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## **SSPT Annual Report**

2005

### **Organisational matters**

There have been major changes in the organization of our society in 2005. Therefore, this report starts summarizing on these changes.

Due to the many branches in the field of Pharmacology and Toxicology that all need special advancement, we re-organized our society by generating three daughter societies:

1. Swiss Society for Experimental Pharmacology (SSEP)
2. Swiss Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (SSCPT)
3. Swiss Society for Toxicology (SST)

These societies are united in and form together the SSPT. The society is open for other societies, provided they serve also the purpose of the SSPT.

The membership fees are collected by the associated societies. A part of the fee is paid to the SSPT. This is necessary to cover the national and international commitments of the SSPT. The part for the SSPT will be determined yearly by the council members. The council is composed of 7 persons:

- President of the SSEP
- Council member of the SSEP
- President of the SSCPT
- Council member of the SSCPT
- President of the SST
- Council member of the SST
- Treasurer

The office of the president rotates between the associated societies. One term is 2 years. The secretary is chosen by the acting president. The SSPT stays a member of the Union of the Swiss Societies for Experimental Biology (USGEB). It is represented by the president and two members of the council.

These changes within the structure of the society were decided during the General Assembly on February 17, 2005, during the USGEB meeting in Zurich. As the first president within this new structure, Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon (Bern) was elected. He asked Prof. Dr. O. Staub from the SSEP to act as the secretary during his term of presidency. The president of the SSPT in the time period of 2007-2009 will be determined by the SSKPT.

The council met two times in Bern (July 1 and November 25). The collaboration between the three societies works well. We generated by-laws for both the SSPT and all daughter societies. Websites, which inform about the changes of the structure as well as our scientific and educational activities, are also available.

Several new members were admitted, which brought the total number of members in 2005 to 364.

The Swiss Society of Toxicology (SST) renounced to organizing a scientific meeting during this transition and change phase, and focussed on pursuing contacts for continuing education courses. The general assembly, which usually takes place during the annual scientific meeting of the SST, was postponed to early 2006, when relevant organisational matters will be communicated.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the board for their help and support during the last reporting period. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of our secretary, Prof. Dr. O. Staub, and the continuous support by our past-president, Prof. Dr. K. G. Hofbauer. Without their ideas, initiatives, and time, it would have been impossible to carry out these major changes and, at the same time, to increase the scientific and educational activities as well as the visibility of our society.

## **Scientific activities**

On March 3-4, 2005, a joint meeting of the Swiss Society of Allergology and Immunology (SSAI) and our society was organized in Bern. Chairpersons of this meeting were Prof. Dr. U. Müller (SSAI), Prof. Dr. W. Pichler (SSAI) and Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon (SSPT). Our society directly organized three workshops: 1. Drug-induced liver disease (Prof. Dr. S. Krähenbühl, Basel), 2. Autoimmune phenomena in hepatitis and drug metabolism (Prof. Dr. J. Reichen, Bern), and 3. Antiinflammatory and chemotherapy (Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon, Bern). A 4<sup>th</sup> workshop, which was also assigned to us, was on “Drug-induced pulmonary responses” and was organized by Prof. Dr. L. Nicod, Bern, who is a pulmonologist. This joint meeting was very successful and represented our annual meeting 2005. It also brought a financial benefit of CHF 4000, which was immediately invested in our annual meeting 2006 in Lausanne (see below).

A symposium on “Current concepts: Treatment with antibodies” was organised by Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon at the USGEB meeting in Zurich on February 17, 2005. The speakers of this symposium wrote review articles on the presented topics that will be published by the journal “Pathobiology” in the near future.

The Swiss Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (SSCPT) had its annual meeting together with the Swiss Society of Internal Medicine in May 2005 in Basel. A symposium was organized as well as a poster session with oral presentations of the posters scoring highest. Beside the annual assembly, the final examination in clinical

pharmacology has been hold in its present form for the second time (multiple choice questions and practical part). Details need to be changed, but the examination appears to be successful. The SSCPT is in the process to create a training program for clinical investigators, which will be FMH accredited and will be open for MDs.

The next annual meeting of our society will be organized by Prof. Dr. O. Staub (SSEP), PD Dr. T. Buclin (SSKPT), and Dr. E. Felley-Bosco (SST) and will be held on October 5-6, 2006, in Lausanne. At this meeting, it is planned that the Novartis Poster Prize is awarded for the three best presentations.

## **Continuing education initiative**

According to the SSPT objectives set for 2001 to 2005 the efforts to increase the contribution of our society to the continuing education of physicians and pharmacists were successfully continued.

A one-day symposium on cardiovascular pharmacology with the title “Progress in Pharmacology: Heart and circulation” was co-organised by Prof. Dr. P. Meier-Abt, PD Dr. T. Buclin, Dr. A. Dubied, and Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon in Bern on January 27, 2005. This meeting attracted more than 500 pharmacologists, toxicologists, pharmacists, medical doctors, and researchers. It was kindly sponsored by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer AG, Zurich. A similar symposium with the title “Pharmacology of the Immune System” is planned for January 26, 2006. For the organization of this meeting, the SSPT generated a task force with the following members: Prof. Dr. P. Meier-Abt (Basel), Dr. M. Kondo-Oestreicher (Geneva), Prof. Dr. L. Scapozza (Geneva), and Prof. Dr. Hans-Uwe Simon (Bern).

The series of continuing education for pharmacists (“Pharmathemen”) that had been launched in 2002, was continued in 2005 with a symposium on “Therapieoptionen bei Kachexie” (March 31) and another one on “Dermatology” (September 15). As in the previous years the symposia had the format of “Telepoly conferences” with simultaneous presentations at the Pharmazentrum in Basel and at the ETH in Zürich. The series, which was so far co-organised by Prof. Dr. S. Krähenbühl and Prof. Dr. K.G. Hofbauer, will in the future be organized by members of the Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology in Basel and be continued in 2006 with “Reisemedizin”.

In the summer of 2005, Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon organised an International Summer School on Immunopharmacology in Weissenstein on August 13-15, 2005.

The series “Cardiovascular Pharmacology Seminars”, which is co-organized by Prof. Dr. P. Erne and Prof. Dr. K.G. Hofbauer, was continued with a conference on “Aktuelle Arzneimittelthemen in der Kardiologie” in Lucerne on September 9, 2005. The next seminar will take place in Lucerne on October 19, 2006.

Toxicological education and training programs included several different courses. Modules 1 and 2 comprised courses on the education of animal experimentation, in which Dr. B. Schmid focussed on “Alternative approaches in animal testing” (May 27 and October 28, 2005) and on “Animal protection laws, international agreements, and 3R principles” (October 18, 2005). Furthermore, the SST contributed to a course on General Toxicology at the Biozentrum in Basel (December 13, 2005) with a lecture entitled “Regulatory Toxicology” (Dr. B. Schmid).

A new course, comprising five 3-day modules, has been initiated between the University of Lausanne and the Institute of Health Economics and Management with an “Innovative Program in Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy” (time period: January – May). The toxicological and pharmacological aspects during this course are covered by Prof. J. Diezi and Dr. B. Schmid.

An additional course was organized by Prof. Dr. R. Amado at the ETH in Zürich (April 4-8, 2005), dealing with various aspects of food toxicity. New aspects of contaminants and toxicological aspects of phytopharmaceuticals were covered within two courses (January 28 and November 16) at the Center for Xenobiotic and Environmental Risk Research (XERR). The “Certificat d'études complémentaires en toxicology (CECT)” was continued at the University of Lausanne (Dr. E. Felley-Bosco, résau lémanique de toxicology).

Taken together, numerous continuing education events are now taking place in various parts of Switzerland under the auspices of our society, all of which appear to be well received and attended by a regular audience.

## **National Activities**

### **The Swiss Register of Toxicologists**

The Swiss Register of Toxicologists (Dr. T. Maurer) has, in parallel to the SST activity, focussed on collaborative efforts regarding education with neighbouring countries, in particular with Germany and Austria. The total number of registered toxicologists has remained stable at approximately 145 members.

### **Status of Toxicology in Switzerland**

The motion by Maya Graf of March 21, 2002, for a “Unabhängige Toxikologie-Forschung in der Schweiz” was submitted to the Federal Council, which requested in turn in June 2002 the establishment of a report on the future directions in the various different fields of toxicology. In this report, the toxicological needs of the BUWAL, BAG, BLW, SWISSMEDIC and SECO regarding education, research, and services/public relations are being addressed. At the end of 2005, the report was finalized and released for consultation and comments to the different relevant federal offices.

## **International contacts**

A proposal for a symposium on “Pharmacotherapy of Cachexia” has been submitted to the organisers of the IUPHAR 2006 meeting in Beijing by Prof. Dr. K.G. Hofbauer.

Prof. Dr. U. Ruegg was proposed to be elected into the board of IUPHAR. He is planned to be appointed as the treasurer of IUPHAR.

Dr. B. Schmid was co-chairing the “Individual Members” meeting at the EUROTOX meeting in Cracow/Poland (September 12, 2005). The minutes of this meeting are available under [www.Eurotox.com](http://www.Eurotox.com). Several delegates of the “Swiss Register of Toxicologists” participated in this meeting and presented the Swiss status.

Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon has close contacts to the board members of the German Society of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (DGPT) and is invited to their meetings.

Prof. Dr. Hans-Uwe Simon  
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