



Insights

Your Monthly Update of News and Notes from HESI



October 2014

Congrats to HESI Staff. Congratulations to Michelle Embry on her election to the SETAC North America Board of Directors! This is a great honor and represents endorsement of the SETAC North America membership through their open election process.



HESI Initiates New Subcommittee. In late September, 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 for HESI action based on its scientific value and impact. The project is expected to result in a set of consistent, internationally relevant criteria against which the reliability and fitness-for-purpose of new non-animal methods or approaches are assessed. The leaders of the new subcommittee are Prof. Alan Boobis (Imperial College London) and Dr. J. Craig Rowlands (The Dow Chemical Company). A steering team composed of expert academic, government, and industry scientists will be identified this fall to scope out the objectives, focus, and approach for the project. To learn more about the topic area, click [here](#) for a presentation delivered at the June 2014 HESI Annual Meeting. Contact Dr. Stan Parish (sparish@hesiglobal.org) with questions or interest.

HESI Zebrafish Study Seeks New Partners. HESI Genomics Committee, in partnership with the HESI DART Committee, is seeking partners for an exploratory study on the utility of zebrafish as a model for detection of trans-generational epigenetic effects. A project scoping team will be initiated in late 2014. For more information contact the Kyle Brunette, HESI Program Associate kbrunette@hesiglobal.org.

EUROTOX. The HESI Subcommittee on Translational Biomarkers of Neurotoxicity hosted a well-attended session at EUROTOX 2014 featuring research presented on fluid-based biomarkers, neurobehavioral assessments, histology images through magnetic resonance microscopy, and best practices of neuropathology as an endpoint. Members interested in learning more about or joining the Subcommittee may contact Ms. Jennifer Pierson (jpierson@hesiglobal.org).

Animal Alternatives Work Presented to US EPA. The HESI Animal Alternatives in Environmental Risk Assessment Committee's work was presented at a 10–11 September 2014 Expert Public Workshop on "Ecotoxicity Testing of 'Difficult to Test' Substances in the Aquatic Environment: Evaluation and Testing of Poorly Water Soluble Substances."

Dr. Michelle Embry gave an overview of recent and ongoing developments of alternative methods for ecotoxicity testing. Details from the meeting can be found in the [Federal Register](#). For more information, contact Dr. Michelle Embry (membry@hesiglobal.org).

HESI Bioaccumulation Committee Highlighted at CEFIC-LRI/ECHA Workshop. An update and recent progress on the HESI Bioaccumulation Committee–led *in vitro* method ring trial were presented by Dr. John Nichols (USEPA, Bioaccumulation Committee co-chair) and Dr. Heike Laue (Givaudan, Bioaccumulation Committee member) at a workshop on 24 September 2014 hosted at the ECHA offices in Helsinki, Finland. The workshop focused on recent scientific developments in bioaccumulation research and identified areas for future work. For more details, contact Dr. Michelle Embry (membry@hesiglobal.org).

World Congress–Prague. A new HESI project on the development of an ecotoxicological threshold of concern (eco-TTC) was presented at the Ninth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic. This project was recently started by the HESI Animal Alternatives in Environmental Risk Assessment Committee, and was part of an ecotoxicology session at the congress, co-chaired by Dr. Michelle Embry. For more details, contact Dr. Michelle Embry (membry@hesiglobal.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Lodging Information Posts: CIPA Update Workshop (11 December 2014; Doubletree, Silver Spring, Maryland). The room block for the CIPA Update Workshop is now available. Please visit the meeting [website](#) for more information and to obtain the group code. An updated agenda is also available. Contact Ms. Jennifer Pierson (jpierson@hesiglobal.org) for more information.

Vaccine and Adjuvant Safety at ACT 2014 (9–12 November 2014; Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida). Dr. Sarah Gould will give a presentation at the American College of Toxicology conference in November. She will present on the work carried out in the HESI Vaccine and Adjuvant Safety Committee that addresses the safety assessment of vaccine adjuvants and how it pertains to autoimmunity.

Recent Publications

Congratulations to the HESI Genetic Toxicology Technical Committee (GTTC)! The open-access GTTC paper by Johnson et al. was selected as the *Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis* Editor's Choice for Volume 55, Issue #8. The paper will be highlighted on the journal cover.

Burns CJ, Wright M, Pierson JB, Bateson TF, Burstyn I, Goldstein DA, Klaunig JE, Luben TJ, Mihlan G, Ritter L, Schnatter AR, Symons JM, and Yi KD. (2014) [Evaluating uncertainty to strengthen epidemiologic data for use in human health risk assessments](#). *Environ Health Perspect*. doi:10.1289/ehp.1308062.

Johnson GE, Soeteman-Hernández LG, Gollapudi BB, Bodger OG, Dearfield KL, Heflich RH, Hixon JG, Lovell DP, MacGregor JT, Pottenger LH, Thompson CM, Abraham L, Thybaud V, Tanir JY, Zeiger E, van Benthem J, and White PA. (2014) [Derivation of point of departure \(PoD\) estimates in genetic toxicology studies and their potential applications in risk assessment](#). *Environ Mol Mutagen* doi:10.1002/em.21870.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HESI's current organizational [strategic plan](#) expires in 2015. We are very excited to execute the process of plan renewal over the coming months. Many of you already provided critical inputs for this process at this time last year via your feedback regarding future strategic areas for HESI effort and impact. This input directly led to the development of the '[Three Pillars of HESI Excellence](#)' that were shared at the June 2014 meeting. I look forward to working with you all in this important organizational effort!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Spirit D. Rohit".