THE SCOPE
Vol. 27, No. 1, Winter 2009

REGISTER TODAY TO ATTEND THE 28TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The 2009 STP Symposium, chaired by **Jerrold M. Ward**, DVM, PhD, DACVP and **Kathleen A. Funk**, DVM, PhD, DACVP, will cover the broad topic of "Cancer" in animals and humans. Cancer is a major cause of death in humans throughout the world. Cancer involves all organ systems and has many etiologies including chemicals, viruses, and irradiation but also has many important modifying factors such as genetics and diet. Cancer is the endpoint of a multistage process, which begins as focal hyperplastic lesions and progresses, often through benign to malignant neoplasia. Toxicologic pathologists are often involved in studies involving tumors as an endpoint, including basic cancer research, studies with genetically engineered mice, and toxicology and carcinogenicity assays for safety assessment of drugs and chemicals. This symposium will cover various aspects of cancer: human cancer, cancer biology, mechanisms of carcinogenesis, regulation of carcinogens, use of genetically engineered mice for carcinogenesis bioassays,

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ABSTRACT AND STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD DEADLINES EXTENDED TO APRIL 1
Visit: www.toxpath.org

Election Results...

Congratulations to Wanda Hascheck-Hock, Susan Elmore, and Kevin McDorman who were elected to the STP Executive Committee for terms beginning after the June Annual Meeting.

Wanda Hascheck-Hock
President-elect

Susan Elmore
Councilor

Kevin McDorman
Councilor

INSIDE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ricardo Ochoa

Colleagues: It's the New Year, a time to look forward to new beginnings and (at least in my case) some very cold weather. In my last newsletter article I spoke to you about the overall global and U.S. economic challenges, and what impact they may have on our membership and organization. Since then, we have a new administration in Washington, with plans to do something about the economic issues, and Congress is showing serious intent that it will spend real money to help the economy recover from its ills. We will see how effective the measures are, but there is real hope in the country that a new direction will help. So far in early January, and before the new administration is underway, there are only signs of pragmatic decision-making and general hopeful support for the proposals that have been unveiled. Time will tell the reality of the delivery. However, real hope in the country and the world does have a positive impact on how things turn out.

Given the current economic realities, STP has carefully weighed how to achieve a balanced budget while still enhancing services to members and engaging in initiatives that will accomplish Society goals. To this end, we have made some decisions to reduce spending for the coming year. The annual meeting is the biggest expense item for the Society each year. By eliminating the Sunday welcome reception in Washington, DC—one of two STP-sponsored receptions—we can significantly reduce our food and beverage costs. The thousands of dollars saved by this decision will be reallocated to other activities designed to more directly impact the careers rather than the waistlines of our members.

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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome! NEW MEMBERS

Muthafar Al-Haddawi .....Charles River Laboratories/ Montreal
Ingrid Bergin.....Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine
Patricia Boley.....UW-Madison
Scott Brodie.....Integrated Laboratory Systems
Yanchun Du.....National Chendu Center for Safety Evaluation of Drugs
Anna-Lena Frisk.....Bayer Schering Pharma
Michael Irwin.....Roche Palo Alto
Anoop Kavirayani.....The Jackson Laboratory
Christopher Koivisto .....North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine
Lisa LaFranco Scheuch.....Merck
Julia Lucas.....Vet Path Services
Srinivasa Raju Mantena ....University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Murali Nadella.....Covance Laboratories, Inc
Olumayokun Olajide .....PPD Global Limited
David Rehagen.....MPI Research
Gerelyn Sam.....Covance Laboratories, Inc.
Marshall Scicchitano.....GlaxoSmithKline
Robert Sigler.....Veterinary Path and IND Services
Ian Taylor.....Huntingdon Life Sciences
Yvonne Van Gessel.....USAMC-AFRIMS
Jennifer Yearley.....Bristol-Myers Squibb
Lin Zhi.....National Center for Safety Evaluation of Drugs(NCSED)

SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGIC PATHOLOGY STUDENT SPEAKER AWARD 2009

The Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) is pleased to announce the continuation of an award to encourage students to pursue careers in the field of Toxicologic Pathology. The award recipient will receive free registration plus $1,000 to be used for lodging and travel to the 2010 STP Annual Meeting, which will take place June 19–24, 2010 in Chicago, IL.

The award will be given to the resident or graduate student whose oral platform presentation is judged best among five finalists in a special session at the annual joint meetings of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) and the American College of Veterinary Pathology (ACVP) to be held December 5–8, 2009 at the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey, CA. The finalists will be selected by the judges from abstracts submitted to the ACVP/ASVCP meeting. Abstracts may be submitted at **www.acvp.org** from May 1–June 1, 2009.

To be eligible to compete for this award, students must have obtained a degree in veterinary medicine and be enrolled in a residency or graduate program in toxicologic pathology/general pathology/clinical pathology or a related discipline. The oral presentation must describe original work of the competitor involving clinical or experimental research that relates to toxicologic pathology. The presentation content may include *in vitro* or *in vivo* studies. The award selection will be determined by an independent panel of judges and will be based on the scientific content of the presentation, composition of the abstract, clarity of presentation, and the presenter's ability to answer questions. Trainees in clinical and/or morphologic pathology are encouraged to apply for the award.

The recipient of the Fourth STP Student Speaker Award will be announced at the ACVP Business Meeting.

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President's Report

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Nevertheless, the Executive Committee (EC) of the STP realizes that it is important to give our members every opportunity to network and to contact colleagues who they may not have seen for a year, so STP will provide refreshments at the opening of the exhibits on Sunday, the first day of registration as well as during the customary President's reception on Wednesday. We will continue to seek an organization willing and able to support the welcome reception, and hopefully one of our sponsors will be able to do so in the future. I am confident that the membership will understand our need to conserve resources for other priorities at this time.

A proposed new initiative, the ToxPath Wiki, will not be funded this year due to similar budget concerns. The EC supported the proposed initiative in principle and encouraged its main advocate, **Kevin Keane**, and the Wiki Task Force to produce feasibility data. In the end, the cost of this endeavor would not be justifiable in the present environment. Kevin and the team continue to look for revenue-neutral alternatives.

Our efforts to provide leadership and support for sister organizations in the international arena have continued with STP participation in the production of a draft manuscript describing a possible mechanism for Global Recognition of Qualified Toxicologic Pathologists. This document is the product of many years of discussion among multiple organizations, and as such, constitutes a position on supporting the recognition of colleagues who have demonstrated experience as toxicologic pathologists regardless of formal certifying examination. Different countries have different ways of training their pathologists. This leads to the presence in our profession of many well-trained and competent colleagues who lack the exam-based certifications of the ACVP, ECVP, JCVP, DESV or MRCPath, to name only a few. The creation of criteria for proficiency therefore becomes important and useful to regulators and employers who need to be able to judge the competency of individuals producing data for registration of products worldwide.

This document is extremely important for continuing the good relationships between STP and the other national and regional societies of toxicologic pathology. However, the EC does not know the collective will of the membership regarding this topic. Accordingly, discussion of the document and the advisability of this potential mechanism for global recognition will be the subject of the Town Hall meeting at this year's annual STP meeting in Washington, D.C. The Town Hall forum will be followed by vote of the membership on this initiative. I encourage all my STP colleagues to review this document, so that we will have a record on the will of our membership.

In the near future the EC will circulate another short survey requesting members' opinions on the possibility of holding regular joint meetings with a sister organization on a regular basis. There is some interest in joining forces with the ACVP and/or ACT, SOT, or another similar organization, so that the scientific meeting will have a larger audience and provide exposure to allied disciplines. We want the membership to weigh the pros and cons of such a move, and give us your direction regarding the desirability of this approach. The EC will maintain a watchful eye in these discussions to make sure that the STP does not suffer a major loss in revenue in the process.

The EC is also engaged in its regular review of the STP strategic plan. We have decided *a priori* that there are no major changes in the landscape which merit a total overhaul of the plan, but we need to review it so that it stays current. We will be reaching out to STP committees and the membership to receive your input. The EC is open to your suggestions for initiatives that would position STP to better deal with the challenges ahead and take advantage of our opportunities.

Some of our members have stepped up to positions of leadership as Committee Co-Chairs, and will move into committee chair positions in June. **LuAnn McKinney** is the new Continuing Education Committee Co-Chair with **Brian Berridge**; **Michael Goedken** is Co-Chair of the Membership committee with **Sandy Eldridge**; and **Suzanne Botts** is Co-Chair for Career Outreach with **Eric Schultze**.

The SRPC, as always will be monitoring the regulatory environment and will address both timely and timeless issues with working groups that produce best practices papers, editorials, position papers, etc. These working groups typically involve many members and are substantial efforts. If you are asked to help, or are passionate about an important topic area that you think the SRPC should address, please approach any member of the committee, but especially Co-Chairs **Rani Sellers** or **Ramon Kemp**.

The recently released special issue of *Toxicologic Pathology* on the Reproductive System of the Female Macaque, championed by **Mark Cline**, is a beautifully illustrated and excellent contribution to our profession and should serve as a classic reference for years to come and attract multiple citations to the journal. Kudos to Mark, the Guest Editor **Lynda Lanning**, and to **John Foster,** Editor-in-Chief, for shepherding this worthy contribution through the publication process.

In addition, thanks to our past and present efforts, the STP continues to increase its membership, and we continue to be very optimistic about the future. The leadership of the STP is growing through committees and individual volunteer efforts, and there is a large group of individuals who are ready to take the reins of the Society as it moves into the future. Our present challenges are just temporary. With wise management and astute use of our capital and human resources, and a lot of work from all of us, the future is bright. Please stay engaged, and keep sending us your ideas to improve the Society.

Ricardo Ochoa

U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INVITED TO ATTEND TUESDAY SESSIONS

(Free Session, Advance Registration Required by June 1)

The scientific sessions on Tuesday, June 23, have been designed in response to requests from the Federal regulatory community. "Alternative Mouse Models for Carcinogenicity Assessment" (Tuesday morning) and "Background Disease in Animal Models of Toxicity: Relevance and Interpretation in Risk Assessment" (Tuesday afternoon) will be open at no cost to U.S. government employees as well as those registered as a full meeting attendee.

28th Annual Symposium
Washington, DC
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
June 21–25, 2009

Register for the Meeting, Make Hotel Reservations, and Submit Abstracts at www.toxpath.org

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

Purpose: Student Travel Awards are available to Graduate Students for participation in the Annual Symposium of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology. Each of the ten students who are chosen will receive a $1,200 stipend to defray travel and lodging costs associated with attending the convention, complimentary meeting registration and 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 Washington, DC 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 **April 1, 2009** (This is the extended deadline.) 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 STP Web site **www.toxpath.org**.
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. Include a statement of career goals in Toxicologic pathology.
4. Submit an abstract on-line (limited to 250 words) describing your original work involving clinical or experimental research that relates to experimental or toxicologic pathology.

Submit Abstracts by the April 1, 2009 extended deadline, on-line at **www.toxpath.org**.

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Young Investigator Awards (1st, $500; 2nd $250; 3rd, $100) are also presented at the STP meeting for the top three student poster abstracts. When you submit an abstract on-line, please check the appropriate box to indicate your interest in applying for the Young Investigator Award. Applicants will receive instructions about the selection process and poster judging times by e-mail in April.

STUDENT OUTING

You are cordially invited to the Society of Toxicologic Pathology, Student/Trainee Outing at the National Zoo on Tuesday afternoon, June 23, 2009. This is a chance to meet fellow students and interact with scientists representing all facets of the Society as you discuss your future and the various career paths available to you. The STP will be designating members to act as mentors for each student who attends, so this will be a great opportunity for one-on-one discussions, as well as for networking with your STP colleagues. Lunch will be provided. This function has been the highlight of past meeting for many students. Details will be e-mailed to student registrants as they are finalized. Registration by May 20th will help to ensure early contact with your mentor(s), however we will try to accommodate all students/trainees interested in attending.

CALL FOR 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, 2009. 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.

STP FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Robert Sills**, **Brad Bolon**, and **Kathleen Funk** will serve as Scientific Co-Chairs for the 2010 Annual Symposium. The theme of the meeting will be Toxicologic Pathology of the Nervous System. The meeting will be held June 19–20, 2010 at the Downtown Marriott Magnificent Mile Hotel in Chicago. IL.
- The theme of the 2011 Annual Meeting will be Toxicologic Pathology of the Immune System. The meeting will be held June 19–23, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Denver, CO.

Register Today to Attend the 28th Annual Symposium in Washington, D.C.

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and tumor pathology. Continuing education courses on cancer drug development and other subjects with the Saturday NTP session, emphasizing tumor pathology, rounds out the Symposium on Cancer.

The scientific sessions on Tuesday, June 23, have been designed in response to requests from the Federal regulatory community. "Alternative Mouse Models for Carcinogenicity Assessment" (Tuesday morning) and "Background Disease in Animal Models of Toxicity: Relevance and Interpretation in Risk Assessment" (Tuesday afternoon) will be open at no cost to U.S. government employees as well as those registered as full meeting attendees.

For more information on these sessions please go to **www.toxpath.org** to view the preliminary program.

Washington, D.C. is located on the north bank of the Potomac River and is bordered by Virginia and Maryland. As the seat of the U.S. government, it is the home of the President, congress, and ambassadors from nearly every country in the world. It is an intriguing and beautiful city with abundant open spaces and parks and an absence of high rises in the vicinity of the National Mall due to its building height restrictions. Be sure to plan time before or after the meeting to experience the many treasures Washington, D.C. has to offer. Most of the sites below are easily accessible *via* the Metrorail. The Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan stop is right outside the Wardman Park Hotel on Connecticut Avenue (escalator, elevator, and stair entrances). Most of the sites below are easily accessible *via* Metrorail.

The National Zoo (no fee), which is home to 400 species, is less than a half mile from the hotel. Its best known residents are the giant pandas, Tian Tian, Mei Xiang, and their cub, Tai Shan.

The Smithsonian Institution (no fee) (**www.si.edu**), includes The Air and Space Museum, National Gallery of Art, National Portrait Gallery, Natural History, American History, American Indian Museum, and African Art Museum and 12 other museums. Visit **www.si.edu** for more details. Free highlight tours are offered at most Smithsonian museums.

The International Spy Museum (fee) is the only public museum in the United States solely dedicated to the craft, history, and contemporary role of espionage. Artifacts of international espionage—from a 1777 letter by George Washington authorizing a New York spy network, to a 1980s coat with a camera concealed in a button—bring to life the people and techniques behind some of the most influential espionage actions in world history.

Narrated tours are an ideal way to learn about the history and architecture and visit the many monuments and memorials in the city. Most tours offer the option to visit sites for as long as you like, then board another tour bus to the next site. Links to tour operators are posted on the STP Web site and information is also available at the concierge desk at the Marriott Wardman Park.

Another popular way to see Washington, D.C. is by boat. Several cruise operators offer afternoon and evening tours on the Potomac River. These are also posted on the Web site.

Popular sites in nearby Virginia are Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, and a number of wineries that are located a 60- to 90-minute drive from the city.

STP has reserved a limited block of discounted rooms at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. It is important to make your reservations as soon as possible to ensure availability. The Marriott Wardman Park is situated on sixteen wooded acres in the Woodley Park area of Washington, D.C. The Marriott is within walking distance of the National Zoo and also other popular landmarks. Numerous dining options are within two blocks of the hotel, including several within the recently renovated hotel. High speed Internet access is available for $9.95 per day, which can be accessed in the lobby and guest rooms. An Internet Café will also be provided in the Exhibit Hall during exhibit hours.

SESSION PRESENTED IN SPANISH

Monday, June 22, 12:15 PM–1:15 PM

Estrategias en la Evaluacion Pre-clinica de Farmaceuticos

Roberto Guzman , DVM, PhD DACVP,
Division de Patologia, Pfizer, Inc., Groton, CT

Abstracto: Se presentara un resumen de el proceso de evaluacion de compuestos experimentales en la etapa pre-clinica. Varios ejemplos seran discutidos donde se describiran resultados de estudios y las tecnicas de laboratorio utilizadas para entender mecanismos de efectos toxicologicos y su relevancia en humanos.

Hallazgos hematológicos morfológicos en ratones CD-1 y ratas F344 durante dos años de vida

Armando Irizarry, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Consejero de investigación en Patología y Toxicología, División de Toxicología y Disposición de Drogas, Eli Lilly y Compañía, Indianpolis, IN

Abstracto: Se presentaran hallazgos hematológicos morfológicos occurridos en ratones y ratas durante dos años de vida. Estos animales solo recibieron comida y agua sin recibir xenobióticos. Se evaluaron frotis de sangre sin evaluar contajes de celulas.

FREE SESSIONS FOR ATTENDEES

NTP Satellite Symposium

Saturday, June 20, 2009, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM
(Free Event; registration required)

Tumor Pathology and INHAND Nomenclature

Chair: Susan A. Elmore, MS, DVM, DACVP, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, NC

The objectives of this symposium are to provide continuing education on interpreting pathology slides, to generate lively and productive conversation, and to have a good time! The theme for the symposium this year is tumor pathology, corresponding with the STP meeting theme of cancer. We will also include some examples and discussion of INHAND nomenclature as it pertains to neoplastic lesions. During each talk, the speakers will project a series of lesion images on one screen with a choice of diagnoses/answers on a separate screen. Keypads (100) will be distributed at the door on a first come/first serve basis. The members of the audience with wireless keypads will then vote anonymously and the voting results will be displayed on the screen. After each voting session, time is allowed for discussion. The images presented for voting and discussion may represent lesions that are rare and interesting, present a diagnostic challenge, are controversial or have nomenclature dilemmas.

Career Development Premeeting Workshop

Sunday, June 21, 2009, 8:00 AM–12:00 NOON
(Free Event; registration required)

Toxicologic Pathology in a Multicultural World

Facilitators: A. Eric Schultze, Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, IN, and Brian R. Berridge, DVM, PhD, DACVP, GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, NC

8:00 AM–8:10 AM ***Introduction and Agenda***
A. Eric Schultze, Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, IN, and Brian R. Berridge, DVM, PhD, DACVP, GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, NC

8:10 AM–9:50 AM ***China***
Vincent P. Meador, DVM, PhD, DAVCP, Amgen, Inc., Seattle, WA, and Helen Han Hsu, DVM, PhD, DAVCP, J&J, Raritan, NJ

9:50 AM–10:20 AM ***Break***

10:20 AM–12:00 NOON ***India***
Kevin Donnelly, DVM, PhD, Covance, Greenfield, IN, and V.J. Reddy, Eli Lilly & Co, Indianapolis, IN

The workshop, organized by the Career Outreach and Continuing Education Committees, will provide interactive sessions covering the challenges of doing business and communicating effectively in two geographical areas of developing business growth; China and India. Presenters include natives of these regions and non-natives with experience interacting in a professional capacity within these cultures. Cultural differences and business styles will be discussed. Differences in the training of professional colleagues, difficulties in scientific translation of reports and messages, and baseline communication skills will be reported. Workshop presenters will offer ways to enhance the interactions of pathologists of different cultures and describe how to prepare pathologists for effective communication in a global world. This interactive workshop will feature speaker and participant discussions of challenging scenarios in Toxicologic Pathology and real life business case examples will be emphasized. ***The Program is sponsored by an educational donation provided by Amgen.***

Bone Marrow Examination in Non-Clinical Toxicology Studies

Sunday, June 21, 12:30 PM–1:30 PM
(Free Lunchtime Session)

The STP Bone Marrow Working group of the Scientific and Regulatory Policy Committee (SRPC) will present its recommendations on when and how to do bone marrow examination in non-clinical toxicology studies.

Career Development Lunchtime Series

Monday, June 22, 12:30 PM–1:30 PM
(Free, registration required)

Career Paths Taken Are Not Always Straight: A Panel Discussion

Please join us for an informational lunchtime session to hear the experiences of several STP members who have taken different career paths. Audience participation is essential! Lunches will be provided to the first 35 students who register. Presentations and discussions will be of interest to attendees at all career levels.

Town Hall Meeting

The Town Hall meeting will be held from 5:30 PM–6:30 PM Monday, June 22. The topic for this year's facilitated discussion will be "International Recognition of Qualified Toxicologic Pathologists." This forum will consider a draft proposal for one such system, which has been prepared by the International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathology (IFSTP) based on negotiations among various toxicologic pathology societies over the last three years.

Microscope and Digital Pathology Viewing Room

A Microscope and Digital Pathology Viewing Room will be available to attendees in the Exhibit Hall during regular exhibit hours in Washington, D.C.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Fundraising Committee (**Gary Boorman**, Chair; **Peter Mann**, Co-Chair; **Dan Morton**; **Jerry Long**; **Stu Levin**; **Calvert Louden**; **Curtis Colleton**; **Noel Dybdal**, **Mark Mense**, **Charlotte Keenan**) is in the process of contacting potential Corporate Sponsors for 2009. It is through the support of STP sponsors that the Society is able to fund Society programs, educational opportunities for our members, students, and others in the field of toxicologic pathology and provide meaningful interactions with national and international regulatory bodies.

The Committee requests the support of all members to help solicit funds for the Society. A list of sponsorship recognition levels and benefits is available at **www.toxpath.org/sponsor.asp**. A list of event sponsorship opportunities for companies is also available. If you have questions or would like a sponsorship request package sent to you or your organization, please contact **Sue Pitsch** at (703) 438-7508 or **stp@toxpath.org**.

THE ACVP/STP COALITION RESPONDS TO THE CONTINUED SHORTAGE OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS

By Gary Cockerell (Director, ACVP/STP Coalition), Donald Meuten (President, ACVP), Ricardo Ochoa (President, STP)

Recently released results of a supply and demand survey of veterinary pathologists conducted in 2007 by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP), the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) and the Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) (**www.toxpath.org/acvp_workforce.asp**) confirm the results of an similar survey conducted in 2002 (**www.acvp.org/news/2002SupplyDemand/2002Supply.pdf**)—there is a continued shortage of veterinary pathologists to fill a growing number of critical positions in academia, industry, and government. Comparison of the results of the two surveys, however, indicates that considerable progress has been made in the last five years, particularly on the supply (training) side. Specifically, it has become easier to recruit candidates for post-DVM pathology training, the quality of the candidate pool has improved, and there are an increased number of positions and trainees in veterinary anatomic pathology and clinical pathology training programs.

In response to the workforce shortage originally documented in the 2002 survey, the ACVP/STP Coalition for Veterinary Pathology Fellows was established to provide a unified mechanism to solicit and allocate funds to train additional much needed veterinary pathologists. After approximately four years of operations, this unique educational initiative has established partnerships between academia and the biopharmaceutical industry to create 22 new training positions, including 15 anatomic pathology residencies, 3 clinical pathology residencies, and 4 post-residency PhD pathology research positions. These positions were funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb, Charles River Laboratories, Eli Lilly, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Pfizer, sanofi-aventis, Schering-Plough, and Wyeth. Importantly, sponsors who funded the initial 3 year training positions have since renewed funding for another set of positions.

"The visionary participation of these world-class biopharmaceutical companies and contract research organizations, and their commitment to the training of future veterinary pathologists attests to their recognition that data submitted by these companies to regulatory agencies must always be of the highest quality," noted **Dr. Ricardo Ochoa**, President of the STP. "By assuring the supply of well trained veterinary pathologists, some of whom will likely become employed in private industry, these organizations are planning for the continued accuracy of decisions on the safety and efficacy of new chemical entities in the future."

Sponsors provide support for stipend, tuition and fees, benefits, travel and educational supplies for three years. In addition to support for the training positions themselves, other sponsors have supplied unrestricted contributions for important enabling activities of the Coalition. Companies that have offered this form of support include Allergan, Aperio, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Burroughs-Wellcome Fund, Elsevier, Experimental Pathology Laboratories, GEMpath, Histo-Research Scientific Labs, Integrated Lab Systems, Millennium-Takeda, The Leyden Group, and Wyeth. Taken together, $5.2M in commitments has been raised over the past 4 years. At the conclusion of their training, Fellows have no pay-back obligation or commitment to sponsors other than to complete the ACVP certification examination and pursue a career in veterinary pathology.

The new positions were awarded on a competitive application basis to 14 different North American training institutions including Colorado State University, Iowa State University, The Ohio State University, Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, Purdue University, Texas A&M University, University of California-Davis, University of Georgia, University of Guelph, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, and Washington State University.

The Coalition has also established mechanisms to ensure active interchange between Fellows, their training institutions, and sponsoring companies. Fellows remain at their home university during the period of training, but perform externships at their sponsor's site to enhance their academic training and to experience the role of contemporary veterinary pathologists in the modern biopharmaceutical environment. A pathologist from each sponsoring company is appointed as a mentor, and the respective academic institutions provide special faculty appointments for these mentors, which allow them to more fully participate in the Fellows' training program and to interact with other trainees. A Coalition Scientific Conference, held in association with either the ACVP or the STP annual meetings, provides a forum for Fellows to present results of their training and receive feedback from their peers and mentors, and also for members of academia and industry to present issues of mutual interest.

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SCIENTIFIC AND REGULATORY POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE (SRPC)

By Rani Sellers, Chair SRPC; Ramon Kemp, Co-Chair SRPC

The SRPC is a committee comprised of pathologists from U.S. and Europe in both Industry and Academics. Our goal is to identify common or emerging toxicologic pathology issues within the drug, chemical, and device industry world-wide and to take a leadership role in addressing those issues in a scientifically rational way in order to help better promote appropriate industry practices and regulatory policy. If you have any concerns or topics you would like addressed by the SRPC, please feel free to contact any one of us directly or *via* the STP main office.

The SRPC had a busy year in 2008, with multiple working groups. Several of these groups are completing documents for publication in *Toxicologic Pathology*. One major effort which is concluding with the culmination of a best practices document is on Historical Control Data (**Charlotte Keenan**). This subject served as the topic of the 2008 Town Hall Meeting in San Francisco. Ongoing working groups are in Clinical Pathology in Carcinogenicity Studies (**Jamie Young**), Stress Effects In Toxicity Studies (**Nancy Everds**), Bone Marrow Evaluation (shared initiative with the ASVCP; **Bill Reagan**), and Hepatic Enzyme Induction in Toxicology Studies (**Suzanne Botts**, **Daniela Ennulat**, **Bob Maronpot**, and **Vince Meador**). Newly formed working groups include the Lessons Learned from the 6-Month Carcinogenicity Alternative Mouse Models (**Lynda Lanning**) and an exploratory group for Nonclinical Species Selection and Nonclinical Animal Model (**Noel Dybdal**).

Other roles of the SRPC include responding to Draft Guidance Documents specifically related to toxicologic pathology issues and to issues that may arise within Industry. For example, a recent laboratory inspection report from the FDA (commonly called a Form 483) issued to a major CRO generated some concern. The laboratory's response to the Form 483 (which is available by FOIA processes from the U.S. government) was the document available to the SRPC. The Form 483 brought forth questions regarding the appropriate chronological assembly of a toxicology report. In this Form 483, the inspectors commented that the contributor reports were signed near or at the time of the finalized toxicology report. In addition, it was noted that the peer review pathologist concurred with the findings of the study pathologist prior to the availability of the signed and dated pathologist report (e.g. the sequence of finalization appeared to be inappropriate). Due to concerns expressed by STP members, a subgroup of the SRPC evaluated the Form 483 response. On careful reading of all comments in this response, the SRPC subgroup concluded that the FDA inspectors' concerns around pathology procedures were not unreasonable and were generally consistent with similar concerns raised in other aspects of the study. Study and peer review pathologists are encouraged to work together to ensure that the peer review process allows for the proper review and concurrence by the peer review pathologist according to the study protocol and facility SOPs. The SRPC will continue to monitor the regulatory environment for issues that may concern the membership and would appreciate being informed of any similar Form 483 issues pertaining to pathology. For such issues, you may contact **Jim Fikes**, **Ramon Kemp**, **Ken Schafer**, **Brian Short**, **John Vahle**, **Page Bouchard**, or **Rani Sellers**.

The ACVP/STP Coalition Responds to the Continued Shortage of Veterinary Pathologists

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Additional information is available on the Coalition Web site **www.vetpathcoalition.org/index.cfm**, including all presentations from the 2008 Coalition Scientific Conference.

"From the ACVP perspective, this is one of those win-win programs in which we are fortunate to participate," commented **Dr. Donald Meuten**, President of the ACVP. "These fellowships provide opportunities for pathologists in training to explore multiple career options before they commit to a specific job or career path. The more carefully trainees look at opportunities, the more likely they will be to choose the one that best matches their professional and personal goals. The program is so successful among current Fellows that many candidates for residencies now specify they would like to be considered for a Coalition position. For employers this means job satisfaction and stable employment. Our most valuable resource at universities, industry, or any other sector is our personnel. I do not believe there is a comparable program associated with any of the other specialty colleges in the AVMA. This program makes the ACVP unique, stronger, and sets an example for the other specialty colleges to follow."

Dr. Gary Cockerell, Director of the Coalition, attributes its initial success to (1) a well-documented need for veterinary pathologists, (2) the willingness of academia and industry to partner for the betterment of the discipline, (3) the endorsement of the ACVP and STP, two of the foremost pathology organizations in the world, (4) training focused on core disciplines of veterinary pathology, and (5) mutual benefits for participating trainees, their training institutions and sponsoring organizations. There remains an on-going shortage of veterinary pathologists, largely due to the retirement of a large segment of the current workforce, and employers continue to indicate not enough pathologists are being trained. However, it is clear that in the absence of more traditional government-funded programs, private industry is willing to channel financial resources to the ACVP/STP Coalition for Veterinary Pathology Fellows to address this national need.

JOANN C. L. SCHUH CUSTOMIZES CAREER, BICYCLES, LIFE, BUT NOT BALLOONS

By James W. Crissman

Joann C. L. Schuh

Q. Tell us about your pathology work these days.

A. For the last eight and a half years I have been consulting in biomedical research and development. I have always felt that veterinary pathologists play a pivotal role in biomedical studies so I have not categorized myself strictly as a pathologist. Although I still read slides for specialized studies (immunopathology or immunologically-reactive compounds, animal models of disease, genetically engineered mice, and peer reviews), the majority of my work relates to helping companies solve problems with discovery and preclinical studies, toxicology and pathology overviews, and to write and review regulatory documents.

Q. How did your career evolve to this? Is it perfect?

A. Evolve sounds a bit too smooth. I zigzagged to this point through opportunity and lack thereof. I originally intended to be an academic pathologist but the rigidity of academia disillusioned me, so when Warner-Lambert Parke-Davis offered me a position in Mississauga, Ontario, I decided to give pharmaceutical pathology a chance. That job taught me that I was really not cut out for big corporations and that I still craved being in the laboratory. This led to taking a research position with Immunex in Seattle. Immunex became a success and I found myself facing Corporate America once again, so I floated the boat back home and now leave the island only if you give me reasonable cause.

I now go to work when and where I want, I can go to all the international conferences that I want to, and I do not have endless meetings each week—what's not to love? The balance is that if you do not work you do not get paid, the cost of going to conferences comes out of your income, and face-to-face meetings are replaced by conference calls. I still like to teach but satisfy that urge by volunteering to go into schools and mentor students in research and veterinary medicine through the Pacific Northwest Association for Biomedical Research.

Q. Tell us about your specialty area(s) within pathology.

A. Anything related to pathology will interest me, but immunopathology/immunotoxicology, ophthalmic pathology, animal models of human disease, and genetically engineered animals will really get my attention. Overall, I am more interested in non-GLP than GLP studies. I still do some GLP studies but my pathology colleagues are better at GLP studies than I, so I readily refer studies to others. As a consultant, my greatest "hook" is my experience and interest in tissues, diseases, and treatments related to the immune system and inflammatory diseases.

Q. I've always been impressed by your encyclopedic knowledge of pathology, among the many things you know. What is your continuing education discipline? What was the last good book you read?

A. Thanks. I just like to read, pretty much anything and everything. The house, including my office, has piles of books. One of the first things I have always done when I move is to acquire a local library card, and fortunately the Kitsap Regional Library has a great library system that keeps me in books and magazines. I have always found it easy to remember things that really interest me, so my brain case is crammed with a lot of pathology trivia—I just wish that it was so easy to remember where I parked the car. My clients also often have unusual pathology issues or problems related to molecular mechanisms of disease, so I often find myself digging into the current literature which forces me to keep up to date. I also do not own a TV, so I use the time that would otherwise be spent in front of TV to read, including pathology and toxicologic pathology journals. As a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and a licensed veterinarian in WA, there is also an underlying need to make sure that I rack up enough CE points each year to meet these certification obligations.

Good books that I have read: Nonfiction: *Weather of the Pacific Northwest* by Cliff Mass (University of Washington Press, 2008). It does not matter where we live, weather is a big factor in our lives and conversation. This is a good review of local weather phenomena such as "thundersnow", floods and the W3 (warm, wet and windy) of the pineapple express. Fiction: *The Brief History of the Dead* by Kevin Brockmeier (Pantheon, 2006). I do not normally read science fiction but I found this to be a compelling read that weaves a viral pandemic, the Antarctic, and the end of the world into the afterlife and the importance of memory to humanity.

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Q. What or who "sparked" your interest in pathology?

A. It was an epiphany involving a bull and two pathologists at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon (my Alma Mater, twice). After my first year I got a job in the pathology department working on wildlife disease research with Gary Wobeser in the Department of Pathology. Even though I was only a first year student, I was told that for fun and games I could volunteer for weekend duty in the necropsy room, so I did. This was the mid-1970s and there were not a lot of women in veterinary medicine. One weekend I was on duty with Ruth Reuter who was head of the diagnostic laboratory and she always attempted to engage the weekend help instead of just using them to cut up the carcasses (many were large beef cattle). The two of us were standing on the hydraulic table chopping into the rib cage of a rather large bull when I realized that I really liked the idea of trying to find out why animals died (I also like to read mystery novels), the whole concept of studying disease, and that this was a specialty that really appealed to me. I briefly considered surgery as a specialty, as I like knives, but fortunately I realized that while I like taking things apart, I have trouble getting them back together again, so pathology won out.

Q. What is life like on Bainbridge Island?

A. Quiet during the day. At least half the people leave to work off-island each day so it is only the artists, writers, self-employed, or those with island jobs that are left behind. You have to take a ferry to get to Seattle but we have service except for about five hours in the dead of night. There is a bridge that connects us to the Olympic Peninsula so that you can drive around Puget Sound if the need arrives.

Q. Do you have family in the Northwest?

A. I grew up in Edmonton, Alberta (also know as the cold frozen north) and still have a lot of family there including my mother, brother, two nephews, and a herd of aunts, uncles, and cousins. My other two siblings live in British Columbia; my other brother (he's a twin of the other one) is in Kelowna, and my sister is in Nanaimo. Everyone lives close enough to me that they make a habit of coming to visit. Of all the places that I have lived, including Edmonton, Saskatoon, Oregon (that's in Wisconsin), Ithaca, Saskatoon, Mississauga, and Bainbridge Island, this is the place that I get the most people visiting and remarking how lucky I am to live here.

Q. Tell us about your hobbies and other interests. Did you replace your stolen custom made titanium bike?

A. Reading, gardening, biking, walking, and pan-Pacific art. No, I never replaced the titanium bike. After 9/11 it got too difficult and expensive to take a regular bicycle on airplanes, and I realized that any decent bicycle should never be locked up, as it is highly likely that it will get stolen anyway, especially in Seattle. On Bainbridge Island an unlocked bike has a good chance of still being there when you get back. My new theory is that multiple purpose-specific bicycles are better than a single fancy bike, and that I was going to have to carry 40 pounds of bicycle locks for security if I replaced the bike that was stolen. I own three bicycles and I have my eye on a custom Bike Friday as a travel bicycle. However, the current economy and that I am trying to finish off a house renovation and need to replace the roof this year holds me back from acquiring another bike, sort of, well maybe temporarily.

Q. Tell us something surprising about yourself. We promise not to tell anyone.

A. 1) I took and passed the licensing exam to be a stockbroker as I considered getting out of science and going into the business of science.

2) I have a phobia about blowing up balloons. I can never get them blown up enough to make good balloon animals and this is what kept me from pursuing a side career as a clown.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Terra Thomas

Terra Thomas is STP's Meeting and Exhibits Planner. In her role as Meeting Planner, Terra coordinates the food and beverage, meeting room set-up, and audio visual requests with the annual meeting hotel and also the audio visual vendor. In preparation for the June meeting in Washington, D.C., Terra communicates weekly with her contact at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel and has made two site visits.

Terra is also responsible for obtaining proposals for future meeting sites and negotiating the room rates and other contract details. She will soon be researching sites for the 2013 annual meeting.

In her role as Exhibits Planner she works with current and potential exhibiting companies and is the liaison between the decorator, who provides booths and signage, and STP exhibitors.

Terra attended Northern Virginia Community College and brings 10 years of experience with meeting planner and 8 years of exhibits to STP and most recently worked at Council of Chief State School Officers. Terra joined AIM in Reston, VA, in August 2008.

Terra looks forward to seeing everyone at the STP 2009 annual meeting in Washington, DC!

THE WRINKLED SECTION

The Reverend's Dane

By James W. Crissman

A lot of us northerners are getting a little touchy these days, cooped up as we are against the cold while we watch our life savings disappear like the driveway in yet another blizzard. There is an epidemic in these parts of galloping malignant cabin fever that comes with foul mood, headache, constipation, and a rash. Earlier this week I had to have the frame of my snow plow welded; it had bent and snapped in two places from moving the mountains of snow around here. Now the plow is fixed, but I can't use it because it's so cold the tractor won't start. So today the tractor's at the shop getting a block heater and I won't get it back in time for the storm that is blowing in another half a foot outside our window. Daily I hear of friends who have lost their jobs. It's at times like these that one must dip deep into the well of kindness for the civility that prevents one from turning to cannibalism, or from triggering a sudden taste for human flesh in those up with whom one is cooped.

Oddly, a common source of the murderous impulse is the truth. Truth, which in our current agitated and frozen state we might rather wield like a cudgel, just for the heat it might generate. So the word for the day is tact, that little dance we do around the blunt truth. And when I think of tact, I think of my vet school classmate and friend who gave our class the sort of object lesson that stays with one for a lifetime. The class was clinical neurology taught by one of my favorite professors, Jim Cunningham. Dr. Cunningham believed that we could learn empathy by hearing, first hand, the story of a client who had a beloved dog with epilepsy.

The client was a tall man, about six-five, and a preacher. He wore his black preacher suit and white collar as he stood in front of our class and told us about his dog named Rev, a large black Great Dane with a white spot on his throat. He told us that he and his wife had no children, so Rev held a special place in their lives. He said that Rev had his seizures about every two weeks, often on a Saturday night while he was busy writing his sermon for the next morning. The dog would flail and kick, knocking over lamps, urinating, defecating, and tearing apart their little apartment. It was awful. It was worse in the car; on a cross-country trip they had to work with a cow vet in Iowa who was clueless about canine idiopathic epilepsy. It was one sad episode after another. Over the few years they had with Rev they spent well over a thousand dollars in veterinary bills, a small fortune for a preacher in the 1970s. Tears streamed down the big man's face as he described the long-delayed but inevitable decision to euthanize Rev. Even the macho future food animal vets among us were getting a little choked up. All but one.

My friend's hand shot up. And here I should note that my friend had been in Special Forces in Vietnam just before vet school and saw the world more starkly than the rest of us. Everyone would recognize the grain of truth in his question, but we were mortified when he asked it: "At what point did you realize you were treating your neurosis instead of your dog?"

Ever since then I have understood that truth and honesty are highly overrated. Kindness is more important. Learn the answers to the trick questions: No, really, it was delicious, hardly burned at all. No, I don't think Angelina Jolie is cuter than you. I'd be happy to drive your mother to the fabric store this Saturday. OK, so maybe not that. But if you blow these answers, let your tact shrivel on some frigid claustrophobic inebriated night in the dead of January, somebody just may decide to put you out of their misery. And nobody will blame them.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 15–19, 2009
SOT 48th Annual Meeting
Baltimore, Maryland
www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/am2009/index.asp

March 23–27, 2009
35th Annual Gross Morbid Pathology of Domestic Animals
Doubletree Hotel Bethesda
Bethesda, MD
www.cldavis.org/courses/upcoming.html

June 1–5, 2009
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
18th Annual Descriptive Veterinary Pathology
Wyndham, Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel
Virginia Beach, Virginia
www.askafip.org

June 20, 2009
NTP Symposium
Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, D.C.
www.toxpath.org/am2009/index.asp

June 21–25, 2009
STP 28th Annual Meeting
Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, D.C.
www.toxpath.org/am2009/index.asp

July 21–25, 2009
8th Toxicology & Pathology in Drug Discovery & Development Short Course
Limited enrollment: To be placed on the waiting list and receive conference mailings, send a message to: E-mail: ope@cvm.uiuc.edu
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • Champaign-Urbana, IL
www.cvm.uiuc.edu/ope/itp

November, 1–4, 2009
American College of Toxicology
30th Annual Meeting
Wyndham Palm Springs
Palm Springs, CA.
For more information contact: 301-634-7840
www.actox.org.

December 5–9, 2009
ACVP 2009
Monterey Conference Center and the Monterey Marriott Hotel
Monterey, CA
www.acvp.org

FUTURE STP ANNUAL MEETINGS

June 19–24, 2010
29th STP Annual 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