

# Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section Newsletter

## (Fall 2013)

### M Ian Gilmour and the IRSS Committee

Dear Colleagues,

The purpose of this newsletter is to bring to your attention some of the IRSS activities and to engage the membership for participation in the planning process. The 2013 SOT program was impressive and arrangements for the upcoming annual SOT Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona are underway. We will have good representation in the form of two CE courses and I encourage the membership to take advantage of these unique courses. We are also fortunate to have seven scientific sessions approved for presentation. You should be aware that many of these will occur during the last two days of the meeting however so please plan your travel accordingly as there are interesting things to see and hear on the Thursday morning. In addition, Dr. Harry Salem will be planning a Technical Committee early morning session on the role of stem cells in inhalation toxicology, although we do not have a date as of yet. I would like to thank all the individuals who worked hard to develop proposals and work with the program committee to fine-tune the submissions. Ideas for proposals are now being solicited for early planning for SOT 2015 in San Diego. Below you will find some important information on developing the 2015 program as well as reminders for our annual awards, officer nominations and a plug to maintain and grow our membership. Looking forward to seeing y'all in Phoenix.

### IRSS Sessions at 2014 SOT Meeting in Phoenix

We are pleased to let you know of the following IRSS-sponsored sessions that were accepted for the 2014 SOT meeting in Phoenix. IRSS was the main sponsor on 8 accepted sessions and co-sponsor on 1 accepted session out of 14 submitted sessions:

- **Symposium** “Linking Air Pollution and Metabolic Syndrome: The Bittersweet Dilemma” Co-Chairs: Urmila Kodavanti and James Wagner
- **Symposium** “Carbon Nanotubes Are Toxic in Experimental Models: What’s Next, Who’s Being Exposed, and Should We Be Concerned?” (IRSS co-sponsor) Co-Chairs: Aaron Erdely and James Antonin
- **Workshop** “Role of Circulating Factors in Mediating Systemic Toxicity of Inhaled Substances” Co-Chairs: Matthew Campen and Lung-Chi Chen
- **Workshop** “Are Biofuels More or Less Toxic Than Conventional Fuels and What Are the Implications for Human Exposure and Risk?” Co-Chairs: Annemoon van Erp and Michael Madden
- **Workshop** “New Concerns and New Science Addressing Environmental Asbestos Exposures” Co-Chairs: Danielle Carlin and Ronald Hines
- **Workshop** “The Doorway between Exposure and Response: How Biologically-Based Inhalation Dosimetry Models Enhance Human Health Risk Assessment” Co-Chairs: Jon Hotchkiss and John Morris
- **Roundtable** “Hydraulic Fracturing: Are There Worker Health Issues?” Co-Chairs: Debra Kaden and Ziad Naufal
- **Continuing Education (Basic)** “Inhalation Studies: Challenges and Complexities” Co-Chairs: Gregory Baker and Willie McKinney

- **Continuing Education (Advanced)** “Innovations in Methodologies for Inhalation Exposures and Interpretations of in vivo Toxicity” Co-Chairs: Urmila Kodavanti and Juergen Pauluhn.

This is a very respectable yield for the 2014 program.

Three sessions for which IRSS was the main sponsor and two sessions for which IRSS was co-sponsor did not make it into the program. However, we encourage the Chairs to resubmit their session proposals for the 2015 program, taking advantage of feedback provided by the Program Committee. We look forward to the meeting in Phoenix and to all of your session proposals for the 2015 meeting in San Diego, CA.

## **It is not too Early to Begin Development of Program Proposals for SOT 2015!!**

The IRSS Program Committee consists of the current officers and all four Councilors. Our 2014 Program Committee Chair is Urmila Kodavanti ([Kodavanti.urmila@epa.gov](mailto:Kodavanti.urmila@epa.gov)). After the March 2014 SOT meeting, the 2015 Program Committee Chair will be the current Vice-President-Elect, Jake McDonald, who will manage IRSS proposals for the SOT 2015 meeting. Currently, Urmila will manage solicitations and reviews until we meet in Phoenix. A number of factors are considered in this process. At the last IRSS business meeting at SOT 2013, we emphasized early identification of areas of general IRSS interest to aid in the development/preparation of IRSS-sponsored proposals for SOT 2015. Working on this aspect for the 2014 program made me realize this is not an easy task and requires significant effort and communication well in advance of the actual proposal submission deadline. The SOT 2015 proposal submission deadlines are likely to be during April 2014, so it is not too early to start thinking about potential themes and topics. I would like to encourage rising scientists to look beyond their comfort zone and start thinking about some proposals in areas of wide interest that will make a positive impact for the IRSS at SOT 2015.

I want to emphasize that each proposal can have up to three different Specialty Section sponsors. Proposals can be submitted in a number of categories such as symposia, workshops, roundtables, historical highlights, and Continuing Education courses. Proposals that had been deemed important but not accepted by the National Program Committee in prior years could be modified and considered for re-submission. The IRSS Program Committee hopes that proposals and/or ideas for SOT 2015 seeking IRSS sponsorship will be submitted by **January 15, 2014** to either Urmila or Jake (JMCDonal@irri.org). Although a proposal may be submitted at the SOT website up until the deadline set by SOT (generally April 15 or 30), these will still then have to undergo IRSS review and recommendation to the SOT National Program Committee. Additionally, the IRSS Program Committee can provide useful suggestions for improvement/recommendation. The SOT also considers Continuing Education courses via sponsored webinars. Ideas for future webinars on the topics of interest to IRSS should also be submitted to Urmila or Jake so that the process of soliciting and organizing webinars can be initiated through SOT. The IRSS Program Committee hopes that the IRSS members will consider submitting innovative proposals for SOT 2015 scientific program.

## **Apply for the IRSS Sponsored Awards to be Presented at the 2014 SOT Meeting**

The IRSS grants a number of Awards to young scientists and students each year at our Annual Meeting reception. The IRSS Awards Committee strongly encourages everyone - especially students and postdoctoral (PD) members - to consider these opportunities. Mentors should encourage and support their students in preparing applications. It is important to note that students and PDs with IRSS membership can apply for awards to any other Specialty Sections if their research also fits the themes of those other specialties. Likewise, students who belong to other Specialty Sections can apply for IRSS awards. All inquiries pertaining to IRSS Awards should be directed to our Vice-President-Elect, Dr. Jake McDonald. I personally encourage all trainees to apply.

**The following are the IRSS-sponsored awards:**

**Inhalation and Respiratory SS Paper of the Year Award** An engraved plaque will be awarded to the author(s) of the best paper in the area of respiratory/inhalation toxicology.

**Inhalation and Respiratory SS Young Investigator Award** An engraved plaque and a cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded to a scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of inhalation or respiratory toxicology.

**Inhalation and Respiratory SS Mary Amdur Student Award** An engraved plaque and cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded to the student whose abstract best addresses the environmental health issues that were the focus of Dr. Amdur's career.

**Inhalation and Respiratory SS Student Award** An engraved plaque and a cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded for the best abstract presented by a student in the field of respiratory/inhalation toxicology.

**Inhalation and Respiratory SS Postdoctoral Award** An engraved plaque and cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded for the best abstract presented by a postdoctoral fellow in the field of respiratory/inhalation toxicology.

**Inhalation and Respiratory SS Career Achievement Award** An engraved plaque will be awarded to a senior investigator whose body of work represents an outstanding achievement in respiratory/inhalation toxicology.

Detailed information about the Awards and specific requirements is available at the IRSS website (<http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/inhalation/Index.asp#awards>); general info can be found on the SOT website (<http://toxicology.org/ai/af/awards.aspx>).

**Vote for the IRSS Committee (2014-2015)**

Our Nomination Committee, comprised of the current President, Vice President, Vice President-Elect, and the three Past-Presidents, solicits IRSS members to run for election for several different offices. We hope that IRSS members submit self-nominations, especially students and PD members. We have had a number of inquiries about student and PD involvement in the Executive Committee, so this is the time to act. Please nominate yourself or ask your mentor to write to our Past-President Dr. Michael Kleinman ([mtkleinm@uci.edu](mailto:mtkleinm@uci.edu)) indicating that you would like to run for the office of Student or PD representative of the IRSS.

This nomination process for all offices should be completed by mid-December, so please make sure you contact Mike soon. From all the nominations IRSS Nomination Committee receives, a

ranking list will be generated; if you are selected to run for the spot, Mike will personally invite you to run for the particular office (SOT will send out ballot mid-January). This year we have open positions for, 1) Vice President-Elect (1-year term leading to Vice President and then President), 2) two Councilors (2-year term), 3) one Student Representative (1-year term), and 4) one PD Representative (1-year term). We will not be electing Secretary/Treasurer this time as Annemoon van Erp's 2-year term will continue until March 2015.

We urge all IRSS members to vote when the ballot is sent from SOT HQ in January.

## **IRSS Membership**

As of November 7, 2013 there are 332 IRSS members. Our membership has grown steadily and is still growing. The continuing success of the IRSS portrays the interest of the membership, especially the program that the members bring forth and the collaboration of IRSS members with SOT in general as well as with other SS's.

The IRSS provides a great opportunity for scientists interested in Inhalation/Respiratory System toxicology. With the recognition of the systemic impact of inhalants, there is even greater interest and research opportunity than in the past. Since inhalation serves as the most important route of entry into the body for many drugs, particles, pollutants, gases, and nano-materials, pulmonary exposure provides a key link to a wide range of subsequent toxic reactions in other organ systems.

The Membership Committee hopes each member will help solicit other SOT members to join the IRSS. The benefits of membership include; 1) the opportunity to collaborate/interact with individuals having common interests in the field; 2) a chance to get involved with the SOT Annual Meeting program development; 3) to apply for a wide array of IRSS awards; and, 4) to participate in any number of IRSS committee activities. It is also important to encourage graduate students to join and to remind them that SOT waives the membership fee for the SS if this is their first choice of a selected SS.

## **Important Deadlines**

### **Awards**

- Inhalation and Respiratory SS Paper of the Year Award - December 28, 2013
- Inhalation and Respiratory SS Young Investigator Award - January 15, 2014
- Inhalation and Respiratory SS Mary Amur Student Award - December 28, 2013
- Inhalation and Respiratory SS Student Award - December 28, 2013
- Inhalation and Respiratory SS Postdoctoral Award - December 28, 2013
- Inhalation and Respiratory SS Career Achievement Award - December 28, 2013

### **Other**

- Biosketches to SOT Headquarters (individuals selected for election) - December 31, 2013