

# Mixtures Specialty Section Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

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## President's Message

David Mattie, PhD, DABT  
MixSS President  
Wright-Patterson Airforce Base



Our annual meeting of the Society of Toxicology is almost here. I hope everyone can attend this year. Also, I hope to meet and talk to as many of you as I can. The issue of mixture effects in toxicology and risk assessment continues to be one of growing interest. Mixtures are a major emphasis in my own research. Please attend as many mixture presentations and events as possible. We appreciate your membership in the Mixtures Specialty Section. Please tell us how we can make the MixSS better. We welcome your involvement. Continue your excellent research in the mixtures area, and let's continue to support and develop students and new researchers. Welcome, if you are one of them. Thank you to the students and post docs who applied for the MSS awards. We will announce the winners at the MSS reception at SOT. Thank you also goes to Wiley for their continued sponsorship of our awards. We also need your ideas for proposals for next year's SOT program. The MSS board will be happy to help you develop your idea into a session proposal (see Bruce's article on page 2). Please share this Newsletter with others who are interested in mixtures to spread the word about the MixSS. See you in Phoenix!

Sincerely,  
Dave Mattie

## Mixtures at the SOT 2014 Annual Meeting

Cynthia Rider, PhD, DABT  
MixSS Secretary/Treasurer  
NIEHS/DNTP



Tuesday, March 25

### Officers' meeting

Although the officers' meeting is generally a closed meeting, MixSS members are invited to provide their input and suggestions to officers prior to the meeting ([cynthia.rider@nih.gov](mailto:cynthia.rider@nih.gov)).

**When:** 7:00 – 8:00 am

**Where:** Steve's Greenhouse Grill (139 East Adams St., Phoenix, AZ 85004)

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**Poster Session:** Toxicity of Chemical Mixtures  
**When:** 9:00 am – 12:30 pm  
**Where:** Exhibit Hall  
**Abstract Numbers:** 1007-1018f  
**Poster Board Numbers:** 461-478

**Workshop Session:** Developmental Toxicity from Chemical Mixtures: Research to Application in Susceptible Populations (*sponsored by MixSS*)  
**Session chairs:** Danielle Carlin (NIEHS) and Moiz Mumtaz (CDC-ATSDR)  
**Speakers:** R.O. Wright (Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York), D.A. Slechta (University of Rochester), R. Tornero-Velez (US EPA), C. Gennings (Virginia Commonwealth University), and M.L. Dourson (Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment)  
**When:** 1:30 – 4:15 pm  
**Where:** Room 125

Wednesday, March 26

**MixSS Meeting/Reception**  
**When:** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
**Where:** Sheraton Estrella

*Please join us for the annual MixSS business meeting and reception! This year we invite you to decide the winner in a debate on the future of cumulative risk assessment:*



Jane Ellen and Mike DeVito get ready to rumble!

*Jane Ellen Simmons (US EPA) will argue for continued use of component-based cumulative risk assessment and Mike DeVito (NIEHS) will argue for moving to whole mixtures/sufficient similarity approaches.*

*Each will have 7 minutes to present their argument, followed by a decision from the crowd. Who will determine the future direction of mixtures science?*

## Call for 2015 Session Proposals

Bruce Fowler, PhD, ATS  
MixSS Vice President  
ICF International

All Mixtures Specialty Section members are strongly encouraged to submit scientific session proposals (workshop, symposia, platform or poster) for the 2015 SOT meeting in San Diego. Chemical - chemical, chemical- drug, chemical-non-chemical stressor, and drug –drug interactions are major public health concerns which affect the lives of people throughout the world on a daily basis. The Society of Toxicology Mixtures Specialty Section has an opportunity to assume a leadership role in addressing these important and complex issues by virtue of having outstanding membership expertise across government, industry and academia. For this reason, the MSS Executive Committee requests that MSS members consider developing scientific session proposals for the 2015 SOT Annual Meeting to highlight the innovative science which is being conducted by our membership. Proposals for consideration for the 2015 Annual Meeting are due to SOT headquarters by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. In order to allow for feedback from the Mixtures Specialty Section, submissions should be provided to Dr. Bruce Fowler (drtox@earthlink.net) by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Co-sponsorship, or endorsement, of session proposals by other SOT specialty sections is strongly encouraged – this should be sought prior to submission to the Mixtures SS. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bruce Fowler, MixSS Vice- President.

## Joint RASS-MixSS webinar series features Dr. Chirag Patel

Kembra Howdeshell, PhD  
MixSS Councilor  
NIEHS/DNTP

The joint Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS) and MixSS webinar featured Dr. Chirag Patel of the Center for Biomedical Informatics at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA on January 8, 2014. Dr. Patel presented his cutting-edge research on "Environment-wide Association Studies (EWAS) to Connect Multiple personal Exposures to Health". His presentations can be viewed at the RASS webinar website (<http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/RiskAssess/downloads.asp>)



### ***Call for suggestions of 2014-2015 webinar speakers***

The Mixtures Specialty Section Executive Committee requests suggestions for the 2014-2015 webinar series with the RASS on topics related to mixtures research or issues that would also be pertinent to both groups. Please submit your suggestions by email to Kembra Howdeshell (howdeshellkl@niehs.nih.gov) by April 15, 2014. Thank you for your past efforts in identifying excellent speakers!

## New MixSS Officers

**Vice President-Elect: Margaret Whittaker, PhD, MPH, ERT, DABT**



We are so pleased to welcome Margaret Whittaker back to the executive board of the MixSS. She previously served as councilor to the MixSS from 2008 to 2010. Dr. Whittaker is the Managing Director and Chief Toxicologist of ToxServices LLC, where she serves as the project manager and technical lead of ToxServices projects for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Design for the Environment (DfE) Program, Clean Production Action's GreenScreen™ for Safer Chemicals, international certification organizations, testing laboratories, and consumer products companies that manufacture and test products such as food additives, food contact materials, cleaning chemicals, fragrance agents, electronics, cosmetics, dietary supplements, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and drinking water additives. As project manager and technical lead for contracts with these organizations, Dr. Whittaker has contributed to and/or managed the development of human health risk assessments, chemical hazard assessments, exposure assessments, as well as hundreds of product-specific toxicology evaluations.

**Councilor: Vickie Wilson, PhD**



We look forward to working with our newest Councilor, Dr. Vickie Wilson. Dr. Vickie Wilson is a research biologist with the U.S. EPA/ORD lab in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Currently she also

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serves as Chief of the Reproductive Toxicology Branch within the Toxicity Assessment Division. Over the past 13 years at the EPA, her work has focused on development of in vitro assays for defining mechanism of action of environmental compounds, the application of those assays as screening tools for cumulative hormonal activity in environmental samples and the assessment of endocrine disrupting chemicals both individually and as mixtures.

**Post-doctoral Representative: Ron Pringle, PhD**



Dr. Ron Pringle brings a lot of experience to the MixSS executive board from his service as Graduate Student Representative. Dr. Ron Pringle is a postdoctoral associate in environmental toxicology in the Center for Environmental Health Sciences at Mississippi State University. He received his PhD in May of 2013 under the mentorship of Dr. Janice Chambers (Past President of the MixSS), with research directed towards furthering the understanding of the impacts of nerve agents on the nervous system. Ron obtained his B.S. and M.S. in Biology from the University of South Dakota in 2001 and 2005, respectively. Ron is a member of the SOT, both at the chapter and national levels, where he has served as the student representative both for the South Central Chapter and for Mixtures Specialty Section.

**Graduate Student Representative: Nicole Kurhanewicz, BS**



We welcome Nicole Kurhanewicz back for her second term as the MixSS Graduate Student

Representative. She is a doctoral candidate in the Curriculum of Toxicology at the University of North Carolina. Nicole received a bachelor of science degree in Chemistry from Oregon State University in 2008. She currently works under the direction of Dr. Mehdi Hazari at the EPA in Research Triangle Park, NC. Her research is focused on exploring the extent to which irritation of the airway sensory nerves mediates adverse cardiovascular responses following exposure to prototypical airway irritants as well as complex air pollution mixtures.

## Thank you to our outgoing officers!

Kembra Howdeshell (Councilor) has worked diligently to provide incredible speakers for the joint RASS-MixSS webinar series. She is currently leading the effort to identify the best mixtures abstract from the significant pool of mixtures-related SOT 2014 annual meeting abstracts.

Paul Eden (Post doctoral Representative) has done a great job bringing the post doctoral perspective to the MixSS.

## Ask someone you know to join the MixSS

Melanie Doyle-Eisele, PhD  
MixSS Councilor  
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute

The Mixtures Specialty Section is 1 of 27 opportunities you or your colleagues can be involved in throughout your career as a member of the Society of Toxicology. What makes the MixSS different from so many others is that we are "toddlers" at SOT compared to many therefore if you can give a few minutes now you can help develop the program that we want to become. The Mixtures Section provides a forum for the interaction of SOT members to discuss the impact of combination effects on current regulations, growing fields in science, and also immediately impacts research that is presented at national conferences.

If you know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or student that may be interested, please contact us. We welcome the opportunity to set up interactions with interested scientists and current members.