

Neurotoxicology Specialty Section Annual Report: 2002 - 2003

I. Slate of Officers and Committees

	<u>2001 - 2002</u>	<u>2002 - 2003</u>
President	Merle Paule	Kevin Crofton
Vice President	Kevin Crofton	Stephanie Padilla
Vice President-elect	Stephanie Padilla	Carey Pope
Secretary/Treasurer	Larry Sheets	Mary Gilbert
Councilors	William Atchison (Past President)	Merle Paule (Past President)
	Richard Seegal	Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni
	Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni	Susan Schantz

Committees:

Membership:	Janice E. Chambers (1999-2002)
Program:	Edward (Ted) Locke (1998-2002)
	Timothy Shafer (2000-2003)
	Larry Sheets (<i>ad hoc</i> 2002-2003)

2002 - 2003 Annual Meeting: March 20, 2002

II. Activities

The Officer's Meeting was held on March 18 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society. President Merle Paule called the meeting to order at approximately 6:15 a.m., with attendance by Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, Stephanie Padilla, Mary Gilbert, Sue Schantz, Richard Seegal, Kevin Crofton and Larry Sheets. Carey Pope was unable to attend.

The reception and business meeting for the Specialty Section was held on March 20, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and was attended by approximately 120 members. President Merle Paule called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. The following items were discussed:

A. Election Results

The election results were announced and the new officers were introduced. The Nominating Committee was recognized for its effort and the quality of the candidates that was provided for election. The committee consisted of Kent Anger (Chair), Becky Brockel, Don Fox, Jacques Maurissen, Steve Lasley, Larry Sheets and Kevin Crofton (Silent Monitor).

B. Miscellaneous Items

1. Invited Speakers. As a new policy, SOT will pay travel expenses for invited speakers, rather than the Specialty Sections having to incur those costs.
2. Scientific Sessions at SOT. Neurotoxicology was well represented at this year's meeting, with symposia, platform and poster sessions, as well as a session on Innovations in Toxicological Sciences (see listing below).
3. Proposals for Symposia. Four of the nine proposals for symposia that were submitted

- with a neurotoxicology theme were accepted by the Program Committee. We were encouraged to re-submit the proposals that were not accepted.
4. C. E. Courses. We were also encouraged to submit proposals for continuing education, since polls indicate neurotoxicology as being the 3rd most popular area for classes.
 5. Student Awards. There was discussion of how to manage the large number of entries submitted for student awards. The process of having students present their poster to a panel of judges at the meeting is time consuming and there is little time to complete this before the awards are presented at the business meeting.
 6. Student Awards. The past-president of the SS is responsible for arranging to have plaques prepared (2-months in advance of the meeting – through SOT) and remind SOT headquarters to bring checks to the meeting. The winners' names are then added after judging is complete.
 7. By-Laws. It was decided that a committee to review the SS by-laws was not needed, since the by-laws were revised last year by the membership and there are no new issues. A committee can be formed when the need arises.
 8. Young Investigator Award. The Young Investigator Award from the American Chemistry Council was discussed, in terms of allocation to Neurotoxicology or other Specialty Sections. It is expected that this award will likely fund other areas of toxicology in future years, with consideration of Neurotoxicology again after supporting other areas.
 9. Web Site. Kevin Crofton agreed to continue providing updates to the web page of the SS. He encouraged all to provide information that would be of interest to other members.
 10. Web Site. The Officer's Handbook and next year's meeting and calendar will be posted. The meeting minutes could also be posted there to encourage members to visit the site.
 11. E-Mail. E-mail addresses and other information about members will not be released. We will maintain current policy of forwarding selected items for members but not distributing or selling the membership list or posting anything commercial.
 12. Membership Committee. A Committee will be formed to increase membership. The committee will consist of Sue Schantz, Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, and Mary Gilbert, with one or two additional members from the SS. They will develop a list of benefits, determine which members left the SS (since the 1999 peak year) and encourage them to re-join. It was noted that some losses may have been unintentional or due to error.
 13. Publishers. Certain Publishers have provided gift certificates to students to purchase books. Rich Seegal agreed to contact Elsevier for additional information.
 14. Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT). SOT plans to sponsor 1.5-day meetings on Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT). Plans call for 2-4 to be held each year, either as a "stand-alone" meetings or held in conjunction with other meetings. Submission deadlines are April 1 and September 1. Mary Gilbert will collect the information on CCT and distribute to members.
 15. International Neurotoxicology Association (INA). INA's 9th Annual meeting will be held in Dresden, Germany in June 2003.
 16. NIH Study Sections. NIH asked SOT to nominate members to serve on study sections.

C. Secretary-Treasurer's report

Finances:

The SS account balance was \$7165 on June 30, 2002.

Membership in the SS stands at 153, down from 176 members in 2001. The all-time high was 260 members in 1999. A membership committee will consider ways to increase membership, including contacting those who have not renewed membership. The membership committee will

consist of the Councilors and the Secretary-Treasurer.

D. Monsanto Support for Student Awards

The pre-doctoral and post-doctoral winners of the student awards were announced (see below). As initiated last year, the cash awards to the first-place winners in the pre- and post-doctoral categories were paid from funds provided by Monsanto. Thanks were extended to Dr. Abby Li of Monsanto who made this possible. Dr. Li was at the meeting to present the awards.

E. Scientific Meeting

Sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section

Continuing Education

There were no CE courses in Neurotoxicology this year. This was noted as an action item for the coming year, since recent polls from participants indicate that this area is the 3rd most popular.

Symposia

Imaging the Mitochondrial Permeability Pore in Toxic Injury
Neuroreceptors as the Basis for Insecticide Resistance and Selective Toxicity
Olfactory Transport of Inhaled Metals: An Important Route of Delivery to the Brain
Transcriptional Involvement in Neurotoxicology

Poster Sessions

Cellular and Molecular Neurotoxicology
Developmental Neurotoxicology
Neurotoxicology of Metals
Neurotoxicology General

Innovations in Toxicological Sciences

Brain Barrier Systems: A New Frontier in Neurotoxicological Research

F. Awards

1. Lifetime Achievement Award

A committee was formed to review candidates for selection to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. This committee consisted of Michael (Mikki) Aschner (Chair), Robert MacPhail and Kenneth Reuhl.

The winner of this year's award was Dr. Peter Spencer who is the Director of the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology at Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Spencer was given a plaque to recognize his many contributions to neurotoxicology. This was the second year that the specialty section offered this award.

Last year this award was given to Dr. Toshio Narahashi from Northwestern University, but Dr. Narahashi was unable to attend the meeting. Since he was present at the meeting this year, he was recognized and congratulated by members who were in attendance.

2. American Chemical Council Young Investigator Award

This Early Career Award in Neurotoxicology, sponsored by the Long-Range Research Initiative of the American Chemistry Council and administered through SOT, is provided to encourage persons beginning their careers to conduct research on topics related to neurotoxicology. The award for 2002 was given to Dr. Ronald B. Tjalkens, Assistant Professor in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. Dr. Tjalkens' Award, which is the first of its kind to be awarded through SOT, will support research under his proposal "NF- κ B, Nitric Oxide, and Astroglia in Manganese Neurotoxicity

3. Student Awards

Postdoctoral Awards

- Monsanto First Place Award
Dr. Miriam B. Virgolini
Paper: Assessing the role of the dorsal subiculum/nucleus accumbens pathway in Pb-induced changes in fixed interval (FI) performance.
Mentor: Dr. D.A. Cory-Slechta
- Second Place Award
Dr. Jeffrey S. Gillette
Paper: Modulation of murine striatal dopamine transporter expression by the pyrethroid insecticide permethrin.
Mentor: Dr. J. R. Bloomquist
- Third Place Award
Dr. Riyaz B. Mahammad
Paper: PCB-induced changes in the DNA-binding of several transcription factors in the developing cerebellum.
Mentor: Dr. N. H. Zawia

Pre-doctoral Awards

- Monsanto First Place Award
Chris D. Toscano
Paper: Environmental enrichment reverses cognitive deficits induced by lead.
Mentor: Dr. T. R. Guilarte
- Second Place
Ming K. Chen
Paper: Increased expression of peripheral benzodiazepine receptors in the mouse brain following cuprizone-induced demyelination.
Mentor: Dr. T. R. Guilarte
- Third Place Award
Dan T. Wilson
Paper: Effects of methylmercury exposure on expression of EPHS and ephrins in embryonal carcinoma cells.
Mentor: Dr. K. R. Reuhl

III. Other 2001 - 2002 Activities and Accomplishments:

IV. Future Plans

1. To regain membership in the Specialty Section. Continue attempts to retain members after they have completed their doctoral or post-doctoral training.
 2. Continue to foster new relationships with industry. The money provided by Monsanto to support the student awards is a very important benefit achieved this year.
 3. To continue to provide leadership in the area of neurotoxicology.
 4. To continue efforts to increase training opportunities for student and post-docs.
- To serve as a medium for disseminating information regarding research opportunities.
Dissemination of information about the ACC Young Investigator Award is an example from this past year.