



Insights

Your Monthly Update of News and Notes from HESI



December 2014

Season's Greetings!

From all of us at HESI, thank you for making this 25th Anniversary Year a great one. We wish you all the best for good health in the New Year.

Here's a look back at some of our favorite achievements over the past 12 months.



2014 Highlights



January – The year 2014 marked a momentous occasion as HESI celebrated its 25th anniversary. In 1989, HESI was established as the global branch of the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI). View HESI's 25th anniversary video [here](#). • In addition to celebrating 25 years, HESI also launched its [new website](#), which includes more information for both public and private partners as well as additional ways to connect via multimedia.

February – An editorial by Ms. Syril Pettit, published in *Science Translational Medicine*, called for progress in developing and supporting translational scientists. The article lays the groundwork for the HESI Combining Interdisciplinary and Translational Expertise (CITE) initiative, through which HESI will serve as a thought leader and facilitator in this critical aspect of public health-driven science.

March – HESI is privileged to present scientific developments at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting each year and 2014 was no different. In addition to a CITE seminar by Dr. Peter Kuhn (University of Southern California) and a Merit Award lecture by HESI Trustee, Dr. Jay Goodman (Michigan State University), the Cardiac Safety, Imaging, RISK21, and Translational Biomarkers of Neurotoxicity Committees also presented their work at the meeting.

April – The WHO Risk Assessment Network released its first [newsletter](#) to announce the formation of the Network. ILSI is listed as a founding member of the Network in a category of “nongovernmental organization in official relations with WHO.” For more on the chemical risk assessment training database jointly designed by HESI and [WHO click here](#).

May – The HESI Board of Trustees proudly announces the appointment of James Klaunig, PhD, Fellow ATS, Fellow IATP, Professor of Environmental Health at the Indiana University School of Public Health, as the Editor-in-Chief of the HESI Peer Review Process. • The HESI Bioaccumulation Committee embarked on an experimental ring trial study to obtain an estimate of intrinsic hepatic clearance using fish liver S9 fractions or isolated primary hepatocytes. The data from this ring trial will support the development by OECD of an *in vitro* fish hepatic metabolism test. The project, including the HESI-coordinated ring trial study, was proposed by the US and the European Commission and was accepted at an April 2014 OECD Test Guidelines Programme workplan meeting.

June – HESI's 25th anniversary celebration culminated at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, where the Board of Trustees and staff welcomed over 100 global thought leaders and heard thought-provoking presentations on issues of profound importance to human and environmental health. The Annual Meeting also featured presentations and events that celebrated HESI's past, present, and future, including an engaging Keynote Lecture by Dr. Alan Leshner (CEO of AAAS) at the opening reception, and reminiscences and perspectives from Dr. Gilbert Omenn (University of Michigan), former HESI Executive Directors Dr. Denise Robinson Gravatt (Pfizer) and Dr. Michael Holsapple (Covance), Dr. Kendall Wallace (University of Minnesota), and Ms. Syril Pettit (HESI Executive Director). Speakers from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Institute for Systems Biology, and American Cancer Society also shared their vision for innovative collaboration.

July – HESI Technical Committees presented their work at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Toxicology, including the DART, Imaging, Vaccines and Adjuvants Safety, and Translational Biomarkers of Neurotoxicity Committees, as well as a special lecture by Dr. Jan-Willem van der Laan (CBG-MEB) on "Current Topics on Nonclinical Safety Assessment of Human Pharmaceuticals from a European Perspective."

August – HESI welcomed its seventh Scientific Program Manager, Dr. Stan Parish. Stan manages the Immunotoxicology and Cardiac Safety Technical Committees. • HESI extended its global reach to Africa with two workshops in Nairobi, Kenya, on protein allergenicity and safety assessment of genetically modified foods and feeds organized by the HESI Protein Allergenicity Committee (PATC). These workshops, conducted by request of the Kenya National Biosafety Authority, included active participation in the region's the 3rd Annual National Biosafety Conference in Nairobi.

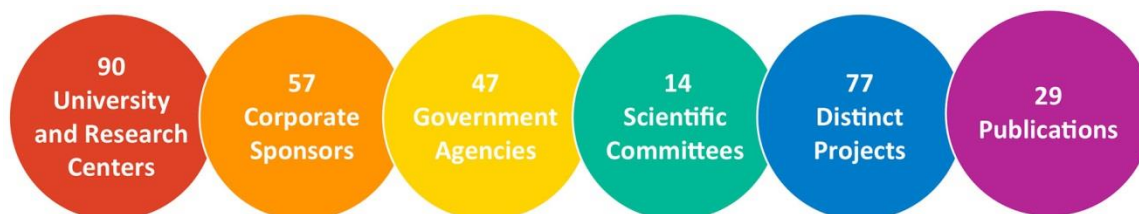
September – HESI's featured science at the 50th Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX) included a CITE lunchtime seminar and presentations and posters from the Genomics, RISK21, Immunotoxicology, and Translational Biomarkers of Neurotoxicity Committees.

October – Michelle Embry, PhD, HESI Senior Scientific Program Manager, was elected to the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) North America Board of Directors. • The HESI Emerging Issues Committee (EIC) reviewed rankings submitted by HESI stakeholders on four proposals selected as high priorities during this year's emerging issues proposal solicitation process. The project on "Framework for Intelligent Non-Animal Alternative Methods for Safety Assessment" was approved by the EIC and forms the newest subcommittee in HESI's scientific portfolio. • The first meeting of the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network was held in Paris, France. Michelle Embry attended as the ILSI-HESI representative and presented an update on the Risk Assessment Training Course Database (available at www.risktraindb.org), which is live and open for population with courses.

November – HESI opened the solicitation for emerging issues proposals for 2015. The most promising proposals will form the basis of new scientific initiatives within HESI, and will receive supporting funds to initiate activities in the fall of 2015. • HESI partnered with Environment Canada, SETAC, and the European Chemical Industry Council Long-Range Research Initiative (CEFIC-LRI) to conduct a 3-day workshop on “Risk Assessment of Ionizable Organic Chemicals” in Vancouver. The workshop was hosted by Environment Canada and attended by 35 leading experts in the field. Four presentations on the workshop outcomes were given at the SETAC North America Annual Meeting the following week. • HESI was active in the SETAC North America Annual Meeting. The HESI Sustainable Chemical Alternatives Technical Committee organized a well-attended session and the HESI Animal Alternatives in Environmental Risk Assessment Technical Committee presented its eco-TTC work. HESI initiatives were also highlighted during several SETAC Advisory Group Meetings.

December – HESI cosponsored the CIPA Update meeting with the Cardiac Safety Research Consortium, US FDA, and Safety Pharmacology Society. Comprehensive In Vitro Proarrhythmia Assay (CIPA) will facilitate the adoption of a new paradigm for assessment of clinical potential of Torsades de Pointes.

2014 By the Numbers



2014 Workshops and Meetings

January – HESI PATC partnered with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

February – HESI RISK21 shared its latest work at a US FDA seminar with over 50 FDA scientists present.

March – The HESI Cardiac Safety Committee convened a CIPA seminar at the US FDA and participated in the International Colloquium on Cardio-oncology.

May – The HESI Immunotoxicology Committee held a workshop on the “Assessment of Respiratory Sensitizers.”

June – The HESI Sustainable Chemical Alternatives Committee and RISK21 presented posters at the 18th Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference. The HESI Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology (DART) Committee organized a symposium at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society. RISK21 gave an invited presentation at a seminar at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).



July – The HESI Genetic Toxicology convened a workshop as a satellite to the European Environmental Mutagen Society Annual Meeting.

September – RISK21 cosponsored a seminar with the Argentina Ministry of Health and SENASA. The Animal Alternatives Committee presented work at a US EPA workshop on difficult-to-test substances and at the World Congress in Prague. Bioaccumulation Committee work was highlighted at an ECHA workshop. The DART committee organized and presented a symposium at the European Teratology Society and presented work to the US FDA.

October – The Immunotoxicology Committee co-organized a workshop with the US FDA on Immunomodulators and Cancer Risk Assessment. The Cardiac Safety Committee presented at the Annual Meeting of the Safety Pharmacology Society. ILSI-HESI work on the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network Training Course Database (www.risktraindb.org) was presented at the first Network Meeting in Paris, France.

November – The Vaccines and Adjuvants Safety Committee presented at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Toxicology. HESI partnered with Environment Canada, SETAC, and CEFIC-LRI to host a workshop on “Risk Assessment of Ionizable Organic Chemicals.”

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