

**Minutes from Neurotoxicology Specialty Section Officer's Meeting  
Seattle, WA Monday, March 17, 2008**

The annual officer's meeting was called to order at 12:15pm on Monday, March 17 by Neurotoxicology Specialty Section President, Chris Newland. 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.

**Approval of Minutes from 2007 Officer's Meeting**

An electronic copy of the minutes from last year's meeting was previously circulated to the officers for review. The President moved to adopt the Minutes as presented and received unanimous support. The 2007 Minutes will be archived on the NTSS Officers Website.

**President Report – Chris Newland**

The President introduced and welcomed the new NTSS officers, Vice President Elect Steve Lasley (present), Secretary-Treasurer Tim Shafer, and Councilor Kathy Raffaele.

**By-Laws:** The current by-laws were established in 1988 when the NTSS was founded. By-Laws committee consisting of Chris Newland, Susan Schantz, Karen Steinmetz, and Steve Lasley was formed to update by-laws. Draft by-laws were distributed for discussion. Suggested updates/revisions:

1. **Past-President** duties defined to include service as third Councilor and Chair of the Poster Awards committee.
2. **Past-Past President** is to be Chair of the Nominating Committee.
3. **President-Elect** duties to include service as Chair of the Abstract Awards committee.
4. **Past Secretary-Treasurer** will assist the incoming Secretary-Treasurer as needed to ensure a smooth transition of these duties.

**Secretary-Treasurer Report – Karen Steinmetz**

**Membership:** As of March 13, the NTSS membership was 292 members which included approximately 50 students.

**Finances:** The NTSS Financial Report is available to the Executive Committee through the SOT website. As of December 2007, the NTSS balance was \$17,027. Financial estimates for the 2008 fiscal year were based upon the available balance as of July 2007. At that time, the balance was \$14,759; the projected 2008 expenditures were estimated to be \$9,303; and the projected revenue estimated to be \$22,910 to yield a projected balance of \$13,601 after paying for 2008 annual meeting expenditures.

**Workshop/Symposia Sponsorship by NTSS (2008 SOT meeting)**

President Chris Newland, Past President Bob MacPhail, and President Elect Marion Ehrich comprised the review committee for NTSS proposals for the 2008 meeting. Thirteen (13) proposals were sent to NTSS for endorsement. Of these, 5 were requests for primary

endorsement and 8 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. A summary of proposals submitted to NTSS for sponsorship are as follows:

Primary sponsorship: Five proposals were submitted, and 2 proposals 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: Eight proposals were submitted, and 3 proposals were approved by the SOT program committee.

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

Proposals for the 2009 annual SOT program are due for pre-review by April 18, 2008 and for final submission on April 30, 2008.

### **Special Awards Committee**

Past President Bob MacPhail (Chair), Miki Aschner, Toshio Narahashi, Steve Lasley, Stephanie Padilla, Carey Pope.

#### **Distinguished Service Award**

**Joan M. Cranmer, Ph.D.** was selected to receive the 2008 NTSS Distinguished Service Award. Dr Cranmer has served as Editor-in-Chief for the journal NeuroToxicology since its inception. The NTSS Distinguished Service Award recognizes 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.

### **2008 NTSS Best Abstract Awards – Marion Ehrich**

A total of 21 abstracts were received, compiled, and distributed to the 2008 NTSS Executive Council (Chris Newland, Sue Schantz, Karen Steinmetz, Bob MacPhail, Ed Levin, Ron Tjalkens) for evaluation. Each council member assigned scores ranging from 1 (worst) to 10 (best) for each abstract on Clarity, Originality, and Significance. Scores were summarized and the top five scoring abstracts were identified. Awardees were informed by email of the competition results prior to the annual meeting. Dr. Ehrich attended the sessions to award ribbons to the winners for display on their poster. Awardees were recognized at the annual Business Meeting on Tuesday evening.

**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.

### 2008 NTSS Best Poster Awards – Bob MacPhail

A total of 5 postdoctoral and 13 student posters were received. Poster judges Nick Filipov, Vanessa Fitzanakis, Andrew Geller, Mary Gilbert, Steve Lasley, Ed Levin, Pam Lein, Dejan Milatovic, Gary Miller, Lisa Opanashuk, Kathy Raffaele, Ken Reuhl, Jim Romano, Rich Seegal, and Bill Sette. Facilitators at the judging were Victor Laties and Derek Drechsel. Each poster was review once by three sub-groups of judges for a total of three different reviews. Scores were totaled to determine award placement. Judges identified the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category to receive a plaque and \$500, \$300, and \$150, respectively. Winners were announced at the Business Meeting on held on Tuesday evening. Below, the **winner** is identified in bold and the (mentor) is identified in parentheses.

#### Predoctoral graduate students:

1. **Annmari 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)

#### Post-doctoral fellows:

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)

### Election Results Report – Chris Newland

The president thanked the Nominating Committee for the slate of candidate's running in this year's election. The nominating committee was chaired by Past Past President Richard Seegal and committee members included. Other members were Mary Gilbert, Marion Ehrich, and Larry Sheets. Elections are conducted electronically through SOT Headquarters. Winner names were

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provided by SOT-HQ to the NTSS President.

The incoming President Marion Ehrich will form the 2009 nominating committee in early summer to elect a new VP Elect and Councilor.

### **Other Business**

#### **Requests for Financial Support**

**Mary-Geth Genter, University of Cincinnati Neurofest** – No NTSS support

**Mary Gilbert/Susan Schantz, NBTS** – Children's Center Speaker for 3 symposia: pesticides metals, animal models (R13 publication) – NTSS support of \$750.

**International Neurotoxicology Association (INA)** – not held in 2008; defer decision until 2009 however discussion suggested \$1000 support as ½ program co-sponsorship and ½ student award.

**Draft Minutes approved on 26 August 2008, 11:08am PDT.**