

**Neurotoxicology Specialty Section
Annual Report: 2007-2008**

I. Slate of Officers and Committees

	<u>2007 – 2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
President	Chris Newland	Marion Ehrich
Vice President	Marion Ehrich	Sue Schantz
Vice President Elect	Sue Schantz	Steve Lasley
Past President	Robert MacPhail	Chris Newland
Secretary-Treasurer	Karen Steinmetz	Tim Shafer
Councilors	Ed Levin	Ron Tjalkens
	Ron Tjalkens	Kathleen Raffaele

II. Activities

The annual officer's meeting was called to order by NTSS President Chris Newland on Monday, 17 March 2008 at 12:15 at the Conference Center. In attendance were In attendance were President Christopher Newland, Past President Bob MacPhail, President Elect Marion Ehrich, Vice President Elect Susan Schantz, Secretary-Treasurer Karen Steinmetz, Councilors Ed Levin and Ron Tjalkens, Student Representative Derek Drechsel, and newly elected Vice President Elect Steve Lasley.

The reception and business meeting for the Specialty Section was held on Tuesday, 18 March, beginning at 6:00 and was attended by approximately 150 members. President Chris Newland called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45. The items below were discussed.

III). Election results. The president introduced and welcomed the new NTSS officers, Vice President Steve Lasley and Councilor Kathleen Raffaele. The nominating committee was chaired by past, past President Richard Seegal. Other members were Mary Gilbert, Marion Ehrich, and Larry Sheets.

155 members voted in an electronic election managed by SOT headquarters.

IV) Secretary Treasurer's report.

Membership. As of March 13, the NTSS membership was 292 members which included approximately 50 students. At the last meeting there were 346 listed members. Some of the reduction in membership is due to SOT's more frequent updating of the membership roster to remove individuals how have not paid dues.

Finances. As of June 2008, the NTSS balance was \$17,043. Expenses included \$8,993 for the annual meeting, including awards, web development, and the reception. Income from the annual meeting and membership dues were \$9,047. The NTSS Financial Report is available to the Executive Committee through the SOT website.

V. Scientific Meeting. Chris Newland chaired the review committee for NTSS proposals for the 2008 meeting. He, past president Bob MacPhail and Vice President Marion Ehrich were the other members. Five proposals requested primary endorsement by NTSS and an additional eight requested secondary or tertiary endorsement.

2008 meeting. President Chris Newland, Past President Bob MacPhail, and Vice President comprised the review committee for NTSS proposals for 2008 meeting. This committee reviewed and rank-ordered proposals submitted to NTSS for sponsorship for the 2008 annual meeting. The criteria were novelty, consistency with the theme, quality of the proposals and the slate of speakers, and whether the topic had been covered in recent years. A summary of these follows:

Primary sponsorship: 5 proposals were submitted and 2 were approved by the SOT program committee.

- (1) Neurotoxicant-Induced Alterations in Developmental and Adult Neurogenesis: Structure-Function Studies and Clinical Relevance
- (2) Stem Cells: New Tools for Neurotoxicologists

Secondary/Tertiary sponsorship: 8 proposals were submitted and 3 were approved by the SOT program committee.

- (3) Use of Behavioral and Non-Routine Neurological Approaches in Drug Discovery Toxicology.
- (4) Chlorotriazine Herbicides and their Common Degradation Products of Concern: Disposition and Potential Health Effects
- (5) Metals, Microglia, and Neuroinflammation

In addition, a number of poster sessions were relevant to NTSS interests.

2009 meeting. The NTSS encourages members to submit proposals for an initial review prior to the final submission to SOT. This allows the pre-review committee to work with applicants to refine the application so it will fit better with SOT criteria.

The NTSS pre-review committee was chaired by Marion Ehrich (president). Chris Newland (past president) and Sue Schantz (Vice President) served as committee members. The committee received 20 proposals for initial review. Of these, 10 were requests for primary endorsement and 10 were requests for secondary or tertiary endorsement. NTSS received no requests for Continuing Education, but did recommend that one submission be considered as a CE course.

VI. Awards

The awards committee was chaired by Bob MacPhail (past president). Members were Miki Aschner, Toshio Narahashi, Steve Lasley, Stephanie Padilla, Carey Pope.

1. Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award. This is an SOT award but we list it because it was granted to Toshio Narahashi, a long-standing and highly regarded member of the NTSS.

2. Distinguished Investigator Award. This is not viewed as an annual award but rather as one to recognize truly exceptional contributions. There were no 2007 nominees for this award.

3. Distinguished Service Contribution. This award was initiated by NTSS members to recognize the unique contributions of Dr. Joan Cranmer. Bob MacPhail, past president, chaired a committee, made up of NTSS members. The citation reads as follows:

To recognize her tireless devotion to the highest standards of quality, making NeuroToxicology a preeminent outlet for research and the International Neurotoxicology Conference an influential forum on environmental hazards and the nervous system.

4. Predoctoral Poster Awards

1. Annmarie Ramkissoon, Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Toronto (P.G. Wells)
2. Anand Giddabasappa, Dept of Biology and Biochemistry, College of Optometry, University of Houston (Donald Fox)
3. Heather B. Leavesley, Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Purdue University (Gary Isom)

5. Postdoctoral Poster Awards

1. Sarah E. Owens, Department of Pediatrics Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Miki Aschner)
2. Rebecca I. Erickson, SRI International (Karen Steinmetz)
3. Stanley A. Benkovic, Toxicology and Molecular Biology Branch, CDC NIOSH (Diane Miller)

6. Best Abstract Awards, 2008.

First Place: SE Owens et al. Genetic variants in four metal-regulatory genes in autism.

Included in Top Five:

Leasure et al. Low-level human equivalent gestational lead exposure produces gender-specific motor and coordination abnormalities and late-onset obesity in year-old mice.

A Giddabasappa et al., The sequential upregulation of cell cycle genes and MASH1 increases the proliferation and differentiation of late-born retinal progenitor cells (RPC) in gestationally lead-exposed (GLE) mice.

DW Lee. Prolyl hydroxylase inhibition protects against MPP+ toxicity in vitro.

T Taylor et al. Contribution of locus coeruleus degeneration to the Parkinsonian symptoms in VMAT2 deficient mice.

VII. Other accomplishments and activities

1. Web Page. Special thanks to Virginia Behrens for redesigning the NTSS web page and to Chris Curran for spearheading on this effort.

2. Leadership council. NTSS officers have participated in the SOT leadership council held in the summer and have appreciated the information about the organization presented at these meetings.

VIII. Future plans.

1. Revise bylaws. The current bylaws are original to the founding of the NTSS and are outdated. These will be revised.

2. Refine and better define the duties of the officers.

3. Continue to foster growth in all areas, predocs, postdocs, young neurotoxicologists, and to continue engage the senior members in NTSS activities.