

2012

Annual Report



Massachusetts Society
for Medical Research, Inc.

Chairman's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of MSMR:

I have the pleasure to report annually to our members on MSMR's activities in fulfillment of its mission. In 2012 MSMR provided numerous valuable services to member institutions as well as 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, as summarized on the following pages
- Tracked legislative initiatives in Massachusetts that could affect biomedical research using animals and began doing the same in the other New England states, with the schedule of tracking all six New England legislatures to begin in January 2013
- Published twelve monthly issues of our electronic member newsletter, **MSMR e-UPDATE**
- Continued outreach to students, parents, and teachers with Teacher Science Cafés featuring leading researchers and introductions to careers in laboratory animal science, as well as with our Annual Student Competition and our marquee **What A Year!** science discovery website for middle and high school students
- Added more of our educational materials to the APS Archive of Educational Resources
- 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, linking the related issues of security, communications and legislation
- Provided on-site training and updates to members throughout the region
- Worked with journalists in providing interviews and background on stories pertinent to our members

MSMR is growing 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

2012 Highlights

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL

We continue to monitor legislation that might affect our members, positively or negatively, and we are increasing our vigilance to cover all six New England states starting with the 2013 legislative sessions. As appropriate, we notify our members directly or via e-Alerts. MSMR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, so we limit our lobbying; rather, our members make direct contact with officials.

Bills specifically mentioning animal research are rare. More often, our interest is in the inadvertent consequences a non-research bill will have if enacted. For example, we carefully tracked Senator Jehlen's comprehensive rewrite of the animal control laws and were encouraged to see language added in the final version that protects research. The Senator's bill went on to become law in Massachusetts, after being submitted repeatedly over the last few years.

Each state has its own approach to exempting regulated research from animal cruelty laws. Massachusetts, for example, has no comprehensive exemption at all. We have begun to see challenges to animal use based specifically on that lack. Nationally, this is just one of the rising number of legal and legislative hurdles for animal research. With that in mind, MSMR member organizations have encouraged their attorneys to participate in the new National Animal Law Advisory Group, an activity of States United for Biomedical Research (SUBR) the national umbrella group to which MSMR and its peer organizations belong. Although NALAG has animal cruelty laws as its first action priority, there are numerous aspects of law and legislation on its agenda.

MSMR also joined an *amicus curiae* brief in support of the government when the constitutionality of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act was challenged in Federal court. As of publication date, we are awaiting the Court's ruling.



Massachusetts Biomedical Research Day was celebrated on October 18th at the State House with the awarding of MSMR Honors, recipients' remarks and a luncheon. The 2012 Honorees are: Dr. Floyd Bloom (Alkermes), Dr. Robert Brown (Boston University), Dr. Terence Flotte (University of Massachusetts Medical School), Mr. James Foster (Charles River Laboratories), Mr. Rich Fox (Charlestown High School), and Rep. George Peterson, Jr. (9th Worcester).

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. In FY2012 we offered the following programs:

In September of 2011, partnering with NCABR in Raleigh, we presented **3 I's Harmonization: Bioethics and IACUCs, IRBs and IBCs**. That was preceded by **Effective IBCs**, presented in conjunction with NIH-OBA. The 3 I's "brand" has become one of MSMR's most recognized programs and is nationally noted for its rich content and presentation.

With our peer group Ohio Scientific Education and Research Association we presented **Security and Biosecurity** in Columbus in December, 2011.

With great thanks to Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research for hosting, we held **IACUCs and IBCs: Finding Common Ground** in February 2012.

Our annual **Enrichment Symposium**, in conjunction with Merck, drew nearly 200 guests for an intense one-day program in March, 2012.

Partnering with our peer group Southwest Association for Education and Bio-medical Research, we presented **3 I's Harmonization** in Tempe in May, 2012.

And we continue to offer our unique on-line course **Introduction to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees**. In FY2012 it ran 3 times, filling 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 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 continued adding its numerous K - 12 educational materials, especially **What A Year!**, 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 interviews for three others. We also wrote letters to several newspapers on errors and omissions in stories about animal research.

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. We also presented at the Research Integrity Forum (Saco, ME) and the Tri-Institutional Network (NY, NY) as part of our ongoing outreach to the research community.

ANNUAL MEETING

MSMR's Annual Meeting on June 14, 2012, was held in sequential sessions at The Colonnade Hotel in Boston. The Business Meeting of Members formally accepted eight new members, elected or re-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; Merck - Student Competition; Charles River Laboratories - Bronze; Sanofi, The Massachusetts Medical Society - Copper; EnVivo, Boston College and Hydra Biosciences - Event Friend Sponsors.

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 our guests, including numerous 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 he introduced keynote speaker, Dr. Charles Steinberg, senior advisor to the president of the Boston Red Sox. Dr. Steinberg is responsible for much of the "fan experience" at Fenway Park and the fans' ongoing connections to the team throughout the year.

Dr. Steinberg, who trained as a dentist but has spent much of his career in professional baseball, spoke on the tantalizing subject, **How Medical Research Saved Fenway Park**. He also talked about the team's commitment to medical research and care in New England. Many of the players and executives have direct connections to medical charities in the region and use their time, talent and treasure to further medical research.



After Dr. Steinberg's presentation and a prize-filled Q & A from the floor, Dr. Dittrich and Ms. Lynne Walsh announced the winners of the 21st Annual Student Essay/Poster/Webpage Competition, and presented prize checks, gift books and Certificates of Achievement to them; MSMR also presented checks to their teachers. At that point the formal portion of the meeting was adjourned and guests were invited to dance, though for the 4th consecutive year, no one did.

Financial Results for FY2012

Support & Revenues				
	Contributions and membership fees			\$288,300
	Sales of materials and workshop fees			104,316
	Interest income			238
	Grants			39,000
	Annual Meeting net of costs			1,341
	Grants: restrictions fulfilled			5,000
Total Revenues				\$438,195
Expenses				
	Program services, general advocacy and educational outreach			\$379,207
	Management and general			39,705
	Member development and fundraising			6,247
Total Expenses				\$425,159
Increase in net assets				\$13,036

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.

21st 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's challenge was to submit an essay, poster or webpage exploring 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, along with their parents and teachers. Students from *any* New England state or school were eligible to enter.

All six winners in this year's Level 1 competition came from the Wilmington Middle School and all submitted websites: Vincent Pietropaolo, 1st place; Ryan Fischer, 2nd place; Bridget Sullivan, 3rd place; and Honorable Mentions, Meghan McMahon, Nupur Neogi and Annie Romanzo.

The Level 2 competition results: Meera Tapasaya Ramakrishnan, 1st place (The Winsor School); Pooja Sikka, 2nd place (Acton-Boxborough Regional High School); Philippa Ghillany-Lehar, 3rd place tie (Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School); Amy Randall, 3rd place tie (Norfolk Country Agricultural High

Special Thanks to These Recent Foundation Supporters of MSMR

The Biogen-Idec Foundation • The Merck Charitable Foundation
The William Townsend Porter Foundation • The Edna H. Tompkins Trust

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Massachusetts Society for Medical Research

Changes: Resigning - Dr. John L. Sullivan. On leave through 6/30/2013 - Dr. Terry Strom.

Students Contests, continued

School) and Honorable Mentions Sarah Dahl (Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School) and Nicole Pierce (Nipmuc Regional High School).

Many thanks to our judges: William Avery, Kelly Balko, Daniel Beaudreau, Christine Boisvert, Candice Brotchie-Fine, Mark Butler, Laura Cacioppo, Peggy Dannemann, Alison Darby, Melissa Dragon, Ronald Farquhar, Sharon Kirchain, Tracy Lewis, David Lee-Parritz, Bonnie Lyons, Kathy Meunier, Robin Minkel, Larry Mortin, Karen Norton, Toni O'Connell, Marie Ortega, Dotty Paquin, Sonya Reed, Gina Savastano, Curtis Schondelmeyer, Kerrie Spencer, LaWanda Thompson, Patti Turner and 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
- 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
- National collaboration with States United for Biomedical Research

Services to Students, Teachers, The Research Community and the Public

- Outreach and education
- Classroom materials, now at the APS Archive of Teaching Resources
- Science Cafés for Teachers
- Speakers
- **What A Year!** Cool Science is Happening Now
- Facility tours for students and teachers
- Annual Student Competitions
- Background and contacts for journalists
- Biomedical Research Day Honors (October 21st)



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