President’s Message

Dear OTSS Members,

Greetings and welcome to the Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section (OTSS) fall/winter newsletter! As 2018 comes to a close, I’m sure you feel as I do that the year has flown by! I have had the privilege to serve as your president this year and honored to work with the incredibly talented and committed members on the Executive Committee. My goal is to continue to grow our membership by reaching out to students, international members, and members of allied specialty sections and find new ways to bring ocular topics into focus within SOT.

To recap our highlights from earlier this year, we welcomed our new officers and postdoctoral and student representatives to the Executive Board: Kathleen Krenzer (Vice President), Hiromi Hosako (Vice President-Elect), Mercedes Salvador-Silva (Past President), Neera Tewari-Singh (Treasurer), Vlad Bantseev (Communication), Denise Rodeheaver (Councilor), Qihong Huang (Councilor), Dinesh Goswami (Postdoctoral Representative), and Juliana Falero-Perez (Graduate Student Representative). I greatly appreciate the enthusiasm of this team and I encourage you to engage with them to advance the OTSS over this year and beyond. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the outgoing officers for their passionate leadership over the past few years of service: Chris Soms (Past President), Marcus Terneus (Communication) and Florence Lorget (Councilor). We are truly grateful for the terrific job that all have done!

I would like to extend my thanks to the Communication Committee who has put out a great fall/winter edition to the newsletter. At the 58th SOT Annual meeting held in San Antonio, Texas, the OTSS sponsored two activities at the meeting: A scientific symposium entitled “The Use of Advanced Imaging and Microscopy Techniques to Detect, Determine and Treat Disease and Retinotoxicity in Man and Experimental Models” and a member reception.

At the reception, we presented the Student/Postdoctorate Award to Dr. Juliana M. Falero-Perez from the University of Wisconsin and the Trainee Travel Award to Dinesh Goswami from UC Denver. The OTSS Program Committee is working on a joint webinar with the Medical Device and Combination Product Specialty Section to focus on recent changes to ISO guidelines and their impact in the ocular field.

Our success with these initiatives depends on the involvement of our membership. To that end, I would like to encourage OTSS members to be involved by volunteering on our various committees. Our overall strategy for the future is to provide members with as many opportunities as they would like to contribute to building a truly great specialty section. Also consider encouraging your colleagues to join!

Finally, I would like to remind all OTSS members to submit nominations for OTSS-sponsored awards. This year we are sponsoring four awards: The Annual “Paper of the Year” Award and the Career Achievement Award which have an extended submission deadline of January 18, 2019, and the Covance-OSOD Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award and the Trainee Travel Award which have extended submission deadlines on January 18, 2019.

Thank you for your support as I’ve fulfilled the role of OTSS President and I look forward to the year ahead!

Brenda Smith, PhD DABT
OTSS President

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OTSS Reception Highlights

The reception for the Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section was held on Monday, March 12, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Grand Hyatt Lone Star B conference room. It began by acknowledging the supporters of the OTSS which included: Charles River, Covance, Ocular Services On Demand (OSOD), Regeneron, and Absorption Systems. Attendees of the meeting also got to enjoy a presentation involving the Japanese Society of Comparative and Veterinary Ophthalmology.

Introductions of the Current Officers of the OTSS and New Officers for the 2018-2019 term were announced. New officers include: Brenda Smith (President), Kathleen Krenzer (Vice President), Hiromi Hosako (Vice President-Elect), Neera Tewari-Singh (Treasurer), Vlad Bantseev and Denise Rodeheaver (Councilors), Dinesh Goswami as Postdoctoral Representative, and Juliana Falero-Perez as Student Representative. Officers completing their terms on the OTSS Executive Committee include: Chris Somps (Past President), Vlad Bantseev (Councilor), Marcus Terneus (Communication), and Russel Eyre (Treasurer). After introductions, the chairpersons of various OTSS committees presented updates.

Brenda Smith, Chair of the Program Planning Committee, updated on the activities organized and supported by the committee, including the 2018 Symposium “The Use of Advanced Imaging and Microscopy Techniques to Detect, Determine and Treat Disease and Retinotoxicity in Man and Experimental Models” presented Monday, March 12. The Symposium was endorsed by the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section, Clinical and Translational Toxicology Specialty Section and Innovation in Toxicological Science (IAT). Additional updates included the 2019 Symposium Proposal: “A Sharp Stick in the Eye: Understanding and Managing Ocular Findings in General Toxicology Studies.”

The chairperson of the Communications Committee, Marcus Terneus, introduced the OTSS members who helped support the committee, which included Chris Somps. Of the various committee activities, the principal activities focused on the OTSS Newsletter, Websites/Sharepoints, and OTSS Poster for the annual meeting, which is always in need of information to share with the members of the OTSS.
An update on the Membership Committee, chaired by Kathleen Krenzer was provided. At the time of the meeting, there were over 100 members of the OTSS. Of the 101 members, 79% represent Industry, 17% are in Academic/Government, and 5% are Students. This number has gradually increased since 2016, but there is room for many more members, especially students and postdocs!

Next was an update on OTSS financials by Russell Eyre, which was followed by awards. Russell indicated that the OTSS was doing well financially, with a balance ending 31 Dec 2017 of $65,924, representing a net gain of $26,489 year-over-year.
Dr. Futoshi Kakiuchi, as representative of the Japanese Society of Comparative and Veterinary Ophthalmology, provided an update highlighting action items of interest from 2017 to 2019 including: Terminology Integration, Spontaneous Data Collection, and an ERG Workshop. Dr. Kakiuchi invited us to participate on the Japanese Society of Toxicology (JSOT) Workshop on July 18 in Osaka titled “Drug and Chemical-induced and Spontaneous Retinal and Optic Nerve Toxicities and the Mechanisms in Experimental Animals and Human.”

At the annual 2018 OTSS reception, three awards were presented. They included the Taylor & Francis “Ocular Paper of the Year” award presented by Dr. A Wallace Hayes, the “Student/Postdoctorate Award” presented by Dr. Vlad Bantseev. More information on the award winners is provided below.

Dr. Wallace Hayes acknowledged the collaboration from the OTSS Officers, as this was the first opportunity for the OTSS to actively review and select the Taylor & Francis “Ocular Paper of the Year” from more than 58 Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology Papers qualified between 2017-2018 for the award. Dr. Wallace Hayes presented the 2018 Taylor & Francis “Ocular Paper of the Year” to Akyol N, Kalkisim A, Turk A, Kola M, Imamoglu HI. “Evaluation of the effects on choroidal thickness of bimatoprost 0.03% versus a brinzolamide 1.0%/timolol maleate 0.5% fixed combination.” Cutan Ocul Toxicol. 2017 Dec; 36(4):397-403. The authors, who were not able to attend, were awarded with a plaque and a free subscription for a year to the Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology Journal.

The reception was concluded by acknowledging the accomplishment of the OTSS for the past 10 years, presented by Dr. Mercedes Salvador-Silva. 2018 marked the 10-year anniversary of the OTSS founded in 2008. The OTSS achievements during these last 10 years are very remarkable and show how much we can do together as an organization. We are a diverse group of toxicologists with diverse background from industry, academia and government organizations. Some of us were born ocular toxicologists and other of us were driven to this path by luck or fortune; however all of us share something in common and that is the passion for ocular safety and to educate and bring awareness for ocular toxicology-related issues. In these past 10 years, we have grown to over 100 members, organized CE courses, a very successful SOT/CCT Course by Genentech, 4 symposiums and 3 workshops ensuring that we have representation and bring excitement and relevant ocular topics to the SOT meeting each year. We have awarded 10 Covance-OSOD and Travel awards thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. We have also issued a total of 10 newsletters. In addition, 6 papers of the year from Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology have been awarded. However, none of this would be possible without the passion, collaboration, and inspiration of this amazing group of ocular toxicologists. The collaboration of each one of the OTSS members is key to the continued success of the organization for the next 10 years and beyond.
2017 Francis & Taylor “Ocular Paper of the Year” Award

The Francis & Taylor Award, “Ocular Paper of the Year,” is presented for the best paper in ocular toxicology published in the Journal of Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology. The best paper of the 2017 journal year (presented 2018) was authored by: Akyol N, Kalkisim A, Turk A, Kola M, Imamoglu HI. “Evaluation of the effects on choroidal thickness of bimatoprost 0.03% versus a brinzolamide 1.0%/timolol maleate 0.5% fixed combination.” 2017 Vol. 36, No. 4, Pages 397-403.

Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section -Covance-OSOD Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award:

The winner of the 2018 Graduate Student Award, which was sponsored by Covance and Ocular Services On Demand (OSOD), was Juliana M. Falero-Perez, a graduate student from the laboratory of Dr. Nader Sheibani from Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences; University of Wisconsin Madison, WI. Falero-Perez’s research topic was entitled: “Targeted Deletion of Cyp1b1 in Perivascular Supporting Cells is Sufficient for Attenuation of Retinal Neovascularization and Trabecular Meshwork Dysgenesis,” which was briefly presented at the OTSS reception and presented as a poster during the SOT poster session.

Juliana M. Falero-Perez receiving 2018 Graduate Student Award.
The winner of the 2018 Trainee Travel Award, which was sponsored by OTSS, was Dinesh Giri Goswami, a postdoctoral research associate from Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharm Sci UC Denver; Denver, CO. Dr. Goswami’s research topic was entitled: “Warfare Agent and Pesticide Chloropicrin-Induced Toxic Responses in Ex Vivo Rabbit Cornea and Primary Human Corneal Epithelial Cells” which was briefly presented at the OTSS reception and presented as a poster during the SOT poster session.

Dinesh Giri Goswami receiving 2018 Trainee Travel Award.

**Symposium at the 2018 SOT**

“The Use of Advanced Imaging and Microscopy Techniques to Detect, Determine and Treat Disease and Retinotoxicity in Man and Experimental Models”

**Chairpersons: Dr. Melva Rios Blanco and Dr. Donald D. Fox**

This Symposium was hosted on Monday, March 12th and was co-sponsored by the Ocular Toxicology, the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section, Clinical and Translational Toxicology Specialty Section and Innovation in Toxicological Science (IAT). The session started by demonstrating the utility of various optical coherence tomography (OCT) techniques and adaptive optics (AO) to assess morphological and functional changes associated with glaucoma disease progression and treatment in experimental
models and evaluation of changes in the retinal nerve fiber layer for early detection. The second speaker summarized the utility of AO techniques coupled to advanced imaging techniques to precisely deliver visual stimuli to individual photoreceptors, such that visual function and retinal structure can be studied with cellular resolution in normal and diseased retinas. The third speaker described a combination of microscopic techniques from the cellular to ultrastructural to three-dimensional substructural levels that elucidate mechanisms of mitochondrial-mediated retinotoxicity in both human and experimental animals. The final speaker presented the role of hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) in the physiological and pathological vascular repair in the retina and the utility of imaging and other techniques to study this phenomenon in experimental animals. Overall, the session accomplished three main goals. First, to introduce and educate the scientific community on the use of state-of-the-art approaches to noninvasive ocular imaging for the early detection, assessment, progression, and treatment of retinal and vascular damage in man and experimental animals. Second, to enhance the understanding of retinal sites and mechanisms of action of injury. Third, to provide a basis for determining the translatablety of experimental data to humans.

Call for Nominations from the Awards Committee

Ocular Toxicology SS Career Achievement Award

Each year, the OTSS recognizes a Senior Investigator for lifetime achievement for lifetime achievement or for contribution of a particularly influential body of work to the field of ocular toxicology. The nominees are evaluated with respect to the following criteria:

1) Contribution to the field of ocular toxicology—depth and breadth of scientific contributions and significance of contributions for advancing the field.
2) Major influence in the education/training/mentorship of young scientists in the field of ocular toxicology including training in government, industry, or academia.
3) Leadership and service to the ocular toxicology field including involvement in the Specialty Section or other meetings/organizations related to ocular toxicology.
4) Influence on regulatory and risk/safety assessment decisions related to ocular toxicology.

Nominations of candidates not selected will be considered for two additional years unless the nomination is withdrawn by the sponsor.

Nominations: The nominator should provide a discussion of the role that the individual's work has played in advancing the field of ocular toxicology and the safety assessment of ocular products. A curriculum vitae and bibliography should also be included. A second letter of recommendation from another investigator in the field would be helpful.

Submit nominations to: Qihong Huang

Deadline EXTENDED to January 18, 2019!

Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section Covance-OSOD Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award

Each year, OTSS recognizes outstanding student/postdoctoral candidates for their contribution to advancing the understanding of ocular toxicology and pharmacology. The award recipient will receive a certificate and monetary award of up to $500, funded by generous contributions from Covance and OSOD. The requirements/criteria for the award include that the Applicant:

1) must be graduate student or postdoctoral fellow as of October 1 the year prior to the annual meeting;
2) preferred to be an SOT and OTSS member;
3) must have an accepted abstract at the next upcoming SOT annual meeting;
4) must attend the SOT meeting and attend the OTSS reception;
Submission of:
1) Abstract, including SOT Abstract Number.
2) Letter of support from applicant’s Sponsor indicating the role of the applicant and independence in conducting the research.
3) Narrative describing their research hypothesis, background and significance (up to 2-pages).

The winners will present a 5-minute synopsis of his/her research at the annual OTSS meeting.
Submit nominations to: Qihong Huang
Deadline EXTENDED to January 18, 2019!

Ocular Toxicology SS Trainee Travel Award

The Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section (OTSS) is now accepting applications for a Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Trainee Travel Award. The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding contributions of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the 2019 SOT Annual Meeting in the area of ocular toxicology. The award is specifically intended to support the travel of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology. Both need and abstract merit will be considered as criteria for this award.

Eligibility is limited to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who meet the following criteria:
1) must be graduate student or postdoctoral fellow as of October 1 the year prior to the annual meeting;
2) must have an accepted abstract at the next upcoming SOT annual meeting;
3) must attend the SOT meeting and attend the OTSS reception;
4) must not have received the OTSS award the previous year;
5) abstract must be related to ocular toxicology and/or pharmacology.

The application should include the following items:
1. Cover letter from the trainee indicating his/her intent to apply for this award and interest in attending the Annual Meeting
2. Current CV
3. Copy of abstract for platform or poster presentation at the 2019 SOT
4. Letter from advisor or mentor indicating the trainee’s merit, as well as confirmation of need for funding to enable travel

Awards will be conferred to one (1) graduate student and/or one (1) postdoctoral fellow. The winners will each receive an achievement plaque and a $500 cash award. The awardees will be acknowledged at the 2019 OTSS Reception.
All applications should be submitted to OTSS Awards Committee Chairperson Qihong Huang
Deadline EXTENDED to January 18, 2019!

Ocular Toxicology SS Annual “Paper of the Year” Award

The Taylor & Francis Award is presented annually to recognize the best paper in ocular toxicology published in the Journal of Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology. The winner receives a certificate of recognition and a subscription to the Journal of Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology. The winner will be selected by Taylor & Francis from articles published between January 1 and December 31 of the year preceding the SOT Annual Meeting. Nominations from the membership will not be solicited. The award will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting.

Deadline: December 31, 2018
Best Poster Award

Any poster accepted for presentation during the Ocular Toxicology Poster Session at the SOT Annual Meeting is eligible for the Best Poster Award. Nominees must attend the meeting and present the submitted poster. An abstract and a pdf file of the poster/slides must be submitted for consideration. The winning author(s) will receive a ribbon, certificate of recognition and an invitation to the OTSS reception held during the Annual Meeting.

Submit nominations to: Qihong Huang
Deadline: February 17, 2019

Renew your membership!

It is that time of the year when people are planning to register for the meeting and to renew their SOT membership so we wanted to remind you to re-register as an OTSS member.

Click here for a direct link

OTSS Officer Nominations

Please consider supporting your Specialty Section by helping out on the OTSS Executive Committee. Each year there is a call for Nominations. Please consider self-nominating or nominating a fellow OTSS member. The following positions will become available in 2019: Councilor and Vice President-Elect. See link below for a description of these officer positions and send nomination suggestions to Mercedes Salvador-Silva (Officer Position Descriptions)

Supporters

We sincerely thank you for your generous support!!

2017 – 2018 Supporters