Insights
Your Monthly Update of News and Notes from HESI

February 2014

Over the 2014 calendar year, we will feature vignettes and comments from those scientific leaders who helped grow HESI from a small subprogram within ILSI, to the robust and global entity that it is today.

From Dr. Anthony D. Dayan, London, United Kingdom, who was involved with HESI from the early 1980s through the early 2000s. [Past HESI Chair 1998–1999; employed then by St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College]:

Perhaps the most important activity was making it possible for academics, regulators, and other experts from diverse industries in the Americas, Europe, and the Far East to meet and discuss problems and possibilities in ways that encouraged openness and collaboration and permitted frank dialogue with scientists from multiple sectors. Such open-ended meetings were not so common then and the idea of sharing data between companies and other groups was novel. ***The power of today's collaborations owes much to what HESI helped to start.***

Congratulations to Award-Winning HESI Trustees:

- Jay Goodman, who receives the 2014 SOT Merit Award; and
- Herman Autrup, who receives the 2014 SOT Education Award.

HESI Science at SOT. Click **here** to see the comprehensive list of scientific posters, symposia, and workshops that feature HESI science. Also, don't forget to **register** for the HESI CITE Seminar (formerly known as the HESI SOT Lunchtime Seminar) to be held 24 March 2014. This year's speaker is Dr. Peter Kuhn (Scripps Research Institute), a dynamic scientist bringing together physics and oncology to create powerful applied translational science for detection of circulating tumor cells.

HESI Board Augments Organizational Science Strategy. At their January 2014 meeting, the HESI Board of Trustees approved several new initiatives designed to enhance the impact, global relevance, and expediency of HESI's scientific programs and public health mission. These initiatives are part of Board-designated Pillars of Excellence (i.e., Knowledge to Application, Global Vision, and Future Leaders) that help define HESI's contribution to the scientific community. HESI will enhance its ability to produce accessible, relevant, and timely science and serve as a global thought-leader in contemporary human and environmental health challenges. For more information on the new strategic coordination, outreach efforts, and/or financial resources associated with these initiatives, contact Ms. Syril Pettit (spettit@hesiglobal.org).

HESI Sustainable Alternatives Subcommittee Elevated to Technical Committee Status. On 20 January 2014, the HESI Board of Trustees approved the elevation of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee on

Frameworks for Alternative Chemical Assessment and Selection of Safer, Sustainable Alternatives (initiated in 2011) to Technical Committee status. The new name is the Sustainable Chemical Alternatives Technical Committee. The committee is currently developing publications and work products that will provide much-needed guidance about alternative chemical assessments for an array of audiences, including government agencies, small and medium-sized businesses, and others that are new to the topic. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the committee, please contact Dr. Jennifer Young Tanir (jtanir@hesiglobal.org).

HESI is happy to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website, with lots of fresh content to explore! Visit us at www.hesiglobal.org.

HESI Partners with ILSI and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on Unintended Effects Meeting. In January 2014, an international meeting titled ''Genetic Basis of Unintended Effects in Modified Plants" was held in Ottawa, Canada, bringing together over 75 scientists from academia, government, and the agro-biotech industry. The meeting was organized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the HESI Protein Allergenicity Technical Committee, the ILSI International Food Biotechnology Committee, the ILSI Research Foundation, and CropLife International. The objectives of the meeting were to explore current knowledge and areas requiring further study on unintended effects in plants and to discuss how this information can inform and improve genetically modified (GM) crop risk assessments. The meeting featured presentations from 17 speakers on 1) the molecular basis of plant genome variability, 2) unintended changes at the molecular and phenotypic levels, 3) a hypothesis-driven look at unintended effects in assessing conventional and GM crops, and 4) the consequences of unintended effects from a food and feed safety and environmental risk perspective. The extent to which unintended or unexpected changes pose a hazard was also discussed. A summary of the meeting was presented at the February 2014 meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Task Force for the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds in Paris, France. Proceedings from the meeting will be submitted for publication in the peer-reviewed, scientific literature. To view the presentations, audio recordings, and meeting materials, click **here**. For additional information, contact Ms. Nancy G. Doerrer (ndoerrer@hesiglobal.org).

Recent HESI Publications.

Boverhof DR, Ladics G, Luebke B, Botham J, Corsini E, Evans E, Germolec D, Holsapple M, Loveless SE, Lu H, van der Laan JW, White KL, and Yang Y. (2013) Approaches and considerations for the assessment of immunotoxicity for environmental chemicals: A workshop summary. Regul Toxicol Pharmacol. 68(1): 95–107. *(*Free PDF download until 26 March 2014)*

Finco D, Grimaldi C, Fort M, Walker M, Kiessline A, Wolf B, Salcedo T, Faggioni R, Schneider A, Ibraghimov A, Scesney S, Serna D, Prell R, Stebbings R, and Narayan PK. (2014) Cytokine release assays: Current practices and future directions. Cytokine. pii: S1043-4666(13)00771-0. doi: 10.1016/j.cyto.2013.12.009. [Epub ahead of print]

Pottenger LH, Andrews LS, Bachman AN, Boogaard PJ, Cadet J, Embry MR, Farmer PB, Himmelstein MW, Jarabek AM, Martin EA, Mauthe RJ, Persaud R, Preston RJ, Schoeny R, Skare J, Swenberg JA, Williams GM, Zeiger E, Zhang F, and Kim JH. (2014) An organizational approach for the assessment of DNA adduct data in risk assessment: case studies for aflatoxin B1, tamoxifen and vinyl chloride. Crit Rev Toxicol. doi: 10.3109/10408444.2013.873768. [Epub ahead of print]

CITE Initiative Spotlights the Need for Translational Training in Science. An editorial by Ms. Syril Pettit, published this month in Science Translational Medicine, calls for progress in developing and supporting translational scientists who can help meet the challenge of applied health and safety sciences. The article lays the groundwork for the HESI Combining Interdisciplinary and Translational Expertise (CITE) initiative to serve as a thought-leader and facilitator in this critical aspect of public-health driven science.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Registration Is Now Open — Workshop on the Assessment of Respiratory Sensitization. The HESI Immunotoxicology Technical Committee is organizing this workshop in Alexandria, Virginia, on 28–29 May 2014. This workshop will discuss the current state of the science for identification and characterization of respiratory sensitizer hazards, identify the near-term and long-term information to facilitate development of validated standard methods and frameworks, and consider regulatory and practical needs regarding hazard management. For more information, visit the workshop website or contact Dr. Connie Chen (cchen@hesiglobal.org).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We thank Dr. Dayan for his remarkable commendation that "The power of today's collaborations owes much to what HESI helped to start." There can be no greater legacy for an organization like HESI than establishing both the precedent and the standard for quality, impactful multi-sector scientific partnerships. As Dr. Dayan notes, HESI was pivotal in establishing a then-novel community of practice in collaborative sciences. HESI is now poised to help set the standard for the next quarter century of science for a safer, more sustainable world.

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