



## December 2013

*Join us as we look back on a year of growth — new partners, new staff, new ideas, and new impacts. Thanks to all who made it possible for 2013. We look forward to more success and great “science for a healthier world” in our 25th anniversary year, 2014!*

**January** – The HESI Genetic Toxicology and Animal Alternatives in Environmental Risk Assessment committees are recognized for both their record of scientific achievement and robust future research plans via elevation to Technical Committee status. • The Bioaccumulation Project Committee expands its focus to include methodology development in terrestrial ecosystems via a successful workshop with over 30 participants from 8 countries.

### HESI Welcomes 7 New Sponsors!

- Acea Biosciences
- Biogen Idec (returned from hiatus)
- Cellectis
- Cellular Dynamics International
- GE Healthcare
- InvivoSciences
- VistaGen Therapeutics, Inc.

**February** – The Sustainable Alternatives Subcommittee develops guiding principles for evaluation of alternative chemical assessment in its first interactive workshop.

**March** – Two new scientific programs are endorsed and initiated by the Emerging Issues Committee: (1) Standard Methods for Identification of Potential Respiratory Sensitizers and (2) Development of a Comprehensive *In Vitro* Proarrhythmia Assay. • The challenges and opportunities for use of pluripotent stem cells in cardiovascular risk assessment are confronted at a joint HESI–Safety Pharmacology Society workshop hosted at Amgen’s Cambridge facility.

**April** – The HESI Protein Allergenicity Technical Committee (PATC) and ILSI Focal Point in China co-sponsor a Beijing workshop on food allergy and safety assessment on protein allergenicity and toxicity, clinical allergy, and the safety of genetically modified crops, fostering future collaborations with Chinese scientists and regulators.

**May** – The HESI PATC and the ILSI International Food Biotechnology Committee co-host a symposium to discuss priorities and challenges for safety assessment of agricultural biotechnology products across the NAFTA region. • The utility of toxicogenomics approaches for human cancer risk assessment is the focus of a joint HESI–Maastricht University workshop held at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France.

**June** – A successful HESI Annual Meeting focuses on HESI’s role in translating science from research to application and facilitates interactive discussions about HESI’s future scientific direction. • HESI’s Combining Interdisciplinary and Translational Expertise (CITE) initiative is the focus of a keynote lecture at the Japan Society of Toxicology Meeting.

**July** – The HESI Risk Assessment in the 21st Century (RISK21) Technical Committee holds its first workshop in Tokyo, with additional support by the Society for Risk Analysis Japan, with a lively exchange of information regarding current approaches, challenges, and opportunities in chemical risk assessment. • A high-profile workshop, hosted by the HESI Cardiac Safety Committee, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Duke University Cardiac Safety Research Consortium (CSRC), proposes an alternative paradigm for safety assessment of proarrhythmic risk from drugs.

**August** – HESI staff hold their annual retreat to identify opportunities to enhance the efficiency and impact of the organization. • HESI’s joint workshop with FDA and CSRC is featured in Nature Reviews Drug Discovery.

**September** – FDA and HESI sign a Memorandum of Understanding committing to a partnership to enhance drug development and drug safety evaluation.

**October** – The Immunotoxicology Technical Committee addresses the contemporary public health challenge of cytokine storm risk assessment through a workshop on “Cytokine Release: State-of-the-Science, Current Challenges and Future Directions.”

**November** – HESI and the World Health Organization enter into a collaborative agreement to jointly develop and maintain a freely available on-line database of chemical risk assessment training courses. • The HESI Bioaccumulation Project Committee sponsors their second professional training course on a new *in vitro* method, “Determination of Test Chemical Metabolism Utilizing Fish Liver Subcellular Fractions and Hepatocytes,” which was developed by the committee in collaboration with multiple international partners and is currently under consideration by the OECD. • The HESI Genomics Technical Committee explores the link between novel research in epigenetics and its potential use in drug and chemical assessment with global experts.

To read past issues of *Insights* from throughout 2013, [click here](#).

**HESI Scientific Committees Participate in 20 Conferences by Professional Societies across the Globe.**

- American Chemical Society (Indianapolis, IN, USA)
- American Chemical Society Green Chemistry Institute (Bethesda, MD, USA)
- American College of Clinical Pharmacology (Bethesda, MD, USA)
- American Heart Association (Dallas, TX, USA)
- British Society of Toxicological Pathology (Cheshire, UK)
- Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society (Monterey, CA, USA)
- European Teratology Society (Stresa, Italy)
- EUROTOX (Interlaken, Switzerland)
- International Congress of Nutrition (Granada, Spain)
- International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (Salt Lake City, UT, USA)
- International Conference on Environmental Mutagens (Foz do Iguassu, Brazil)
- International Congress of Toxicology/IUTOX (Seoul, Korea)
- International Workshop on Genotoxicity Testing (Foz do Iguassu, Brazil)
- Japanese Society of Toxicology (Chiba, Japan)
- Japanese Teratology Society (Osaka, Japan)
- Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (Nashville, TN, USA)
- Society of Toxicology (San Antonio, TX, USA)
- Safety Pharmacology Society (Rotterdam, Amsterdam)
- Society of Risk Assessment (Baltimore, MD, USA)
- Teratology Society (Tucson, AZ, USA)



**HESI Year in Review – By the Numbers**



A full list of [workshops](#) and [publications](#) is available on our website.

Join us in celebrating 25 years of collaborative, forward-looking science!

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
10-11 June 2014  
Westin Georgetown Hotel  
Washington, DC



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