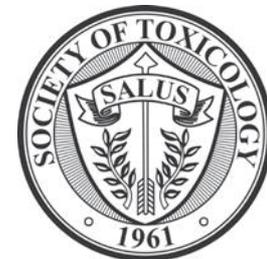




# IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY Specialty Section



## Winter Edition

### 2020-2021 Executive Committee

**President**  
**Mark Collinge**

**Vice President**  
**Florence Burseson**

**Vice President-Elect**  
**Berran Yucesoy**

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
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**Senior Councilor**  
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**Postdoc Representative**  
**Thea Golden**

**Student Representative**  
**Alexa Murray**

The Immunotoxicology Specialty Section (ITSS) Newsletter is published twice a year (Summer and Winter). If you would like to share an item of interest with members of the ITSS, please send it to the Communications Committee Chair. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

**Thea Golden**  
goldent@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

**Alexa Murray**  
am2034@gsbs.rutgers.edu

### Incoming President's Message

Dear ITSS members,

Wow, what a year 2020 has been so far! Following the disappointment of the cancellation of this year's SOT Annual Meeting in Anaheim, we have all had to deal with a new paradigm of a remote work environment, and all of the challenges that brings.

It is an honor for me to be the incoming ITSS President for the 2020-2021 term, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my terms serving as Vice President and VP-Elect. Many thanks to a number of previous Presidents who have made this journey fun and productive, including Dr. Vic Johnson, Dr. Jamie DeWitt, and most recently Dr. Emanuela Corsini. I can only aspire to fill their shoes. I have a long history in immunology-related research during my tenures at Vanderbilt, Northwestern and Yale Universities, becoming a member of SOT and the ITSS in 2008. My career in immunotoxicology began when I was recruited to Pfizer by Tom Kawabata who had established one of the leading immunotoxicology groups in the pharmaceutical industry. I was fortunate to benefit from Tom's mentorship, and subsequently that of Ellen Evans who later assumed leadership of the group. I now lead the re-named Immunosafety Sciences group at Pfizer and feel privileged to contribute to the development of safe and efficacious medicines that impact patients' lives. Through a combination of *in vitro* and *in vivo* laboratory-based efforts and subject matter expertise, we impact drug development across a number of therapeutic areas, including oncology, immunology and inflammation, internal medicine and rare diseases, to understand the mechanism of action of drugs that modulate the immune system. As well as the ITSS, I am active in several scientific and professional organizations whose focus is immunotoxicology. These include the HESI-Immunosafety Technical Committee, and a recently established Immunosafety Working Group of IQ/DruSafe, which I chair (continued page 2).

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# President's Message (Continued)

So now you know more about me, I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's ITSS Executive Committee, in particular, the outstanding leadership of Dr. Emanuela Corsini (University of Milan), **outgoing ITSS President**, and Dr. Florence Burleson (Burleson Research Laboratories), current **Vice President**. Emanuela, I look forward to your continued support and guidance during your term as Past President. Thanks to the many contributions of Dr. Randle Gallucci (University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; Secretary/Treasurer) and Alexa Murray (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; Student Representative), who continue in their roles. Please join me in welcoming the new members of our Executive Committee, Dr. Berran Yucesoy (FDA Center for Tobacco Products; Vice President-Elect), Dr. Allison Ehrlich (University of California, Davis; Senior Councilor) (previously Junior Councilor), Dr. Alessandro Venosa, (University of Utah; Junior Councilor) (previously our Postdoc Representative), and our current Postdoc Representative, Dr. Thea Golden (University of Pennsylvania).

The ITSS Executive Committee also thanks the various subcommittees and their volunteers, including Education, Membership, Awards, and Program, for all of your hard work!

2020-2021 promises be busy for the ITSS. One of the goals will be to take momentum from the successes of past years and continue to improve the visibility of our specialty section, particularly through high impact presentations/sessions at the SOT annual meeting.

Other areas of focus for the coming year for the EC include:

- Identifying/developing educational opportunities for ITSS membership through the activities of the Education Committee. Training opportunities for all of ITSS, particularly our graduate student and postdoc members, will be communicated, and continuing education courses developed. The mentoring event at the SOT Annual Meeting will also be a key development opportunity. If you identify a course, webinar or other training forum that you think would be of interest to the membership, please bring this to the attention of any member of the ITSS Executive Committee.
- Continuing to encourage International Scientific Exchange and Collaboration. The partnership with the Japanese Society of Immunotoxicology (JSIT) was established in 2005 to enable exchange of science and education. This program has been extremely successful and has led to cutting-edge scientific presentations given by ITSS members at the JSIT meeting and reciprocal presentation by JSIT members at the SOT meeting. JSIT will be virtual this year, but Dr. Jeanine Bussiere, who was to be our representative, has agreed to participate in 2021 when hopefully she will be able to present in person.

# President's Message (Continued)

The ITSS EC will explore ways to collaborate with other specialty sections and other society groups where there may be shared interest. For example, we have had preliminary discussions with members of the Society for the Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) to determine if there are opportunities for collaboration.

Other things that will keep the ITSS EC busy and productive include:

- Continue our monthly teleconferences to ensure communication, engagement, and on track with both SOT and ITSS goals and priorities.
- Further discussion for enhanced SOT session proposal development and submission from ITSS members. The establishment of the Science Advisory Subcommittee comprised of ITSS Past Presidents was designed, in part, to help with basic ideas for program proposals that other ITSS members could develop for submission.
- Responding to needs of SOT and from you.

Please feel free to let us know how we're doing, and how we can better serve you. If you have ideas, please share them with me and members of the Executive Committee and we will work toward a resolution/enhanced process.

We look forward to seeing you virtually next year. As usual, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the ITSS Executive Committee.

Sincerely,  
Mark Collinge, PhD  
Global Head of Immunotoxicology, Pfizer  
President ITSS, 2020-2021



# Outgoing President's Message

It has been an honor for me to serve as ITSS President for 2019/2020 and to work with a truly outstanding Executive Committee. I have been very sorry not to be able to thank you all at the annual meeting.

2020 was and is an anomalous year, the COVID-19 pandemic has messed up our private and working lives. We have seen all meetings canceled and postponed, and the first half of 2021 does not look well either. Now we know, SOT 2021 will be virtual, a very painful decision, but very wise in uncertainty. We all miss the confrontation in person, networking, the possibility of starting new collaborations, finding a new job, catching up with friends and colleagues, who, due to the distance, see each other once a year, and many other things that occur during a congress. We all look forward to a return to normality.

SOT 2020 would have been an incredible meeting for immunotoxicologists. Not to boast, but the 2019/2020 ITSS Executive Committee, with your help, had put together an incredible program with 2 continuing education courses, 5 symposia, 3 workshops, 2 poster sections, and the Merit Award Lecture of Norbert E. Kaminski. A riot of immunotoxicology, we certainly won't be bored!

Among the other activities and achievements, I would like to mention that the "Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti Research Excellence in Immunotoxicology Award Fund" endowment fund is now permanent, the three newsletters nicely prepared by Alessandro and Alexa, and the strengthened and expanded international collaborations with ITSS-JSIT and EUROTOX.

I encourage you all to stay active within the ITSS. Join a committee if you have not already done so, run for an Executive Committee position. This will help you build both your volunteer experience and your network. Stay tuned for deadlines!

ITSS is a fantastic specialty section because of comradery of its members.

I am confident in the current Executive Committee to foster another fruitful year for SOT, and I look forward to serving the 2020-2021 Executive Committee as Past President. I sincerely thank everyone for their guidance, support and hard work.

Best regards,  
Emanuela Corsini, PhD  
Universita' degli Studi di Milano  
Past President ITSS, 2020-2021  
President ITSS, 2019-2020



# Student & Postdoctoral Report

Dear graduate students and postdocs,

2020 has been quite the year! We hope you are all navigating the constantly changing landscape.

**ITSS will be looking for new postdoctoral and student representatives, with the positions starting May 2021.** If you are interested, see page 7 for more details. It has been a rewarding experience for both of us! In addition, we also encourage ITSS trainee members to participate in other ITSS committees: Awards, Program, Education and Communication/Membership. This is a great way to get involved in leadership activities with other ITSS members and to enhance your professional network.

A pre-SOT newsletter with information regarding ITSS sessions and events will be sent out in February 2021.

We wish everyone safe and happy holidays!  
Alexa and Thea

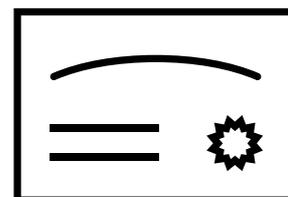
*Alexa Murray, PhD Candidate*  
*am2034@gsbs.rutgers.edu*

*Thea Golden, PharmD, PhD*  
*goldent@pennmedicine.upenn.edu*

# 2021 ITSS Awards Deadline Extended!!!

Although SOT will be virtual in 2021, we still encourage everyone to apply for the awards listed below! All award applications/nominations are due **Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**!! Please check the [SOT website](#) for up-to-date award information. Please also consider joining the ITSS awards committee (more info on page 11)!

- **Outstanding Senior Immunotoxicologist**
  - Senior Investigator whose work has made significant contributions to the field of Immunotoxicology
  - More than 10 years experience
- **Outstanding Young Immunotoxicologist**
  - Young Investigator whose work has made significant contributions to the field of Immunotoxicology
  - Less than 10 years experience
- **HESI Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Travel Award**
  - An investigator who is within 5 years of receiving a PhD



# Executive Committee Members Needed!

ITSS is seeking candidates/nominations for the Executive Committee for 2021. The following positions are available:

- **Vice President-Elect**
  - 4-year position
  - Serve as Vice President-Elect, ascend to Vice President, then President, and Past President
- **Junior Councilor**
  - 2-year position
  - Serve as Junior Councilor, then Senior Councilor
- **Secretary/Treasurer**
  - 2-year position
- **Postdoctoral Representative**
  - 1-year term
- **Student Representative**
  - 2-year term

If you're interested or would like to nominate someone, please send nominations (short biosketch) to Randy Gallucci ([randy-gallucci@ouhsc.edu](mailto:randy-gallucci@ouhsc.edu)) by December 30<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure to renew your membership as well!



A black rectangular area with a white spotlight beam shining down from the top center. The text 'Member Spotlight' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the beam.

## Member Spotlight

**Mark Pallardy, PhD,**  
**Professor**  
**School of Pharmacy, University of**  
**Paris-Sud**



- **When did you begin your career in immunotoxicology?**

My PhD concerned the use of immunoconjugates for targeting liver cancer, this was in 1987 and meetings on immunotherapies were quite confidential with 100 to 200 attendees. But my career in immunotoxicology really started in February 1987 when I was accepted to do a postdoc in Jack Dean's lab at CIIT (Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology) located in the Research Triangle Park (RTP) in North Carolina. I was very lucky since Jack was one of the founders of Immunotoxicology with Mike Luster, Al Munson and Jeff Vos and RTP was in the middle of a great activity in immunotoxicology with EPA (Mary Jane Selgrade, Ralph Smialowicz, Bob Luebke, Gary Burleson) and NIEHS (Mike Luster, Dori Germolec). The lab was a great team with a lot of enthusiasm, outstanding scientists and a great mentor: Jack Dean.

- **When did you start participating in the ITSS?**

If I remember, it was at the SOT meeting in Dallas in 1988.

- **What motivated you to be a part of ITSS?**

It was just natural to be a member of ITSS as a member of Jack's lab.

- **What was your most rewarding experience involving ITSS?**

ITSS was one of the first SOT SS and in addition, immunotoxicology was an emerging field that rapidly gained importance. In all meetings of ITSS, all the labs that were important players in this field were present and competition was high between PhDs and Postdocs, but the atmosphere was more like a big family. I think the spirit of the "family ambiance" is still present in ITSS and people enjoy meeting every year.

- **How did you make the transition from Postdoc to your current job?**

At the end of my postdoc, I had an offer from the University Paris-Sud for an assistant professor position where I did my PhD with the possibility to set up a lab and develop immunotoxicology.

# Member Spotlight (Continued)

- **What experiences best prepared you for your job?**

I had the great opportunity to be trained around rigorous and imaginative scientists that make me understand that research is a JOB like any another job, and you need to be professional. You have to be organized, to follow the literature on a daily basis and at the same time to be imaginative with your own ideas. My postdoc experience was key for the rest of my career. Being around PhD students during my career was also key. Each PhD is a challenge and a great experience, you need to train her/him, learn how to be organized, how to be rigorous and ambitious for her/himself and also to be able to accept criticism from colleagues to progress.

- **What has been the largest benefit, for you, of being an active participant in an SOT SS like ITSS?**

Being a member of a SS is of great importance to maintain your network of colleagues, create new collaborations and enjoy science together.

- **Do you have any advice for someone who is considering becoming more involved in an SS or SIG?**

Just do it and do not hesitate, it will take some of your time, but it is rewarding and useful.

- **What do you perceive to be the next big breakthrough in immunotox?**

Understanding how exposure to chemicals and drugs can provoke or exacerbate autoimmune diseases is one of them. Treatment with immune check-point inhibitors recently allowed for better understanding of what are the key effectors regulating response to self-antigens, but we are just at the beginning. Understanding how small molecules can provoke allergic reactions is also a major challenge. How are these molecules recognized? What are the key events for the transition from immune tolerance to adaptive immune response to small molecules ?

- **What do you like the most about working in academia?**

By far to be independent and to have the possibility to make my own choices. Also, the feeling that you are useful for society.

- **How do you maintain work/life balance?**

Good question, just trying to be sure to have enough real time to be with my family.

- **What is one fun fact about yourself that you would like to share with others?**

Three weeks vacations during the summer makes me feel better; just try it.

# Let Us Introduce Bo Inscho!

You've seen the name pop up in your inbox with all sorts of exciting SOT news! Bo has accepted the role as liaison for our Specialty Section and has been a great resource for keeping in touch and updating our group. She has been a pleasure to work with.

We asked Bo to share a bit about herself...



*I am a 1990 graduate of The Ohio State University. (Go Bucks!) I have been involved in the non-profit association world for the past seven years providing membership services and event management for the National Grant Management Association (NGMA), Newspaper Association of America (NAA), News Media Alliance, Health Industry Distributor Association (HIDA), and most recently at the Society of Toxicology (SOT).*

*I joined the team at the Society of Toxicology in February 2020. At the beginning of my employment, I assisted the SOT Membership team with special membership projects and supported the Membership Committee. In early August, I had the pleasure of becoming the staff liaison for the Specialty Sections and the SS-CCG. As your staff liaison for Immunotoxicology Specialty Section, I provide support to the ITSS Executive Committee with member communications, administrative and financial activities, and ensure that ITSS has all the resources needed to strengthen the Specialty Section's commitment to the Society's mission to create a safer and healthier world by advancing the science and increase the impact of toxicology.*

*I am a proud mother of two adult children who attend VCU. I enjoy spending time with my loving family, and I am a "master game-player" of Racko and Rummikub. My favorite past time during COVID-19 is riding on the back of my husband's motorcycle!*

**Please join us in welcoming Bo to SOT and as liaison of our Specialty Section!**

# Recent Publications

**Anytime you have a new fully-published or electronically available article to report, please send the citation to [imtoxss@gmail.com](mailto:imtoxss@gmail.com)**

Crosby L, Yucesoy B, Leggett C, Tu Z, Belinsky SA, McDonald J, Leng S, Wu G, Irshad H, Valerio LG, Rosenfeldt H. 2020. Smoke Chemistry, In vitro Cytotoxicity, and Genotoxicity Demonstrates Enhanced Toxicity of Cigarillos Compared to Cigarettes. *Toxicol Sci* [Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33021639 [doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfaa155]].

Kemp JM, Lockett-Chastain LR, Calhoun KN, Frempah B, Schartz TR, Harty LE, Kemp PM, Gallucci RM. 2020. Evaluation of Skin Irritation following Weathered Crude Oil Exposure in Two Mouse Strains. *Toxicol Ind Health* 36 (10): 788-799. PMID: 32807044. [doi: 10.1177/0748233720944354].

Murray A, Gow AJ, Venosa A, Andres J, Malaviya R, Adler D, Yurkow E, Laskin JD, Laskin DL. 2020. Assessment of Mustard Vesicant Lung Injury and Anti-TNF- $\alpha$  Efficacy in Rodents using Live-Animal Imaging. *Ann NY Acad Sci* 1480 (1): 246-256. PMID: 33165947 [doi: 10.1111/nyas.14525].

Travers MJ, Rivard C, Sharma E, Retzky S, Yucesoy B, Goniewicz ML, Stanton CA, Chen J, Callahan-Lyon P, Kimmel HL, Xia B, Wang Y, Sosnoff CS, De Jesús VR, Blount BC, Hecht SS, Hyland A. 2020. Biomarkers of Exposure among USA Adult Hookah Users: Results from Wave 1 of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study (2013-2014) *Int J Environ Res Public Health* 17(17):6403 [doi: 10.3390/ijerph17176403].

Venosa A. 2020. Senescence in Pulmonary Fibrosis: Between Aging and Exposure. *Front Med (Lausanne)* 7: 606462. PMID: 33282895 [doi: 10.3389/fmed.2020.606462].

Wilkinson ML, Abramova E, Guo C, Gow JG, Murray A, Koudelka A, Cechova V, Freeman BA, Gow AJ. 2020. Fatty Acid Nitroalkenes Inhibit the Inflammatory Response to Bleomycin-Mediated Lung Injury. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol* 407: 115236. PMID: 32931793 [doi: 10.1016/j.taap.2020.115236].

# ITSS Committees

Volunteers are welcome and always needed for each committee:



Education



Program



VOS, HESI,  
Nagarkatti, and OSI



Awards

Please consider being a part of the Awards Committee for the 2021 Annual Meeting. If interested, please contact Thea Golden (goldent@penmedicine.upenn.edu) or Alexa Murray (am2034@gsbs.rutgers.edu). Thank you!!

*\*SOT membership is required. Must be willing to become a member of the ITSS and to commit to service. Please see the Committees page of the ITSS website for details.*