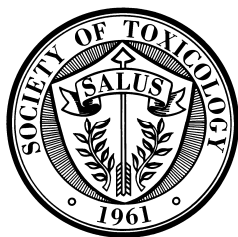


# Immunotoxicology Specialty Section Newsletter



IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY  
SPECIALTY SECTION



2011 - 2012

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The *ImTox SS Newsletter* is published 3 times/year (May, September and January). 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

**Rodney Dietert, Ph.D.**

I hope that your holiday season has been filled with useful reflections, joy and visions of a wonderful 2012. This newsletter message will be uncharacteristically brief, yet will target some areas for possible attention.

### Preparations for San Francisco and San Antonio

As we usher in the new year I would encourage you to finalize any nominations of students, postdocs, and colleagues that might still be open for SS and SOT awards and send Gary Burleson and the Program Committee your best ideas for symposia, workshops, round tables and continuing education courses for the 2013 meeting in San Antonio. Planning ahead is very useful to ensure that our best work is on display and given appropriate recognition in both San Francisco and San Antonio.

Our ImTox SS reception at SOT in San Francisco has been scheduled for Tuesday evening from 6:00PM-7:30PM. I hope to see as many of you as is possible at this event.

### The New Terrain of Immunotoxicology

The current year 2011-12 continues to be one of a tangible repositioning of the landscape of immunotoxicology within the biomedical and health-associated communities. This shift stems from a combination of both previously-planned activities and more recent developments. Regardless of the nature of your own personal work related to immunotoxicology (fundamental research, safety assessment, immunopharmacology, education, risk assessment, regulatory review, etc.), the implications of your work just got a type of free upgrade. Of course, there are no assurances that this "significance of your work" upgrade will be automatically reflected in your next paycheck.



Dr. Rodney Dietert  
President, ImTox SS  
2011-2012

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At the core of this sea change is a shift from a more historic view of: 1) immunotoxicology as calibration and organization of measureable immune endpoints that have generalized health implications to 2) immunotoxicology as a priority benchmark for determining the risk of quite specific and numerous major diseases and conditions. In particular, this includes the arena of non-communicable chronic diseases. The reason the linkage between immunotoxicity and chronic diseases is garnering increased attention is that chronic diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide. Additionally, the cost of chronic diseases is expected to reach a staggering 48% of the global gross domestic product by the year 2030 (World Economics Council and the Harvard School of Public Health). Last month's STEP Symposium broadcast across the National Institutes of Health set a template for the connection between immunotoxicity, immune dysfunction, inflammatory misregulation and chronic diseases across the various grant panels and the associated biomedical research

communities connected to the NIH. This symposium preceded a soon-to-be-released book (Springer) on the same topic that is notable in that the disease-specific chapters of the book were authored by a preponderance of non-immunotoxicologists. Therefore, the immunotoxicity-specific disease connection has rippled well beyond our SS and SOT to the broader scientific community. Next spring's SOT-cosponsored CCT meeting, ppTOX III, in Paris includes an opening-day session chaired by Dr. Paige Lawrence that focuses on early life environmental exposures and life-long immunological programming. It is likely to expand our new immunotoxicology terrain even further.

### **A Distinctive Honor**

One of our ImTox SS members, Dr. Ian Kimber, recently received an honor that, to my knowledge, is a first among immunotoxicologists. At Queen Elizabeth II's most recent birthday, Dr. Kimber had bestowed upon him the honor of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). The OBE

is a title awarded across the sciences, arts, humanities, humanitarian, and public service arenas for a select subset of individuals who have made extraordinary achievements benefiting society. This highly-selective group of notable individuals is drawn from across Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries based on their remarkable career accomplishments. Dr. Kimber joins other OBE-titled toxicologists such as Drs. Philip Routledge, Andrew Renwick, Roy Goulding, Tim Marrs, Alan Boobis and Len Levy. Other 2011 awardees who joined Dr. Kimber in this special recognition included: Colin Firth - actor, Dr. David William Roger Thackray - Head of Archaeology, National Trust, Ian Robert Whitting - HM Ambassador to Iceland, and Ms Elizabeth Ann MacGregor - Director, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia.

I invite you to join me in offering three cheers to Ian for this well-deserved and distinguished career honor.

Rodney Dietert

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## Regulatory Update

*Submitted by: Peter Thomas, Regulatory Subcommittee Chair.*



The following regulatory updates may be of interest to the Specialty Section Membership.

According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Immunotoxicity was included as one of nine specific hazards listed in an "informal draft" Safer Consumer Products regulation that would use a 0.01% hazard threshold. The others were carcinogenicity, developmental toxicity, reproductive toxicity, endocrine toxicity, genotoxicity, neurotoxicity, bioaccumulation, or environmental persistence. This hazard threshold is lower than the current generally applied 0.1% level used under United Nations Globally Harmonized Systems for classification, where immunotoxicity does not have a specific hazard classification.

A request (via the Federal Register Vol. 76, No. 224) for public comments was issued by National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods as they look to update their Five-Year Plan (current plan runs 2008-2012). They specifically mentioned immunotoxicity as a priority testing area

Recently, the EMA published a concept paper that will be used to draft the revision for the Guideline on Similar Biological Medicinal Products Containing Biotechnology Derived Proteins as Active Substance: Non-clinical and Clinical Issues (CHMP/BMWP/42832/2005). This guideline describes the nonclinical and clinical requirements for a biological medicinal product claiming to be similar to another one already marketed and came into effect in 2006. Since then, the development of biosimilar products has increased significantly and the regulatory framework is becoming larger. The comment period deadline is 31 December 2011. The draft guideline is expected to be published in 2012. Website: [http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en\\_GB/document\\_library/Scientific\\_guideline/2011/10/WC500115611.pdf](http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Scientific_guideline/2011/10/WC500115611.pdf)

The International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) Steering Committee hosted a meeting with its working groups in Seville, Spain from 05 November – 10 November 2011. The revised “ICH S2(R1) Guideline for genotoxicity testing and data interpretation for medicines intended for human use” received approval. Website: <http://www.ich.org/ichnews/press-releases/view/article/ich-steering-committee-seville-spain-9-10-november-2011-1.html>

The FDA recently published a guidance document on integrating study results to assess concerns about reproductive and developmental toxicity. This new FDA guidance outlines a process to estimate developmental or reproductive risks associated with a new drug when there is a non-clinical toxicity finding but no definitive human data. While immunotoxicity is not considered one of the four major manifestations of developmental immunotoxicity, it may play a role in a weight of evidence approach to risk assessment. Website: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatory-Information/Guidances/UCM079240.pdf>

## Student and Postdoctoral Report



*Submitted by: Teri Girtsman,  
Postdoctoral Representative*

Greetings to all student and postdoctoral members of the ImTox SS! I hope that the approaching New Year finds you with an abundance of wonderful science to share at the upcoming SOT Annual meeting March 6-10 in San Francisco, the beautiful city by the bay.

A reminder to the graduate students the Student Advisory Council (SAC) has been restructured as the Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC). The GSLC is comprised of an executive board and three subcommittees (communications, professional development, and programming) that are comprised of the graduate student reps for special sections, special interest groups, and regional chapters. If you have any ideas that would be beneficial for your career development or activities for the annual meeting, feel free to contact me so that I may relay your thoughts to the executive board!

Congratulations to the newly minted postdoctoral fellow Jenna Benson Ph.D. who successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Montana on

December 9. Thank you for the service you provided the ImTox SS as the student rep this year! To this end, we are now in search for a student representative to fill the spot left behind by Dr. Benson. For those interested in this position, please send your CV, a brief letter describing your research goals, and a nomination letter from your advisor to Dr. Rodney Reynolds Dietert (rrd1@cornell.edu). You should first verify with your advisor that he/she is willing to fund your travel to SOT for the next two years. Please do not hesitate to contact former student rep, Jenna Benson (jenna.benson@umontana.edu) or Teri Girtsman (teri.girtsman@umontana.edu) for

more information about serving as a student representative.

We would like to thank the SOT for making available – “K99-R00 GRANTS: Tips from the NIEHS Administrator, the Grantee and the Reviewer”, Postdoctoral Assembly Web Seminar that took place on October 31st. It was well attended and extremely helpful to develop strategies to prepare for successful NIH grant submission and ultimately successful funding. The slides are available on “toXchange” at <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD/seminarOct11.asp>.

Don't miss the opportunity to socialize at the 2012 meeting in San Francisco (details to follow)!

I look forward to meeting you at the 2012 mixer. Come kick back and relax with fellow ImTox SS students and postdocs. It's guaranteed to be a good time! Any and all suggestions about this or other types of student/postdoc events are welcome. Don't hesitate to contact me (Teri Girtsman PDR).

Again, we would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve you. Please let us know about any concerns or suggestions you may have on how the ImTox SS can best assist you as immunotoxicology students and postdoctoral fellows! I look forward to hearing from you!

Postdoctoral Representative, Teri Alyn Girtsman Ph.D.

## IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION



**Don't forget:  
ImTox SS Reception**

At the time of publication, the ImTox SS reception is scheduled for the evening of **Tuesday March, 13.**

Please check the final SOT Program for final location.



*Submitted by: Mitchell Cohen*



The International Exchange Committee (IEC) is pleased to announce that the invited JSIT representative for San Antonio, 2013 - Dr. Hirohisa Takano (Environmental Health Division, Department of Environmental Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University and Past Director at the Environmental Health Sciences Division, National Institute for Environmental Studies - and Dr. Jean Pfau (Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID) are putting together a Symposium on “Global/Local Environmental Changes and Immune Alteration”. We look forward to this and continuing future jointly chaired sessions generated by members of both of our societies.

The IEC is also pleased to announce that one IMTOX SS member would speak at the upcoming JSIT 2012 meeting to be held at the Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo, in September (9/15-16/12). Based on the meeting’s theme of “New Frontiers in Immunotoxicology”, Dr. Henk van Loveren has been invited to speak to the JSIT membership on this very important topic. To see all of the presentations at the upcoming meeting, as well as to see presentation topics and pix from all past meetings (including of our former attendees), please go to the JIST site at <http://www.immunotox.org/english/index.html>.

## SOT 2012 Program Updates

*Submitted by: Greg Ladics*

From Greg Ladics:



The Immunotoxicology Specialty Section will be well represented at the 2012 meeting in San Francisco with a total of 7 sessions (2 CE courses, 3 symposia and 2 workshops). These sessions include the following:

CE Course entitled “Overview and Application of the WHO/IPCS Harmonized Guidance for Immunotoxicity Risk Assessment for Chemicals”; Chairs- Andrew Rooney and Henk van Loveren

CE Course entitled “Innate Immunity and Its Relevance to Toxicology”; Chairs – Wendy Freebern and Jacintha Shenton.

Symposium - “The Allergenicity and Immunomodulatory Effect of Food Substances”; Chairs- Greg Ladics and Reiko Teshima

Symposium - “The Role of Danger Signals in the Development of Chemical Sensitization by Environmental and Occupational Agents”; Chairs- Marc Pallardy and Raymond Pieters

Symposium - “Nanoparticles for Drug Delivery: Interactions with the Immune System”; Chairs- Sandra Casinghino and Marina Dobrovolskaia

Workshop - “Therapeutic Immunomodulation and Cancer Risk: Science, Risk Assessment, and Risk Communication”; Chairs- Marc Pallardy and Shawn Heidel

Workshop - “T-Dependent Antibody Responses in Nonhuman Primates: Challenges and Opportunities”; Chairs- Jacintha Shenton and Herve Lebec



# Financial Report for 2010-2011

*Submitted by: Susan McKarns*

*The fiscal year runs for 12 months ending on June 30th*



<b>Financial Statement</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Contributions</b>	-
<b>Dues</b>	<b>5,010</b>
<b>Misc. Income</b>	- <sup>a</sup>
<b>Registration</b>	-
<b>Interest</b>	<b>513</b> <sup>b</sup>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,839</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Awards - Sections</b>	<b>(100)</b> <sup>c</sup>
<b>Plaques</b>	<b>759</b>
<b>Contribution</b>	<b>966</b>
<b>Executive Meetings</b>	-
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>715</b> <sup>d</sup>
<b>Newsletter</b>	-
<b>Reception</b>	<b>4,816</b>
<b>Symposia</b>	-
<b>Travel</b>	-
<b>Web Development</b>	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>7,156</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of</b>	
<b>Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>2,683</b>
<b>Net Assets Beginning of year</b>	<b>8,081</b>
<b>Net Assets End of Year</b>	<b>10,764</b>

# Financial Report for 2009-2010

Submitted by: Susan McKarns

The fiscal year runs for 12 months ending on June 30th



Financial Statement	2009-2010
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	900
Dues	5,070
Registration	3,642 <sup>a</sup>
Interest	385
Global Initiatives Matching Funds	2,000 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,997</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Awards	1,550 <sup>c</sup>
Plaques (Accent Engraving)	760
Executive Meetings	0
Miscellaneous	1,082 <sup>d</sup>
Newsletter	300
Reception	9,798
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>13,490</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of</b>	
Revenue over Expenses	(1,493)
<b>Net Assets Beginning of year</b>	<b>9,574</b>
<b>Net Assets End of Year</b>	<b>8,081</b>

<sup>a</sup>Registration income reflects an allocation of funds from SOT based on the number of our members that attended the 2010 SOT Annual Meeting

<sup>b</sup>\$2000 awarded to ImTox SS to support our International exchange with the JSIT

<sup>c</sup>\$1000 to be credited to 2010-2011 fiscal year due to an error

<sup>d</sup>Includes expenses such as the ImTox Pool of Lecturer's, Student/Postdoc mixer, International Exchange, extras for the 25th Anniversary celebration

Compiled by Haley Neff-LaFord

**Note: The Communications Committee has changed their policy on epub inclusion. Any article that is fully available electronically (i.e. has a doi) can now be included.**

**ANYTIME you have a fully published or electronically-available article to report, please send it to the coordinator, Haley Neff-LaFord: [hnlaford@seagen.com](mailto:hnlaford@seagen.com)**

### **Asthma, Allergy, Autoimmunity & Hypersensitivity**

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