New Projects

New Emerging Issues Projects Referred to Immunotoxicology and Cardiac Safety Committees. The HESI Emerging Issues Committee (IEC) recently met to review proposals received through the annual emerging issues survey process. A 2013 trial process was approved that supports adoption of relevant new pharmacologic areas as adjuncts to existing HESI committees. This process will allow new projects to initiate more rapidly by taking advantage of an existing committee's standing infrastructure and expertise and by providing some level of support to help initiate the project. In the past, in part, participation on a high priority emerging issues project was free for approximately the first year of the project for any HESI member. Two proposals received through the annual emerging issues survey process were referred to existing HESI committees for further consideration using the 2013 trial process:

1. Standard Methods for Identification of Potential Respiratory Sensitizers. This project aims to identify currently available methods for detecting potential respiratory sensitizers, discuss the strengths and limitations of these methods, identify key research needs, and develop a standard, validated method for accurate hazard identification. The project will be vetted by the IEC Immunotoxicology Technical Committee for potential initiation in Q2 2013. If you are interested in this project, contact Dr. Raegan O’Lone (jtanir@hesiglobal.org).

2. Development of a Comprehensive in Vitro Prenatallity Assay. After completing a retrospective preclinical to nonclinical concordance data analysis on a joint HESI/TOA (NIOSH) database, the Prenatality Working Group is moving forward to further assess the underlying mechanism causing the discordant compounds. They will also focus on evaluating and comparing current industry practices of cardiac ion channel screening and will design a more predictive nonclinical assay to detect proarythymic risk of drugs. The project will be conducted under the umbrella of the HESI Cardiac Safety Technical Committee. If you are interested in this project, contact Ms. Jennifer Pierson (jpierson@hesiglobal.org).

In Other News

The recent HESI workshop on Developing Guidance for Alternatives Assessment (8-February 2013) was featured in the March 2013 issue of the Environmental Factor by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The piece highlights the public-private group explores sustainable alternatives approach to toxicology that focused on identifying sustainable alternatives to chemicals of concern. The piece also includes a letter from Cardiac Safety Technical Committee and the Maastricht Cardiac Safety Working Committee is moving forward to further assess the underlying mechanism causing the discordant compounds. The workshop attendees are pictured below.

A paper by the Genetic Toxicology Technical Committee, “Quantitative approaches for assessing forensic evidence of genetic contamination,” was distinguished as one of the Best Papers Awarding the Society of Risk Assessment in 2012 by the Risk Assessment Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology.

UPCOMING HESI EVENTS

Workshop on "Moving Forward in Human Cancer Risk Assessment in the Genomics Era 2.0" (16-17 May 2013 at the OECD Congress Center, Paris, France). Co-organized by the HESI Application of Genomics to Cancer Risk Assessment Technical Committee and the Maastricht University, Dept of Toxicogenomics. Registration is now open. For more information, please click here or contact Dr. Raegan O’Lone (jtanir@hesiglobal.org).

New HESI Publication


ADeDIE APPROACHING FOR HESSI DATA Collection Development and Reproductive Study Practices. The extended deadline for the HESI Data Collection Development and Reproductive Study Practices (EIC) recently met to review proposals received through the annual Emerging Issues process. The project will be conducted under the umbrella of the HESI Immunotoxicology Technical Committee and the Maastricht Immunotoxicology Working Committee. A letter from the Genetic Toxicology Technical Committee (GTTC) announcing the project is now available. During the spring meeting, 18-19 April 2013, the GTTC will brainstorm about the topics of their six new work groups: 1) data interpretation, 2) framework for adoption of new test methods, 3) "clean sheet" testing strategy, 4) evaluation of new methods in germ cells, 5) evaluation of new compounds: novel mechanisms of action and evaluation of new compounds: biologics. If you have genetic toxicology expertise and are interested in exploring involvement in these new areas or in the existing work groups (quantitative, improving existing test methods) and/or approaches, please contact Dr. Jennifer Tanir (jtanir@hesiglobal.org).

NEW HESI MEMBERS

Welcome to GE Healthcare which joined HESI as a 2013 Sponsor organization and has already become very active in the Cardiac Safety and Neurotoxicology programs.

Welcome back to Biogene who took a hiatus from HESI in 2012 and has now returned.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Please plan on joining us 11-12 June, 2013 for HESI’s Annual Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. For the first time ever, the meeting is free for all HESI public and private sector members to encourage your participation and thank you for your support. Be there to learn about HESI’s scientific portfolio, discuss mechanisms to help members make better use of your work environment and across the global science community, and meet and greet HESI’s Executive Director, looking forward to seeing you there!