This award will be presented to a young investigator with 10 years or less of experience since obtaining the highest degree and whose work has made significant contributions to the field of immunotoxicology. Please submit nominations to Peyton Myers by January 15, 2016.

**Best Paper of the Year Award**
Authors of the paper deemed to be the best paper in immunotoxicology will receive this award. The paper must have been published between January 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year and the first publication date (paper or e-version) will be considered the publication date. Immunotoxicology papers published in any peer-reviewed journal are acceptable. Please submit nominations to Cheryl Rockwell by January 15, 2016.

**Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee Award**
Postdoctoral trainees who are presenting (poster or platform) at the 2015 SOT Annual Meeting are eligible for this award. Nominees are asked to submit a written version of an immunotoxicology presentation to be made at the Annual Meeting and a letter of nomination from the trainee’s advisor. Please submit materials to Cheryl Rockwell by January 15, 2016.

*continued on next page*
Best Presentation by a Student Award
Students who are presenting (poster or platform) at the 2016 SOT Annual Meeting are eligible for this award. Nominees are asked to submit a written version of an immunotoxicology presentation to be made at the Annual Meeting and a letter of nomination from the student’s advisor. Please submit materials to Cheryl Rockwell by January 15, 2016.

HESI Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Travel Award
ILSI HESI sponsors this award to assist young investigators (<5 years since completing a graduate dissertation) in attending SOT and presenting their research. Both U.S. and international investigators are encouraged to apply. Please submit nominations to Rafael Ponce by January 15, 2016.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jean Pfau, currently Professor of Immunotoxicology at Idaho State University, will be moving to Bozeman MT in January 2016 to work as a Research Scientist at Montana State University. This is an exciting move for her both personally and professionally. Professionally, it is an opportunity to focus on her research in environmental autoimmunity in the research-supportive environment of MSU. She has loved her seven years at ISU, where she taught Anatomy & Physiology for the pre-professional programs as well as graduate courses in toxicology and immunology, served as the Director of the Flow Cytometry Core Facility and was a founder and co-Director of the Idaho Science & Engineering Festival. However, she is passionate about her research, and this new opportunity was made possible through the funding by NIEHS of the University of New Mexico Center for Native American Environmental Health Equity Research (Center Director Dr. J. L. Lewis, SOT member), which partnered with MSU (Dr. Deborah Keil, SOT member) to study health effects of heavy metal-contaminated drinking water on Native American Tribal lands. A major aim of the Center is focused on the apparent rise in the incidence of systemic autoimmune diseases among the Tribes, making this an excellent fit for Jean. Personally, Jean and her husband Alan are moving back to Montana where all of their children and grand-daughter live. Jean says the stars simply lined up one day, and they said, “Time to go home!”.

Dr. Pfau will also continue her work in asbestos immunotoxicology. She began working with the asbestos exposed population of Libby MT in 2002 during the early ATSDR screening activities. In 2009, she helped build the Libby Epidemiology Research Program (LERP, funded by ATSDR) that has revolutionized our understanding of asbestos related diseases. The mouse and cell culture work in the lab (funded by NIEHS) is directly translated to the LERP. A major discovery has been the ability of asbestos to cause production of autoantibodies associated with systemic autoimmune disease, such as Systemic Lupus. Most recently, they have demonstrated that asbestos-induced autoantibodies may contribute to a severe and progressive lung disease seen with particular forms of asbestos. The autoantibodies may provide a therapeutic target to help control this devastating disease. Dr. Pfau currently has 42 peer-reviewed publications, 5 book chapters, and over a hundred published abstracts and presentations.
Dr. John Anetor became a Fellow in the Institute of Biomedical Science (FIBMS) of the United Kingdom. Dr. Anetor was also admitted as a Fellow of the American College of Nutrition (FACN) and became a European Registered Toxicologist (ERT). Other accomplishments include being elected as a member of the Committee on Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (C-TLM) of the Scientific Division of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). Finally, Dr. Anetor was also appointed the Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal Laboratory Medicine and Biomedical Research based in Southern Africa Training Academy, South Africa. John is already a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) and is a Professor in the Chemical Pathology Department in the College of Medicine at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr. Judith Zelikoff received the Women In Toxicology (WIT) Specialty Interest Group Mentoring Award. This award is given to an individual in academia, government, industry, or a related field who has been a major influence in the mentoring of women scientists entering the field of toxicology and/or whose leadership and service have provided career development opportunities for women toxicologists or encouraged women to achieve their professional goals.

Dr. Zelikoff is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Medicine at the NYU School of Medicine. She is currently mentoring Pamela Tijerina, who is a fourth year doctoral student studying the the immunotoxic effects of pre and post-natal exposure to ambient particulate matter on immune responsiveness in the adult offspring associated with inflammatory diseases such as asthma. Her work focuses on imbalances in T-regulatory cells and TH17 and effects on T-reg function later in life that can alter pulmonary responsiveness.
Recent Immunotoxicology Publications

**Asthma, Allergy, Autoimmunity & Hypersensitivity**


**Developmental Immunotoxicology**


Laiosa MD, Tate ER, Ahrenhoerster LS, Chen Y and Wang D. Effects of developmental activation of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor by 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin on long-term self-renewal of murine hematopoietic stem cells. Environ Health Perspect DOI:10.1289/ehp.1509820, 2015.

**General Immunotoxicology**


Methods/Models

Reviews/Books/Commentaries


Laiosa MD and Tate ER. Fetal hematopoietic stem cells are the canaries in the coal mine that portend later life immune deficiency. Endocrinology 156:3458-3465, 2015.