



May 2012

**HESI Establishes Partnership with Chinese Drug Safety Authorities to Develop Translational Biomarkers.** In a first for HESI, on April 11, 2012, the HESI Executive Director and the Deputy Director-General of the National Institute of Food and Drug Control (NIFDC) in China signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to pursue the development of translational safety biomarkers. This agreement has already yielded expanded involvement of NIFDC scientists as active experimental collaborators in HESI scientific research programs. We look forward to continued positive interactions!

**HESI Annual Meeting in Prague - Last Chance!** Another reminder to register yourself and colleagues for our 12-14 June 2012 debut Annual Meeting in Europe. We have an exciting array of speakers and networking opportunities in store. Registration and meeting materials are available here: <http://www.hesiglobal.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3589>.

**What is the role of the Official Representative (OR) at the HESI Annual Meeting?** Just a reminder for all new ORs – attendance at the HESI Annual Meeting is an important part of your role with the organization. At the meeting you will:

- learn about and provide feedback on new strategic initiatives for the organization;
- receive important updates on the state of the organization;
- vote on new Board Trustees and Emerging Issues Committee members;
- have the opportunity to observe the HESI Board of Trustees meeting;
- network with other HESI ORs, Board Trustees, and invited scientific guests; and
- take part in active and innovative science ongoing at HESI.

**Upcoming Symposium.** 20 June 2012. Symposium at the FOCIS Annual Meeting. **Anti-drug Antibody Responses during Clinical Development: Current Practices and Case Studies.** Vancouver, BC, Canada. Session organized by the HESI Immunotoxicology Technical Committee. Contact Dr. Raegan O'Lone at [rolone@hesiglobal.org](mailto:rolone@hesiglobal.org) for more information.

#### New In Print

- **Developmental immunotoxicity (DIT) testing of pharmaceuticals: Current practices, state of the science, knowledge gaps, and recommendations.** Collinge M, Burns-Naas LA, Chellman GJ, Kawabata TT, Komocsar WJ, Piccotti JR, Shenton, J, and Wierda D. 2012. *Journal of Immunotoxicology*. Epub ahead of print.
- **2011- 2012 HESI Activities Report.** This yearly report will be available in the next few weeks. The Activities Report captures key accomplishments for each of HESI's scientific committees and their goals for the upcoming 12 months. Copies of the report will be mailed to each Official Representative and will also be made available for download from the HESI website.

**Committee Renewals.** Congratulations to the HESI Biomarkers of Nephrotoxicity Project Committee and the Vaccines and Adjuvants Safety Project Committee on their successful renewals after the HESI Stewardship Program Review by the Board Program Strategy and Stewardship Committee in the last month. Both committees were re-chartered for a 2-year period to continue their scientific programs and build on their track records of successes to date.

**From the Executive Director:** During the past two weeks, I've had the opportunity to visit with some groundbreaking new academic research centers focused on the development of interdisciplinary science that translates from innovation to application. In addition to expanding the visibility of HESI, these visits further evidenced the potential for HESI to serve as a leader in both tripartite and interdisciplinary science. At the June Annual Meeting, we will discuss opportunities to augment HESI's scientific impact through creative interdisciplinary approaches. I hope you will join us for these important discussions!

*Spir D. Pettit*



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