

# 2010

## Annual Report



Massachusetts Society  
for Medical Research, Inc.

## Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of MSMR:

It is my pleasure as Chair of the MSMR Board of Directors to report to our members each year on MSMR's activities in fulfillment of its mission. Despite a very challenging economy, which put severe financial pressure on our members, corporate sponsors and supporting foundations, MSMR continued to provide valuable, in fact, expanding services to our members. We also reach out to the biomedical research community at large and the public. Here are some notable activities and accomplishments in the past year:

We completed the next stage in our efforts to increase awareness of and interest in careers in laboratory animal science. The special section of our website dedicated to LAS careers and education now includes a beautifully designed on-line brochure and a compelling and easy-to-understand flyer outlining each of the four major steps in an LAS career and the required education, skills and experience for each.



MSMR worked with Weymouth High School to produce a pilot series of Science Cafés for teachers in the Weymouth District. Experts from MSMR member organizations presented leading-edge scientific advances to the teachers in a relaxed after-school setting. The goal of a Science Café is informality and information: our three pilot Cafés gave teachers lots of material for thought and for use in their classes, and encouraged us to broaden the program in 2011.

We presented our new on-line course for IACUC community members three times, filling it to the limit each time.

As summarized on the next page, we presented a variety of important professional development workshops, both here in New England and with partner organizations in other states. Our workshops are a signature service of MSMR and recruit member experts in service to their colleagues, sharing expertise and best practices.

We have also commenced a member-focused project that will bear fruit over the next few months. It is a comprehensive Memorandum on the Legal Risks to Animal Research in Massachusetts. Once completed, it will serve as a model for similar legal research projects in the other New England states. Our belief is that the intended and unintended consequences of laws and regulations, particularly where animal law is dispersed under scores of headings and includes contradictions and significant ambiguities, is as big a threat to responsible research as any our community faces.

The critical work of MSMR must continue unimpeded in these challenging times. On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your personal and corporate support, and appreciate the encouragement of all our members and friends.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Niemi, DVM, DACLAM  
Chairman, MSMR Board of Directors

## 2010 Highlights

### LEGISLATIVE ACTION

MSMR monitors proposed Massachusetts legislation (and increasingly, legislation in other New England states) that might affect our members, positively or negatively. As appropriate, we notify our members via e-Alerts. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we severely limit our lobbying; rather, our members take it upon themselves to make direct contact by phone, mail and personal visits with elected and regulatory officials.

Bills specifically mentioning animal research are rare. More often, our interest is in the inadvertent consequences a bill will have. For example, we joined colleagues from the Mass. Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) to comment on the proposed mandatory licensing of veterinary technicians. The bill, as written, would have been very difficult for biomedical research animal facilities as well as many veterinary practices, veterinary hospitals, clinics and shelters. Generally, legislators and regulators are very open to hearing our testimony and to assuring that life sciences research will not be negatively affected.

The very absence of comprehensive law and regulation on research with animals encouraged us to begin a systematic investigation of Commonwealth laws and regulations that might affect our members, under law headings from acquisition to zoning. Some of the existing laws are more than a century old and envision a very agricultural setting; others are meant for pet dogs and cats, but might be interpreted to include lab animals. The completed work product will be a memorandum for our members that may help them avoid legal risk.



Massachusetts Biomedical Research Day (October 21), enacted into law by the legislature in 2006, was celebrated at the Grand Staircase at the Massachusetts State House with the awarding of the MSMR Honors, brief remarks and a luncheon. The 2010 Honorees were Senator John Hart (Boston), Mr. Henri Termeer (Genzyme Corporation, accepted by Mr. David Kent), Dr. Saul Tzipori (Tufts Cummings Veterinary School, accepted by Dr. Arthur Donohue-Rolfe) and Dr. Angie Warner (also of the Cummings Veterinary School).

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Each year our professional development workshops draw hundreds of members and non-members alike, to learn from experts in a variety of disciplines and share their experiences to help develop best practices. As part of its ongoing commitment to member services, MSMR will continue to increase the number of free-to-member development programs and will reduce the member cost for all programs.

On September 24, 2009, we offered **IACUCs and IBCs ... Finding Common Ground on Emerging Topics**, kindly hosted and sponsored by Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company.

December 10 saw us presenting our annual security-issues workshop. This year it was titled **Our Current Environment: Emerging Threats and Security Challenges**, covering new security concerns, from improper hires to cyber attacks. The event was held in Boston.

The penultimate FY 2010 workshop, the **MSMR Enrichment Symposium** on April 15, generously sponsored by Merck Research Laboratories and MGH Center for Comparative Medicine, drew over 200 guests to hear and work with renowned experts such as Joseph Garner, Valerie Hare and Hannah Buchanan-Smith.

And on May 4 & 5, 2010, together with the California Biomedical Research Association, the Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research, and the WMD Directorate of the FBI, we produced **The Three P's: Learning Through Collaboration, Connection and Community—Advancing Bioscience and Security** in Tempe, AZ.

## **OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION**

Significant within our mission is our goal of education and development both within and outside the laboratory animal research field. MSMR plays a significant role in States United for Biomedical Research (SUBR) an umbrella of 14 state-based groups like MSMR and affiliates ranging from The American Physiological Society to the Yerkes Primate Research Center. This group meets annually to discuss joint actions, new tools for education, legislative initiatives, and mutual support. MSMR is the supervisory member for the development of a SUBR-wide website, which will eventually link all SUBR members with a consistent look-and-feel as well as instant sharing of calendared events and materials.

MSMR provided journalists with background on two stories (NHPR and Boston Channel 5) during the fiscal year, and declined to provide background on one other, as it was outside our scope.

In addition to the collaborations with SUBR, CBRA and SwAEBR (mentioned above), we conducted on-site programs for four members during the fiscal year, on topics custom-designed for them. MSMR staff also presented at NEBAALAS, the Charles River Short Course, Becker College and the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

And in our continuing effort to improve the training and number of IACUC community members, presented our new on-line training course for non-affiliated IACUC members three times during the year.

## ANNUAL MEETING

MSMR's Annual Meeting on June 17, 2010, was held in sequential sessions at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel in Waltham. The Business Meeting of Members formally accepted five new members, elected nine representatives to the Board, approved the previous Annual Meeting minutes and the preliminary budget and accepted a variety of reports, including those of the auditor, the legislative agent, the chairman and the president.

We recognized generous sponsors of the Annual Meeting: Partners Healthcare/Massachusetts General Hospital - Silver; Student Competition (Silver) - Pfizer; Special Event Sponsors - Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Biogen Idec, Boston University and The Massachusetts Medical Society; Event Contributing Sponsors - Tufts University and Immune Disease Institute.

After the Business Meeting, we adjourned to the Mezzanine and Ballroom for our gala Reception and Dinner. MSMR Board chairman Dr. Alan Dittrich welcomed over 150 guests, including MSMR members and friends, and student competition winners, their parents and their teachers. Dr. Dittrich explained concisely the work and mission of the MSMR.



Later he introduced keynote speaker Mr. Peter Meade, CEO of the **Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United State Senate**. Mr. Meade has enjoyed a distinguished career in public service, private industry and non-profits and is well-known in New England for his long tenure as a radio commentator and political analyst. He was named CEO of the Kennedy Institute in August.

Mr. Meade explained the dream and the mission of the Kennedy Institute and displayed, for the first time in public, the design renderings for the interior of the Institute's new home in Boston. The late Senator Kennedy saw the Senate as a unique American institution: the Kennedy Institute will bring to physical and virtual visitors a wealth of information about the Senate, its function and history, and the men and women who comprise it. Senator Kennedy was also a staunch supporter of medical research and broad improvement in healthcare, and Mr. Meade reflected on the Senator's life-long commitment to research and treatment as well as his legislative efforts to provide health insurance coverage for all.

After Mr. Meade's presentation and Q & A, Dr. Dittrich and Ms. Lynne Walsh announced the winners of the Student Essay/Poster/Video Competition, and presented prize checks, MSMR gifts and Certificates of Achievement to them; MSMR also presented checks and gifts to their teachers. At that point the formal portion of the meeting was adjourned and those who wanted to dance took to the dance floor.

## Financial Results for FY2010

Support & Revenues			
	Contributions and membership fees		\$287,974
	Sales of materials and workshop fees		67,486
	Interest income		308
	Grants		38,020
	Annual Meeting net of costs		-2,713
	Grants: restrictions fulfilled		19,014
<b>Total Revenues</b>			
			\$410,089
Expenses			
	Program services, general advocacy and educational outreach*		\$309,896
	Management and general		44,056
	Member development and fundraising		6,502
<b>Total Expenses</b>			
			\$360,454

\* Note: Audit by Daniel F. Friel, CPA. The U.S. Form 990 and all forms and submissions required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been filed. Copies of the audited financial statement, our IRS determination letter and other regulatory documents are available from the Society upon request. MSMR's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Contests

Each year MSMR conducts two student competitions judged by volunteers from our member organizations. Students in grades 7 & 8 compete in Level 1; those in grades 9 - 12, Level 2. This year the students were required to submit an essay, poster or video describing a recent biomedical research breakthrough, acting as reporters for **What A Year!** our popular science discovery website. Winning students were feted at our Annual Meeting (see above), along with their parents and teachers. This year, for the first time, the competitions were open to students from *any* New England state. Prizes included cash awards, MSMR laser-pens, and Certificates of Achievement.

This year's Level 1 competition was suspended because of insufficient qualified entries.

The Level 2 competition results: Krystal Shaw, 1<sup>st</sup> place (Poster - Norfolk County Agricultural High School); Tyler Zon, 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Video - Noble & Greenough School); Soren Henry Hough, 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Essay - University High School of Science and Engineering); and Honorable Mentions Abigail Baskin

# Special Thanks to These Recent Foundation Supporters of MSMR

Biogen-Idec Foundation • Henry and Lois Foster Charitable Foundation  
Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund • Charles River Foundation  
William Townsend Porter Foundation

## 2010 Board of Directors & Officers

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Steven M. Niemi, DVM  
*Massachusetts General Hospital*

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*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

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Charles T. Alagero, Esq.  
*Massachusetts Medical Society*

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*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Ara Tahmassian, PhD  
*Boston University*

Alan B. Dittrich, PhD  
*Massachusetts Society for Medical Research*

Changes: Dr. Berthoux resigned from the Board concurrent with his departure from Charles River Laboratories to lead an international clinical trials firm. After the start of FY2011, Mr. William Barbo of Charles River Laboratories and Dr. Patricia Preisig of Yale University were elected to the Board.

## Students Contests, continued

(Poster - Buckingham Browne & Nichols School) and Elizabeth Camp (Poster - Norfolk County Agricultural High School).

Many thanks to our judges: William Avery, JD, Christine Boisvert, Candice Brotchie-Fine, Dr. Laura Conour, Regina Correa-Murphy, Dr. Peggy Danemann, Dr. Bonnie Lyons, Kathy Meunier, Karen Norton, Marie Ortega, Dr. Lauren Richey, Dr. Nirah Shomer, Caroline Ward, Dr. Hilary Woodcock and Dr. Donna Zyry.

**The Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, Inc.**

A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN 1953 AND INCORPORATED IN 1980

**T**he Massachusetts Society for Medical Research (MSMR) is the nation's oldest state-based biomedical research support organization in its field. It was organized in 1953 to respond to proposed legislation that would have severely hampered basic medical research in Massachusetts.

As anti-science and radical animal rights groups made inroads in the regulatory, educational and legislative arenas in the early 1980s, MSMR was formally incorporated in Massachusetts and earned Federal tax-exempt non-profit [501(c) (3)] status shortly thereafter

The Society's mission is: **To promote and enhance biomedical and biological research, including the humane care and use of animals, for the improved health and well-being of people, animals and the environment.**

To implement this mission, we foster better understanding of biomedicine by improving basic literacy in, and enthusiasm for the life sciences among the public, the media and future generations of citizens and scientists.

Services to Members

- Professional development seminars and workshops
- Customized programs and workshops for individual organizations
- Legislative tracking and updates;
- Position papers
- Security tracking and alerts
- Laboratory Animal Care Workforce Study
- Media and public outreach training - Crisis communication and training
- MSMR Legal Memorandum: Legal & Regulatory Risks to Animal Research
- Up-to-the-minute news through MSMR *e-UPDATES*

Services to Students, Teachers and the Public

- Outreach and education
- Classroom materials
- Teacher Science Cafés
- Speakers
- **What A Year!** Cool Science is Happening Now
- Facility tours for students and teachers
- Student essay/poster/video competitions
- Background and contacts for journalists



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