

**Neurotoxicology Specialty Section  
Annual Report: 2008-2009**

**I. Slate of Officers and Committees**

	<u><b>2008 – 2009</b></u>	<u><b>2009-2010</b></u>
President	Marion Ehrich	Sue Schantz
Vice President	Sue Schantz	Steve Lasley
Vice President Elect	Steve Lasley	Gary Miller
Past President	Chris Newland	Marion Ehrich
Secretary-Treasurer	Tim Shafer	Tim Shafer
Councilors	Ron Tjalkens Kathleen Raffaele	Kathleen Raffaele Vanessa Fitsanakis
Student Rep.	Derek Drechsel	Jason Magby
Post-Doc Rep	none	Donna Lee

**II. Activities**

The annual officer's meeting was called to order by NTSS President Marion Ehrich on Tuesday, 17 March 2009 at 7:10 at the Conference Center. In attendance were President Marion Ehrich, Past President Chris Newland, President Elect Susan Schantz, Vice President Elect Steve Lasley, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Shafer, Councilor Kathleen Raffaele, Student Representative Derek Drechsel, and newly elected Vice President Elect Gary Miller and newly elected councilor Vanessa Fitsanakis.

The reception and business meeting for the Specialty Section was held on Wednesday, 18 March, beginning at 6:00 and was attended by approximately 200 members. President Marion Ehrich called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45. The agenda included announcement of the election results for officers, announcements about upcoming meetings of the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society and International Neurotoxicology Association, the report of the Secretary/Treasurer, announcement of student and postdoctoral poster competitions, Announcements from the NTSS President (Marion Ehrich) and introduction of the President for 2009/2010 (Susan Schantz). Outgoing President Marion Ehrich was presented with a plaque thanking her for her service, and outgoing officers Ron Tjalkens (Councilor) and Chris Newland (Past President) and outgoing Student Representative Derek Drechsel were also recognized and thanked for their service. A request was made for student and postdoc members to consider serving as representatives to the NTSS.

NTSS Officers also met on Monday morning with the Plenary Speaker Dr. Paul Greengard following his presentation. The discussion covered interactions of chemicals in the environment with the nervous system, the role of neurotoxicologists, and the benefits provided to neurotoxicologists that are not available at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting.

**III). Election results.** The President introduced and welcomed the new NTSS officers, Vice President–Elect Gary Miller and Councilor Vanessa Fitsanakis. The nominating committee was chaired by past, past President Robert MacPhail. Other members were Michael Aschner and James Romano.

A second election was held to select a Student Representative and a Post-Doctoral representative to the executive committee. Jason Magby was elected as the Student Representative and Donna Lee was elected as the Post-Doctoral Representative. A total of 73 members voted in the election managed by SOT Headquarters.

#### **IV) Secretary Treasurer's report.**

Membership. As of March 13, the NTSS membership was 336 members which included approximately 50 students. At the last meeting there were 292 listed members.

Finances. As of March 2008, the NTSS net balance was \$9264. Expenses included \$11,842 for the annual meeting, including awards, web development, and the reception. Income from the annual meeting and membership dues were \$4069. The NTSS Financial Report is available to the Executive Committee through the SOT website.

**V. Scientific Meeting.** 2009 meeting. Marion Ehrich chaired the review committee for NTSS proposals for the 2009 meeting. She, Past President Chris Newland and Vice President Susan Schantz were the other members. Ten proposals requested primary endorsement by NTSS and an additional four requested secondary endorsement.

This committee reviewed and rank-ordered proposals submitted to NTSS for sponsorship for the 2009 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:* 10 proposals were submitted and 4 were approved by the SOT program committee.

- (1) Novel Signalling Mechanisms that Regulate Dopaminergic Neuronal Survival or Death: Implications in Parkinson's Disease
- (2) Does Metal Toxicity Play a Role in the Etiology of Alzheimer's Disease?
- (3) Pesticides and Parkinson's Disease: Implications of New Epidemiology and Exposure Data to Risk Assessment
- (4) Developing Brain: Safety Assessment for Pediatric Use of Pharmaceuticals

*Secondary/Tertiary sponsorship:* 4 proposals were submitted and 3 were approved by the SOT program committee.

- (1) Devils lie in the details : Practices and Problems in Neuropathology: Significance for Neurotoxicology.
- (2) Nitrate and Oxidative Stress in Toxicology and Disease
- (3) Pesticide Mixtures: Experimental Evaluation and Computational Modeling

*Continuing Education Endorsement:* One CE course was sponsored by NTSS

- (1) New Frontier in Metal Toxicology: Genetic Susceptibility, Early Diagnosis, and Related Biological Indices

2010 meeting. The NTSS encouraged members to submit proposals for an initial review prior to the final submission to SOT. This allowed the pre-review committee to work with applicants to refine the applications to fit better with SOT criteria.

The NTSS pre-review committee was chaired by Susan Schantz (President). Marion Ehrich (Past President) and Steve Lasley (Vice President) served as committee members. The committee received 4 proposals for initial review. Of these, 3 were requests for primary endorsement and 1 requested secondary endorsement. NTSS received no requests for Continuing Education courses this year.

## VI. Awards

The awards for student and post-doctoral posters at the Annual Meeting were coordinated by Chris Newland (Past President), while awards for the Best Abstract Competition were coordinated by Susan Schantz (President). Nineteen students and four postdocs participated in the NTSS poster competition. The following members served as judges for the competition: Steve Lasley, Pam Lein, Randy Lopachin, Kevin Crofton, Jon Doorn, Nick Filipov, Don Fox, Mary Gilbert, David Herr, Tim Shafer, Ken Reuhl, Bob MacPhail, Dijan Milatovic, Gary Miller, Lisa Opanachuk, Kathleen Raffaele, and Jason Richardson. Three students and one postdoc received awards.

### 1. Predoctoral Poster Awards

1. April Neal, Johns Hopkins University (Mentor: Tomas Guilarte)
2. Judy Choi, Johns Hopkins University (Mentor: Tomas Guilarte)
3. Arunkumar Asaithambi, Iowa State University (Mentor: Anumantha Kanthasmy)

### 2. Postdoctoral Poster Awards (Only 4 entries were rec'd, so only 1 award was given)

1. Raja Settivari, Indiana University School of Medicine. (Mentor: R. Nass)

### 5. Best Abstract Awards, 2009. (these awards were not ranked)

- S.J. Wijeyesakere, J.A. Stuckey and R.J. Richardson. Structural insight into inhibition/aging of neuropathy target esterase (NTE) from X-ray crystal studies of its catalytic domain homologue, patatin-17 (PAT17).
- ES Rufer, TD Tran\*, SM Smith. Moderate maternal iron inadequacy worsens neurobehavioral outcomes of developmental ethanol exposure.
- A Giddabasappa, S Mukherjee, W Xiao, S Chaney and D Fox.. Differential spatiotemporal regulation of basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) and homeodomain (HD) transcription factors during gestational lead exposure (GLE) selectively increases the number of late-born retinal neurons.
- CD Toscano, S Palumbo, AC Silva and F Bosetti. Cuprizone induced demyelination alters the expression of genes involved in arachidonic acid metabolism in the mouse brain.

A Ramkissoon<sup>1</sup> and PG Wells. Acute methamphetamine (**METH**)-initiated oxidative stress and neurotoxicity are not modulated by nuclear factor-E2-related factor 2 (**Nrf2**)

## **VII. Other accomplishments and activities**

**1. Web Page.** The NTSS web page was updated in early June to reflect the new officers, as well as the events from the March 2009 SOT meeting (pictures, award winners, etc).

**2. The roles and responsibilities of officers were defined as follows:**

President: Overall coordination, leadership, meetings

Vice President: abstract contest, 2010 proposal submissions

VP-Elect: assist with student/postdoc poster contests

Secretary-Treasurer: communications with membership and SOT HQ, reports, budget, archives

Past Sec-Treas: support for Secretary-Treasurer

Past President: lead activities for student/postdoc poster contest

Senior Councilor: web communications; assist with student/postdoc poster contests

Junior Councilor: assist with student/postdoc poster contests

Student Rep: student activities and communications (including web)

All (except student): serve as judges for abstract contest

Current Pres, VP, VP-elect: 2010 proposal review

**3. Leadership council.** No meeting of the leadership council has occurred to date.

## **VIII. Future plans.**

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

2. Finalize updates to NTSS bylaws by a vote of membership during the next election for officers.