

2011

Annual Report



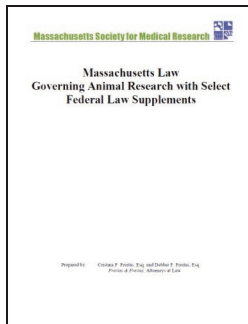
Massachusetts Society
for Medical Research, Inc.

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of MSMR:

As Chair of the MSMR Board of Directors, I have the privilege to report annually to our members on MSMR's activities in fulfillment of its mission. In 2011 MSMR provided an expanded array of valuable services to member institutions. We also continued an active outreach program to the biomedical research community at large and the public. Here are some notable activities and accomplishments in the past year:

- Convened our signature professional development workshops here in New England and with partner organizations around the country, some of which are summarized on the following pages
- Increased outreach to students, parents, and teachers with science cafés featuring leading researchers and introductions to careers in laboratory animal science
- Tracked legislative initiatives in Massachusetts that could affect biomedical research using animals and began doing the same in the other New England states



- Introduced our book-length **Memorandum** highlighting legal risks to animal research in the Commonwealth
- Continued the popular **What A Year!** program of science discoveries and investigator interviews
- Helped members find and recruit IACUC community members
- Followed and reported on trends in animal rights extremism that could impede or even stop the lifesaving work of our members and the entire biomedical research community
- Provided on-site training and updates to members throughout the region.

MSMR continues to expand throughout New England with a diverse membership of leading hospitals and universities, biotechnology and pharmaceutical firms, professional organizations and vendors. The critical work of MSMR must continue in these challenging times. On behalf of the entire Board, thank you for your personal and corporate support and encouragement.

Appreciatively,

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

2011 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 stringently 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 if enacted. Once again we watched a comprehensive rewrite of the animal control laws that would affect three aspects of laboratory animal research: mandatory inoculation; mandatory spay/neuter and euthanasia. Possibly it would also affect animal licensing and transport. At the end of the last session, the bill had been reported favorably by committee and will appear on the Senate docket in January 2012.

The 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 was presented at a rollout symposium in May and made available in both summary and extended book form to members at the same time.



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 2011 Honorees were Dr. Osamu Shimomura (*emeritus*, Boston University and Marine Biological Laboratory, Nobel laureate), Senator Michael

Rodrigues (First Bristol and Plymouth District), and Dr. Gerald Silverman (University of Massachusetts Medical School).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Each year our professional development workshops draw hundreds of members and non-members alike, to learn from experts and to 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.

We offered **IACUCs and IBCs: Finding Common Ground** twice, with great thanks to Baystate Medical Center for hosting us in Springfield in November and to Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research for hosting us in Cambridge in February.

With our peer group NWABR, we presented **IACUCs, IRBs and IBCs—Ethics and Community** in Portland, OR in September.

December brought our annual **Security Conference** in Boston.

In conjunction with Merck and Massachusetts General Hospital we presented our third annual **Enrichment Symposium** in April at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston.

In May we rolled out our **Memorandum on Massachusetts Laws & Regulations That May Affect Animal Research**. We were graciously hosted at this symposium event by Brown Rudnick, LLP.

In May we also presented **IACUCs, IRBs and IBCs: Key Challenges in Regulation, Compliance and Biosecurity** in La Jolla, CA. Our partners were CBRA, SwAEBR and the FBI.

We offered our unique six-week on-line course **Introduction to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees** three times during the year, filling it each time. Students from around the country and Europe have taken the course.

OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION

Important to 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 12 state-based groups like MSMR plus affiliates ranging from The Society for Toxicology to the Yerkes Primate Research Center. This group shares actions, new tools for education, legislative initiatives, and mutual support.

MSMR started adding its numerous K—12 educational materials to the American Physiological Society's vast digital archive of teaching resources, under a 3-year contract arrangement.

MSMR provided journalists with background on two stories and an interview for a third.

MSMR significantly increased our on-line materials for high school and college students interested in careers in laboratory animal science, and distributed our new "Careers" brochure to all 43 agricultural high schools in New England.

We presented classes at Becker College and the Tufts Cummings Veterinary

School as part of our commitment to increase student knowledge about laboratory animal science and medicine, and about the pro and con positions different groups have adopted on this sometimes controversial field.

ANNUAL MEETING

MSMR's Annual Meeting on June 28, 2011, was held in sequential sessions at the The Colonnade Hotel in Boston. The Business Meeting of Members formally accepted seven new members, elected ten 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: The Biogen Idec Foundation, Partners Healthcare - Silver; Student Competition (Silver) - Merck; Special Event Sponsors - Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Boston University, Charles River, and The Massachusetts Medical Society; and Special Event Contributing Sponsor - Immune Disease Institute.

After the Business Meeting, we adjourned to the Huntington Foyer and Ballroom for our delightful Reception and Dinner. MSMR Board chairman Dr. Steven Niemi welcomed over 150 guests, including MSMR members and friends, and student competition winners, their parents and their teachers. He explained concisely the work and mission of the MSMR prior to dinner.



Later Dr. Dittrich introduced keynote speaker Col. Jeffrey J. Harrow, MD, PhD of the VA's Tampa Spinal Cord Injury Center. Dr. Harrow is currently Medical Director of Spinal Cord Injury Long-Term Care at Tampa and an associate professor in the departments of neurology and medicine at the University of Florida, as well as Commander of the 338th Medical Brigade (Philadelphia, PA). He served in Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Harrow spoke on evidence-based improvements to battlefield medicine and the declining mortality rate among combat soldiers, thanks to improved training, transport, medicines and equipment. As a corollary, though, there are more soldiers returning from the battlefield with extremely serious injuries that may require months of treatment and years of rehab, as well as lifetime care.

After Dr. Harrow's presentation and Q & A from the floor, 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 guests were invited to dance, though for the 3rd straight year, no one did.

Financial Results for FY2011

Support & Revenues			
	Contributions and membership fees		\$277,651
	Sales of materials and workshop fees		155,391
	Interest income		269
	Grants		39,100
	Annual Meeting net of costs		-5,780
	Grants: restrictions fulfilled		5,000
Total Revenues			\$471,631
Expenses			
	Program services, general advocacy and educational outreach*		\$398,974
	Management and general		42,608
	Member development and fundraising		8,498
Total Expenses			\$450,080
Increase in net assets			\$21,551

* 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

20th Annual Student Competition

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. Students may submit from *any* New England state and from any school or home-school. Prizes included cash awards, MSMR laser pointer-pens, and Certificates of Achievement.

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

The Level 2 competition results: Amelia Maietta, 1st place (Essay - Nipmuc Regional High School); Brianna Flickner, 2nd place (Poster - Ledyard High School); Lauren Rich, 3rd place (Poster - Norfolk County Agricultural High School); and Honorable Mentions Emily Murray (Essay - Nipmuc Regional

Special Thanks to These Recent Foundation Supporters of MSMR

Biogen-Idec Foundation • Charles River Foundation • William Townsend Porter Foundation

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Massachusetts Society for Medical Research

Changes: Resigning with regrets from the Board because of other commitments were Ms. Margaret Newell, Dr. Steven Gilman and Dr. Ara Tahmassian. Elected to the Board were Dr. Ronald Farquhar, Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Kirby Johnson, Tufts University, and Dr. Deborah Ann Siwik, Boston University School of Medicine.

Students Contests, continued

High School) and Christine Noe and Jessica O'Toole (Posters - Norfolk County Agricultural High School).

Many thanks to our judges: William Avery, JD, Candice Brotchie-Fine, Mark Butler, Dr. Laura Conour, Melissa Dragon, Dr. Karen Krueger, Tracy Lewis, Dr. Bonnie Lyons, Kathy Meunier, Kristen Mothershed, Karen Norton, Toni O'Connell, Dr. Gina Savastano, Dr. Nirah Shomer, Diane Smith, Dr. La-Wanda Thompson, and Dr. Hilary Woodcock.

The Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, Inc.

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

The 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
- Media and public outreach training - crisis communication training
- MSMR Legal Memorandum: Legal & Regulatory Risks to Animal Research
- Up-to-the-minute news through MSMR *e-UPDATES*
- The MSMR Annual Meeting of Members

Services to Students, Teachers, The Research Community 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/website competitions
- Background and contacts for journalists
- Biomedical Research Day Honors (October 21st)



Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, Inc.
73 Princeton Street – Suite 311
North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Tel: 978.251.1556 • Fax: 978.251.7683
E-mail: info@MSMR.org

On the Internet at www.MSMR.org and www.WhatAYear.org