



# RASS Newsletter

July 2014

Volume 4, Issue 2

## President's Message

Welcome to this edition of the Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS) newsletter! RASS continues to be the most active specialty section, largely due to the efforts of its membership (you). We have grown to nearly 800 members. This means that approximately 10% of active SOT members are part of this specialty section. These census data emphasize the importance of risk assessment in the activities of toxicologists from all areas of employment (government, industry, NGO, consulting and academia). Over recent years, the demographic of RASS has evolved with the science. RASS has begun to attract more postdocs and students, who bring the energy and enthusiasm of youth to our discipline. Our science, and this specialty section, remains vibrant through the activities of its membership (i.e., you) as well as the efforts of the remarkable individuals whom you have elected to the Executive Committee. I am honored to serve as your President and actively recruit and mentor potential student and post-doctoral members. If you have suggestions for specific involvement and/or activities, please forward them to any member of the Executive Committee.

As noted in more detail in articles within this newsletter, the Executive Committee and other members are determined to bring stimulating initiatives to the RASS. Annie Jarabek has once again agreed to organize the excellent series of monthly risk assessment webinars that she has magnificently assembled for many years. RASS continues to support the efforts and activities of students and postdocs through various named awards (Doull and Gehring Awards; Rubin Award [in conjunction with Mechanisms Specialty Section]; various travel awards).



*John M. DeSesso, RASS President*

## Officers

### **President**

**John M. DeSesso**

### **Vice President**

**Hugh A. Barton**

### **Vice President-Elect**

**Sean Hays**

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

**George M. Woodall**

### **Past President**

**Laurie Haws**

### **Councilors**

**Anna B. Lowit**

**Michael Lumpkin**

### **Postdoctoral Representative**

**Michelle C. DeSimone**

### **Student Representative**

**Allison C. Franzen**

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## *President's Message, cont. from page 1*

Additionally, RASS presents awards to the Outstanding Abstract present at the annual meeting (plus the "Top 10 Abstracts"), The Outstanding Paper that Advanced the Science of Risk Assessment published in the calendar preceding the annual meeting (plus a list of the top runners up); and The Outstanding Paper Demonstrating an Application of Risk Assessment published in the calendar preceding the annual meeting (plus a list of the top runners up). Selection of the recipients of all of these awards is conducted by committees.

There are numerous other initiatives that occur to keep RASS functioning and current. For instance, this year the Executive Committee has embarked on a revamping of the RASS webpage to make it more informative and more easily navigable. Another example involves the planning surrounding the business meeting and social functions at the RASS mixer held at the annual meeting.

All of the preceding initiatives take time, effort, and dedication to the science of risk assessment. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, RASS is assembling a volunteer corps who are willing to be called upon to contribute time and effort on an *ad hoc* basis to foster the efforts of our specialty section. (For more detail, see the newsletter article that describes the purpose of the volunteer corps and provides contact information). Participating in these initiatives is a great way to learn more about RASS, the Executive Committee, and whether you might be interested in becoming more involved in RASS activities, including (perhaps) running for a position as an officer or councilor. A list of the duties and responsibilities of RASS officers and councilors can be found on the RASS webpage.

On behalf of the Executive Council, I want to thank you for the confidence that you have entrusted in us. We are working hard to deliver another year of interesting and rewarding activities through the ambitious set of initiatives that we have started. We invite your input and participation. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with comments, suggestions, or offers of assistance. The members of the Executive Committee are listed on the RASS webpage and our contact information is available through ToXchange. We look forward to another active and productive year!

John DeSesso, PhD, DABFM, DABFE, FACFEI, CHS-V, Fellow ATS  
President, Risk Assessment Specialty Section

## *Volunteer to Participate in RASS Activities*

Each year RASS has an ambitious agenda for which the participation of RASS members is essential. Volunteers are being sought for several committees that will begin activities in the fall or early next year. These include several awards committees and the proposal review committee. There are other activities at the annual meeting and throughout the year for which member participation is invaluable. If you have ideas or suggestions for activities that RASS could undertake, including organizing Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) meetings, contact any of the officers.

The *Student and Postdoc Awards Committee* and the *2015 Meeting Best Abstract Award Committee* are both chaired by Vice-President Elect Sean Hays ([shays@summittoxicology.com](mailto:shays@summittoxicology.com)). Recognizing the excellent work of trainees and meeting participants is a key way to promote

continued development of risk assessment. RASS is fortunate to provide several student and postdoc awards funded through the SOT Endowment Fund as well as generous contributions from supporting companies. *The Best Paper Awards Committee* reviews papers published during 2014 to select exceptional papers further developing the science of risk assessment and its application; contact Hugh Barton ([hugh.barton@pfizer.com](mailto:hugh.barton@pfizer.com)), RASS Vice-President. This is a great opportunity to review the current state of the field of risk assessment.

*RASS presents posters and provides information at student and postdoc events* among others at the annual meeting. If others are interested in participating, please e-mail our point of contact, Alea Bunch ([abunch@toxstrategies.com](mailto:abunch@toxstrategies.com)), or our graduate student representative Allison Franzen ([afranzen@environcorp.com](mailto:afranzen@environcorp.com)) or postdoc rep, Michelle Desimone ([michelle.desimone@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.desimone@gmail.com)). To assist in other ways at the annual meeting or throughout the year, contact any of the officers.

While plans for the 2015 annual meeting are still being finalized by SOT, the process for *reviewing proposals for the 2016 annual meeting* will begin immediately upon the conclusion of the annual meeting. Review of meeting proposals is one of the major ways in which RASS directly influences SOT activities. While it is a mad dash to get the reviews done in time to provide RASS recommendations to the Program Committee, it is an exciting opportunity to consider what others are proposing as important topics of the day. The review following the 2015 meeting will be led by RASS President, John DeSesso ([jdesesso@exponent.com](mailto:jdesesso@exponent.com)).

Every year RASS is fortunate to have the energy and enthusiasm of its members contributing their time and efforts to make these and other RASS activities successful. The assistance of members is essential to the RASS officers in carrying out these important activities. We look forward to working with members again this year. Please **VOLUNTEER NOW!**

## ***RASS Reception at the 2014 Meeting***

The RASS reception at the 2014 annual meeting of SOT was a great success. The Sheraton Phoenix ballroom was packed with RASS colleagues, visitors, and old friends connecting or re-connecting. The RASS reception continues to be a leading venue for networking at the annual meeting. A format change was instituted this year for the reception. Announcements, awards presentations, and a business meeting were intentionally kept brief and given at the beginning of the reception, leaving the remainder of the evening free for networking. By all accounts, this format was well received. The RASS officers would like your input on this new format, and any other ideas for planning of future receptions.

## ***RASS 2014 Award Winners***

### **Best Published Paper in 2013 Demonstrating an Application of Risk Assessment**

Alan F. Sasso, Paul M. Schlosser, Gregory L. Kedderis, Mary Beth Genter, John E. Snawder, Zheng Li, Susan Rieth, and John C. Lipscomb (2013). Application of an Updated Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Model for Chloroform to Evaluate CYP2E1-Mediated Renal Toxicity in Rats and Mice. *Toxicological Sciences*, 131(2), 360-374

### **Best Published Papers in 2013 Advancing the Science of Risk Assessment**

Mathieu Valcke, Kannan Krishnan (2013). Assessing the impact of child/adult differences in hepatic first-pass effect on the human kinetic adjustment factor for ingested toxicants. *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*, 65, 126-134

### **Best Overall Abstract**

Harish Shankaran and Justin G. Teeguarden. Improving Urine-Based Human Exposure Assessment of Short-Lived Chemicals Using Reverse Dosimetry and NHANES Physiological and Behavior Data: A Value-of-Information Approach for Bisphenol A. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, AstraZeneca. Abstract 1517 Poster Board 133 in Biomarkers II Poster Session. Wednesday, March 26, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

### **John Doull Award**

Melanie Adler, EM Gottwald, AK Ajay, X Lu, M Hafner, A Subramanian, PK Sorger, VS Vaidya. Cell-based approach to predict kidney toxicity. Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Abstract 2055, Poster Board 555, in Kidney Poster Session. Wednesday, March 26, 1:00 – 4:30 pm.

### **Perry Gehring Postdoc Award**

Rachel J. Church, J.E. McDuffie, M. Sonee, M. Otieno, P. B. Watkins, and A.H. Harrill. Doxorubicin-Induced Glomerular Injury is Associated with Urinary MicroRNA Alterations in the Rat. The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences. Abstract 106 Poster Board 150 in Biomarkers I Poster Session. Monday, March 24, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

### **Perry Gehring Student Award**

Mia Johansson, G. Johanson, M. Öberg, L. Schenk. Does Industry Take the Sensitive Subpopulation of Asthmatics into Account when Setting Derived No-Effect Levels under

REACH? Work Environment Toxicology, Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet. Abstract 643 Poster Board 551 in Regulation and Policy Poster Session. Monday, March 24, 1:00 – 4:30 pm.

### **Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award**

Mary Francis, M Mandal, H Choi, JD Laskin, DL Laskin. Role of Spleen Monocytes (Mo) in Ozone-induced Lung inflammation and Injury. Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. Abstract 395 Poster Board 114 in inflammation: Methods and Mechanisms. Monday, March 24 1:00-4:30 pm.

### ***Schedule of RASS Upcoming Activities & Planning for 2015 SOT***

July 1, 2014	Early Bird Registration Begins for SOT 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
September 2014	Nominate or Apply for SOT National Awards
September 10, 2014	“New Exposure Biomarkers as Tools for Breast Cancer Epidemiology, Biomonitoring, and Prevention: A Systematic Approach Based on Animal Evidence” RASS co-sponsored with MSS webinar presented by Ruthann Rudel from the Silent Spring Institute
October, 2014	Solicit nominations/self nominations for RASS officers
October 7, 2014	Submit a Poster or Platform Session Abstract
October 8, 2014	“Every Breath You Take: Exposure Science and the Virtual Respiratory System” RASS hosted webinar presented by Dr. Richard A. Corley of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
October 9, 2014	Apply or Nominate for an SOT National Award Deadline
November, 2014	Establish membership for awards committees
November 1, 2014	Specialty Sections begin Annual Officer Elections
November 12, 2014	“Value of Information Analysis: The State of Application” RASS hosted webinar presented by Dr. Igor A. Linkov and Dr. Matthew Bates of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center
December, 2014	Begin process for <i>Student &amp; Post-doc</i> awards
December 10, 2014	“Improving Reproducibility in Toxicology” RASS hosted webinar presented by Dr. Gary W. Miller of Emory University
December 31, 2014	Candidate Biosketches for 2015 Specialty Section Elections Due

January 2015	Begin process for <i>Best SOT Abstract</i> award
January 31, 2015	Early Bird Registration Ends for SOT 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
February 2015	Election Results for Specialty Sections
February 1, 2015	Standard Registration Begins for SOT 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
February 28, 2015	Standard Registration Ends for SOT 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
March 1, 2015	Final registration Begins for SOT 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego
March 22-26, 2015	SOT 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
April 1, 2015	Send RASS members reminders about session proposal process
April 13, 2015	Draft session proposals due for initial review
April 30, 2015	Submission of Scientific Session Proposals Due to SOT
April 30, 2015	Submission of Continuing Education Proposal Due to SOT

## ***RASS Financial Status (as of April 30, 2014)***

### **Dues-paying members: 786**

Student: 47 (3 International)

Post Doc: 31 (4 International)

### **RASS General Fund**

#### **Financial History:**

Net assets as of July 2008: \$21,621

Net assets as of July 2009: \$19,684

Net assets as of July 2010: \$21,835

Net assets as of July 2011: \$23,789

Net assets as of July 2012: \$24,883

Net assets as of July 2013: \$29,836

#### **2013-2014 (10 months ending April 30, 2014)**

Net Assets Beginning of Year: **\$29,836**

Expenses: **\$20,692**

Annual meeting + awards

Income: **\$6,259**

Registration + Contributions

[does not reflect interest or dues which will be reported in the year's end report available in August]

Excess (Revenue over Expense) : ( **\$14,443**)

Net Assets (as of April 30, 2014): **\$15,403**

### **RASS Endowment Funds (Status as of March 31, 2014)**



The RASS endowment funds continue to grow in excess of expenses and the awards being offered by each, ensuring sustainability for the foreseeable future.

**John Doull Endowment Fund**

Net Assets Beginning of Year: **\$34,506**

Revenue over Expenses: **\$3,091**

Net Assets (as of March 31, 2014): **\$37,597**

**Perry J Gehring Endowment Fund**

Net Assets Beginning of Year: **\$39,456**

Revenue over Expenses: **\$3,059**

Net Assets (as of March 31, 2014): **\$42,515**

**Robert J Ruben Endowment Fund (cooperative with the Mechanisms Specialty Section)**

Net Assets Beginning of Year: **\$37,911**

Revenue over Expenses: **\$3,279**

Net Assets (as of March 31, 2014): **\$41,190**

## ***Risk Assessment Links and Resources***

Below are some links to Government programs, reviews, and upcoming events that may be of interest to those in the risk assessment community:

- EPA IRIS program, What's New:  
<http://www.epa.gov/iris/recent.htm>
- EPA OPPT TSCA Work Plan Chemicals:  
<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/workplan.html>
- EPA Environmental Justice:  
<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/>
- NIEHS/NTP/OHAT Systematic Review:  
<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/?objectid=960B6F03-A712-90CB-8856221E90EDA46E>
- ATSDR Toxicological Profiles:  
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/index.asp>
- NIOSH What's New:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/whatsnew/default.html>
- National Academies, Review of EPA's draft paper State of the Science on Non-monotonic Dose Response:  
<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49537>
- National Academies, Review of the IRIS Process:  
<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49458>
- SOT Calendar of events:  
<https://www.toxicology.org/ms/events.asp>