STP Members Only Area

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THE SCOPE

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STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Symposium in Chicago—An Unqualified Success

2010 Photo Gallery—*Thanks to **Nancy Everds** and **Krystle Correll** for Annual Meeting photos.*

The STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Symposium took place June 20–24, 2010, in Chicago. The meeting was co-sponsored this year by the International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathologists (IFSTP). More than 680 scientists, exhibitors, and guests attended, making this meeting the second largest in Society history.

The broad topic of "Neuropathology" was the theme of the scientific program, which was co-chaired by **Brad Bolon** (GEMpath, Inc), **Kathleen Funk** (EPL, Inc.), and **Robert Sills** (NIEHS). Thanks go to the session chairs, speakers, scientific program planning committee members, and many others whose efforts made this outstanding program possible. The Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel was an excellent location for the meeting due to its access to downtown tourist attractions, shopping, and proximity to many excellent restaurants.

The week kicked off with the ever-popular NTP Symposium on Saturday, chaired by **Susan Elmore** (NIEHS). The theme for this year's interactive session was Pathology Potpourri and this included the proposed new INHAND Nomenclature for lesions of the CNS/PNS.

Continuing education courses offered on Sunday were "Non-Invasive Imaging As a Problem Solving Tool and Translational Biomarker Strategy in Toxicologic Pathology," co-chaired by **Richard Peterson** (GlaxoSmithKline) and **Kathleen Gabrielson** (Johns Hopkins University); "Hemostasis," co-chaired by **Dale Baker** (Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) and **Jacqueline Brassard** (Allergan, Inc.); and "Developmental Neurotoxicity Testing," co-chaired by **Karl Jensen** (U.S. EPA) and **Brad Bolon** (GEMpath, Inc.).

The Keynote Speaker on Monday morning was **Peter Spencer**, PhD, FRCPath of the Center for Research and Occupational and Environmental Toxicology at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. His dynamic presentation, titled "Perspective on the Past and Future Trends in Neuropathology," was drawn from his 4-decade career as a leading experimental neuropathologist.

Chairs for each of the six half-day scientific sessions organized experts on their topic area. Sessions and chairs were: Session 1: "Fundamentals in Neurobiology"—**William H. Jordan** (Vet Path Services, Inc.) and **D. Greg Hall** (Lilly Research Laboratories), Session 2: "Modern Pathology Methods for Neural Investigations"—**Lydia L. Andrews-Jones** (Allergan, Inc.) and **Sarah L. Hale** (Covance Laboratories, Inc.), Session 3: "Gene Expression, Biomarkers, and Glial Cells in Nervous System Diseases"—**Robert C. Sills** (NIEHS) and **Robert H. Garman** (Consultants in Veterinary Pathology, Inc.), Session 4: "Neurooncology"—**Alys E. Bradley** (Charles River Laboratories) and **Kevin Keane** (Merck Research Laboratories), Session 5: "Animal Models for Neural Disease"—**Thomas P. Brown** (Pfizer, Inc.) and **Ingrid D.R. Pardo** (Pfizer, Inc.), and Session 6: "Special Neuropathology Problems"— **Georg J. Krinke** (Consultant) and **Peter B. Little** (Charles River Laboratories).

The Career Outreach Committee (COC) and Continuing Education Committee (CEC) collaborated for the third time to offer a free Sunday half-day workshop to meeting attendees.

The topic of this year's workshop, co-chaired by **Michael Conner** (Theravance, Inc.) and **LuAnn McKinney** (U.S. FDA), was "Managing Your Career in a Changing Environment." **Roy Vagelos** (Former CEO, Merck) presented information on the "Future of the Pharmaceutical Industry" and **Jeff Engelhardt**

(Engelhardt Consulting, Inc.) discussed "Changes in the Science and Practice of Pathology in Drug Development and How to Stay Current." The COC also orchestrated a Monday lunch seminar on "The Value of a Research Degree to a Career as a Toxicologic Pathologist: The Debate Continues" under the direction of **Julie K. Johnson** (Abbott Laboratories) and student member **Lyn Wancket** (The Ohio State University). Panelists for the debate included **Daniela Ennulat** (GlaxoSmithKline), **George Foley** (Abbott Laboratories), **Prasad Nadella** (AstraZeneca), and **Annette Schwartz** (Abbott Bioresearch Center).

A scientific session was presented in Spanish at noon on Monday for interested attendees. "Toxicant-Induced CNS and PNS Lesions in Laboratory Animals and Their Possible Methods of Evaluation (Lesiones inducidas en CNS y CNP de animals de laboratorio y posibles metodos de evaluacion)" was presented **by Klaus Weber** (Harlan Laboratories), and "A Technique to Dissect and Evaluate the CNS and PNS in Nonhuman Primates for General Toxicity Studies (Una tecnica para disectar y evaluar el SNC y SNP de primates no humanos para estudios generales de toxicidad)" was presented by **Ingrid Pardo** (Pfizer, Inc.).

"International Perspectives on Peer Review" was the topic of the well-attended Monday evening Town Hall Meeting organized by **Rani Sellers** (Albert Einstein College of Medicine) and **Daniel G. Morton** (Pfizer, Inc.). Following an introduction of the topic by Rani Sellars and review of peer review conclusions by **Jenny McKay** (AstraZeneca), panel participants from various organizations presented differing perspectives on the peer review process and the best practice recommendations generated by the Pathology Peer Review Working group: European and IFSTP views by **Erio Barale-Thomas** (Johnson & Johnson PRD), Japanese outlook by **Munehiro Teranishi** (Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd.), North American stance by **Jerry Hardisty** (EPL, Inc.), and the current thinking of the U.S. FDA by **Peter Mann** (EPL Northwest). A half-hour of questions and comments from the audience followed the brief presentations.

The Exhibit Hall featured 40 exhibit booths with products and services relating to toxicologic pathology. A Microscope and Digital Pathology Viewing Room was set-up in the Exhibit Hall to allow registrants to discuss slides of interest with their colleagues. An expanded Internet Café was also available to attendees in the Exhibit Hall. The exhibitors kindly sponsored a Monday lunch in the Exhibit Hall so that attendees could have an opportunity to circulate among the booths and posters more efficiently.

Seventy poster abstracts were presented during exhibit hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. **Hajime Hiraragi** (Genetech, Inc.) served as Poster Chair, and **Curtis Colleton** (Bristol-Myers Squibb) and **Aaron Sargeant** (Charles River Laboratories) aided in the review of poster abstract submissions. These three plus two members of the Career Development and Outreach Committee (CDOC), **Sarah Tannehill-Gregg** (Bristol-Myers Squibb) and **Branka Grubor** (Novartis), judged abstracts for the Student Travel Award. The Young Investigator Award posters were judged by **Sarah Tannehill-Gregg** (Bristol-Myers Squibb), **Alok Sharma** (Covance Inc.), **Meg Ramos** (Allergan), **Susan van Tongeren** (Boehringer-Ingelhaim), and **David Hutto** (MPI).

Approximately 40 students and mentors participated in a Tuesday afternoon picnic outing at the Shedd Aquarium, which is about a mile from the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificant Mile Hotel.

On Wednesday evening, STP President **Peter Mann** welcomed attendees to the Awards Ceremony and Annual Business Meeting. The slides from the meeting are posted on the 2010 Annual Meeting section of the STP Web site. Dr. Mann recognized the Student Travel Award Recipients and presented the Young Investigator Awards.

Wanda Haschek-Hock, Jerry Ward, and **George Parker** were recognized for the Member-Get-A-Member Award for recruiting the most new members during the past year. Wanda Hascheck-Hock presented the Achievement Award to **Dr. Samuel Thompson** for his exemplary career in service to toxicologic pathology. Dr. Thompson was a founding member and Past President of the STP (1973) but is best known for his long-term role as founding director of the C.L. Davis, DVM Foundation for the Advancement of Veterinary and Comparative Pathology. He is the sixth recipient of the award.

President Mann presented plaques to each of the outgoing Committee Chairs and Officers and thanked them for their service to the Society. He then officially passed the gavel to President-Elect **Wanda Haschek-Hock,** who thanked Dr. Mann for his leadership of the Society for the past year.

Annual Meeting Survey Results

Sincere Thanks to Everyone Who Provided Feedback!

All attendees of the STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Symposium were invited to respond to a Post-Meeting Survey to assist in planning future meetings. STP members who did not attend were also asked for feedback on the sections of the survey not specifically relating to the Chicago meeting. A summary of the answers can be viewed on the Meeting Materials page of the 2010 Annual Meeting Web site.

President's Report

This is my first letter since being inaugurated as President of STP and I have much to report. But first let me thank all the members and the past and present officers and councilors for their contributions to making the STP such a premier organization! I especially want to thank the outgoing president, **Peter Mann,** for his outstanding

term as president of STP. In addition to his hard work, Peter will be remembered for his witty comments and his love of boats and fish (have you seen his bow tie!!!)—which, by the way, were featured at the Annual Business Meeting where Peter and I danced to the tune sung by an electronic fish presented to him as outgoing President (you had to be there to understand)!

The STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Annual Symposium held June 20–24 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel was an outstanding success with nearly 700 attendees, the second largest meeting attendance on record!! This was because of the joint meeting with IFSTP and the excellent program on Neuropathology put together by the 2010 Scientific Program Committee, Co-Chairs, **Robert Sills, Kathleen Funk, Brad Bolon,**—many thanks!! Thanks also to **Susan Elmore,** Chair of the NTP Satellite Symposium, "Pathology Potpourri" held on Saturday; **Kevin Keane,** CE Course Chair, for the STP and IFSTP cosponsored continuing education courses held on Sunday—"Pathology Imaging," "Hemostasis," and "Developmental Neurotoxicity Testing;" and **Suzanne Botts,** Chair, Career Outreach Committee and **LuAnn McKinney,** Chair, Continuing Education Committee, for the Career Development Workshop on Sunday, "Managing Your Career in a Changing Environment" and the lunchtime series on the "The Value of a Research Degree." Thanks also go to the IFSTP for hosting the Panel Discussion on Wednesday on "Current Practices and National/Regional Needs for Educating/Training of Toxicologic Pathologists." Thanks to the exhibitors, who for the first time, sponsored a lunch for all attendees in the Exhibit Hall on Monday; to Charles River and EPL for sponsoring the fantastic Saturday and Monday evening receptions, and to our corporate sponsors whose support is critical to the success of STP! And special thanks to **Maureen Kettering,** the STP Meeting and Exhibits Manager, and to **Susan Pitsch,** the STP Executive Director, **Tierre Miller,** Registration Manager, **Krystle Correll,** Program Manager and all the AIM staff that helped make this meeting a success!

During the Awards Ceremony, we had the honor of recognizing **Dr. Samuel Thompson** for outstanding contributions to the field of toxicologic pathology with the 2010 Achievement Award. He was instrumental in the formation of this organization in 1969, which was incorporated in 1972 as The Society of Toxicologic Pathologists. He served as the Society's President in 1973. Guests accompanying him included his wife, **Vladislawa,** his grandson, **John,** and **Dr. Howard Hartman,** a cofounder of the STP.

The ACVP/STP Coalition held its 3rd Scientific Conference on Sunday focusing on the progress of Coalition Fellows, with representatives of academia and industry giving a presentation on "Phenotype of a Modern Day Pathologist with a Focus on Career Opportunities in Diagnostics vs. Research". On behalf of STP, I want to thank **Gary Cockerell,** ACVP/STP Coalition Director, for giving all STP/IFSTP members the opportunity to attend the Coalition presentations. More than 80 STP/IFSTP attendees registered to participate.

This year's Town Hall meeting titled, "International Perspectives on Peer Review," led by **Rani Sellers** and **Dan Morton,** resulted in lively debate. Input provided at the meeting has been incorporated into the SRPC Best Practices document that has been approved for publication by the Executive Committee (EC).

During the meeting, **John Foster,** Editor-in-Chief of *Toxicologic Pathology* received excellent news—the journal impact factor has gone from 1.6 for 2008 to 2.508 for 2009 while its ranking for pathology journals has changed from 39th to 24th. Thank you John, **Stephanie Dickinson, Beth Mahler,** the Associate Editors, Editorial Board and submitting STP members for making this journal so successful.

Items of interest from the Executive Committee include creation of two task forces and a special interest group in Environmental Pathology. A Globalization Task Force, spearheaded by President-Elect **Tom Monticello,** will review the STP's current strategic goal related to globalization given the current economic realities and the new trend for outsourcing toxicology studies. A Communications Task Force is being organized to determine how best to address the communication needs of STP members—issues relating to *Toxicologic Pathology* (hard copy versus electronic), the newsletter and the Web site will be reviewed. These task forces will be asking for your input *via* electronic surveys in the near future. The educational initiatives and restructured committees arising from the Education Task Force are featured in an article in this newsletter. I might point out that the ACT/STP Pathology for Non-Pathologists Course held May 10–13, 2010, in Falls Church, Virginia was highly successful—thank you **Daniel Patrick** and **Bhanu Singh**! Further collaborative efforts with the Society of Toxicology (SOT) *via* Toxicology Experimental Pathology Specialty Section (TEPSS) have led to the acceptance of an STP cosponsored continuing education course on Stem Cells for the 2011 meeting. The bylaws regarding membership criteria have been revised in order to be more inclusive—please see relevant article in this newsletter—thank you Membership Committee!

On July 27, **Paul Snyder, Kevin McDorman, Susan Pitch,** and I attended the Human Health and Disease Prevention Summit (HHDPS), organized under the auspices of the Society of Toxicology's Scientific Liaison Task Force (SLTF). Eleven organizations were represented with a goal of stimulating interdisciplinary collaboration to collectively address human health. You will be hearing more about this effort in the next newsletter. SOT attendees were very complimentary regarding the STP's position papers—indicating that these have had an influence on regulatory agency processes. Kudus to the Scientific and Regulatory Policy Committee!

A final message to STP members—your views are important to STP! Please continue to be an active part of the organization and let us know you concerns and suggestions. I might point out that this year we had 65 members volunteer for committee assignments!!! This is fantastic! If we did not identify a committee

assignment for you as yet, we will do our best in the coming year! I look forward to a lively year working with your Executive Committee, **Tom Monticello, Dan Morton, Peter Mann, Ken Schafer, Dianne Creasy, Susan Elmore, Kevin McDorman, Anne Ryan,** and **Paul Snyder** to continue our educational initiatives and to review our globalization strategic goal and our communications with you.

Wanda Haschek-Hock
2010–2011 STP President

STP News

STP Membership Criteria Revised to Be More Inclusive

In an effort to update the STP membership criteria to better reflect the current strategic goals and attitudes within the Society, the Executive Committee voted at its May and June meetings to revise the Bylaws to be more inclusive. Full and Associate Membership criteria (see below) were updated after extensive discussions over the past year with the Membership Committee. The change will allow the Society to better reach out to non-classically trained toxicologic pathologists and non veterinary professionals. The STP, its journal, and meetings will remain focused on toxicologic pathology. Current Associate Members will be notified of the revised criteria and may apply for full membership if appropriate. The on-line upgrade form for members can be accessed by selecting "Upgrade Membership" from the left menu bar on the STP homepage.

STP Bylaws Article III—Membership
Section B

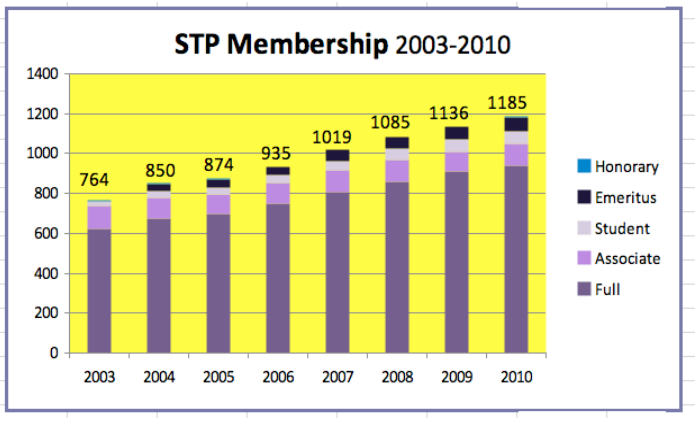
1. **Full Member—**Any person involved in safety assessment, teaching, or research in toxicologic pathology by virtue of training, experience, or scientific contributions.

   An on-line application form must be submitted providing details on education, training, work experience, publications, research projects and participation on academic or industry committees. The training, experience and contributions must be acceptable to the Executive Committee. If not evident from the application, a letter must be submitted providing background of the person's contributions to toxicologic pathology and reasons for seeking membership.

   Individuals who so qualify and are approved by the Executive Committee shall have all the privileges of membership, including the right to vote and hold office, and shall be assessed annual dues. Full members shall receive the journal, the newsletter and other STP mailings.

2. **Associate Member—**Any person with an interest in toxicologic pathology.

   Associate Members shall have all the privileges of membership, including committee membership but cannot vote or hold office. Associate members shall be assessed annual dues and shall receive the journal, the newsletter, and other STP mailings.



STP New Members

Applicant	Company Name
Akbar, Seema	Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine
Arndt Holmberg, Tara	University of British Columbia
Bangari, Dinesh	Genzyme Corporation
Bodié, Karen	Abbott GmbH & Co. KG

Boyle, Molly	Wil-Biotechnics, LLC
Clubb, Fred	Texas A&M University
Coleman, David Andrew	University of Illinois
Cowan, Laine	Gilead Sciences
Dubey, Amita	Torrent Research Centre
Fukuda, Ryo	Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited
Giri, Dipak K	Integrated Laboratory Systems, Inc
Grevot, Armelle	Novartis Pharma AG
Helke, Kristi	Medical University of South Carolina
Lejeune, Typhaine	Charles River Montreal - preclinical services
Poitout-Belissent, Florence	Charles River
Rogers, Arlin	University of North Carolina
Sasaki, Tomo	Maruho Co., Ltd
Wharton, Keith	Biogen Idec
Witt, William	Toxicologic Pathology Associates
Yoshida, Midori	National Institute of Health Sciences
Behl, Mamta	National Toxicology Program, NIEHS
Chaible, Lucas Martins	University of São Paulo
Cogliati, Bruno	University of São Paulo
Diep, Anh	Cornell University
Kovi, Ramesh	University of Minnesota
Peat, John Tyler	Indiana University-Purdue University Indiana
Malik, Tafheem	University of Karachi
Rousseaux, Maxime	University of Ottawa
Smith, Mike	Merck
Souza, Philipi Coutinho	Univ. Estadual de Campinas
Sura, Radhakrishna	The Dow Chemical company
Tan, Rommel Max	University of Illinois

Mastering Time in the Workplace

By Monique Y. Wells

If we control our minds, then we control time.

I advanced this idea in a training session with colleagues about time management in the workplace. While time is an entity that is ordered, measurable, and finite, our perception of it varies considerably based on our individual backgrounds and circumstances. A minute can seem like a millisecond, or like an eternity, depending on what we are experiencing at that point in time. If we can harness this fluid perception of time, then we can manage it and make it work for us. In other words, we can master time—if we so desire.

Time management is a facet of professional development that is often not addressed by companies and laboratories that employ preclinical safety professionals, though there is a non-negligible desire on our part to partake of training in this area. Evidence of this desire comes from a survey that I conducted among preclinical safety professionals earlier this year.

Two hundred eighty-nine (289) pathologists, toxicologists, lab animal specialists, and histologists submitted partial to complete responses to the survey, the results of which will be published in an upcoming issue of *Toxicologic Pathology*. Interestingly, 45.2% of respondents indicated that believe time

management is very challenging for the profession in general. Almost thirty seven percent (36.7%) find it **very challenging** for themselves, and 10% consider it to be **exceedingly challenging f**or themselves. A clear majority of participants indicated that they believe colleagues might (64%) or would (20%) be willing to participate in training to improve their time management skills. Almost equal numbers said that they would (35%) or might (33%) undertake such training themselves.

The response rate for the survey was an amazing 51.5%! I also received a large number of unsolicited comments from colleagues expressing personal interest in learning the results. These are further indications that our profession is interested in time management.
The survey identified six major challenges regarding time management in the workplace:

- Prioritization of tasks
- Focusing on an individual task
- Procrastination
- Delegation of tasks
- External influences (e.g. e-mail, meetings)
- Overcommitment of time

"Prioritization of tasks" was the greatest challenge identified, followed by "focusing on an individual task." "Procrastination" and "delegation of tasks" tied for third place. In separate question banks, overcommitment of time was cited as somewhat of a problem by 40% of participants, and over 70% of participants indicated that external influences, such as phone calls, e-mail, and meetings have somewhat of an effect or a great effect on their ability to accomplish tasks each day.

I find "focusing on an individual task" to be the most fascinating of the challenges listed above because of my interest in the fluidity of time, as described above. This expansible/contractile nature of time, based on our mindset and our environment at a given moment in time, plays an integral role in how quickly we can achieve an optimal state of focus, and how long we can maintain it. Called "The Zone" by various psychologists and time management gurus, it is a heightened state of consciousness where we are able to work almost effortlessly and yet to our maximum potential, enjoying every moment of what we are doing. Work doesn't get much better than this!

The OnlineFirst publication of "Time Management for Preclinical Safety Professionals" is now available for download. For information on time management training for preclinical safety professionals, please contact Dr. Wells.

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The Regulatory Forum Space in Toxicologic Pathology—Its Purpose and How Readers Can Contribute

Most toxicological pathologists work in an environment that is heavily influenced (directly or indirectly) by regulatory agencies, and in turn, the work of toxicological pathologists forms a significant part of the material that is reviewed by those agencies, whether they regulate the environment, medical devices, food, chemicals or pharmaceuticals. While *Toxicologic Pathology* aims to serve its audience as a scientific journal publishing original research, many of the issues of pivotal importance to both toxicological pathologists and regulators in their daily work are not subjects for regular scientific articles but matters of interpretation, discussion and debate related to the regulatory environment. Regulatory Forum aims to provide a means for reviewing these topics and stimulating responses from interested parties such as industry pathologists, academic pathologists or regulators.

The format and emphasis of these topics varies enormously, but with the common theme that the articles should be opinion pieces that express a point of view on an issue of current debate related to the regulatory environment. Opposing viewpoints may be directly solicited from other authors by the committee but in all cases are invited from the *Toxicologic Pathology* readership, with the hope of fostering open debate. Past Regulatory Forum subjects have included risk management of phospholipidosis, organ weights in toxicologic pathology, discussions of new regulatory guidance and the TeGenero incident. Upcoming topics will include the use (or lack of it) of sterological techniques in quantitative histological assessment and the use of cardiac troponin measurements in toxicology studies.

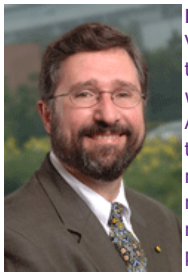
The committee is a mixture of pathologists from industry, academia, CROs and regulatory agencies. We are looking for new members and would welcome volunteers, especially from outside the United States, from regulatory agencies and from non-pharmaceutical applications of toxicologic pathology. Members participate in a monthly teleconference and provide ideas, suggest authors for articles, review articles, and discuss them with the committee. Anyone who is interested in participating should get in touch by e-mail.

Toxicologic Pathologists in Consulting (TOPIC) Interest Group

During the recent Symposium in Chicago, 26 consultants met to discuss becoming a formal interest group of STP. After discussing the pros and cons of such a move, the group vote was 55% to remain independent of STP and 45% to formally affiliate. Since there was no clear decision at this time, **Larry Fisher, Christy McKnight, Ricardo Ochoa, Reid Patterson, Bob Sigler,** and **Jerry Ward** volunteered to act as the *ad hoc* committee to continue to work towards making the consultants a formal group. Volunteers are needed to help the ad hoc committee. Currently, there are over 80 individuals on the e-mail list, and if you desire to be added to the list or to volunteer to help, contact **Larry Fisher**.

Member News

Rosol Elected to 6-Year Term on National Research Council



Dr. Thomas Rosol, Professor of Veterinary Biosciences and Special Assistant to the Vice President for Research, has been elected by the national House of Delegates of the American Veterinary Medical Association to the Council on Research. Dr. Rosol was elected from nominees from different state associations and organizations. The AVMA Council on Research is composed of ten voting members that serve 6-year terms. The Council promotes scientific investigation in all areas of veterinary medicine by maintaining liaison relationships with biomedical research organizations; recommending strategic alliances within and outside of veterinary medicine to support research that advances animal and human health; communicating with the veterinary profession, the biomedical research community, public agencies, and the general public to promote the role, significance, and relevance of veterinary biomedical research in improving animal and human health; establishing veterinary research priorities; providing recommendations on research policies and priorities; reviewing research grant proposals; selecting research award winners; and promoting the dissemination of research information. Dr. Rosol also serves on the NIH National Center for Research Resources Council and the federal USDA Advisory Board.

We are starting a Member in the News section to highlight the accomplishments and news about the STP members. If you or another STP member you know have been in the news recently, please contact us with your news and accomplishments.

Annual Meeting News

2010 Career Development Sunday Morning Workshop Synopsis

The Career Outreach and Continuing Education Committees (COC and CEC) sponsored a 4-hour workshop entitled "Managing Your Career in a Changing Environment" on Sunday, June 20, at the STP Annual Symposium in Chicago. The workshop provided interactive sessions covering the challenges of managing one's career as a toxicologic pathologist in changing economic and scientific environments. The presenters provided insights from both the global and personal perspectives. The first 2 speakers addressed the forces driving change in the roles and opportunities for toxicologic pathologists and the last 2 speakers addressed the more personal task of managing the transition should it be necessary to change one's employer.

P. Roy Vagelos, M.D., former CEO of Merck, lead the session by addressing the both current state of the pharmaceutical industry and his view of the future. He addressed why the public currently has a less than flattering perception of the industry and cited issues such as drug pricing, executive salaries, the perception that risks are not adequately reported and how the industry has handled sales in the developing world. Dr. Vagelos also provided perspective on the current financial health of the industry. His view of the future is that continued growth in sales for the large companies cannot be at the high rates that characterized recent decades. Further, it is likely that the growth in pharmaceutical research will be in the smaller companies, who will become the major source of the pipeline for the larger companies.

Jeff Engelhardt, D.V.M., Ph.D., addressed the rapid pace of changes within the profession, specifically addressing how many employers, particularly the pharmaceutical companies want more than diagnostic skill from their pathologists. They are looking for broader participation of the pathologists in drug development process. Dr. Engelhardt emphasized the need for continued training, for developing some unique skills or knowledge (technical expertise or organ system specialty), for being willing to apply your general knowledge of pathology, toxicology and medicine in order to become leaders within your organization, to understand the true client (regulatory agencies) and to always be flexible in considering your career path.

Terry Leyden, President of the Leyden Group, Inc, outlined the status of openings and availability of veterinary pathologists in the recent past based on his wide experience as well-known recruiter focused in toxicology and pathology disciplines. Several aspects contribute to decrease in openings for pathologists: pharmaceutical mergers/layoffs/closures, difficult biotech funding environment, increased number of consultants, limited number of active candidates, diminished entry level hiring, and fear and uncertainty of the economy and industry. Despite these concerns, there is still a demand for toxicologic pathology skills. Further, the demographics of actively working pathologists is getting older and nearing retirement which, in the next few years will lead to additional opportunities for younger pathologists. Mr. Leyden provided his perspective on skills sought by employers. He concluded the session by describing how an individual may make him or herself a more valuable employee in his/her current position, how to explore career options, how to prepare an effective resume and how to hone interview skills.

Suzanne Edgar, Ph.D. of Right Management spoke on attending to the details of unemployment. She began with the five worst mistakes one can make after a job loss. She suggested better alternatives to these mistakes, focusing on managing one's attitude and how to more effectively lay the foundation for securing the next position. Some of her suggestions included doing self-assessments, gauging options in marketplace, understanding how to align oneself with these options and identifying growth areas in the marketplace. She emphasized that it is necessary to be both targeted and flexible. She discussed consulting as an option, how to develop a marketing plan, how to take action and how to network. Dr. Edgar also discussed preparing for an interview and, during the interview, how to handle delicate salary questions while remaining in a good negotiating position. She also discussed what to do when you receive an offer. She closed by reminding the audience that there is no job security, that everyone should become a lifetime networker and that the job search is an art, not a science.

The session closed with a robust question and answer period.

2010 Career Development Lunchtime Series Synopsis

The 3rd Annual Career Development Lunchtime Session entitled "The Value of a Research Degree to a Toxicologic Pathologist: The Debate Continues" was held at the 29th Annual Symposium held in Chicago, Illinois. This free session was well attended with over 80 participants. The session was moderated by **Lyn M. Wancket** (The Ohio State University) and **Julie K. Johnson** (Abbott Laboratories), both members of the STP's Career Development and Outreach Committee. Panelists for the session included **Daniela Ennulat** (GlaxoSmithKine), **George Foley** (Abbott Laboratories), **Prasad Nadella** (AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals), and **Annette Schwartz** (Abbott Bioresearch Center). The panelists gave brief

descriptions of their pathology and research training that led to their current career path. **Lyn Wancket** opened the discussion by asking the panelists if they would choose the same paths again or if they would take different paths if given the opportunity. Lively discussion with the audience followed and included topics such as the cost versus reward in obtaining an advanced research degree, the value of a strong publication record, and how pharmaceutical companies view candidates with or without advanced degrees.

Samuel W. Thompson Receives STP 2010 Achievement Award

By Howard A. Hartman, D.V.M.

Dr. Samuel W. Thompson, D.V.M., MS, DACVP was introduced by **Wanda Haschek-Hock** as the STP 2010 Achievement Award Recipient the Awards Ceremony during the 29th Annual Meeting (STP/IFSTP Joint Symposium) held in June in Chicago. He was recognized for his contributions to veterinary pathology in general and toxicologic pathology specifically. Dr. Thompson is a co-founder of STP and served as President of the Society in 1973. He also founded the Charles Louis Davis, D.V.M. Foundation (C.L. Davis Foundation) for the Advancement of Veterinary and Comparative Pathology. The Achievement Award Plaque was presented to Dr. Thompson by **Dr. Howard Hartman**, who was also a co-founder of STP.

- Tribute from *Program* book (page 4 in Program)

Visions and Dreams

Where else to meet but at an AFIP Seminar?

Sam, I've spent the last few months pondering why STP and the C.L. Davis Foundation have overall, worked so well. I think I know why!

My comments are made realizing we encountered unpredictable problems and aberrations along the way.

Recently I happened upon an excellent TV presentation by the famous Brandeis University historian of the American Revolution, Dr. **David Hackett Fischer**.

He reviewed the results of nationwide academic survey results in which the top three U.S. Presidents were to be identified. Not surprisingly, Washington, Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt emerged in that order from every survey. His questions then further probed " what skills did they employ to be successful as military or political leaders?" Fischer's analyses indicated that it was their emphasis on both military training and decision making at all levels of leadership; from privates on up. Enemy wartime opponents at those times typically led from the top down resulting in poorly trained forces lacking both combat and leadership skills. I suggest that similar significant parallels exist between the leadership styles used by the three to U.S. Presidents and Sam's approach to organizational and management development.

In our early days and now some 40+ years later; ideas still come and go—some successful and others discarded. These decisions weren't all Sam's—he was merely a discussant like all of us. Decisions and our successes came from interactive communication among all of us at all levels. Discussions were constantly encouraged by Sam.

Clearly, Sam's role as well as his management style contributed to the continued growth and success still enjoyed by the STP and the C.L. Davis Foundation.

Sam, Speaking for is all, I am reminded of a quote from Bob Hope. "Thanks for the memories—oh thank you so much."

Your visions and dreams have offered all of us many exciting chances to serve in our profession and to meet and foster collegial relationships throughout the world.

Thank You to the 2010 Exhibitors

Exhibitors

Exhibitors	Booth
Ani Lytics, Inc.	300
Antech Diagnostics GLP	503
Aperio	400
Aurora Interactive Ltd.	501
Center for Genomic Pathology	102
Covance Inc.	303
Elsevier	208
EPL Archives	302
EPL, Inc.	304
ESTP/RITA	411
Experimur	308
Flagship Biosciences	104
H&T Corporation	511
HistoTox Labs, Inc.	309
HSRL, Inc. (Histo-Scientific Research labs)	405
IDEXX Preclinical Research Services	209
International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathologists (IFSTP)	100
Instem	200
Leica Microsystems	211
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins	205
Marshall BioResources	203
NIEHS/NTP	409
Olympus America, Inc.	301
PDS Preclinical Data Systems	401
Pfizer, Inc.	201
Poly Scientific R&D Corp	509
Premier Laboratory, LLC	408
Roche	204
SAGE	403
SlidePath	210
SNBL USA, Ltd.	202
Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP)	505
Taconic	311
Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.	108
Vet Path Services, Inc.	310
Xybion Medical Systems	305

Thank You to STP Outgoing Chairs

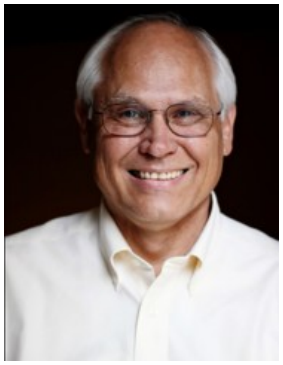
Brad Bolon
Councilor
2006–2010

Michael Goedken
Membership Committee Chair
2008–2010

Ramon Kemp
Scientific and Regulatory Policy Committee Chair (SRPC)
2009–2010

LuAnn McKinney
Continuing Education Committee

Ricardo Ochoa
Past President
2009–2010



Steven Stefanski
Internet Committee Chair ♂
2008–2010

John Vahle
INHAND Global Editorial and Steering Committee (GESC) Chair
2008–2010

Thank You to 2010 Symposium Chairs

Brad Bolon
Scientific Program Co-chair
2010

Kathleen Funk
Scientific Program Co-chair
2010

Robert Sills
Scientific Program Co-Chair
2010

Committee News

The New STP Education Strategy

During planning at the STP Annual Symposium in June 2009, a new strategic goal relating to education was identified. An Education Task Force was formed and charged with developing and prioritizing objectives and strategies for meeting the new goal: "The STP will be a global leader in providing educational and career development resources in toxicologic pathology."

STP members and allied organizations were surveyed by the Task Force during 2010 for their opinions as to how to address this goal. STP members placed highest values on enhancing the STP's existing efforts to develop best practice documents and position papers, the standardized nomenclature (INHAND) initiative, and the *Toxicologic Pathology* journal and monographs. These priorities were followed in value by the annual symposium and continuing education (CE) sessions held at the annual meeting. New activities most often requested by members were Web-based CE courses, and Web-based availability of presentations given at the annual symposia. Open-ended responses from members indicated that new Web-based educational opportunities and CE provided regionally were also of great interest. In addition, development of educational opportunities for veterinary pathology trainees in toxicologic pathology was considered important. For non-pathologists, scientific presentations to US regulators and educational programs in toxicologic pathology for non-pathologist trainees were requested frequently.

To address these survey findings, the Education Task Force recommended development of Web-based education and regional CE courses; education and career development for STP members and pathology

trainees outside the annual symposium; and dissemination of these activities to new target groups such as toxicology trainees and technicians.

A new overarching education committee, the Education Strategy Committee (ESC, **Kathleen Funk**, Chair) will be responsible for developing an education strategy, as well as coordinating and monitoring the activities of all STP education-based committees. These committees are: 1) the Education Committee (formerly Continuing Education, **Kevin Keane**, Chair); 2) the Annual Symposium Committee (formerly the Symposium Committee, **Tom Brown**, Chair); and 3) the Career Development and Outreach Committee (formerly the Career Outreach Committee, **Suzanne Botts**, Chair). In addition, a new Web-Based Education Task Force has been appointed to provide recommendations regarding technology, intellectual and other issues related to Web-based educational platforms (**Jon Werner**, Chair).

A global calendar of regional and annual meetings of allied organizations will be maintained on the STP Web site. This calendar is already in development. Special interest groups are encouraged to suggest continuing education courses and workshop topics, speakers, and venues, to any of the STP education-based committees which will then work with the Annual Symposium Committee in planning the content of the annual meeting.

The Annual Symposium Committee will now be responsible for organization of the scientific, CE, and Career Development and Outreach sessions presented during the annual symposium starting in 2011. Selected presentations given at future annual symposia will be made available *via* the Web.

The Education Committee's charge is to provide quality scientific education primarily to our membership and secondarily to our constituency, including but not limited to regulators and allied organizations. The committee plans to develop regional opportunities to provide timely and cost effective educational events. These activities will include "day seminars" in regions that are rich in toxicology and pathology activities such the U.S. Northeast, Research Triangle Park, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Other activities planned include sponsorship or co-sponsorship of multi-day courses with the Food and Drug Administration, The Society of Toxicology, The American College of Toxicology, and the University of Illinois. The committee is developing a partnership with colleagues from the CL Davis Foundation and European Societies of Toxicologic Pathology to reach out to our mutual constituency. Finally, The Education Committee will be experimenting with technologies that further broaden our educational mission such as Webinars and podcasting.

The Career Development and Outreach Committee (formerly Career Outreach Committee) focuses on people evaluating toxicology or toxicologic pathology/clinical pathology as a career choice and on other scientists involved in allied fields. The committee has three very active subcommittees: career development, student interactions, and manuscripts. The career development subcommittee sponsors an interactive workshop and a career development lunch time presentation at the annual symposium and is now planning similar activities at smaller regional meetings. Some new ideas being explored to promote career development at the annual symposium include: one day registration for the annual meeting to permit attendance by a greater number of scientists, and inclusion of seminars describing professional networking and how to form interest and support groups. The subcommittee is considering broadening its outreach efforts to include trainees who may not be aware of career choices in industry or government by inviting faculty and industry representatives to co-sponsor visits and seminars at these types of institutions. The subcommittee is also planning to provide focused educational or career development workshops at academic or governmental sites. The student interactions and career development subcommittees are currently the sponsors for the STP Student Speaker Award, the STP Student Travel Awards and Young Investigator Awards. The student interactions subcommittee also provides mentors for a sponsored student outing at the annual symposium. This subcommittee is brainstorming new ways to support student interactions with our society. The manuscript subcommittee is developing manuscripts outlining the roles of the toxicologic pathologist in industry, in academe, and in government.

Finally, the Web-Based Education Task Force will work with the education-based committees to develop and implement the appropriate technology to bring educational opportunities to the STP membership via the internet. In addition, the Task Force will advise the education-based committees on the associated costs and intellectual property considerations for the different Web-based approaches. Currently, the Task Force is considering several technological solutions to address needs that range from uploading files to our Website, to Webinars, and the development of on-line courses.

All of the activities described briefly above and many more educational endeavors will be coordinated by the new Education Strategy Committee with input from the Executive Committee and should provide added value for STP members and other allied organizations. STP members or members of allied organizations with ideas or requests to share for educational-related activities are encouraged to contact **Kathleen Funk** (ESC, Chair).

Changes Are Coming to Toxpath.org

Alric Lopez-Martinez, Ph.D., D.V.M., DACVP

Important changes are coming to the STP Web site that will improve communication between STP members and working committees. The first major change will be a complete site re-design that will be available in the upcoming months. *Toxpath.org* admirably served its purpose for years using our current design. However, internet designs and standards have progressed in recent years and it is time to update our Web site. The internet committee has been evaluating Web site designs for the past few weeks and we are close to deciding and implementing a new layout and capabilities. The new design will be modern

and pleasing to the eye with an emphasis on easy navigation to the information required by STP members or outside visitors.

Greatly enhancing the functionality of *toxpath.org* will be the addition of Socious. The Socious software package will enhance the networking capabilities between STP members and committees. Initial deployment of Socious will include an enhanced member directory and the use of expertise keywords to easily search and find members by area of interest and expertise. You will be contacted soon with information on how to update your STP profile with your preferred expertise keywords. Another initial capability will be committee pages that will offer a repository of shared files, calendars, and documents relating to each committee at the STP.

Longer term goals for Socious integration within *toxpath.org* include a personalized, partly user-generated member page that will contain the latest information available and shared by other STP members or society committees. All information will be available at a glance in the user's Socious page. Longer term goals also include a toxicologic pathology wiki, Web based learning, and the publication of selected portions of the annual meeting. The latter with the possibility of remote awarding of CE credit.

We are also in the process of identifying members of the internet committee to serve as liaisons for other committees within the STP. Internet committee members are your first point of contact for direction on how to publish your committee's information at *toxpath.org*. If you have content that is ready to be published at *toxpath.org,* or have an idea for an implementation that would benefit your committee, please contact the internet committee or any of its members. For example, we recently worked with the education strategy committee to embed a shared calendar on the committee's Web page at toxpath.org. The education strategy committee will use this calendar for planning of upcoming meetings and coordinate meeting activities.

With these upgrades we expect toxpath.org to become your one stop professional network. Look for more information on these and other initiatives in the near future. As changes to *toxpath.org* come on-line, please feel free to contact any member of the STP Internet Committee or to STP Headquarters with questions or suggestions on how we might improve the internet experience at *toxpath.org*.

Wrinkled Section

If I Don't See You in the Future, Look for Me in the Pasture

Submitted by James W. Crissman

As pathologists, we have trained our natural human pattern-recognition ability to discriminate between normal anatomy and thousands of different disease conditions. Of course we did not evolve the gift of visual acuity just to find intranuclear viral inclusions or foci of cellular alteration under the microscope. It developed so that even with stunted human olfactory capabilities we could recognize cavewoman hotties around prehistoric bonfires.

The human mind is exquisitely tuned to recognize the human face. This ability evolved to its zenith during the pre-millennial Fraternity Period, when millions of inebriated college students searched giant football stadiums for their dates. Before the Casual Hookup Era, those who could not recognize the intoxicated person they accompanied to the game lost the opportunity to mate; their genetic material was simply wasted.

This acute ability to find a particular face amid visual chaos has unintended consequences. It has led to crowds of pilgrims trekking to a small kitchen in a remote part of Mexico when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in mildew on the door of an old refrigerator. Similar human stampedes have followed the sightings of the face of Elvis in an Idaho potato, the likeness of Ray Charles in a mole on the rump of a Georgia woman, and yet again when Lady Gaga appeared in a roll of bubble wrap. Russian children still lie on their backs in communal turnip fields and see the bearded face of Karl Marx in clouds scutting across the sky. An American child spotted Big Bird in mustard squirted on a hotdog bun. Tea Partiers have spotted the figure of Sarah Palin in a voluptuous cumulonimbus cloud, which caused them to flap their arms and attempt to fly up to her. Al Qaeda terrorists strap on suicide vests and fire Kalashnikovs straight up whenever the vaporous forbidden image of Mohammed appears in the desert sky. Faces excite us.

Which is why there was quite a buzz last August near the village of Alaska, Michigan, at the Cowpie Blues Festival (put on by my brother on the farm where I grew up) when a cow produced the face of Merlin the Magician, perfectly sculpted in a brown splatter in the grass of the camping pasture. At first its discoverers kept it secret. They fenced off the miraculous image with a circle of stones and sharp sticks pounded into the ground. Private rituals developed involving sacred herbs. But such a secret cannot be contained, and, inevitably, a photograph was smuggled out.

Consequently, this year thousands of blues fans are expected to search the pastoral domain of the now revered Angus herd for a new face that will give meaning to their insignificant existence on this third rock from the sun in an outer band of the Milky Way, just one of billions of galaxies in our ever-expanding Universe. I'll be looking for you. Lives will be changed. If you want to find my face, be there: www.cowpiebluesfest.org.

This is an article submitted to SCOPE and the views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology.

Member Spotlight

Byron Boysen—Just a Country Boy!!!

By Alok Sharma

Tell us about your academic training and work?

After graduation (D.V.M.) from Iowa State University, I joined the U.S. Army and was stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and then transferred to the interior of Alaska for two exciting and educational years. I supervised a food inspection and preventive medicine unit and provided veterinary care for military, civilian animals and wild buffalo. After moving from the wilderness of Alaska to suburban New Jersey, I did an internship and medical residency at the Animal Medical Center (AMC) in New York City. During my training program at the AMC, I developed a serious interest in veterinary neurology. Following my residency, I taught small animal medicine and completed a neurology residency at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. During my neurology residency, Dr. Leander Tryphonas, a veterinary pathologist/neuropathologist and fellow Diplomate, encouraged me to complete a master's degree in veterinary pathology. At the University of Saskatchewan, I had a wonderful opportunity to learn and teach small animal medicine, neurology, veterinary pathology and neuropathology.

After completing my master's degree, I headed off to the Department of Veterinary Pathology at Oklahoma State University where I taught veterinary pathology. Because we have a daughter that needed more specialized medical care we then moved to Madison, WI where I accepted a pathology position with Raltech Scientific Services, a fledgling contract laboratory organization (CRO) in 1979. While at Raltech, I became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1981. Raltech went on to become Hazleton Laboratories and for 14+ years I was fortunate to be part of a rapidly growing CRO. I then went to work for Drug Safety at American Home Products later to become Wyeth Research where I retired in the spring of 2008. In the fall of 2009, I joined Covance Laboratories in Madison, WI where I currently work. The return to Madison has been a joy because Covance was previously Hazleton Laboratories.

I tell this long story not to encourage young veterinarians to spend half their life in training but to emphasize that my experience working with the Canadian government, in academia, in a CRO and for a pharmaceutical company all played key roles in my preparation for a career in drug development. I feel extremely fortunate to have worked with so many wonderful, highly trained people who provided unlimited opportunities for me to learn.

So, what prepared you for the variegated professional life you have had until now?

I was born on a small farm in Iowa to a family that had a strong work ethic and conservative Midwestern values. My family was not well educated but valued the importance of education. While working on the farm, attending a one room country school for 8 years (only kid in my class), and participating in youth activities, I was treated like most farm kids and was expected to be a responsible performer from an early age. Sometime in my youth, I came to realize that I, too, was smart enough to go to college. As a young person in rural Iowa, I enjoyed high school activities, especially sports, training horses, rodeo activities, and 4-H. As a young person, trying to earn enough money for my college education, I was a farm laborer, rough carpenter, cement laborer and finisher, laboratory animal care person, waiter, veterinary assistant, and participant in many other jobs that were legal and moral.

What are your investigative/specialty interests?

While I am interested in all areas of medicine and especially the pathophysiologic function of the body as a whole, I have developed a special interest in the nervous system; that is neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, neurophysiology, neurology and neuropathology. I do not claim to be an expert in any one of these areas but am interested in how all of these special areas interact to create normal or abnormal function of the nervous system.

What aspect(s) of your career do you find most rewarding?

I have truly enjoyed each and every aspect of my career. Teaching veterinary students has been one of my favorite activities because the students are eager to learn and appreciate a teacher that makes a conscientious effort to improve the efficiency of their learning. While I am not thrilled with the focused effort required in basic research, I am very excited about participating in applied research such as we experience in drug development. Being able to successfully complete my segment of a team-oriented drug development project is rewarding, especially when a new drug that I have worked on reaches the marketplace and successfully improves the health of patients.

I'm not an avid publisher of papers or posters, or giving presentations. However, I am pleased that in 1972 I was fortunate to find two dogs that had narcolepsy, a previously undiagnosed syndrome in dogs. The owners were kind enough to donate these dogs to Dr. William Dement (the first to describe REM sleep in people) at Stanford University. As luck would have it, narcolepsy is genetically transmitted in dogs, and a colony of narcoleptic dogs was kept at Stanford to study sleep research for more than 25 years.

Do any aspects of your pathology training seem uniquely suited for your current career?

My training in clinical medicine has been a valuable asset while serving as a veterinary pathologist in drug development. The quality of the decisions that pathologists make in preclinical drug development studies are improved with greater knowledge and consideration for the in-life segments of the studies and the intended use of the drug in humans.

Where might you see the field of toxicologic pathology headed in the next 5 to 10 years?

I am cautiously optimistic regarding the future of toxicologic pathology in drug development because of potential economic constraints. All patients want the "best" of medical care and this demand has created a costly medical system that does not function effectively in the free market system. If costs are not more effectively controlled in the future, the increasing costs may force companies to reduce their investment in research and/or patients to accept lower quality medical care. Each of us needs to actively involved in discussions that will ultimately define the new system. Costs must be controlled and to do so the customer (patients) accepts greater responsibility in decisions regarding the quality and cost of their medical care.

How do you balance work and personal life?

My family would probably tell you that I work too much and play too little. In fact, I have always enjoyed my work as much as my play. My family is and always has been number one, and they are successful in getting me to play which is good for all. During my career, I have had many hobbies including reading, hunting, fishing, and coaching my kids' hockey, T-ball, and softball teams. I truly enjoy watching NASCAR racing, rodeos, professional bull riding and sports (especially football) and listening to country, bluegrass or classical music. While working at Wyeth, we had a farm and I bred, raised, and showed livestock. I have always enjoyed working with youth and judged beef cattle at several fairs in New York and Vermont. Currently, I raise purebred miniature donkeys and have been thrilled with breeding, training, and sharing them with families at parades and public events. I'm a farmer at heart and truly enjoy the exercise that goes with the farm activities and caring for these special animals. Life is good, and I'm busy. Through experience, I have learned that my performance at work and success as a husband, dad and grandfather is improved if I am also involved with other activities. When the time comes that I cannot balance family and work, I'm confident that my career will promptly end. I will not be another Brett Farve.

Tell us about your family

My wife Diana and I have been married for 42 years and we have three children, two son-in-laws and one grandson. Diana is a nurse and works with hospice. A friend of mine calls Diana a "Saint," and she is. Our daughter, Nicole is a cardiovascular and neurosurgical nurse in intensive care. Our second daughter, Michelle is a reading recovery teacher. Darren, our son, is in graduate school (communications). Our daughters are married to wonderful guys, and we have a 2 year old grandson, Brock. It doesn't get any better than playing with him. Diana's dad and two brothers and my brother were/are veterinary practitioners so veterinary medicine is a frequent topic at family gatherings. We enjoy boating, going to county and state fairs, going to art museums or other cultural events, listening to music or watching movies, working with the donkeys and interacting with "other donkeys folks" around North America. Life couldn't get much better.

Tell us more about your miniature donkeys

When care for my beef cattle became too stressful for my worn out knees, I needed to sell the cattle, "down size" to a smaller animal or get new knees. I did all three. I had read about how gentle, easy to train, and kid-friendly that miniature donkeys are so this sounded like a good hobby to pursue. After studying pedigrees via the internet for nearly a year, visiting several breeders, and going to some shows and sales, we bought several registered miniature donkeys. Within months, we were "having a ball" training and sharing them with friends. They are popular in parades, small town celebrations, hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers and schools. I also attended two driving clinics with the idea I would train some of my donkeys to drive. It didn't go as planned because, like retrievers that know how to retrieve, it became evident the donkeys knew how to be driven, and it was me that needed training. With lots of help from one of the best trainers in North America and patient, understanding donkeys, I finely got the "hang of it."

In 2009, we still needed to purchase a good quality jack (uncastrated male) for our breeding program. I found a mature one in the spring. Shortly after that purchase, a breeder from Texas called to say they had

a new baby jack (Sunny) with a top quality pedigree that was just what we needed, so we bought him too. In the fall, Sunny was weaned and the breeders were preparing to ship him when the unexpected happened; the breeders truck, trailer, and Sunny were stolen. Because most miniature donkey breeders throughout the world have websites, the breeders sent out the word to all of the breeders, listed the theft on AOL and Facebook and managed to get on the local Dallas-Fort Worth news (TV) three times in two weeks. In addition to sharing the message of the "poor baby" being stolen, they reminded the public that horse stealing in Texas might result in capital punishment. Within 2 weeks, someone called the breeder to indicate the donkey was found wandering loose on the streets of Mesquite, Texas. Did the perpetrator run out of nerve? Who knows, but after a six week delay, Sunny arrived in Wisconsin.

The social life of miniature donkey breeders is almost as much fun as the donkeys. We have met interesting people from all over the world and a variety of occupations including professional football players, hair stylists, doctors, nurses, and yes, even a veterinary pathologist. Interaction with these people at sales, shows and other major events provides a wonderful opportunity to interact with people who have a common interest but a highly varied background. As you can tell, we are enjoying the "donkey thing."

This views expressed in this article are those of the interviewee and do not necessarily represent the views of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology.
