



## December Insights

### 2016 Year in Review

#### January

HESI Genomics Committee **Project Manuscript Awarded 2016 SOT Board of Publications Award for the Best Paper in Toxicological Sciences!** This paper, "A Systems Biology Approach Utilizing a Mouse Diversity Panel Identifies Genetic Differences Influencing Isoniazid-Induced Microvesicular Steatosis" (Church RJ, Wu H, Mosedale M, et al. *Toxicological Sciences*. 2014;140:481–492), was cited by the SOT Board as "an excellent example of the use of systems biology within the field of toxicology."

#### February

In a **novel partnership with the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition** (a joint FDA–University of Maryland research center, [www.jifsan.org](http://www.jifsan.org)), the HESI Protein Allergenidity Technical Committee launched the design phase of the new COMPARE database, a publicly accessible and transparent resource for identification of protein sequences that are known or putative allergens. COMPARE serves as an open resource for the global biotechnology safety assessment community. Check it out [here](#).

#### March

The HESI Animal Alternatives in Environmental Risk Assessment Technical Committee sponsored the workshop on "Concepts, Tools, and Strategies for Effluent Testing" in Aulnay-sous-Bois, France. This highly interactive meeting engaged **scientists from 15 countries from academia, NGOs, regulatory groups, and industry.**

#### April

The HESI Board of Trustees approved an **important update to the organization's bylaws** allowing both public-sector and private-sector scientists to engage equally in electing HESI's organizational leadership. This change further ensures that HESI's commitment to public-private partnership extends throughout all aspects of its scientific and strategic governance practices.

#### May

The **"E" in HESI had a strong showing at the 26th Society of Environmental Toxicology and Aquatic Chemistry Europe Annual Meeting** held in Nantes, France, with 8 presentations and posters on HESI science from the Bioaccumulation Technical Committee and the Animal Alternatives in ERA Technical Committee—many of them presented by Dr. Michelle Embry, HESI Associate Director of Environmental Science.

#### June

Over **100 international scientists convened at the HESI Annual Meeting in Arlington, Virginia**, to learn more about the newly approved 2016–2020 HESI Strategic Plan and the diversity of formats and outputs from HESI's scientific committees and to hear from a panel on "Meeting

Current and Pending Human and Environmental Health Challenges—How Can We Do Better? Perspectives From Leading Health & Environment Foundations.” Panelists included experts from the Water Environment Research Foundation, PATH, and the FHI Foundation. See the full agenda and view presentations [here](#).

## July

HESI's global reach was visible in Japan thanks to **Dr. Yuko Sekino of the National Institute of Health Sciences Japan, who presented 2 posters on behalf of HESI** and the CiPA Steering Team at the Japan Society of Toxicology Meeting in Nagoya, Japan. The posters detailed the CiPA compound selection process and the *in silico* model.

## August

From Asia to South America... HESI's RISK21 outreach team, composed of Samuel Cohen (University of Nebraska Medical Center), Michelle Embry (HESI), Tim Pastoor (PSC), and Doug Wolf (Syngenta), led 2 very successful, **well-attended, and interactive RISK21 trainings in Brazil for local regulatory scientists and researchers**. The workshops introduced the RISK21 framework and provided participants with case study-led instruction on the use of the RISK21 approach and web tool (available at [www.risk21.org](http://www.risk21.org)).

## September

HESI science hit the road with **symposia and posters at the 2016 Safety Pharmacology Society Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, and the 2016 Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society Annual Meetings in Kansas City, Missouri**. The HESI Cardiac Safety, Translational Biomarkers of Neurotoxicity, and Genetic Toxicology Technical Committees were represented by HESI committee leaders and staff who presented 3 symposia and 5 posters and convened a group discussion session at these meetings.

## October

The HESI DART Committee was **awarded “Elsevier Best Poster/Free Communications”** for the poster by Davis-Bruno et al. (“Nondinical Models for Neonatal Pediatric Drug Development”) at the 2016 European Teratology Society Meeting. For more information about this project or other DART Committee activities, contact [Connie Chen](#).

## November

The HESI's CT-TRACS (Cell Therapy – TRacking, Circulation and Safety) Committee (launched in January 2016) made its public debut with a poster at the Cell & Gene Meeting on the Mesa in La Jolla, California. HESI's participation in the meeting, organized by the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine and the Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, represents **HESI's newest foray into the rapidly expanding clinical arena of cell-based therapeutics**. The poster can be viewed [online here](#).

## December

An **emerging issues subcommittee has launched** to address whether metabolites of microbiota can be used as predictive and translational signals of toxicity and disease. The microbiome proposal, presented at the June 2016 Annual Meeting, was approved by HESI's Emerging Issues Scientific Advisory Committee and the membership to move forward as a new project for 2017. The new subcommittee will convene the first kick-off call in early 2017. Members interested in joining this new subcommittee should contact [Jennifer Pierson](#) or [Connie Chen](#).

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