

2014

Annual Report



Massachusetts Society
for Medical Research, Inc.

Chairman's Letter

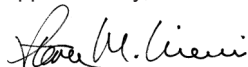
Dear Members and Friends of MSMR:

I have the pleasure to briefly summarize MSMR's activities in fulfillment of its mission. In 2013 MSMR provided numerous valuable services to member institutions as well as an active outreach program to the biomedical research community at large and to 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 in other regions, as summarized on the following pages
- Provided on-site training and updates to members across the region
- Tracked legislative initiatives in New England that could affect biomedical research using animals; reported to members on bills in each state that were likely to affect them
- Closely monitored 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 law, legislation, security, communications and legislation
- Published twelve monthly issues of our electronic member newsletter, **MSMR e-UPDATE**
- Continued outreach to students, parents, and teachers our Annual Student Competition and our marquee **What A Year!** science discovery website for middle and high school students
- Digitized and added the remainder of our educational materials to the massive APS Archive of Educational Resources (now called the Life Sciences Teacher Resources Community)
- Worked with journalists in providing background on stories pertinent to our members and wrote letters to editors on points of importance
- Celebrated MSMR's 60th Anniversary, with a gala event honoring biomedical research in New England - "From Lab to Lifesaving" - on September 26th. See the insert for details and photos.

MSMR is growing throughout New England with a diverse membership of leading hospitals and universities, biotechnology and pharmaceutical firms, professional organizations and vendors. The crucial work that MSMR does 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

2014 Highlights

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL

We monitor legislation across New England that might affect our members, positively or negatively. As appropriate, we notify our the members directly or via e-Alerts. MSMR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, so we strictly limit our own lobbying; rather, our members contact their legislators and regulators.

If you'd like a listing of the particular bills tracked by MSMR for any New England state, please call the MSMR office and ask for a copy of the list.

Bills specifically mentioning animal research are rare. Usually, our interest is in the inadvertent effect a new law might have on research. Such bills could include many legislative actions, from animal transport to technician licensing, from euthanasia methods to animal registration and agricultural practices.

Each state has its own approach to exempting regulated research from animal cruelty laws. Nationally, this is just one of the rising number of legal and legislative challenges for animal research. MSMR member organizations have encouraged their attorneys to participate in the National Animal Law Advisory Group, an activity of States United for Biomedical Research (SUBR). In early December MSMR sponsored an **Animal Law Symposium** featuring leading attorneys and legal thinkers from across the country.



We celebrated **Massachusetts Biomedical Research Day** on October 28th at the Union Club. We awarded the MSMR Honors, heard recipients' remarks and had a wonderful luncheon. The 2014 Honorees are: **Hon. Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of Massachusetts; **Robert K. Coughlin**, CEO of MassBIO; **Lisa M. Garrett**, Teacher, Norfolk Aggie; **Dr. Michael J. Piatelli**, Professor, Merrimack College; **Dr. Robert A. Weinberg**, Professor, MIT; **Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister**, CEO, Mass. Life Science Center.

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. Our professional development workshops are among our most important MSMR member services. In FY2013 we offered the following programs:

In August 2014 we Presented *Basic Training – ABCs for IACUCs and IBCs: Frameworks for Compliance*; hosted by Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research – 94 registrants.

Presented *The 3 I's – Biosecurity and Regulatory Oversight* collaboratively with NWABR and the FBI WMD Directorate, in Portland Oregon in October, 2013. Preceded by a half-day session from *Basic Training – ABCs* (as above). Sixty-five attendees and instructors. The 3 I's "brand" has become one of MSMR's most recognized programs and is nationally noted for its rich content

and presentation.

Presented our most popular program, the 6th *Annual Enrichment Symposium* – 192 attendees and 8 presenters at the Boston Marriott Newton (March 6, 2014).

Once again presented *IACUCs and IBCs: ABCs* – Hosted by Yale University and attended by 30 members. New Haven, CT (March 24, 2014)

Produced our semi-annual Security Conference - *Exploring New Trends, Issues & Developments in Security, Biosecurity and Terrorism* – Hosted by Sanofi/ Genzyme – 44 attendees (May 1, 2014)

And we continue to offer our unique on-line course *Introduction to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees*. In FY2014 we held three iterations, filling each time. Students from around the country take 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 completed digitizing and 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 that completes at the end of CY 2014. The Archive now houses more than 7,000 items, all peer reviewed and free to educators.

And, of course, we continued to interview scientists and report their stories in the science breakthrough website, **What A Year!** for secondary life science students and teachers. In each fiscal year we present ten new stories.

MSMR provided journalists with background on one story and an interview for one other. We also wrote letters to newspapers and on-line news sources on errors and omissions in their stories about animal research.

We presented classes at 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.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

MSMR's Annual Meeting on June 20, 2014, was held in sequential sessions at The Boston Marriott Newton. The Business Meeting of Members formally accepted seven new members, elected or re-elected thirteen representatives to the Board. The members also approved the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes and the budget and accepted a variety of reports, including those of the auditor, the legislative agent, the chairman and the president.

An important part of the budget discussion was approval for the hiring of a consultant to guide the MSMR Board of Directors in creating a new strategic

plan. Our last comprehensive plan was in 1998 and we have seen a significant change in our membership and in the world of research since then. The strategic planning process will begin with the identification of a consultant, the creation of a Strategic Planning Committee, and a charge to that committee to determine the best structure for the process. We will plan and execute written and telephone surveys of our members and others, will include large and small member meetings, and will try to complete the process by the end of CY 2014, in order to have a complete report to the Board in its February Meeting. Dr. Niemi also described recent SUBR-wide strategic planning efforts, and noted that our work coincides with changes in our field and with new directions from some of our peer organizations around the country.

As usual, some of the other business of the meeting included a review of our website traffic, identification of potential new members, and a discussion of the organization's name, since more and more of our work is New England-wide.

We recognized generous sponsors of the Annual Meeting: Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Charles River Laboratories, Partners Healthcare, the Massachusetts Medical Society and Pfizer, Inc. (all Bronze); Sanofi-Genzyme and Eisai (Copper); and AstraZeneca, Biogen-Idec, Boston College, and Paul T. Clark, JD (Friends). After the Business Meeting, we adjourned upstairs to the Salon E Ballroom for our Luncheon. 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. If you would like a copy of the Annual Meeting package, please send your request to the MSMR office.

Later Dr. Niemi introduced keynote speaker. Dr. Charles Vacanti of Brigham & Women's Hospital whose topic was *The Rationale for Using Stem Cells in Tissue Engineering*. This is a complicated issue, but Dr. Vacanti was able to make it comprehensible, though examples from his own research and the work of others. He also referenced the recent, controversial STAP process for producing stem cells and explained his belief in the possibility that, despite retracted papers, the process can work.



When the Q & A with Dr. Vacanti concluded, Dr. Dittrich and Board Member Lynn Brum announced the winners of the 23rd Annual Student Essay/Poster/Webpage Competition, and presented prize checks, gift books and Certificates of Achievement to the winning students; MSMR also presented checks to their teachers. (See pages 5 and 6 for details.)



Financial Results for FY2013

Support & Revenues				
	Contributions and membership fees			\$311,200
	Consulting and workshop fees			85,088
	Interest income			772
	Grants			46,000
	Annual Meeting net of costs			4,650
	60th Anniversary Gala net of costs			10,228
Total Revenues				\$457,938
Expenses				
	Program services, general advocacy and educational outreach			\$356,678
	Management and general			51,918
	Member development and fundraising			2,801
Total Expenses				\$411,397
Increase in net assets				\$46,541

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.

23rd Annual Student Competition



Each year MSMR conducts two student competitions judged by hard-working volunteers from our member organizations. Students in grades 7 & 8 compete in Level I; those in grades 9 - 12, Level II. 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 in June, along with their parents and teachers. Students from *any* New England state or school were eligible to enter.

This year no Level I entries qualified as winners.

The Level II results: First Place: **Juliana West**, Mass. Academy of Math and Science; Second Place: team of **David Brodsky** and **Gabriel DeSantis**, Buckingham Browne and Nichols School; Third Place: tie **Colleen Castellini**, Mass. Academy of Math and Science, tied with **Jasmine Mridula Nutakki**, Daniel Cony Free High School; Honorable Mentions: **Shayna Gitter** and **Alexis Cushman**, Norfolk County Agricultural High School; and **Andrew Huang**,

Special Thanks to These Foundations That Support MSMR

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

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Boston University Medical Center

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MSMR

Changes: Dr. Jernigan was elected to the Board. Mr. Kent, Dr. Kochevar and Dr. Lage have retired from the Board. Ms. Angela Birnbaum, Ms. Pamela Caudill and Dr. David Lee-Parritz were elected to the Board after FY 2014 and will be included in the 2015 Board listing

Students Contests, continued

Rishi Makkar and **Swathya Koukuntla**, all of Mass. Academy of Math and Science. This is David Brodsky's second year of recognition.

Many thanks to our judges: Satish Adusumilli, PhD, Kathryn Allen, BS, Enrique Arévalo, PhD, William Avery, JD, Kelly Balko, BS, Danielle Bornstein-Elbirt DVM, Carolyn Brown, BS, Marissa M. Cardwell, PhD, Peggy J. Danneman, VMD, Michael DePiano, Melissa Dragon, BS, Lori Duggan, MS, Kristin Ferrigno, MLAS, Alexandra Gallant, Lynn R. Jackson, DVM, Jennifer S. Kilpatrick, MS, Sharron Kirchain, DVM, Silva Krause, PhD, Karen Krueger, DVM, Tracy Lewis, BS, David Lee-Parritz, DVM, Bonnie Lyons, DVM, Kathryn Mellouk, MPA, Ann Marie Menting, MA, Marjorie Montemayor-Quellenberg, MA, Toni O'Connell, Marie Ortega, Dotty Paquin, BS, Linda Pedersen, MM, Maria Pepin, BS, Curtis W. Schondelmeyer, DVM, Jaquelyn Stathopoulos, MS, Veda Tataverty, PhD, Stephanie E. Woods, DVM. Our judges volunteer their time and expertise.

[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. MSMR now serves members in all New England States.

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, workshops, conferences, on-line courses
- Customized on-site programs and training for member organizations
- Legislative tracking and updates
- Security tracking and alerts
- Media and public outreach training - crisis communication training
- Assistance with IACUC Community Member searches
- 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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