



Message from the President

April 24, 2020

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Dear IRSS Membership,

Well, that was weird.

I am assuming that all reading this newsletter are comfortably adjusted to the new normal related to the pandemic, and are progressing well through the 12 steps of grief regarding the SOT meeting cancellation. With much of the insanity subsiding, this seemed like an ideal time to share a newsletter highlighting the awards and transitions and new initiatives for the IRSS.

The past 12 months have clearly been a staggering time to be in the field of inhalation toxicology and lung biology. Wildfires raged through Australia and Brazil creating massive damage and significant smoke exposures. California and other regions of the US also saw substantial biomass burning and exposures. E-cigarette or vaping-related lung injury captured the attention of the Western world this past fall, when thousands of young people required hospitalization. This past week, the American Lung Association released a report showing that air quality has declined from 2016-2018, reversing a long trend of improvements (<http://www.stateoftheair.org/key-findings/>). And currently, research institutes around the world are suddenly very interested in how aerosol droplets form and travel in the air, and how to remove them. The expertise of our membership has rarely been more valuable – perhaps it is no surprise that our membership continues to grow!

Irfan Rahman, our incoming IRSS President, led the development of our webinars over the past few years. Kym Gowdy and Alex Carll have done a super job this past year, bringing in great webinars from Laura Crotty Alexander, Ian Gilmour, and Mary Rice. The SOT2020 recovery process involves implementing a number of webinars based on our major symposia and workshops of interest, and also to give award winners the chance to share their research. We will be setting up this schedule in the coming weeks, so if you had been prepared to give a talk, feel free to contact us! The Hot Topics Session on Vaping was a success, with 400+ attendees online. The next session is May 12th: “Resolution of Inflammation in Chemical Toxicity/Tissue Injury: What’s Emerging?” with Kym Gowdy and Srikanth Nadadur as hosts. In June, “Sex, Lungs, and Air Pollution” will be presented, chaired by Meghan Rebuli and Robert Tighe. See the overall website here:

<https://www.toxicology.org/events/am/AM2020/program.asp>

I have to admit that I regret not being able to emcee the Annual IRSS meeting as President. Dr. Terry Gordon gave me very clear guidance on how to do this a few years back, and I was really looking forward to ignoring that advice and doing it well. We had elaborate plans – a roast of Roger McClellan, a booth for caricature drawings by Jack Harkema, and dramatic readings of excerpts from the most recent EPA Integrated Science Assessments by Ian Gilmour. But in all seriousness, it is disappointing to not get the chance to honor our award recipients. While all are described later in the newsletter, I want to personally congratulate Urmila Kodavanti, PhD, on the IRSS Career Achievement Award this year. Urmila has been a long-time mentor, collaborator and friend, and exceptionally deserving of this honor. And thanks to our awardees who were able to escape quarantine to send pictures!

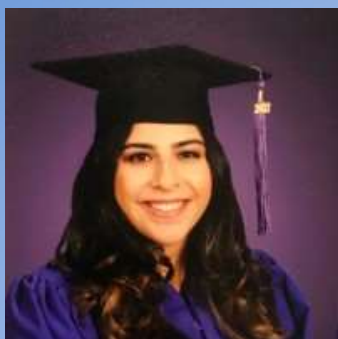
Best,
Matt

Matthew J Campen, Ph.D.
President, Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section
Society of Toxicology

Congratulations to the 2020 IRSS Award Winners!

Paper of the Year:

Rebuli ME, Speen AM, Martin EM, Addo KA, Pawlak EA, Glista-Baker E, Robinette C, Zhou H, Noah TL, Jaspers I. Wood Smoke Exposure Alters Human Inflammatory Responses to Viral Infection in a Sex-Specific Manner. A Randomized, Placebo-controlled Study. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 199:996-1007, 2019. PMID: 30360637



Christina Awada
New York University
IRSS Graduate Student Award



Elise Hickman
University of North Carolina
Mary Amdur Award

Runner-up Winners:

Kelly Fraser
West Virginia University
IRSS Graduate Student Award

Syed Masood
University of North Carolina
Mary Amdur Award

Nataliia Kovalchuk, Ph.D.
University of Arizona
Postdoctoral Award



Tosifa Memon, Ph.D.
University of Utah
Postdoctoral Award



Cody Smith, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
Donald Gardner Inhalation Toxicology
Education Award



Phoebe Stapleton, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
IRSS Young Investigator Award



Urmila Kodavanti, Ph.D.
Environmental Protection Agency
IRSS Career Achievement Award

Upcoming Webinars of Interest for IRSS Members:

Here is a selection of webinars of potential interest for IRSS members. More options can be found at:

<https://www.toxicology.org/events/am/AM2020/program.asp>

Tuesday, April 28

12:00 Noon to 2:45 PM (ET)

Electronic Cigarettes and Cardiovascular Toxicity: New Friend or Old Foe?

Chairs: Ivan Mark Olfert, West Virginia University School of Medicine; and Daniel J. Conklin, University of Louisville.

[Register Now](#)

Tuesday, May 12

12:00 Noon to 2:45 PM (ET)

Resolution of Inflammation in Chemical Toxicity/Tissue Injury: What's Emerging?

Chairs: Kymberly Gowdy, East Carolina University; and Srikanth Nadadur, NIEHS.

[Register Now](#)

Thursday, May 14

1:00 PM to 3:45 PM (ET)

Protecting Public Health and the Environment during Wildfire Recovery

Chairs: Shelley DuTeaux, California Department of Pesticide Regulation; and Shoba Iyer, California Environmental Protection Agency.

[Register Now](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE PM13: *In Vitro* Approaches to Assess the Toxicity of Inhaled Substances

Chairs: Amy J. Clippinger, PETA International Science Consortium Ltd., United Kingdom; and Emily Reinke, Army Public Health Center.

[Learn More](#)

Thursday, June 11

12:00 Noon to 2:45 PM (ET)

Sex, Lungs, and Air Pollution

Chairs: Meghan E. Rebuli, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Robert M. Tighe, Duke University.

[Register Now](#)

New IRSS Officers!

VP-Elect: Melanie Doyle-Eisele, Ph.D.

Dr. Doyle-Eisele is the Director of Laboratory Animal Sciences and a Senior Scientist at Lovelace Biomedical (Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute)



Councilors:

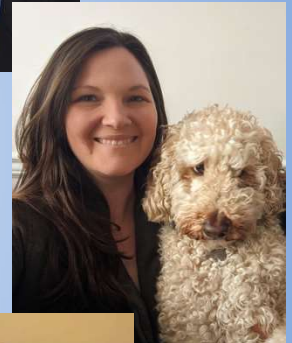
Holger P. Behrsing, PhD

Dr. Behrsing is the Head of Respiratory Toxicology at the Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc. in Gaithersburg, Maryland



Marusia Popovech, PhD, MPH, DABT

Dr. Popovech is a Senior Toxicologist with ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc., where she leads the Ambient Air Quality Research Program.



Postdoc Rep: Colette Miller, PhD, MS

Dr. Miller is a postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she studies the effects of air pollution exposure on maternal and offspring health.



Grad Student Rep: Elise Hickman, BS

Elise is PhD student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she researches the effects of e-cigarettes on respiratory mucosal immune responses in the lab of Dr. Ilona Jaspers.

