



Insights

Your Monthly Update of News and Notes from HESI



July 2014

HESI Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary at the June 2014

Annual Meeting. The HESI Board of Trustees and staff welcomed over 100 global thought leaders to its 25th Anniversary celebration at the 10–12 June 2014 HESI Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Half of the participants were affiliated with public-sector institutions (government, academia, research institutes, and NGOs). A large faculty of dynamic speakers provided thought-provoking presentations on issues of profound importance to human and environmental health, and particularly to HESI stakeholders. The Annual Meeting also featured presentations and events that celebrated HESI's past, present, and future, including an engaging Keynote Lecture by Dr. Alan Leshner (CEO of AAAS) at the opening reception, and reminiscences and perspectives from Dr. Gilbert Omenn (University of Michigan), former HESI Executive Directors Dr. Denise Robinson Gravatt (Pfizer) and Dr. Michael Holsapple (Covance), Dr. Kendall Wallace (University of Minnesota), and Ms. Syril Pettit (HESI Executive Director). Speakers from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Institute for Systems Biology, and American Cancer Society also shared their vision for innovative collaboration across the NGO, academic, government, and industrial sectors to improve human health and the environment. We thank those of you who joined us at the HESI Annual Meeting to celebrate 25 years of science for a healthier world! Watch for more information about the June 2014 Annual Meeting on the HESI website.



Emerging Issues Session. A recurring feature at all HESI Annual Meetings is an Emerging Issues Session. Proposals are presented on priority emerging scientific issues that would benefit from HESI's focused, multi-sector collaborative approach. This year, HESI leaders described proposals on the following topics: 1) framework for intelligent non-animal alternative methods for safety assessment; 2) strategies to integrate plasma levels of compounds and their metabolites that are directly comparable to in vitro toxicology results; 3) a new exposure science emerging from new demands, technology, and big data; and 4) environmental chemicals and low-dose non-

monotonic dose-responses: is there an impact on risk assessment-based study design and interpretation? (These presentations and other Annual Meeting materials are posted [here](#).) HESI stakeholders were recently contacted to rank these proposals during the summer. Two proposals will be selected for HESI action in the fall of 2014. Special thanks go to Dr. Denise Robinson Gravatt (Pfizer; former HESI Executive Director), who opened the Emerging Issues Session with reflections on the value of the organization's emerging issues process over the years, as well as to Emerging Issues Committee leaders Drs. Hal Zenick (US EPA) and Ruth Roberts (AstraZeneca), who chaired a successful 25th Anniversary Emerging Issues Session.

CITE "Mini-Symposium." HESI's Combining Interdisciplinary and Translational Expertise (CITE) initiative held a mini-symposium on Tuesday, June 10. Led by guest speakers Drs. Jerry Lee (National Cancer Institute), Eva Guinan (Harvard Medical School), Deborah DiazGranados (Virginia Commonwealth University), and Brian Berridge (GlaxoSmithKline), this Annual Meeting session explored the challenge of creating scientific impact and innovation through effective collaboration. Discussion topics included the barriers to teamwork raised by an academic model founded upon competition, program management to improve current funding paradigms, and the value of fostering interdisciplinary networks to collaboration.



Science Session: Perspectives from Nonprofit Thought Leaders.

In keeping with HESI's mission of tripartite, collaborative science for the public good, the Annual Meeting featured a session on Wednesday, June 11, that focused on innovative approaches in the nonprofit world for building effective partnerships across the public and private sectors and multiple technical disciplines. Speakers for the session were Dr. Martin Philbert (University of Michigan), Rebecca Kirch, JD (American Cancer Society), Dr. Nathan Price (Institute for Systems Biology), and Dr. Jason Clay (World Wildlife Fund). Their inspired presentations on

pressing topics ranging from innovation and advocacy in the medical paradigm surrounding palliative care, to the potential of "big data" to revolutionize systems biology, to new approaches in partnering to overcome public health challenges led to a robust panel discussion on the future of global health partnership in what many attendees agreed was a highlight of the meeting. HESI applauds the possibilities that innovative approaches and partnerships hold for creating science-based solutions in pursuit of a sustainable, healthier world.

Space Life Science and HESI. On 25–26 June 2014, HESI Executive Director Syril Pettit attended the inaugural US-UK Space Life Sciences Workshop at the Rice Bioscience Research Collaborative Center in Houston, Texas. Participants (including scientists from NASA, the UK Science and Innovation Network, the UK Space Agency, and the US National Space Biomedicine Research Institute) discussed opportunities to build partnerships across the governmental, academic, and private-sector aerospace industries and the life sciences research sectors. HESI and NASA led a session to elicit interest in a partnership to enhance shelf-stability of medications to benefit both space exploration and resource-limited terrestrial applications.



Dr. Jeffrey Davis, Director of Human Health and Performance, NASA, and Ms. Syril Pettit, HESI Executive Director, at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

RISK21 Seminar at European Chemicals Agency. Prof. Alan Boobis (Imperial College London) and Dr. Timothy Pastoor (Syngenta, Ltd) gave an invited seminar on the RISK21 project to an audience of approximately 25 regulators at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on 19 June in Helsinki, Finland. The RISK21 approach was well-received and will pave the way for future interactions and dialog with ECHA.

Prof. Alan Boobis and Dr. Timothy Pastoor, RISK21 co-chairs, at ECHA Headquarters in Helsinki, Finland.



HESI Outreach Webinar Now Available Online. HESI held a webinar on "[Assessing and Comparing Chemicals for Sustainable Alternatives: Challenges and Strategies](#)" on 5 June 2014 (US), 6 June 2014 (Asia). Dr. Pamela J. Spencer (The Dow Chemical Company) summarized efforts to find more sustainable, safer chemical alternatives to replace chemicals or technologies of high concern to human health and the environment, with an overview of the HESI Sustainable Chemical Alternatives Technical Committee's progress to develop guidance for alternative chemical assessment. [Click here](#) to view the webinar.

Assessment of Respiratory Sensitization Workshop Materials Online. Over 65 international scientists from across academia, industry and government met on 28-29 May 2014 in Alexandria, VA, to discuss the state-of-the-science of respiratory sensitization and identify near- and long-term needs for the development of validated standard methods and frameworks. Speaker presentations can be found on the workshop [website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

54th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Teratology Society (25–27 July 2014; Sagamihara, Japan). Dr. Kok-Wah Hew will give a presentation on the DART Technical Committee's work on the value of the rabbit developmental toxicity data in risk assessment for pharmaceuticals. For more information, contact Dr. Connie Chen (cchen@hesiglobal.org).

Immunomodulators and Cancer Risk Assessment Workshop (20–21 October 2014; Silver Spring, Maryland). The Immunotoxicology Technical Committee and the FDA are co-organizing this workshop, which will take place at the US FDA's White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, Maryland. For more information, visit the [website](#), or contact Dr. Connie Chen (cchen@hesiglobal.org).

Save the Date – CIPA Update Workshop! Rechanneling the Current Cardiac Paradigm: Arrhythmia Risk Assessment During Drug Development Without the Thorough QT Study (11 December 2014; Silver Spring, Maryland). HESI, CSRC, FDA, and SPS are co-sponsoring this workshop on 11 December 2014 in Silver Spring, Maryland. Contact Ms. Jennifer Pierson (jpierson@hesiglobal.org) to learn more.

Recent Publications

Kanki M, Moriguchi A, Sasaki D, Mitori H, Yamada A, Unami A, Miyamae Y. 2014. [Identification of urinary miRNA biomarkers for detecting cisplatin-induced proximal tubular injury in rats.](#) *Toxicology*. E-pub ahead of print.

Nassirpour R, Mathur S, Gosink MM, Li Yizheng, Shoieb AM, Wood J, O'Neil SP, Homer BL, Whitely LO. 2014. [Identification of tubular injury microRNA biomarkers in urine: comparison of next-generation sequencing and qPCR-based profiling platforms.](#) *BMC Genomics*. 15: 485.

Pavkovic M, Riefke B, Ellinger-Ziegelbauer H. 2014. [Urinary microRNA profiling for identification of biomarkers after cisplatin-induced kidney injury.](#) *Toxicology*. E-pub ahead of print.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to all who helped make this month's 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting such a special event. What a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the organization's long, rich history of innovative intellectual partnerships and scientific impacts. The organization is powered by initiative, efficiency, collaboration, and commitment to fill unmet health needs. It is a truly powerful model.

