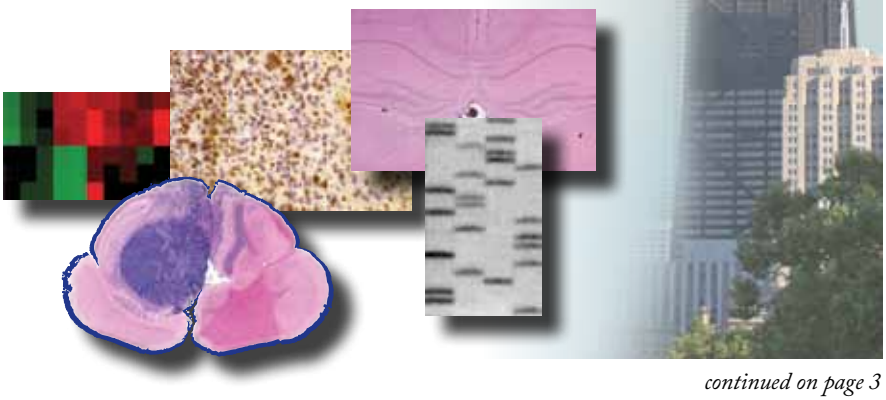
THE SCOPE

Vol. 27, No. 4, Fall 2009

STP/IFSTP 2010 JOINT SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO

The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago, IL will be the Headquarters hotel of the 2010 Annual Meeting, June 20–24, 2010. The Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) in conjunction with the International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathologists (IFSTP) will co-host the symposium. Situated on Michigan Avenue's Magnificent Mile near shopping, restaurants, and entertainment, the Headquarters hotel is within walking distance to the Windy City's top attractions, including Navy Pier, American Girl Place, Shedd Aquarium, Millennium Park, Theater and Museum Districts.

The focus of this international meeting is to correlate advances in the morphologic evaluation and interpretation of neuropathology findings with functional, cellular, and molecular knowledge in a series of plenary and poster sessions. The Scientific Program Co-Chairs are ***Kathleen Funk***, *DVM, PhD, DACVP,* EPL, Inc; ***Robert Sills***, *DVM, PhD, DACVP,* National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; and ***Brad Bolon***, *DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP, DABT, FIATP,* GEMpath, Inc. The major goal of the meeting is to foster an open framework in which to discuss the current state of knowledge with respect to neuropathology evaluations in conventional toxicology and specialized neurotoxicology studies. Foundational sessions will include fundamentals of neurobiology, modern pathology methods for neural investigations, and an interactive panel discussion on "best practices" for nervous system sampling.



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INSIDE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter C. Mann

I recently had lunch with two toxicologic pathologists. Both of them were young, sharp and deeply concerned about their future. As mergers and layoffs continue to be our almost constant companions, they wanted to know if they had made a mistake in choosing toxicologic pathology as a career path.

That is a tough question to answer. The days of huge groups at Big Pharma seem to be drawing to a close—the mantra now seems to be lean and nimble. Most of the larger CROs are looking at empty rooms and staff cutbacks. Health care in the United States is unsettled at best, and will have an important impact on our profession in the future. The business of toxicology in developing countries, especially India and China, is beginning to catch fire, which could translate into an increased number of people competing for work and jobs.

So what do you advise someone when they ask hard questions about the future of our profession? The answer is easy for me—more of my career is history than future, and I and the rest of the sagging Baby Boomers can hang on for a few more years until the economy improves and we can retire. Of course most of us will then turn right around and become consultants—which are just one more set of mouths competing with the youngsters.

Are there too many of us? There is a strong body of evidence that suggests there is still a need, and the STP is half of the ACVP/STP Coalition to train pathologists. Since many large companies are still funding these programs (and some have recently increased their funding),

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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Bonnie Brenseke	Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Mark David Chalkley	University of Minnesota
Melissa Czajkowski	Charles River Laboratories
Andrew Gigliotti	Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Madhusudan Goravanahally	NIOSH
Kristin Henson	Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research
Blessing Obinaju	Lancaster University
Karen Trainor	Texas A&M University
Niraj Tripathi	Covance Laboratories Inc.
Angela Wilcox	Charles River Laboratories

President's Report

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they must believe that there will be positions in their organizations for toxicologic pathologists in the future, since it is unlikely that their grants are based on altruism alone.

Is the western model of training/certification going to maintain its preeminence? As you know, the International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathologists (IFSTP) is trying to develop a program to certify entry-level pathologists who are capable of proficient professional practice. Our membership has made it clear that it does not support this program. In lieu of formal certification, Brad Bolon, a member of the STP Executive Committee and our representative to the IFSTP is chairing an international group of anatomic pathologists and clinical pathologists whose charge is to write a globally acceptable Best Practices paper on the minimal training requirements needed to produce a qualified toxicologic pathologist. It will come as no great surprise that the requirements look remarkably similar to the training that most of us endured in preparation for the our pathology board certification exams. The STP feels strongly that this degree of education and training is vital before anyone, regardless of country of origin, or practice setting, can be considered a qualified toxicologic pathologist. You, the membership, will have an opportunity to comment on this document in the near future.

Another question concerns the future of the 2-year bioassay. My sense is that we will continue to see the rat bioassay for a few more years at least, if only because it is a well-explored model with a great deal of history. In my opinion, the future of the mouse bioassay is less certain—the growing number of alternative models and different approaches to risk assessment (mode-of-action studies, etc.) makes me believe that the mouse model may soon be a relic. On the other hand, in the years that I have been in the profession, there have been a number of new miracle

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STP Newsletter **Society of Toxicologic Pathology**

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THE SYMPOSIUM WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HEART OF THE WINDY CITY!

June is the perfect time to experience Chicago's beautiful parks and lakefront, its remarkable architecture, world-class museums, Michigan Avenue shopping, and its legendary blues scene. The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile location on Michigan Avenue and Rush Street gives you easy access to all the popular local attractions. A train stop is located just 2 short blocks from the Marriott on Grand and State Streets. This stop is part of Chicago's network of buses and trains called the "El" (for elevated), which connects the city center with the airport. Tuesday will again be a free afternoon for attendees this year to allow attendees to spend time exploring this great and very walkable city.

The hotel is just four blocks from the **Chicago River**, where the Chicago Architecture Foundation launches its amazing **90-minute boat tours along the river**. This tour spotlights more than 50 architecturally significant sites where you will discover a new perspective on the city and learn about the development of the skyscraper. You can get a spectacular view of the city and the lake from the John Hancock Center, which is 8 blocks north of the hotel on Michigan Avenue.

Navy Pier is six blocks away on Illinois Street and **Lake Michigan**. This is a great place for a morning jog, a wonderful place to catch a boat cruise, or a concert, or to ride the giant Ferris wheel. The Chicago Children's Museum is located on the Navy Pier.

Millennium Park is just eight blocks South of the Marriott on Michigan Avenue. The *Bean*, the polished steel structure that fascinates park visitors with its reflection of them along with Chicago's skyline, is located here. Another attraction in the park, where kids love to play, is a wading fountain surrounded by 50-ft glass towers featuring faces of famous Chicagoans.

The Art Institute of Chicago, which houses the country's top collection of Impressionist and Postimpressionist art, is in the block beyond Millennium Park on Michigan Avenue.

Other popular museums—the Field Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Shedd Aquarium, and are a short bus or taxi ride from the hotel.

Be sure to experience some of Chicago's culinary wonders while you are in town. **Deep-dish pizza**, **hot dogs**, and **Italian beef sandwiches** are Chicago specialties you won't want to miss.

Web sites with detailed information about Chicago:

The Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau

City of Chicago

INHAND NOMENCLATURE

Visit www.toxpath.org/inhand.asp to learn more about The INHAND Nomenclature project (International Harmonization of Nomenclature and Diagnostic Criteria for Lesions in Rats and Mice.)

STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Symposium in Chicago

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The meeting will also provide a unique forum to review the remarkable progress in gene expression, biomarkers' and the role of different glial cell populations in nervous system diseases. A "special problems" session will be dedicated to critical but less understood areas of neuropathology such as pathology of the blood-brain barrier, synaptic pathology, and exaggerated pharmacodynamics as a neurotoxic event.

The traditional NTP Satellite Symposium, entitled "Pathology Potpourri," will again be held in advance of the symposium and will include presentations on proposed INHAND nomenclature for rodent neural lesions. Three continuing education sessions—on hemostasis, non-invasive imaging in general toxicity and drug development programs, and current regulatory and scientific opinion in developmental neurotoxicity testing—as well as a half-day Career Development seminar will be held on the Sunday before the general sessions begin.

Neuropathology is one of the fastest growing areas of toxicologic inquiry and regulatory concern, and this congress promises to be a fantastic opportunity to review and expand your knowledge of this important field. We hope you will join us for this exciting program in Chicago.

TOXPATH NEWSGROUP UPDATE

The ToxPath Newsgroup now has more than 100 members. If you have not yet done so, you can join using the information posted at the STP Web site at **www.toxpath.org** (under Publications–Member Access).

This is a private/closed Newsgroup, so each new request for membership requires acceptance, usually within 1–3 days of submitting your request. When requesting to join the Newsgroup, it is preferable to select a user name that clearly identifies you to the moderators and participants. If you choose a pseudonym or alias for a user name, please include information in the comment section (your company, location, and last name are useful) that will help to identify you as an STP member. Members using an alias should expect to be asked to verify their request for membership *via* the e-mail listed in their STP directory listing. If you have attempted to join and have not yet received confirmation, please submit a new request and include sufficient contact information as indicated above so that you can be verified as an STP member. More information about Newsgroup settings will be e-mailed to you in a "Welcome" message after you are approved for the group. Alternatively, this information can be found on the STP Web site at **www.toxpath.org** (under Publications–Member Access).

As a reminder, you can post a text message as well as photographs and PDF documents, but these attachments will only be available at the Newsgroup Web site (the Newsgroup posting will contain the link to these attachments). The e-mail address for distribution of e-mail to STP Newsgroup members is: **toxpathnewsgroup@yahoogroups.com**.

We encourage all STP members to join and participate by posting their ideas, concerns or any interesting/challenging cases that they wish to share with others interested in toxicologic pathology.

NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

The Scope newsletter will transition to HTML format beginning with the winter issue. Many other professional societies have already made this transition, and we have considered the pros and cons of this transition. We believe you will be pleased with the new format, but if you experience any specific inconvenience due to this transition, please let us know.

The Scope now has a news series of articles, featuring the STPs from various countries/geographic regions around the world. This feature is in support of our globalization goal, and is intended to give us a glimpse of our profession around the globe.

THE SCOPE IS LOOKING FOR AUTHORS!

Globalization is only one of the four strategic goals of STP. Yet, many of us have limited understanding of how toxicologic pathology is practiced in various geographic regions around the globe. We are looking for authors! Do you have substantial toxicologic pathology experience in more than one country/geographic region (as part of your education or work—no, no, exotic vacation alone does not count!)? Would you be willing to take a few minutes to share your experience and thoughts with all of us? If so, please contact Bindu Michael, *The Scope* Editor at **bindhumichael@yahoo.com**.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair: Mike Goedken; Co-Chair: Jean–Guy Bienvenu

There are several subcommittees within the Membership Committee, and updates from each subcommittee are included below.

North American Recruitment Subcommittee

What and who are we? This is a recently formed subcommittee to expand STP membership by supporting the efforts to recruit new members from North America. This subcommittee has 9 members: **Jean-Guy Bienvenu** (lead), **Mike Goedken**, **Valerie Guilpin Barlow**, **Sandra Eldridge**, **Gopakumar Gopalakrishnan**, **Emily Meseck**, **Bindhu Michael**, **Sunish Mohanan**, and **Todd Painter**.

What have we accomplished so far? We are focusing on underrepresented groups within STP, namely non-classically trained toxicologic/comparative pathologists, regulatory scientists, and clinical pathologists. In addition we will also reach out to academic institutions active in toxicology, pathology, comparative pathology and experimental biology, to non-member attendees of the Annual Meeting and, in advance of the next Annual Meeting, to neuropathologists and neurotoxicologists, especially in the Chicago area. We are in the process of gathering specific information about several scientific organizations that are involved in pathology and/or toxicology.

What are our short-term goals? Contact key individuals in academic institutions and targeted scientific organizations to enhance awareness of the STP.

What is on our wish list/long-term goals? We want to establish durable partnerships with academic institutions and scientific organizations active in North America and collaborate with them to recruit toxicologic pathologists. If you or anyone you know work in the Chicago area, or are members of a scientific organizations of interest to the STP, please contact us at **bienvjg@wyeth.com**.

Retention Subcommittee

What and who are we? The Retention Subcommittee is dedicated to maintaining our current membership. Retention Subcommittee is led by Mike Goedken with Jean-Guy Bienvenu, Todd Painter, Bindhu Michael, **Victoria Laast**, Sandra Eldridge, **Carol Thompson**, and Emily Meseck.

What have we accomplished so far? In addition to forming a dedicated subcommittee to keeping members, we have completely revamped how we will be reaching out to those who are behind in dues.

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CALL FOR STP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

Is there an STP Member you feel deserves to receive the **STP Achievement Award**?

This award is given by the Society of Toxicologic Pathology to a member in good standing who has played critical and influential roles in the area of toxicologic pathology over an extended period of time. Achievement may be demonstrated by a body of work in any or all of the following areas: scientific discovery, education, or regulatory standards.

Nomination Process

Nominators must be STP members. A nomination letter that highlights the candidate's achievement and influence in the area of toxicologic pathology and the candidate's CV are required and should be sent to **stp@toxpath.org** by March 15, 2010. Two supporting letters from other STP members are also required. Additional letters from non-STP members may be submitted. Nominations will be held forward for 2 years.

APPLY FOR A STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD!

Student Travel Awards are available to Graduate Students for participation in the Annual Symposium of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology. Each of the students who are chosen will receive a $1,000 stipend to defray travel, and lodging costs associated with attending the convention, complimentary meeting registration, and complimentary student membership (for the following year). Recipients will be honored at an Awards Ceremony prior to the Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday. **All recipients will be required to present a poster** at the Symposium.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to compete for this award, trainees must be graduate students working in the field of experimental or toxicologic pathology or a related discipline (to include veterinary students, pathology residents [veterinary or medical] and/or MS or PhD students), and must be available to travel to (city) to attend the meeting. Candidates who have recently completed (within 12 months of the application date) their graduate studies will also be eligible.

How to Apply:

Return Student Travel applications (Items 1–4 below) by March 1, 2010 to:

STP Headquarters
1821 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 300
Reston, VA 20190
Phone: 703-438-7508 Fax: 703-438-3113

1. Complete the Travel Award Application on the www.toxpath.org Web site.
2. Ask your faculty advisor or a faculty member who is familiar with your work to submit a letter of nomination summarizing your qualifications.
3. Submit your *curriculum vitae*.
4. Include a statement of career goals in toxicologic pathology.
5. Submit an abstract on-line (should be limited to 250 words) describing your original work involving clinical or experimental research that relates to experimental or toxicologic pathology.

Submit abstracts by March 1, 2010 on-line at www.toxpath.org.

IATP CHARLES CAPEN STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

The Charles Capen Student Travel Award recognizes Dr. Charles Capen and his legacy as a researcher, teacher, and mentor to the veterinary and toxicology pathology communities spanning more then four decades. Dr. Capen was recognized worldwide as an exceptional leader in veterinary and biomedical research. He was a highly regarded mentor to graduate students and postdoctoral scientists. His students are now leaders throughout academia, government, and industry and have contributed significantly to his reputation as an outstanding teacher and research mentor.

The International Academy of Toxicologic Pathology funds an award in the amount of $750 USD which can be used by the successful student for travel or registration costs to attend a conference of a regional Society of Toxicologic Pathology.

The successful applicant will have demonstrated achievements in the field of toxicologic pathology including but not limited to:

1. Research contributing to public safety as it relates to the adverse health effects of xenobiotics;
2. Establishing test methods and standards that enhance the field of toxicologic pathology; and/or
3. Developing new or novel uses of toxicologic pathology in safety research.

Nominations for this award shall be submitted to the IATP Executive Office **(iatpfellows@verizon.net)**. A committee appointed by The Board of Directors of the IATP will determine the recipient by a majority vote. This will occur prior to the meeting.

The application materials should include a resume (CV), a letter (no more than 2 pages) from the applicant which describes how their work addresses any or all of the areas described above in 1-3, and a letter (no more than 2 pages) from their advisor or mentor which explains the attributes of the student and how they will contribute to the field of toxicologic pathology as a career path.

A certificate and check will be presented at the meeting when the meeting organizers determine it is appropriate.

STP NEWS

- STP has formed a joint task force with ACVP to discuss hosting a joint meeting in 2014 or 2015.
- A By-Laws change was approved by the Executive Committee at its November 10 meeting to clarify the process to nominate a candidate from the membership to permit e-mails as proof of written endorsement.

  STP By-Laws Article V—Election, Section E
  Nominations for the next year's election will be opened to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations from the membership will be accepted by the Secretary-Treasurer no later than 6 months prior to the next scheduled annual meeting. These nominations shall consist of a written endorsement supported by at least 5% of the active full membership, to be placed on the election ballot.

  New additional text:
  The endorsement could consist of written signatures or e-mails that are sent from the member's e-mail address of record with STP to the initiator of the petition. E-mails should clearly state the senders' support for a specific nominee for a specific elected office.

2010–2011 STP Officer Election
Voting members will receive the ballot and candidate information *via* e-mail in early January.

WELCOME RECEPTION, MONDAY LUNCH PLANNED FOR EXPANDED EXHIBIT HALL

The STP/IFSTP Joint Symposium will kick off with a reception in the Exhibit Hall at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile on Sunday evening, June 20. The reception will feature fully stocked cash bars, with complimentary sodas and light snacks sponsored by STP/IFSTP. This event is also available as a sponsorship opportunity. This can be a sole sponsorship (by one company) or it can be partially sponsored by multiple companies.

An exhibitor-sponsored buffet luncheon in the Exhibit Hall will be offered for all attendees on Monday, June 21. Plenty of seating has been arranged in the newly-renovated Hall to accommodate the luncheon, continental breakfasts, and refreshment breaks throughout the week. An Internet Café will be available, where attendees can check e-mail during exhibit hours. Scientific poster sessions will also be held in the Exhibit Hall.

Excellent booth spaces are still available. Please visit **www.toxpath.org/AM2010** or contact Maureen Kettering **(mkettering@toxpath.org)** if your company would like more information about exhibit space or sponsorship opportunities in Chicago.

STP EDUCATION FUND

On behalf of STP, thank you to all speakers, companies who supported travel, and STP members who contributed to the Education Fund.

The Education Fund supported 12 Student Travel Awards in 2009. The student travel award winners were:

Daher Ibrahim Aibo
Michigan State University

Sandeep J. Akare
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Nadine Bowden
The Ohio State University

Bianca Ferrucio
São Paulo State University (UNESP)

Andréia Oliveira Latorre
University of São Paulo

Tzu-yin Cindy Lin
The Ohio State University

Chelsea Martin
The Ohio State University

Deepa Rao
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Aaron Matthew Sargeant
The Ohio State University

Sheeno P. Thyparambil
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Brent Edmond Walling
University of Illinois

Laura Wilding
North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine

EVALUATION OF ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR SCREENING ASSAYS: EXPERT PANEL NOMINATIONS AND DATA SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

The National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) is requesting nominations of expert scientists for an international independent scientific review panel (Panel) to assess the validation status of two *in vitro* assays for their usefulness and limitations in determining whether chemicals interact with estrogen receptors *in vitro*. Information about the NICEATM-sponsored validation studies, as well as instructions on how to submit data and nominations, is available at: **http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/endocrine/ed-erassay.htm**. Nominations are due by January 11, 2010.

THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGIC PATHOLOGISTS (ESTP)

—A letter from Europe—

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from Europe! On behalf of the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology (ESTP), I would like to inform you briefly about the ESTP and update you on our recent activities and interactions.

The ESTP was established in October 2002 from the "Gesellschaft für Toxikologische Pathologie" (GTP), when former GTP members felt that it was important to form a strong Pan-European international society to better adapt to future challenges. The GTP's original geographical scope was Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The inaugural constitution of the ESTP was ratified by a high majority of the GTP members present at the Annual General Assembly 2002 in Giessen, Germany. In 2005 the Nordic Society (covering Scandinavian countries) disbanded and transferred its members and assets to the ESTP. From 144 founding members, the society has grown to 354 members until now. Many European toxicologic pathologists have chosen to become a member of the ESTP in addition to being member in their respective national society. Numerous colleagues from European countries without a dedicated society have joined, as well as many colleagues from all over the world, including the U.S.

As a society, our goals include the organization of scientifically striking annual meetings, to promote toxicologic pathology, to contribute to industry guidelines by comments and proposals, to participate in scientific working groups, to offer training courses in toxicological pathology and related fields, and at last but not least, to collaborate intensively with the other Societies of Toxicological Pathology.

The Executive Committee is comprised of a chairman, designated chairman, past chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and up to 10 councillors. These councillors are: a representative from academic institutions, a councillor for our journal (*Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology*), for IFSTP, for electronic communication (webmaster), a specific councillor for the younger generation, and the respective representatives of European sister societies (currently BSTP-British STP, SFPT-French STP, the Dutch STP, and SITPS-Italian STP). In addition we have a representative for nomenclature standardization and RITA (Registry of Industrial Toxicology Animal-Data) co-opted to the executive committee.

The executive board of the ESTP meets on a monthly basis by teleconference and twice a year face-to-face. I love our face-to-face meetings! One is usually in the country where our chairman is, and the other is where the annual meeting is organised, so it provides a fantastic opportunity to travel in Europe. We always enjoy great hospitality, along with fantastic Danish pastries, when visiting the home country of our current chairman **Dr. Ingrid Sjögren** (located in Denmark), who took over from **Dr. John Finch** (located in UK) at the end of 2008.

Since 2003, the society has hosted an annual congress around September, in many different European countries including Germany in 2003 and 2004, Denmark in 2005, France in 2006, Switzerland in 2007, UK in 2008, and Netherlands in 2009. Hungary (Budapest) and Sweden (Uppsala) will be coming up 2010 and 2011, respectively, so keep our meeting in mind if you fancy a trip 'across the pond.' Our annual meeting, which is sometimes a joint meeting with other societies, is directed by a scientific committee (SC) of our members. This year's congress takes place at September 15–18 in The Hague, Netherlands. The ESTP SC and the IATP have assembled internationally recognized speakers for a variety of subjects on 'Systems Pathology—Whole Animal Responses to Toxicity & Drug Induced Toxicologic Pathology'.

Each February the ESTP contributes to the organisation of 'Classic examples in Toxicologic Pathology' hosted by the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany. The 17th 2-day seminar will be held on February 26–27, 2010 (for more details see **www.eurotoxpath.org**). These seminars are a fantastic training opportunity for nascent, but also experienced toxicologic pathologists to review classic lesions induced by classic or newer compound classes. Every delegate has the chance to review glass slides of the cases on an individual microscope during the presentations, followed by opportunities for questions and discussion. Additionally, the Society publishes a CD with the examples from the seminars and the new third edition can be purchased at the annual ESTP conference or *via* our Web site.

If you can't make it to Hannover, check out the ***Guess What!*** interactive section at the ESTP Web site. At least two interesting cases from the field of toxicologic pathology are presented each year as an aid to continuing education. After posting a case, it is open for suggestions, questions or comments for approximately six months. Everyone is encouraged to send in a diagnosis electronically, either anonymously or by submitting his/her name and e-mail address. Subsequently, the diagnosis is presented as proposed by the provider of the case together with a summary of the contributions made by the pathologists interacting by e-mail. Finished cases remain available on the ESTP Web site so that pathologists have the opportunity to look them up and to refresh their expertise. If you would like to submit your mystery case to us, please contact the "***Guess What!*** Team" *via* e-mail at **guesswhat@eurotoxpath.org**.

The official journal of ESTP is '*Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology (ETP)*'. It is a multidisciplinary journal covering the whole range of experimental research on disease processes and toxicology including cell biological investigations. If you would like to submit a manuscript, you could submit on-line to **www.ees.elsevier.com/etp**. Instructions for authors could be seen at **www.elsevier.de/etp**.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

GEORGE PARKER: NEVER ON AUTOPILOT

By Gaurav Tyagi

George Parker and his Beechcraft Bonanza

Q. Please explain your career path.

A. After graduating from Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1972 I entered the U.S. Air Force and was a base veterinarian at MacDill AFB in Tampa Fl and Ubon Royal Thai AFB in Ubon, Thailand. I then entered a residency program in anatomic veterinary pathology at the AFIP. I completed the residency and the ACVP anatomic pathology boards in 1977. I then had a 3-yr. assignment at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

I left the Air Force in 1980 and started my own consulting practice in northern VA. I added a histology lab in 1984 and incorporated the business as biotechnics. This evolved to include a veterinary clinical laboratory plus histology and pathology support to Veterinary Labs of America located in Farmingdale, NY. After 15 years of a demanding workload I sold the histology and veterinary clinical lab portions of the business, and moved to NJ to work solely in toxpath as a consultant.

I had a full schedule of toxpath work, but enrolled in graduate courses at UMDNJ in an attempt to catch up on the molecular biology revolution. The courses went well and the dean of graduate studies offered free tuition if I would become a full-time grad student. Four years later I had a fresh PhD in molecular immunology.

My wife, **Cathy Picut**, and I searched the eastern half of the U.S. for a good place to work and raise a family, and kept encountering Chapel Hill, NC as a good choice. We moved to Chapel Hill in 1999 and have never regretted that choice. We established biotechnics with a full-service histology function in a nearby town (Hillsborough).

In 2005 we received an acceptable offer from WIL Research Labs in Ashland, Ohio and became integrated into the WIL family of companies. I currently serve as Director of Pathology for WIL Research, with responsibilities in both OH and NC. Travel between the sites provides a great opportunity to use my airplane (see below).

Q. Since your job at the Air Force, you have been an entrepreneur throughout. What do you like the most about owning your own enterprise?

A. What I have enjoyed most about independence is the freedom to make business decisions without justifications, approvals' or other corporate constraints. This freedom is particularly pleasant with regard to equipment purchases, personnel issues, and procedural guidelines. The downside is that you have total and very personal responsibility for the results of your decisions. A few mistakes made during the year can result in a very meager year-end bonus. (Year-end 'bonuses' for small businesses can be negative numbers, which may be a new concept for some readers. You don't fully understand private enterprise until you meet payroll out of your personal savings account.)

Q. As a businessman, what are some unique challenges that you have to face in your day-to-day work?

A. Personnel issues are the most difficult challenge. In addition to the standard supervisory issues, a small business typically has no Human Resources or Payroll departments. This requires some knowledge of payroll procedures, benefits, insurance, labor law, etc. Our science-oriented training is deficient in this area, so there is a steep learning curve during the early years.

Q. What prompted you to go back to the graduate school in 1995?

A. I became a graduate student largely by serendipity. I found myself with some free time and started taking graduate courses at the local medical college. These initial courses were very worthwhile, so I became a full-time graduate student in addition to a practicing toxicologic pathologist. It was a tough 4 years but well worth the effort.

Q. What are your primary pathology investigative/specialty interests?

A. My primary pathology interest at this point is developmental immunotoxicology (DIT). There are indications that the developing immune system of the fetus and neonate is uniquely susceptible to chemically mediated alterations that may persist into adulthood or old age.

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George Parker: Never on Autopilot

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George Parker captures the view from his plane with a Nikon D300 camera.

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

A. I see the field of toxicologic pathology headed toward more objective and less subjective interpretations. Morphometric analysis, stereological analysis, gene amplification studies, cytokine analysis, etc. will bring a level of objectivity and precision that has been largely missing in the subjective analyses of previous years. We must embrace and learn to use these new tools or we will find them in the hands of others, and those other individuals may be deficient in 'whole animal' interpretations. I doubt that future generations of toxicologic pathologists will spend the majority of their examining H&E-stained paraffin sections, though I expect that type of evaluation to remain a component of safety assessment studies.

Q. What advice will you give to junior pathologists?

A. Develop as much familiarity as possible with new technology. Maintain the broadest possible base of abilities and interests, as there will be substantial changes in our profession during the course of your career.

Q. Tell us about your family?

A. I have six children split between two families. My oldest daughter just completed nursing school. My oldest son just completed a Master's Degree in biology and is hiking the Appalachian Trail prior to entering a PhD program. Our 16-yr-old daughter just got her driver's license, had her first solo flight, and is going to a boarding school in NJ this fall. Our 14-yr-old daughter is going to a VA boarding school that has horses (her choice) and no boys (our choice). An 11-yr-old son is a professional-level video game player and authority on dinosaur trivia. Last is a 9-yr-old Russian adoptee son who simultaneously brings us immense joy and unbelievable consternation.

Q. What aspects of having a spouse who is also a pathologist do you like the most?

A. My wife and I work for the same small company, where I am ostensibly her manager. The best part is having a spouse who is fully involved in our lab's activities. The worst part is having a spouse who is fully involved in our lab's activities.

Q. Your formula to balance work and life?

A. I'm sure an objective evaluation would suggest I fail at this. However, I like my work so much that it does not seem like work.

Q. What pets do you have?

A. We have a family dog and daughter #2 has three (!) horses. Over the years we have had cats, fish, birds, snakes, hamsters and guinea pigs. These are the pets I have known about. I suspect we have had other 'pets' without my knowledge.

Q. Tell us about your passion for flying. When did you start? What are the requirements for obtaining a pilot license?

A. Since early childhood I have been fascinated by flying machines. I started flying lessons soon after graduating from vet school. My flight instruction was interrupted by a year in Southeast Asia, so I did not complete my private pilot license until I was in the residency program at AFIP. I later completed instrument and multiengine ratings. The legal requirement for a private pilot license is 40 hours of instruction, but it usually takes longer. A biennial flight review and biennial medical certificate is required to maintain a private pilot license. Instrument-rated pilots must perform at least six instrument approaches every six months plus meet a number of other standards to maintain instrument proficiency. I particularly enjoy the precision of instrument flying.

Q. What are various types of planes that you have owned?

A. My first airplane was a 1947 model Piper Vagabond. Landing the tail-dragger Vagabond was a real rodeo. After returning from Southeast Asia I bought a Beechcraft Musketeer, which I used to get my private ticket. The Musketeer was solid as a rock and a joy to fly, which made me a lifelong admirer of the Beechcraft line of airplanes. I bought a new Cessna 172 Skyhawk in 1978 and sold it two years later, which probably tells you what I thought of the airplane. I then bought a Piper Arrow and used it extensively for business and personal travel for six years. My current airplane is a Beechcraft Bonanza, which is a big brother to my old Musketeer. The Bonanza is everything I need: reasonably fast, good instrument platform, and very sturdy. The only downside to the Bonanza is maintenance costs: a Bonanza screw costs 3X as much as a regular screw, even though they come from the same box. My frequent trips to our parent company in Ohio take 2 hrs in the Bonanza, compared to 9 hours driving or 5-6 hours by airline. On occasion I have flown to Ohio for a meeting and returned home that afternoon, though I prefer to fly mornings (fewer thunderstorms).

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George Parker: Never on Autopilot

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Q. How often do you fly in a week/month? What is the longest duration that you flew in a single trip?

A. I fly 2–3 times in a typical month, most commonly to our big lab in Ohio. The longest trip was from NC to the SOT meeting in Salt Lake City. I've flown to Denver twice, Flagstaff once, and the Bahamas as few times.

Q. Have you had any scary moments while flying?

A. Aviation puts a person in an unusual and possibly dangerous environment, so the normal reaction to many situations is a fear response. There were times when I was scared but, in retrospect, I have had no truly fearsome events in my flying career. Memorable events that scared me at the time included windshield icing near Dulles airport, a monster thunderstorm that was too close for comfort as I approached Charleston, SC, a nasty crosswind as I departed Lakefront Airport in New Orleans, really rough turbulence as I passed Cheyenne on my way to Salt Lake City, and a rough-running engine as we climbed out of Charleston, SC one morning. In retrospect, the windshield ice melted in 10 minutes, the monster thunderstorm remained at least 30 miles away, the crosswind and turbulence were well within the operating limits of the airplane, and the rough engine was due to a few drops of water in the fuel. However, at the time one cannot be certain of the seriousness of a situation. A rough-running engine over the mangrove swamps of eastern SC will certainly get your attention, and warranted a precautionary landing. (I can recommend the shrimp in Beaufort, SC, and the aircraft mechanic is a very hospitable type.)

Q. Please tell us about your other hobby—aerial photography. What kind of camera do you use?

A. I recently bought a Nikon D300, which is a very nice camera. I can't call myself a real photographer, but I do enjoy being an informed amateur. Being in an airplane at relatively low altitude gives you a perspective of the earth and human society that you can't get on the ground or at 41,000 ft. I particularly enjoy studying economic geography from the air. For example, from this vantage point it is obvious how our economic growth and population expansion in the eastern half of the U.S. was centered on rivers.

Q. Just for fun: Is there something you would like to mention to the member community that they would be surprised to know about you?

A. Members may be surprised to know that I came very close to becoming an engineer rather than a veterinarian. The state department of transportation offered me a full scholarship in civil engineering as I completed high school. At times I question what my life would have been like had I taken the engineering route. Quite possibly the bridges and highways of America are safer as a result of my choice.

Membership Committee Update

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We believe that those who are contemplating whether or not to renew their membership are one of our most valuable assets to understand the needs of our members. Therefore, instead of just contacting members to alert them they are in arrears, we will personally contact and survey them as to their expectations of STP and how STP can better serve their needs. Information from these surveys will be collected, analyzed and provided to the Executive Committee. We are also using this information gathering and analysis approach for other STP demographics including student, faculty and regulatory agency STP members, as well as non-member STP meeting attendees.

Short term goals? Our short term goal is to change the way we do business, to proactively focus on our lapsing members as a source of information to ensure current members stay current.

Long term goals? Our long term goal is to strengthen the STP by having committed members who want to continue contributing their wisdom and experience to STP.

Review Subcommittee

What and who are we?: This subcommittee reviews applications and vets applicants to ensure we have high caliber members who will appreciate the benefits of STP membership. The Review Subcommittee is lead by **Stephanie White-Hunt** with Sandra Eldridge, Todd Painter, Carol Thompson, Emily Meseck, Valerie Guilpin Barlow, Bindhu Michael, and Mike Goedken.

What have we accomplished so far? After forming a dedicated subcommittee, we committed to increasing the thoroughness and efficiency of the application process and finding qualified STP members who can assess an applicant's qualifications from such emerging markets as India and China. We minimized the turn-around time to respond to applicants as to why they were not accepted for membership (not qualified or incomplete application). All applications are addressed in the quarter they received. Responses to applicants are now stored in the review section insuring all correspondence is in a central location.

Short term goals? Immediate goals are to standardize and document the application process, identify STP members with expertise in emerging markets, and reduce application turn-around time.

What is on our wish list/long-term goals? We will review membership requirements and consider changing the requirements to reflect the growing diversity of training and experience of toxicologic pathologists. We will also work to better understand the training and experience of toxicologic pathologists from emerging markets including India and China as well as those who have taken an alternative training/experience route.

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THE WRINKLED SECTION

The Power of Uno

By James W. Crissman

Our cat Uno beats on our bedroom door every morning just before dawn. It's not so bad this time of year when we have to haul ourselves out in the dark anyway, but in the summer Uno starts her hammering around four in the morning. We hate it. The door is hollow and rattles in its jam, so it sounds like a boxer on a speed bag when she cuffs it with her little paws—a live person can't possibly sleep through it. So, we're both instantly awake, but we each feign unconsciousness, hoping the other will be overcome by duty-to-cat or love-of-spouse, and drag our semi-comatose body out of bed and let the darn beast outside. Like all good hunters, Uno knows that dawn is prime time and she wants to be in ambush position early. We don't know where her favorite pounce points are—it's dark and we don't follow her out there—but she obviously knows some good ones judging by the body counts. Yesterday it was another flying squirrel—she gets a lot of those—but the majority of victims are voles, along with the occasional mole, field mouse, and song bird. This is no big news; lots of cats express their gratitude to their owners by doing their best Ted Nugent "whack 'em and stack 'em" routine. It's hard wired in their obligate-carnivore genes.

What I didn't realize was just how hard that it's wired. Jill brought Uno home from the clinic one evening eleven years ago, a tiny preemie snuggled down in a cozy little cotton-filled box. She had admitted the mother to be spayed, palpated her, and guessed her to be a little bit pregnant. Actually, the lavender-point Siamese-cross queen turned out to be a lot pregnant with just one kitten. After removing the purplish womb with its single large bulge, Jill was curious as to what color the kitten would be. Lisa the technician said that if she opened the uterus and took out the kitten, she would give it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and Jill would have to take it home. Oddly enough, Jill agreed.

So when Jill came home with the tiny jet black kitten with white paws and nose, and the story of how she came to be ours—and after I shook off the image of lovely Lisa with her lips wrapped around the slimy face of a wet cat—I had a Father-Knows-Best moment, peered over the top of my newspaper, and pronounced that this would be one of the most screwed-up critters ever, if it even survived, which was unlikely. The kids were anxious to prove me wrong, and with Jill's careful supervision, they kept the kitten bottle fed, warm, and clean. Uno thrived. I don't remember who gave her tongue baths, but it wasn't me. Uno was our only cat, so she grew up never even seeing another of her own kind for the first six months of her life, and yet she has turned out to be a very affectionate serial killer—a perfectly normal cat. Now whenever I ponder the power of genes, I think of Uno, and it prepares me to do a lot of forgiving for the many odd kinks and quirks that we all seem to be stuck with. As I figure it, we were all born pretty much the way we are, and there's not much to be done about it. Joseph Campbell said that the most we can do is lean toward the light. November days are short, but the sun is shining bright today. I think I'll bang on the door until somebody lets me out.

Membership Committee Update

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Global Recruitment Subcommittee

What and who are we? This is a recently formed subcommittee within the Membership Committee, to support the efforts to recruit new members from outside of North America. Global Recruitment Subcommittee is lead by Bindhu Michael and includes Mike Goedken, Gopakumar Gopalakrishnan, **Manu Sebastian**, and **Bhanu Singh**.

What have we accomplished so far? We are currently focusing on countries/geographic regions with established STPs. Before we got started with recruiting, we wanted to increase our awareness of the STPs and toxicologic pathologists around the world. As a first step, we have made efforts to contact officeholders in various STPs around the world (Korea, Europe, France, Netherlands, India, UK, and Latin America) and have heard back from many of them. To familiarize our North American STP members about the STPs around the world, many of these STPs have already authored (or in the process of authoring) articles about their organizations and the toxicologic pathology profession in their regions. See *The Scope* newsletter for these articles.

What are our short-term goals? We plan to collaborate with the poster and symposium session about global STPs at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Chicago. We plan to meet with 2010 STP meeting attendees who are members of STPs around the world, seek their suggestions/perspective, and foster collaboration towards our global recruitment efforts.

What is on our wish list/long-term goals? We want to identify contacts in countries/geographic regions without established STPs (Africa, China…), and collaborate with them to recruit the toxicologic pathologists in these regions. If you or anyone you know work in these countries/regions, or have substantial toxicologic pathology experience (as part of your education, training or work) there, please contact us at **bindhumichael@yahoo.com**.

The European Society of Toxicologic Pathologists (ESTP)—A letter from Europe

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Since 2006 the ESTP has a newsletter section within the ETP journal. The newsletter covers letters from the Chairman of the ESTP, announcements of activities such as workshops, scientific conferences/meetings and courses, report/summary of these activities, and opinion pieces of various subjects.

The ESTP offers an annual award sponsored by Novartis for an outstanding scientific publication by an ESTP member with the aim of promoting scientific activities and their publication by society members since 1995. Every second year, there is also an award sponsored by Boehringer-Ingelheim for a doctoral or PhD thesis. The ESTP Award Committee does the evaluation and the award ceremony takes place at the ESTP congress.

If you would like to learn more about the ESTP organisation and the activities of our Society please visit our Web site **www.eurotoxpath.org**.

If you would like to join us, ESTP Web site now has an electronic Membership Application Form. The annual membership fee is only EUR 100 and the Journal ***Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology*** is included! We would be very pleased to welcome you to our Society (**Membership Application Form**).

Before I say good bye till next time, I would like to say thank you very much to ESTP Executive Board helping me out to put this article together.

Thank you and keep in touch.

Dr. Zuhal Dincer **(zuhal.dincer@pfizer.com)**

President's Report

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methods (the Ames test, transgenic animals, and automated slide reading, to name but a few), all of which were claimed to signal the imminent decline for the need for animal testing and toxicologic pathologists. Yet here we still are, plugging away at glass slides or analyzing huge amounts of clinical path data.

I have gotten the sense over the last few years that many of our younger colleagues see slide reading and clinical path interpretation as a 19th century activity—one that has little to do with the brave new worlds of molecular pathology and the ever expanding catalogue of "omics" techniques. Yet these same folks continue to think of themselves as toxicologic pathologists. To me that is one of the best signs of the health of our profession in the coming years. We are trained in the basic understanding of diseases and we can use that understanding to re-invent ourselves when and if it is necessary to meet the changing demands of our profession and the marketplace. So I say to my young colleagues—"Yes I believe that you will be able to have a long and satisfying career in toxicologic pathology", although to be quite honest, I have no idea if any of us will recognize the profession in 20 or even 10 years from now! And, if you are lucky, it will continue to be fun, rather than just a way to support your family.

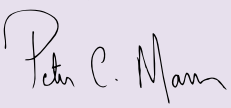
The same young colleagues brought up another issue, concerning volunteering for STP committees. Both of them had filled out the form at the STP meeting indicating that they wanted to become involved in the workings of the organization by serving on a committee, but neither of them had been contacted. Every year the president goes on about how important volunteers are to the STP, and how nothing would happen without their input and energies. And this is absolutely true. Unfortunately, what often happens is that we go back to the same well over and over, and ask people we know will complete a task to take on more work, rather than reach out to the new volunteers who we may not have worked. Shame on us.

If you have volunteered in the past and not been contacted, or if you would like to volunteer now—please contact me personally, and I promise you that we will find an active role for you on one of the committees.

Just a few other notes: We are still discussing the possibility of a joint meeting with the ACVP a few years down the road. We are strengthening our relationship with the American College of Toxicology (ACT). In addition to the Continuing Education course that STP offers every year at the ACT meeting and the biannual Pathology for Non-Pathologists course, we are pleased to announce that ACT will be offering a CE course (most likely "Interacting with Regulatory Agencies") at our 2011 meeting in Denver. I am excited about this new partnership and hope it will continue to grow. We are also hoping to re-energize the series of lectures that we have presented in the past to reviewers at the FDA—several of our clinical pathology members were at the agency earlier this month and gave very well-received presentations. All of this fits in with our new Education Strategic Goal. Wanda Haschek-Hock, our President-Elect, is chairing the organization task force and we should be hearing quite a bit from them in the coming months.

Thanks for letting me be your President. So far, so good.

Sincerely,



Peter C. Mann, *DVM, DACVP*
President, STP

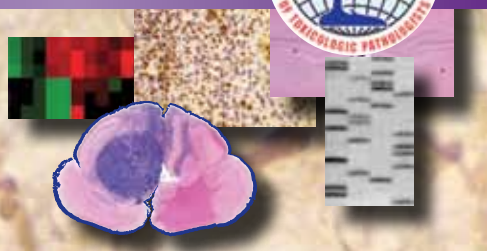
STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Symposium

Neuropathology

CHICAGO

June 20–24, 2010

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile



Scientific Co-Chairs:

Robert Sills, *DVM, PhD, DACVP, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences,* **Kathleen Funk,** *DVM, PhD, DACVP, EPL, Inc, and* **Brad Bolon,** *DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP, DABT, FIATP, GEMpath, Inc*

The Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) in conjunction with the International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathologists (IFSTP) will co-host a symposium on the fundamentals and recent innovations in the field of toxicologic neuropathology. The focus of this international meeting is to correlate advances in the morphologic evaluation and interpretation of neuropathology findings with functional, cellular and molecular knowledge in a series of plenary and poster sessions.

The major goal of the meeting is to foster an open framework in which to discuss the current state of knowledge of neuropathology evaluations in conventional toxicology and specialized neurotoxicology studies. Foundational sessions will include fundamentals of neurobiology, modern pathology methods for neural investigations, and an interactive panel discussion on "best practices" for brain sampling. The meeting will also provide a unique forum to review the remarkable progress in gene expression, biomarkers and the role of different glial cell populations in nervous system diseases. A "special problem" session will be dedicated to critical but less understood areas of neuropathology such as the blood-brain barrier, synaptic pathology, and exaggerated pharmacodynamics as a neurotoxic event.

The traditional NTP Satellite Symposium, entitled Pathology Potpourri, in advance of the symposium will also include presentations on proposed INHAND neuropathology nomenclature. Three continuing education sessions—on non-invasive imaging in general toxicity and drug development programs, hemostasis, and current regulatory and scientific opinion in developmental neurotoxicity testing—as well as a half-day Career Development seminar will be held on the Sunday before the general sessions begin.

Neuropathology is one of the fastest growing areas of toxicologic inquiry and regulatory concern, and this congress promises to be a fantastic opportunity to review and expand your knowledge of this important field. We hope you will join us for this exciting program in Chicago.

Monday

Keynote Address: ***Perspective on the Past and Future Trends in Neuropathology***
Peter Spencer, *PhD, FRCPath*

Session 1: ***Fundamentals in Neurobiology***
Co-Chairs: **William H. Jordan,** *DVM, PhD, DACVP and* **D. Gregory Hall,** *DVM, PhD, DACVP*

Session 2: ***Modern Pathology Methods for Neural Investigations***
Co-Chairs: **Lydia L. Andrews-Jones,** *DVM, PhD, DACVP and* **Sarah L Hale,** *DVM, DACVP*

Tuesday

Session 3: ***Gene Expression, Biomarkers, and Glial Cells in Nervous System Diseases***
Co-Chairs: **Robert C. Sills,** *DVM, PhD, DACVP and* **Robert H. Garman,** *DVM, DACVP*

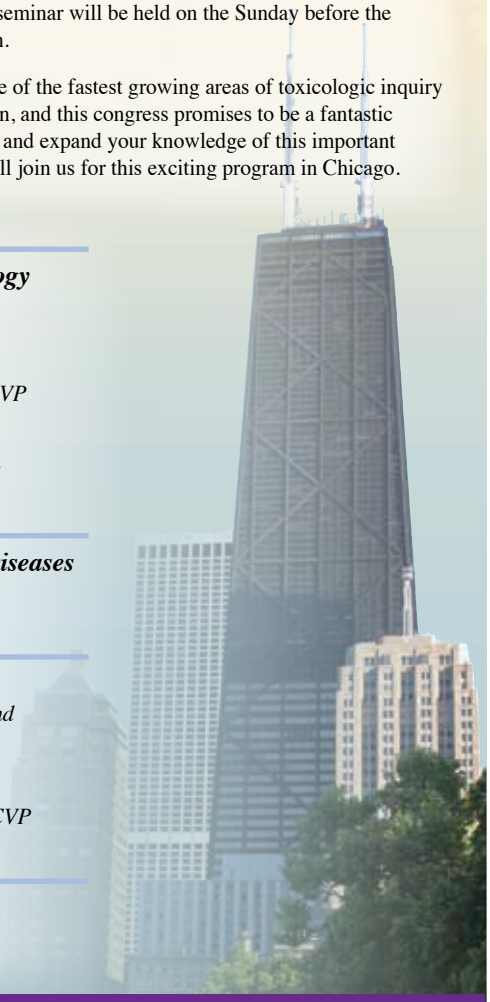
Wednesday

Session 4: ***Neurooncology***
Co-Chairs: **Alys E. Bradley,** *BSc, BVSc, MAnimSc, DipRCPath, FRIPH, MRCVS, FRCPath and* **Kevin Keane,** *DVM, PhD*

Session 5: ***Animal Models for Neural Disease***
Co-Chairs: **Thomas P. Brown,** *DVM, PhD, DACVP and* **Ingrid D. R. Pardo,** *DVM, MS, DACVP*

Thursday

Session 6: ***Special Neuropathology Problems***
Co-Chairs: **Georg J. Krinke,** *MVDr, CSc, FVH Path, Diplomat ECVP and* **Peter B. Little,** *DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP*



Visit **www.toxpath.org** *for session details and current meeting information.*

Abstract Submission Deadline: March 1, 2010
Register for the Meeting, Make Hotel Reservations, and Submit Abstracts at www.toxpath.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 7–11, 2010
Society of Toxicology 49th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.toxicology.org

April 24–28, 2010
ACVP Society Symposium in conjunction with the American Society for Investigative Pathology at Experimental Biology 2010
Anaheim, CA
www.asip.org/mtgs/eb10/acvp10.htm

April 26–30, 2010
ACT Continuing Education Course
Toxicology for Industrial and Regulatory Scientists
McLean, VA
www.actox.org

May 10–13, 2010
Pathology for Non-Pathologists
Co-sponsored by STP and ACT
McLean, VA
www.actox.org

June 20–24, 2010
STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Symposium
Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
Chicago, IL
www.toxpath.org/am2010/index.asp

November 7–10, 2010
ACT 31ST Annual Meeting
Baltimore Waterfront Marriott, Baltimore, MD
www.actox.org

October, 2011
12th International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology of the International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology (IATDMCT)
Stuttgart, Germany
www.klinikum-stuttgart.de
www.labor-wieland.de

FUTURE STP ANNUAL MEETINGS

June 20–24, 2010
STP/IFSTP 2010 Joint Symposium
Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
Chicago, IL

June 19–23, 2011
30th STP Annual Symposium
Hyatt Regency Denver
Denver, CO

June 24–28, 2012
31th STP Annual Symposium
Marriott Copley Place
Boston, MA

BEHIND THE SCENES

Maureen Kettering is STP's Meeting and Exhibits Manager

Maureen Kettering is STP's Meeting and Exhibits Manager. Although she just started in August of 2009, she has already met with the STP Executive Committee (EC) and is quite busy preparing for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Chicago. As a meeting planner Maureen works closely with the headquarters hotel to coordinate reservations, meeting rooms, audio visual support, food and beverage service, entertainment and tours for the upcoming meeting. She also prospects new exhibitors for the hall and builds relationships with repeat exhibitors.

During the year Maureen works with Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVBs) in cities selected by the EC as possible hosts for future annual meetings. She gathers proposal information and once the EC has selected a city she performs a site visit to ensure that the hotel selected will be a good fit for STP. She then works with the hotel on contract negotiations to secure future annual meeting sites and acts as a liaison between STP and the hotel while planning each year's Annual Meeting.

Maureen graduated from Virginia Tech University (Blacksburg, VA) in May 2004 with a B.S. in Hospitality and Tourism Management. After college she worked at the Hyatt Arlington outside of Washington D.C. for a year before continuing her career at the Hyatt Regency Reston as a Sales and Convention Services manager for over four years. She worked with one of AIM's (Association Innovation Management, Inc.) clients for a brief time before joining the AIM staff then started working for them in August 2009. She spends about a third of her time working for STP and the remaining time working for other AIM clients.

Maureen looks forward to meeting everyone in June for a successful meeting in Chicago!