THE SCOPE

Vol. 26, No. 1, Winter 2008

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 2008 STP ANNUAL MEETING!

Please join us in San Francisco for a stimulating program on the future of toxicologic pathology.

"Systems Pathology," is the theme of the 27th STP Annual Symposium, which will take place in San Francisco, California at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco from June 22–26, 2008.

The 2008 symposium will be devoted to Systems Pathology; attendees will be updated on the pathobiology of whole-animal responses, such as stress of toxicity and how these responses are important to toxicologic pathology. Speakers will discuss examples integrating high-content data with traditional pathology endpoints, the use of *in vitro* and *in silico* models for systems biology studies that successfully elucidated mechanisms of toxicity, and methods for evaluating animal responses to chemical and drug mixtures. The continuing education courses, which complement the symposium theme, include an update on phospholipidosis, a multisystemic reaction, as well as introductions to bioinformatics and toxicogenomics, two topics important to Systems Pathology.

Please go to www.toxpath.org/AM2008/agenda.asp to view the *Preliminary Program*. To conserve resources, it is posted on-line, however it will not be printed and mailed this year.

San Francisco, with its stunning views of the bay, famous fog, and hilly terrain, will provide an exceptional backdrop for the STP 2008 Annual Meeting. Its charming trolleys comprise the world's only surviving cable car system and offer one way to experience the unique character of the city and its distinctive neighborhoods. Inexpensive cafes can be found in every neighborhood and San Francisco's restaurants are regularly rated among the best in the world. *continued on page 10*

INSIDE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gary A. Boorman

How do we create and maintain toxicologic pathologists?

A job description as a toxicologic pathologist is more and more common for scientists working not only in the pharmaceutical and chemical industries but also in government and academia. In North America this trend has involved mainly veterinary pathologists (whether practicing in anatomic or clinical pathology) and the criteria for filling these positions have evolved over the last 30 years. The American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) has been certifying proficiency in pathology for over 50 years. Pharmaceutical and other firms have a rich history of mentoring newly boarded pathologists in the science and art of safety evaluation. Institutions that employ toxicologic pathologists generally prefer those boarded in pathology (AVCP or MRCPath, for example) and having experience in safety evaluations. Toxicology credentials such as board certification (e.g., American Board of Toxicology [ABT]) or an academic degree are additional positive attributes for toxicologic pathologists. More recently, knowledge of such basic fields as cellular and molecular biology has been deemed another desirable trait. Thus, firms hiring toxicologic pathologists educated and trained in North America are fairly confident that they can make wise judgments.

Globalization of the pharmaceutical and other industries means that studies increasingly are being conducted in Europe, Asia, India, and other countries. These nations have evolved divergent means of recognizing aptitude in toxicologic pathologists. For instance, Japan with its rich history of toxicological pathology investigation has developed a

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CAREER OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2008

E. Schultze, B. Berridge, S. TannehillGregg, D. Dambach, K. Donnelly, and B. Saladino

This is the first in a two-part series on the activities of the Career Outreach Committee and the Career Development Subcommittee, one of its four subgroups.

The Career Outreach Committee (COC) was created by the Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) Executive Committee in June, 2007. This committee was formed by a merger of the former Career Development and Recruitment Committee and the previous Public Relations Committee. As part of committee restructuring by the Executive Committee, the COC relinquished all recruiting efforts to the newly redefined Membership Committee and assumed all continuing activities of the Public Relations Committee. The charge of the COC is to increase awareness of the field of toxicologic pathology both as a career choice and as an allied field. To this end, the committee focuses on people considering toxicologic pathology as a career, and on other scientists involved in allied fields. Another goal of the committee is to develop and implement a strategic plan for educational opportunities in toxicologic pathology through faculty career support and facilitation of exchanges with academia, government, and industry. These activities will ensure an adequate supply of toxicologic pathologists and assure that the STP and its members are viewed by other scientists and regulatory bodies as the primary resource for information on issues concerning toxicologic pathology. The first meeting of the newly formed COC occurred in Puerto Rico at the 26th Annual STP Symposium.

The Chair of the COC is **Eric Schultze** (Lilly Research Laboratories). Members of the COC include **Anne Provencher Bolliger** (Novartis), **Kevin Donnelly** (Lilly Research Laboratories), **Donna Dambach** (Genentech), **Sarah Tannehill-Gregg** (Bristol-Myers Squibb), **Tom Brown** (Pfizer), **Jack Harkema** (Michigan State University), **Brian Berridge** (GlaxoSmithKline), **Brett Saladino** (Covance Laboratories), **Suzanne Botts** (GlaxoSmithKline), **David Hutto** (Biogen Idec), **Christine Merrill** (GlaxoSmithKline), **Jim Proctor** (Johnson & Johnson), **Robert Thoolen** (Global Pathology Support), and **Shashi Ramaiah** (Texas A&M University). **Robert Sills** is the STP Executive Committee Liaison to the COC, and **Sue Pitsch** (STP Executive Director) and **Krystle Gulley** represent the STP Management Company in COC interactions.

The COC conducts business *via* conference calls, e-mail, and meetings during the Annual STP Symposium. Members of the COC work on various initiatives including, developing promotional materials, writing letters and sending advertisements to students, working on joint projects with the ACVP, maintaining the STP exhibit booth, updating the STP Fact Sheet, and providing information for the Web site. Members of four very active subcommittees (Career Development, Student Interactions, Exhibit Booth, and Position Papers) conduct the daily business of the COC. The current activities of the Career Development Subcommittee are discussed below.

Career Development Subcommittee

Donna Dambach chairs the Career Development (CD) Subcommittee that is composed of Tom Brown, Sarah Tannehill-Gregg, Jack Harkema, David Hutto, and Jim Proctor. The goals of this subcommittee are to help define the term "career development" and to develop plans to implement active career development within the STP. This is no easy task!

In the beginning, the CD Subcommittee struggled to develop a definition of the elusive term, "career development." The subcommittee worked to focus on a definition that would be most useful to the STP. After several iterations and input from the STP Executive Committee, the CD Subcommittee and Executive Committee agreed upon the following definition for career development—the process that encompasses aspects of the entire career path in toxicologic pathology from defining and gaining perspective of career opportunities throughout the educational period, developing and implementing strategies to sustain quality comparative pathology specialty education, and providing educational support for general career skills.

STP Student Speaker Award

The CD Subcommittee, originally active as part of the Career Development and Recruitment Committee, created the new STP Student Speaker Award to increase student awareness and raise our profile with pathology trainees. The award will be presented at the yearly ACVP/ASVCP meetings. This is an opportunity for the ACVP,

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President's Report

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board examination specifically to test skills in toxicological pathology. Many of the younger pathologists also spend a year or two training abroad to gain additional experience in toxicologic pathology. Individuals educated in well-established settings such as these (Europe, Japan, and North America) typically provide a product which is acceptable to employers and public health authorities throughout the world. However, developing nations have a shorter history of training veterinary and other pathologists and therefore have considerably more difficulty in producing scientists suited to such tasks. Indeed, many other countries have yet to define what might be the qualifications of a toxicologic pathologist, let alone how to train them, so it is not always easy for firms hiring in these countries to be sure that they are entrusting their studies to qualified pathologists.

It was in this setting that the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology (ESTP) and the International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathology (IFSTP) decided to spearhead an international effort to define what constitutes a qualified toxicologic pathologist. With the recent return of the STP as a formal member of the IFSTP, STP Councilor **Brad Bolon** accepted the STP Executive Council (EC) charge to head the STP's contribution to this effort. Brad served as a member of the IFSTP committee that drafted a paper on this topic, the most recent member-reviewed version of which is now on the STP Web site. We appreciate all of the comments and suggestions from our members who reviewed the prior iterations of this document. It now goes to the IFSTP where comments have been/will be solicited from the other member STPs and final wording will be negotiated. The goal for this effort is to simultaneously publish the final document in our journal *Toxicologic Pathology* as well as in the journals for the ESTP and the Japanese STP (JSTP); the goal for the document is to initiate discussion regarding what traits are—or should be—common to qualified toxicologic pathologists, and how best to ensure on a global basis that such traits are inculcated in individuals pursuing this career path. It is essential to note that this manuscript does not define how one might certify competence, nor does it seek to supplant the current national systems (e.g., ACVP board certification) and implement a new global model. I feel that this document is critical to our membership as it highlights our role in protecting public health and the environment and it defines the knowledge and experience required the practitioner of toxicologic pathology. Any comments on this manuscript or the role you feel your Society should play in the ongoing discussion on this topic will be greatly appreciated.

The public face of the STP is the annual meeting and our journal *Toxicologic Pathology*. Both the journal and our meetings continue to be of excellent quality, due to the efforts of the STP members. It may be informative to some to provide a little background on the effort that went into our upcoming meeting in San Francisco.

Selecting the site and the venue started more than three years ago. The EC solicits suggestions for meeting sites and then the list of cities with adequate facilities is narrowed to two or three, varying the site geographically as much as possible. We are currently looking for a 2012 site, since hotels that have sufficient space are often booked three to four years in advance. Two or three sites are visited by our management team (and often local STP members) to confirm that the facilities will meet our needs and that the costs will be reasonable. A contract is signed to lock in the price and the number of rooms we will need. If we do not fill our room block, it results in additional costs to our Society. The STP staff, in coordination with the committee, begins to design a new Web site, and plan logistics for the next year with the hotel and vendors as soon as the June meeting ends.

Plans for the scientific sessions start about two years in advance. The annual Symposium Committee selects themes, recruits a scientific leader, and helps to recruit speakers. The scientific sessions in San Francisco are the result of prodigious efforts by **Genie Floyd**, 2008 Scientific Chair, and her committee (**Kathleen Funk**, CE Course Chair; **Jerry Ward**, EC Liaison; Brian Berridge, CE Standing Committee Chair; Session Chairs and Co-Chairs: **Prashant Nambiar**, **Calvert Louden**, **Frances Clemo**, **Dana Walker**, **Doug Wolf**, Donna Dambach, **Hajime Hiraragi**, **Katrina Waters**, **Myrtle Davis**, **Sam Cohen**, **Thomas Brown**, and **Yvonne Dragan**.) Genie had to present a nearly complete list of symposiums topics and speakers to the STP Executive Council last year in Puerto Rico, one year in advance of the actual meeting date. **Andy Fix**, Symposium Committee Chair, already has selected the topic (Cancer) and Jerry Ward and Kathleen Funk, 2009 Scientific Co-Chairs, have recruited most of the session chairs for the following STP meeting to be held in Washington, DC. Both the Continuing Education Committee, chaired by **Brian Berridge**, and The Career Outreach Committee, chaired by **Eric Schultze**, work with the annual Symposium Committee and the Scientific Chair to provide continuing education courses for our members. This is especially critical with globalization and the growing need for our members to be competitive in what is becoming a more competitive environment worldwide. This year the two committees will jointly present a free half day career development workshop on "Effective Communication for the Toxicologic Pathologist." If you have a topic that needs to be covered, committee members are always looking for good ideas. Or better yet, become part of one of these committees and help shape the professional development of all our members.

We are excited about our journal becoming the official journal for the British Society of Toxicologic Pathology (BSTP) as well as our own Society. The new publisher (Sage) will give us more access to color figures at a lower cost, and **John Foster** as new Editor will continue to improve the journal. You can expect to see changes in the coming year. This is your journal, so any suggestions on its improvement should be forwarded to John Foster or any one of the Associate Editors.

Again I appreciate all of the help of the committee members who help set the agenda and carry out the task. The committees are always looking for more help so visit the volunteer page (http://www.toxpath.org/dt/volunteerComm.aspx) on our Web site or contact the chairs. The extended deadline for volunteering for the coming year is February 22. You can always send your comments or questions to Sue Pitsch, Executive Director, at stp@toxpath.org.

Gary A. Boorman
STP President

FREE CAREER SESSIONS TO BE OFFERED IN SAN FRANCISCO

On Sunday from 8:00 AM–12:00 Noon there will be a free Career Development workshop titled, "Effective Communication for the Toxicologic Pathologist." This course is Co-Chaired by **Eric Schultze** and **Brian Berridge**.

Communicating effectively with colleagues and customers outside our discipline is an important aspect of applying our expertise. Appropriate and intelligible communication of our data, be it oral or written, largely determines our influence within our respective organizations and the scientific community at large. This symposium will identify key target audiences and identify skillful ways to communicate our message. To RSVP, please register on-line at www.toxpath.org/AM2008/reg.asp.

On Monday from 12:15 PM–1:15 PM there will be a Career Development Lunchtime series lecture. This lunch session will highlight topics that have relevance to all our members at each stage of their career development. All STP Members and Students are welcome to this free event, Boxed lunches will be provided for the first 30 RSVPs. To RSVP, please register on-line at www.toxpath.org/AM2008/reg.asp.

BECOME AN EXHIBITOR TODAY!

The 2008 Symposium "Systems Pathology" promises to be another record setting meeting with excellent scientific sessions, continuing education courses, and many networking opportunities….all in the midst of a world-class location. San Francisco is often called "Everybody's Favorite City," a title earned by its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, diverse communities, and world-class cuisine. As they say, "Location, location, location!" We've picked this winning location to insure the best possible experience for attendees and exhibitors alike.

Make plans to exhibit today! Space is sold on a first-come, first-served basis and the hall is filling fast! We plan to have food and beverage stations in all four corners of the room to insure maximum traffic flow for all booths. We have also strategically placed the scientific posters at both ends of the hall. Please visit our Web site and see our Exhibitor Prospectus for more details.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liz Kasabian at (703) 438-7508 or *via* e-mail lkasabian@toxpath.org. We look forward to welcoming you to San Francisco!

Exhibit Hall at the Annual Meeting

Student Travel Award winners form last years Annual Meeting.

APPLY FOR AN STP STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

San Francisco, CA, June 22–26, 2008

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 $1,000 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 and several of the trainees will be asked to give an additional short oral presentation concurrent with scientific sessions.

Eligibility

To be eligible to compete for this award, trainees must be graduate students working in the field of experimental pathology, 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 San Francisco, California 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

- Vist www.toxpath.org/student.asp for application and details.
- Return Student Travel applications by April 1, 2008, *via* fax or mail to STP Headquarters

Submit Abstracts by April 1, 2008, on-line at www.toxpath.org/AM2008/abstracts.asp

If you have any question, contact Krystle Gulley at stp@toxpath.org or (703) 438-7508.

Young Investigator Awards also Available

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 *via* e-mail in April.

Career Outreach Committee 2008

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ASVCP, and STP to work together. The first annual STP Student Speaker Award Competition was held at combined ACVP/ASVCP Meetings in Tucson, Airzona, in December 2006. **Shawn Clark** (Purdue University) was selected as the winner by an independent team of judges who are members of both the STP and ACVP. The second annual STP Student Speaker Award competition was held recently in the Toxicologic Pathology Specialty Section at the concurrent meetings of the ACVP and the ASVCP in Savannah on November 11, 2007. **Tzuyin Lin** (The Ohio State University) won for her presentation entitled, "The Novel HSP90 Inhibitor STA9090 Exhibits Activity Against Kit Dependent and Independent Malignant Canine Mast Cell Tumors" [Abstract #192]. Dr. Lin received a one year STP membership and free registration plus $1,000 cash for the next STP meeting. The Student Interactions Subcommittee also enhanced the STP Student Speaker Award by working with the Editor-in-Chief of *Toxicologic Pathology* to ensure that the winner will have a manuscript describing the research published in the journal.

Lunch Hour Career Series

The CD Subcommittee also created a career development opportunity for the STP membership by establishing a lunch hour series at the annual meeting to showcase tools for career development and the experiences of other members. The forum may utilize one of the following formats on a rotating basis: a) career development seminars given by career development professionals or experts in the field, b) STP member panels discussing specific career-path experiences (academe, contract laboratories, biotechnology and large pharmaceutical, chemical, or device companies, consultants and retirees), or c) STP members discussing case-based examples of good practices related to problem-solving, integration and interpretation of complex data for risk assessment, and/or communication of integrated data assessment to non-pathologists. In 2007, CD Subcommittee Chair Donna Dambach selected **Mary Lou Drake** to present a seminar entitled, "Change in Our Careers," on Monday during the lunch hour at the annual STP meeting in Puerto Rico, which was well-received. The Committee will offer another free Career Development Session during the Monday lunch hour at the June San Francisco meeting. (See details on page 4.)

Half-Day Career Development Forum Planned

In addition, members of the CD Subcommittee are working closely with members of the STP Continuing Education Committee to establish a yearly forum or workshop to help build career development skills. In 2008, the Continuing Education Committee and the CD Subcommittee will sponsor a unique half-day day workshop on expert oral presentation and scientific writing skills. (See article on page 4) Led by experts in our field, this workshop is sure to be of value to a large number of STP members, particularly those who are relatively new to the field and those who are often asked to interact with non-pathologists in scientific and/or business discussions. The CD Subcommittee is also working with the Continuing Education Committee to provide opportunities for any interested STP members to speak at venues focusing on scientific and/or public relations as a mechanism for career development. These actions directly apply to the COC goals of collaboration and exchange of knowledge and practices on an international level, exposing regulatory scientists to toxicologic pathology activities and creating a continual opportunity for regulatory scientist-toxicologic pathologist interactions as a venue for exchange of ideas and better understanding of roles and thought-processes.

The CD Subcommittee is charged with developing and implementing a strategic plan for sustaining quality educational opportunities in toxicologic pathology through faculty career support and facilitating collaborative exchanges with academia and industry. The strategic plan is a work in process. The CD Subcommittee wants to identify the perceived and actual resources needed to maintain academic faculty careers related to training anatomic and clinical pathologists, and develop recommendations for actionable plans. To accomplish this goal, the CD Subcommittee will identify a cross-functional (i.e. ACVP/STP) committee to discuss the scope of the issues and devise recommendations for obtaining data/opinions and discuss best practices. The working group will utilize informational telephone interview with academic faculty to identify sources of actual metric data related to issues. The working group will then compile and present data to STP Executive Committee along with recommended actions. Several projects, including exchanges between academia and industry are currently under consideration.

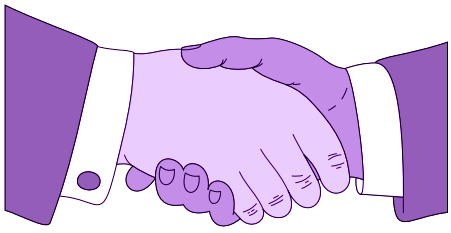
Interaction with Residency Program Directors

To help with trainee exposure to the STP, the CD Subcommittee will develop an interaction plan with Residency Program Directors. This plan will allow exposure of trainees to industry and will ultimately provide opportunities for a better understanding of the roles of toxicologic pathologists through site visits, potential sabbaticals, consultancies, or collaborative research projects arranged by academic Residency Program Directors. To accomplish this goal, the CD Subcommittee will begin a series fact-finding interviews with Residency Program Directors to get an understanding of views, needs, concerns, opinions and suggestions.

Job Bank

For those STP members who are already in the workforce, the CD Subcommittee will facilitate employment listings and educational opportunities for general career development skills for pathologists at all stages of their careers. The subcommittee will expand the "Job Bank" on the STP Web site to include internships and sabbatical opportunities.

Activities of the Student Interactions Subcommittee, Exhibit Booth Subcommittee, and Career Outreach Position Paper Subcommittee will be featured in the Spring *Scope*.



RECENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- The EC voted to approve **Jerry Ward** and **Kathleen Funk** as Scientific Co-Chairs for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The theme will be Cancer.
- Approved proposal from CE and Career Outreach Committees for a career development workshop to take place on Sunday, June 22 at the Annual Meeting.
- Approved sending revised version of draft paper on Global Recognition of Qualified Toxicologic Pathologists, which incorporates feedback from STP members, to the IFSTP for consideration. (See President's Report for further details.)

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, 2008. 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.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON AN STP COMMITTEE

Deadline Extended to February 22

The STP needs volunteers to serve on its committees and working groups in June 2008 and beyond as many members of these committees will be rotating off this year after the June annual meeting in San Francisco. No experience is required for most committees, but interest and enthusiasm are very helpful. All STP members are eligible to participate on committees. Please consider volunteering for one or more STP leadership positions. Committee participation is an ideal way for students and new members to become active in the Society.

Please visit the Volunteer Page to view a description of each committee. If you would like to volunteer, check the appropriate committee box(es) on the on-line form indicating your interest by February 22, 2008. You will be contacted regarding committee assignments by April 1.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Fundraising Committee (**Jerry Long,** Chair; **Nancy Everds, Ricardo Ochoa; Dan Morton; Jeff Engelhardt; Stu Levin**; **Calvert Louden**; **Curtis Colleton**; **Noel Dybdal**) is in the process of contacting potential Corporate Sponsors for 2008. It is through the support of STP sponsors that the Society is able to fund travel scholarships, continuing education of toxicologic pathologists, and provide meaningful interactions with national and international regulatory bodies. This support also provides scientific and special sessions at the Annual Symposium.

The Committee requests the support of all members to help solicit funds for the Society. A list of sponsorship levels and benefits is available at **www.toxpath.org** 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.

Membership Dues

Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2008 dues. The deadline for 2008 STP Membership dues payments was Dec. 1, 2007. If you overlooked renewing your membership, please do so as soon as possible by visiting www.toxpath.org/membersonly/memberdues.asp in order to resume receipt of the journal and to be eligible for discounted registration fees for the Annual Meeting. Please contact Tierre Miller stp@toxpath.org if you have any questions about your dues.

Catch up on the latest NTP news here

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 16–20, 2008
Society of Toxicology 47th Annual Meeting
Washington State Convention and Trade Center
Seattle, Washington
www.toxicology.org

May 5-8, 2008
Pathology for Non-Pathologists
General Principles, Central Nervous System, Endocrine System
Co-Sponsored by The American College to Toxicology and The Society of Toxicologic Pathology
Falls Church, Virginia
www.actox.org

June 28–July 3, 2008
48th Teratology Society Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency
Monterey, California
www.teratology.org

September 24–20, 2008
6th European Congress of Toxicologic Pathology
(Joint ETS/ESTP Meeting)
Edinburgh, Scotland
www.eurotoxpath.org/meetings

November 15–19, 2008
ACVP Annual Meeting
Hilton Palaciodel Rio Hotel
San Antonio, TX
www.acvp.org

FUTURE STP ANNUAL MEETINGS

June 21–26, 2008
STP 2008 Annual Meeting
San Francisco Hyatt Regency
San Francisco, CA
www.toxpath.org

June 20–25, 2009
STP 2009 Annual Meeting
Wardman Park Marriott
Washington, DC
www.toxpath.org

June 19–24, 2010
STP 2010 Annual Meeting
Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
Chicago, IL
www.toxpath.org

June 19-23, 2011
STP 2011 Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency Denver
Denver, Colorado
www.toxpath.org

Other Meetings/CL Davis Courses

March 6–7, 2008
Canadian Lab Animal Path Course
Univ. of Guelph

March 10–14, 2008
AFIP European Descriptive Veterinary Pathology
Dublin, Ireland

March 24–28, 2008
36th Annual Gross Pathology Course
Bethesda, MD

March 27, 2008
CLD/AAHA Pre–conference Meeting, Getting the Most Out of Your Pathologist
Tampa, FL

April 9–11, 2008
CLD Symposium on Diagnostic Pathology of Aerial, Terrestrial, and Aquatic Wildlife
Madison WI

April 13, 2008
2nd Annual CLD/ACLAM Symposium—Management and Diseases of Fish in the Laboratory Setting
April 17–20, 2008
Workshop and Symposium on Lab Animal Diseases, Pathology of Non–Murine Laboratory Rodents,
Chicago, IL

April 24–25, 2008
2nd Annual Korean Symposium—Descriptive and Illustrative Pathology
Seoul, South Korea

May 15–19, 2008
CLD Seminar—Topics in Lab Animal Medicine
Raleigh, NC

June 7–11, 2008
AFIP Descriptive Veterinary Pathology Course
Washington, DC

June 19–22, 2008
13th International Congress on Infectious Diseases
Kuala Lumpur

For more information on any of these courses please visit:
www.cldavis.org

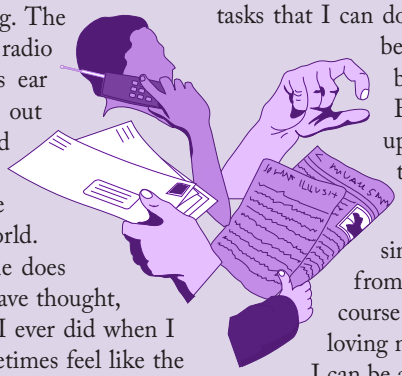
THE WRINKLED SECTION

Multitasking

by James W. Crissman

Dr. James W. Crissman, Hypochondrologist

There is an old Robin Williams routine where he plays then-President Ronald Reagan wearing a teleprompter in his ear which is feeding him lines for the speech he is giving. The teleprompter malfunctions and picks up stray radio signals, feeding Mr. Reagan one station in his ear after another—maybe a dozen—that then spill out of his mouth in rapid succession. With its layered impersonations it is genius comedy, but I suspect many of us feel a little like old Ronnie as we're yanked this way and that in this multitasking world. As I adjust to life as a consultant, which for me does not mean retired or even semi-retired as some have thought, I find I need my lists and calendars more than I ever did when I marched off to the same office every day. I sometimes feel like the general who jumped on his horse and rode off in all directions, to steal a favorite line from my Dad.



Research at the University of Michigan a few years ago, and a number of lay articles in its wake, described the time lost when switching tasks, as the brain's "executive control" processes are forced to reorient. And of course there is a measurable loss of performance when tasks are done simultaneously. The harried parent talking on the cell, driving, and controlling children at the same time is a clear menace. That really scares me as a cyclist. Luckily for me, there are tasks that I can do very well together: watching TV and drinking beer for instance. I can even pet the cat while I do both of these things. That's three things at once! Executive material, don't you think? I'll expect an upswing in recruiter calls following revelation of this talent.

But when I have the luxury to focus on a single task for hours at a time, I get real pleasure from going deep, and I'm reluctant to switch—of course that includes sleep. But at the moment I'm loving my work the most, it can become procrastination. I can be at my most productive and feel guilty about what I'm not doing at the same time! Unfortunately, doing everything at once might make us feel better about ourselves, but it doesn't make us more productive. For example, while in vet school I once ate a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with my right hand while I did a rectal exam in a cow with my left. As I recall, the sandwich was pregnant but the cow wasn't very good.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Catherine Michaels, STP Meeting Planner

If you attended the Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico last June, you may have spoken to **Catherine Michaels**, STP's Meeting Planner. The meeting in Puerto Rico was the first that Catherine attended and she was pleased by the friendliness of all of the STP members. As a meeting planner Catherine worked closely with the hotel to ensure that all aspects of the meeting went smoothly. This included housing, transportation, meeting rooms, audio visual, food and beverage, receptions, entertainment, and tours. She also worked closely with STP member's that had inquiries about having a committee meeting at the Annual Meeting or that had a question regarding housing or transportation.

Throughout the year Catherine works with Convention Visitor Bureaus (CVB's) in cities selected by the Executive Committee (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 the liaison between STP and the hotel while planning each year's Annual Meeting.

Catherine graduated from Virginia Tech in December 2003 with a B.S. in Hospitality Tourism Management and a minor in Business. She was recruited by Hyatt Hotels out of college and worked at the Hyatt Regency Reston in Reston, Virginia as a Sales Manager for nearly 3 years. She worked with one of AIM's (Association Innovation Management, Inc.) clients and was recruited to come and work for them in October 2006. Catherine spends about a third of her time working for STP and she spends the remaining time working for other AIM clients.

Catherine belongs to PCMA (Professional Convention Management Association) and to the Reston/Herndon Meeting Planners Organization. By attending meetings held by both of these groups she keeps on top of the latest trends in the hospitality industry and is able to attend educational seminars reviewing pertinent topics to the meeting planning industry.

Catherine is looking forward to another successful meeting in San Francisco!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DRUG SHEPHERD PETERS EMPLOYS SMART DOGS

By Christopher Horvath

Q: Where did you receive your veterinary and pathology training?

A: I received my DVM at the University of Minnesota. My pathology training was *via* the formal training program at AFIP, although I didn't do a formal residency program. I was extremely fortunate to be able to participate in the superb training program and met some wonderful people who remain colleagues/friends to this day!

Q: Who or what was it that motivated you to study pathology?

A: Fascination with the pathology engendered by disease and test compounds.

Q: Where do you work and what are your main job responsibilities?

A: FDA/CDER, within the Division of Neurology Products. I serve as a review scientist and the Center Expert in Toxicologic Pathology.

Q: Did you foresee your present career when you started your pathology training?

A: NO WAY! I planned to do diagnostic pathology in a state/private laboratory. However, I was sitting at a dog show waiting for the award of ribbons when Bob Furrow (CVM veterinary pathologist, retired) and I started talking. He asked what I did for a living and I told him that I was participating in the training program at AFIP. He asked if I was looking for a job and then offered me a position at the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. The rest is history…

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

A: Carcinogenicity and the toxicologic pathology related to new molecular entities.

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

A: Not really. At AFIP, little of the pathology training was directed toward toxicologic pathology. However, the understanding of pathophysiology gained during the training has helped immensely in enabling me to separate the "wheat from the chaff"—in other words, to determine, to the best of my abilities, the compound-induced lesions from the "normal" findings.

Q: What aspect(s) in your current position (or career for that matter) do you find most rewarding?

A: Helping to protect the public from potentially toxic compounds that don't have a significantly positive risk: benefit ratio.

Q: Is there any particular approved product that you feel particularly "proud" of and why?

A: BST, Troglitazone, Ketek® [telithromycin]. But I can't really give details—mostly the stuff I've dealt with has "died in the pipeline" due to toxicity or sometimes lack of an acceptable risk: benefit ratio. I am indeed proud of my contribution on several "hot button test articles" but don't think the info is publicly available or attributable.

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

A: A greater ability to determine mechanism of action and ability to help design more effective therapeutics with better safety profiles on the basis of this ability.

Q: Who are your family members?

A: Husband of 36 years—John—he's an MD and 6 collies—1 rough coated and 5 smooth coated.

Q: What are your hobbies/interests?

A: Dog breeding/training/showing/loving, needlework, reading, gardening, traveling to new beaches!

Q: I know that you raise, show, and (I think) judge Collies, particularly as working dogs. Can you tell us about how you got started in this interesting sport?

A: I had a primarily large animal practice in southwestern Minnesota. Once we moved back to the D.C. area, my contacts with livestock became very limited. Collies are herding dogs and we've trained them for obedience/conformation/tracking for >30 years. I saw (and see) herding of ducks/geese/sheep/cattle as a way to maintain contact with livestock and the farmers/owners who deal with them—and have fun to boot!

Q: Most of us think of Border Collies when we think of herding—why don't regular Collies get more press?

A: There are lots of herding breeds (German Shepherds, Corgis, Shetland Sheepdogs, Belgian Malinois, to name a few). Border Collies are a very intense breed that NEED A JOB and, in my opinion, don't usually make good pets unless they have a long period every day where they can do something with their energies. Collies (both the rough coated and the smooth coated varieties) are less intense but equally talented on livestock and make wonderful pets that are easy to live with under all circumstances.

Q: What characteristics do you look for in a working dog?

A: First they must show interest in the livestock, and they must be willing to work with me and be trainable—after that, it's nice if they're beautiful to look at as well!

Q: Can you describe the training process and how long it takes for a good dog to reach his/her potential?

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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A: We test puppies at 7–8 weeks of age to see if they have the instinct to work the stock. After that, it depends on the individual dog as to when we start serious training. Usually they're dependably working stock 2 to 3 times per week by the time they're 2 years of age. We generally "start" them on sheep because they "flock" [see above picture]. Once the dog understands what the commands are and how to "make it happen," then we go to ducks and geese—much harder to work and the dog MUST be "right" or the birds scatter [see picture on page 9]. Cattle are the last type of stock that we train for, as they can destroy a dog's confidence and enthusiasm for work if they're too ornery.

Q: Are there Web sites where readers could learn more about working Collies?

A: Try the Collie Club of America [www.collieclubofamerica.org/] and the American Herding Breeds Association [www.ahba-herding.org/index.htm].

Q: I know you've advocated increased use of pigs in modeling human diseases and for testing pharmacologic activity and safety. When might pigs be a good choice and why?

A: Pigs are closer to human physiology than other species, their pathologic response to insults (disease/drug-induced) is more comparable to humans, they're larger than rodents, have many anatomic similarities to humans and they are CUTE!

Q: So, could Babe the pig really have won the sheep-dog trials?

A: Nope—only dogs with registration numbers can compete in real trials.

Q: Are pigs really smarter than dogs?

A: They think differently so I'm not sure which is "smarter," but I have a friend who has "Sweet Susie"—a 600+ lb spayed sow that lives in their house—she's house-trained and co-exists quite nicely with the family and the 3 dogs.

Q: What do you see yourself doing when you "retire?"

A: Working with my dogs in all the venues—conformation, herding, obedience, agility, breeding, tracking… and having time to do them ALL!

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: I am a "mango-holic"- mangoes in any size, shape, form are exactly what the DVM orders!

The Society Of Toxicologic Pathology 27th Annual Meeting

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Tuesday afternoon will again be a free half day for attendees to explore the San Francisco area. Napa Valley and Sonoma, producers of 7% of the world's wine, are 50–60 miles north of the city. Alcatraz, the former high security prison, is a 15 minute boat ride from Fisherman's Wharf and offers great views of the city. There is no charge to visit Golden Gate Park or the free Cable Car Museum at Nob Hill, with the history and workings of the trolleys, dating from 1873. Old cable cars, ticketing machines, and the huge wheels that move the entire cable car system are on display here. For full meeting and area information, to make a hotel reservation and register for the meeting go to www.toxpath.org/AM2008/reg.asp.