

(Registered Society under Karnataka Society Registration Act, 1960)

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# "Toxpath" Newsletter

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May-July 2008

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# **EDITORIAL**

The "Toxpath" newsletter has been started on the popular request of members of the STPI. To begin with it will be in the name of President of STPI and after the Second Annual conference, it is proposed to form an editorial board comprising members from India and also abroad. This platform is to contribute and share scientific knowledge in the field of Toxicopathology in India in general and globally in particular. Initially, this newsletter would be a quarterly issue, starting from May 2008. This will comprise of various technical communication in the form of articles, short communication and abstracts; histomorphological illustration and diagnosis; general information related to members of the STPI; voluntary communications from national and international toxicology and toxicopathology societies and last but not the least news regarding emerging trends for that quarter in the of field toxicopathology and allied fields.

# Formation of Society for Toxicologic Pathology in India (STPI)

The 'Society for Toxicologic Pathology in India" was established in 2004. The objectives are to provide an excellent platform to share thoughts and update the recent developments in Toxicologic Pathology to meet international standards, to organize scientifically valuable annual meetings, to offer training courses in Toxicological Pathology and related fields and to collaborate with the other Societies of Toxicological Pathology.

## **Activities of STPI**

### First Technical Seminar



STPI organized first technical seminar in Bangalore on January 3, 2006. Dr. C. Gopinath, Consultant in Toxicology and Pathology, Former Director of Pathology, Huntingdon Research Center, UK, former President, BSTP delivered lecture on "Interpretation of data from carcinogenicity studies in rodents". The

seminar was attended by more than 35 members who included toxicologists, pathologists and post-graduate students. The discussion on collaboration with BSTP to conduct continuing education programme during the STPI conference was initiated.

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First annual conference of the Society for Toxicologic Pathology in India and Continuing Professional Development programme in collaboration with the British Society of Toxicological Pathologists



The first annual conference of the Society for Toxicologic Pathology in India and Continuing Professional Development programme in collaboration with the British Society of Toxicological Pathologists was held on 25-27 August, 2006 at The Atria Hotel in Bangalore.

The conference started with the Inaugural Session. Sixty members registered of which twenty nine were the life members of STPI. The Vice President Dr. S. K. Vijayasarathi gave the welcome address. The Patron of the society Dr. R. N. Sreenivas Gowda lit the inaugural lamp and addressed the participants. The Presidential address was delivered by Dr. S. J. Seshadri. The Secretary, Dr. Geeta Nirody conveyed the vote of thanks.

The technical sessions followed the keynote address by the President. Invited

lectures by Dr. M. R. Marathe, Dr. S. K. Vijayasarathi, Dr. C. Balachandran, Dr. Nimish Vaccharajani, Dr. Klaus Weber, Dr. T. V. Anil Kumar, Dr. P Uday



Kumar, Dr. M. R. Balaji and Dr. S. S. Y. H. Qadri, was followed by poster session.

On the next two days (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August) the BSTP's CPD programme was conducted. The BSTP pathologists Dr. Kevin Isaacs, Dr. Pam Mullins and Dr. C. Gopinath were the presentators.

## **Second Technical Seminar of STPI**



Second Technical Seminar by Dr. Shashi K. Ramaiah was organized at Veterinary College Bangalore, on January 6, 2007. Dr. Shashi K. Ramaiah, Assistant Professor, Faculties of Pathobiology and Toxicology, Texas A&M University delivered lecture on "Clinical Pathology Approaches to detecting liver toxicity in toxicology studies" and "Proteomics applications in liver toxicology for identification of biomarkers"

Dr. Shashi K. Ramaiah who served as Continuing Education Chair of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) and is actively working towards collaboration between STP and STPI to run modular courses in toxicologic pathology in India.

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#### Third Technical Seminar of STPI

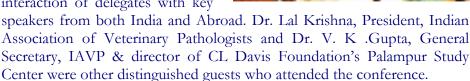
Dr. Srinivas S. Rao, Chief, Laboratory Animal Medicine, Vaccine Research Center, NIAID/NIH lectured on "From domestic animal pathology to laboratory animal pathology: Perspectives on the changes relevant to the Biopharma surge" at Bangalore Veterinary College on 10th March 2008. The lecture included gross pathology images from several domestic animal pathology (large and small animals) and laboratory animal pathology, especially as they are becoming more relevant to biopharmas, CROs, academia and research institutes.

## 1st Annual Course in Toxicologic Pathology -"Road to Toxico-pathology"

Society for Toxicologic Pathology in India (STPI) jointly organized the 1st Annual Course in Toxicologic Pathology - "Road to Toxico-pathology" in collaboration with Charles Louis Davis, D.V.M. Foundation, on March 13-15, 2008, at Best Western The Pride Hotel, Pune, India.

The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. R. N. Sreenivas Gowda, Former Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU and gave the inaugural address, Approximately 100 delegates who attended the course included toxicologic pathologists, toxicologists, veterinary pathologists from industry and academics and post graduate students. The conference provided a very good platform for

interaction of delegates with key



Dr. Srinivas Rao, the course director, briefed the audience about CL Davis Foundation and its effort towards international advancement in Veterinary and Comparative Pathology in many countries of the world including India. He provided an overview of his two and half-day course goals/objectives.



Dr. Matthew Wallig, Professor of Pathobiology, University of Illinois a Urbana-Champain, set the stage for the first course in Toxicologic pathology "Road to Toxico-Pathology" by a series of meticulously prepared, well archestered lectures on Morphologic Manifestations of toxic injury. Dr. Vijayasarathi, President of the STPI lectured on "Toxicologic Pathology: What is an Artifact? What is Real and How to Interpret? And emphasized the issue of artifacts in rodent toxicology studies - their causes, how artifacts can be prevented and effects on interpretation of results.



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The second day's proceedings were initiated by lecture on "Safety evaluation of Biotherapeutics" and an insight into preclinical and clinical development of Herceptin, and other bio pharmaceuticals by Dr. Noël Dybdal, Associate Director for Safety Assessment at Genentech, Inc. The lecture attracted lot of attention of toxicologic pathologists from Indian pharmaceutical R&D and preclinial CROs. Dr. Suresh Poosala, Chief,

Comparative Medicine Section and Animal Program Director, National Institute for Aging/NIH presented good collection of

histological changes in "Pathology of aging rodents: differentiating aging changes from induced changes". Later in the afternoon, Dr. Vyas M Shingatgeri, Director, Drug Safety Evaluation, Ranbaxy Laboratories, briefed how Toxicogenomics can play a vital role in Toxicological Pathology.



Gross pathology practical quiz conducted by Srinivas Rao on day 2 and 3 saw very good vocal participation from the participants.



The participants had an opportunity to learn emerging technologies in the fields of digital imaging and needle free injections from two of the major sponsors of the course, Bioimagene and Pharmajet. Dr. Roli Khattri of Bioimagene emphasized how digital pathology can help pathologists by automating pathology workflows for acquisition, analysis, management, archival, reporting and sharing of tissue images. Mr. Michael Royals of Pharmajet gave a practical demonstration of needle free injection works along with preclinical and clinical data to prove how needle free injections make a positive difference in improving global world health, helping to break the cycle of poverty and disease associated with needle stick injury and needle re-use.

Dr. B. Murali Manohar, Director, Centre for Animal Health Studies, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, gave an informative presentation on the practical application of immunohistochemistry and its applications in toxicologic pathology.