

The Teratology Society Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 1

February 2008

Letter from the President

Thomas Knudsen

As we welcome in the new calendar year and the 48th Annual Meeting approaches, I would like to congratulate Tina Chambers and the Program Committee for putting together an outstanding program for the 48th Annual Meeting in Monterey, California. The abstract deadline is February 18, 2008. Society members will want to take note of two important features of this meeting program. First, that it is compressed by one day (June 28 – July 2); the Education Course will be held on Saturday to kickoff the formal meeting Sunday. Second is that the Society was approved for offering Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits for the entire Annual Meeting from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). This CME program supports the mission of ACOG to advance women's health and improve health care outcomes by providing educational opportunities to enhance the professional development of its members. ACOG adheres to a rigorous review and approval process for their CME program. Indeed, our success in obtaining approval this year follows a progression of hard work by many determined individuals from ACOG, from the Teratology Society Office, and from the last few years on Council and

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48th Annual Meeting

Christina Chambers

Plans are well under way for the 48th Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey, California, to be held June 28 – July 2, 2008. For the first time, we are proud to announce that we will be offering, through joint sponsorship with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), continuing medical education credits for clinicians who attend the meeting. Meeting details and registration materials are available on the Society website (<http://teratology.org>), and the abstract submission process is active. The deadline for abstracts is February 20, 2008. Please visit the website, check out the exciting program, submit your abstract, and register early to take advantage of the Early Bird rates. Students and postdoctoral fellow Society members are encouraged to submit abstracts and take advantage of the travel award program. We also encourage you to view the Education Courses for 2008, and plan to attend those as well. For the first time this year, joint registration with reduced fees is being offered for Teratology Society members who are also members of OTIS or the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society and wish to attend sessions at more than one of these meetings. The combination of a spectacular venue and a truly exciting program promises to make 2008 a meeting to remember. ■

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Annual Meeting Deadlines (Extended!)

Early Bird Registration – Wednesday, Feb. 20

Abstracts Due – Wednesday, Feb. 20

Student/Postdoc Award Applications – Wed., Feb. 20

Advance Registration – Thursday, May 15

Hotel Reservations – Wednesday, May 28

Program Committees. It is a significant milestone in our Society’s mission and will hopefully become a regular feature of the annual meeting. I would personally like to thank all those who made this new feature possible. Please take a moment to visit the ACOG web site at <http://www.acog.org/> to learn more about that organization’s mission and goals.

I look forward to seeing you at the 48th Annual Meeting in Monterey, California. ■

Birth Defects Research Part A **Welcomes New Editor-in-Chief**

Mark Hurtt, Chair of Publications Committee

The Publications Committee, Teratology Society Council and Wiley-Liss are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Diana Juriloff as Editor-in-Chief of ***Birth Defects Research Part A***. Dr. Juriloff is a Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia. She gave her first paper at the Teratology Society meeting in 1976, and became a member of the Society in 1980.

Dr. Juriloff earned her Ph.D. in Genetics at McGill University under the direction of F. Clarke Fraser, one of the founders of the Teratology Society, and completed a NATO Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Jackson Laboratory. She joined the faculty at the University of British Columbia in 1981 and has served on numerous national committees and grant review boards.

In recognition of her scientific contributions, Dr. Juriloff has received numerous awards, including but not limited to the James G. Wilson Publication Award for best paper in *Teratology* and a James G. Wilson Publication Award for best paper in ***Birth Defects Research***. Additionally, throughout her career, Dr. Juriloff has given lectures, supported various research and funding programs, and has served on a variety of Editorial Boards.

Dr. Juriloff’s scientific accomplishments are impressive, and we value her dedication and commitment to the continued success and growth of ***Birth Defects Research Part A***. We are pleased and excited to welcome her in this new role. ■

The fireplace in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Monterey – site of the 48th Annual Teratology Society Meeting.



New for the 2008 Annual Meeting Joint Meeting Registration!

Members of the Teratology Society and OTIS or the Teratology Society and NBTS are eligible for a reduced joint registration fee. The optional joint member registration fee will allow members of these groups to register for both meetings as a reduced rate via one payment. Select the joint member registration fee on the registration form or when you register on-line. Remember – you must be an active member of both Societies in order to qualify for the joint meeting reduced rate!



Diana Juriloff presenting the James G. Wilson Publication Award for the Best Paper in *Birth Defects Research* at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Election News

The Teratology Society has benefited greatly from the leadership of the founding members and officers for nearly 50 years. The Nominations Committee has prepared an outstanding slate of candidates to carry the momentum forward into the 6th decade.

Voting members of the Teratology Society will have the opportunity to cast their vote electronically in March. Additional information will be provided in the upcoming months.

This year's candidates are:

Vice President-elect:

Edward Carney, The Dow Chemical Company
John Rogers, US EPA

Councilor:

Jane Adams, University of Massachusetts
Michael O'Hara, Novartis Pharmaceuticals

The Teratology Society appreciates the willingness of these individuals to serve the membership.

If you would like to become more involved, please indicate your desires via the Volunteer Form on the Web site.



Ed Carney



John Rogers



Jane Adams



Michael O'Hara

Strategic Planning Working Groups

Deborah Hansen

At the 2007 Annual Meeting, Society members had the opportunity to hear a report on outcomes of the Society's Strategic Planning meeting held in April. During the planning meeting, specific themes for strategic emphasis were identified by the participants. These themes included: improved visibility of the Society, communication, a shared scientific identity, the design of the annual meeting, and membership. Core working groups focused on each of these themes were established and will carry on this work in collaboration with Council and the Society membership to further delineate the activities necessary to achieve the identified goals, and the action steps required for implementation. Society members had the opportunity in Pittsburgh to volunteer to participate on any of the Working Groups, and since the Annual Meeting, the Working Groups have met by teleconference. If you haven't yet gotten involved with one of these Groups but would like to, you're invited to contact a Working Group Leader as listed below:

Visibility: Janine Polifka (polifka@u.washington.edu) or Melissa Tassinari (melissa.s.tassinari@pfizer.com)

Communication: Ed Carney (EWCarney@dow.com) or George Daston (daston.gp@pg.com)

Shared Scientific Identity: Elaine Faustman (faustman@u.washington.edu) or Shelley Tyl (rtw@rti.org)

Annual Meeting: Tina Chambers (chchambers@ucsd.edu) or Sonja Rasmussen (skr9@cdc.gov)

Membership: Barbara Abbott (abbott.barbara@epa.gov) or Kok-Wah Hew (khew@tgrd.com)

Internships Available

NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research for Graduate and Medical Students

Are you interested in a summer internship at the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development?

NICHD (and other NIH Institutes) are currently accepting applications for their summer internship programs. This is an exciting opportunity to gain research experience at the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development in one of its three Branches – Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Prevention/Health Behaviors. The Division of Epidemiology, Statistics & Prevention Research (DESPR) typically selects approximately 20 students from various Institutions for a meaningful summer experience. Dates of participation are flexible including time for vacation or other school requirements.

NIH Summer Internships are considered a competitive award and come with a stipend (sufficient for living in the Washington, DC area and still have fun). Internships are limited to US citizens.

Information and access to an online application are available at:

<http://www.training.nih.gov/student/sip/>

Website Committee is Redesigning Teratology Society Website

Amar Singh, Website Committee Chairperson

Yes we are doing it now!!! For some time now, we have been hearing loud and clear that both internal and external communication needs to be improved, and that the website is a key element of communications strategy. The website committee took the charge to redesign the Society website to transform it into a communication hub. The major focus of this redesign is on providing tools (e.g., discussion forums) for better communication, improved look and feel, more logical organization of the contents and improved navigation. Such improvements will better facilitate communication among the members, council and various committees of the Society and promote the Teratology Society to the general public.

The website redesign project is divided into four phases with each phase being approved by council before being implemented. The first phase of the project was to relocate the server from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) to a server managed by Society headquarters. This had become necessary as the society had recently acquired a member database and the desire for additional functionalities and associated

security were beyond the capabilities of the previous server. The second phase of the project is to reorganize the content (“Sitemap redesign”). The website committee worked hard to reorganize the content in a way that the user can find the information sought within three mouse clicks or less. The third phase of the project is development of a detailed proposal guiding the redesign, including addition of new functionalities, page appearances, etc. and the fourth phase is the testing phase for which the website committee encourages members to participate in the beta testing of the site and provide suggestions for improvement.

The Teratology Society website is an important communication hub of our members. Member input and participation is encouraged as we work to improve this communication tool. It is hoped that the new redesigned website will be unveiled during the Society’s 48th Annual Meeting in Monterey, California.

Keep tuned for further updates - we have taxied to the runway and are ready to take off.....■



Good food and great conversation. Hope to see you at the 48th Annual Meeting in Monterey.