

2015

Annual Report



SUPPORTING
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
IN NEW ENGLAND

Massachusetts Society
for Medical Research, Inc.

Chairman's Letter

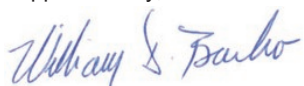
Dear Members and Friends of MSMR:

For the past 12 years the MSMR Board Chairman has used this space to report on MSMR's activities in fulfilling its mission. As the new Chair I take pleasure in continuing that tradition. Throughout 2015 MSMR provided numerous valuable services to member institutions as well as an active outreach program to the biomedical research community and to the public. Among our notable activities:

- 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
- Worked with journalists in providing background and live on-camera and on-radio interviews on stories pertinent to our members
- Tracked legislative initiatives in every New England state that could affect biomedical research using animals; reported to members on bills in each state that were likely to affect them
- 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
- Continued outreach to students, parents and teachers via our Annual Student Competition and our marquee **What A Year!** science discovery website for middle and high school students
- Published twelve monthly issues of our electronic member newsletter, **MSMR e-UPDATE**
- Began the implementation of our new 2016 - 2018 strategic plan
- Continued and expanded collaborations, sponsorships and co-host relationships with North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research, New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research, Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research, IACUC Administrators Association, *The Economist* and States United for Biomedical Research, and actively sought additional collaboration opportunities

MSMR continues to expand its reach throughout New England with a diverse membership of leading hospitals and universities, biotechnology and pharmaceutical firms, professional organizations and vendors. We develop strong collaborations across the region and the country. And we continually look for new ways to serve our members and the community. The entire MSMR Board of Directors joins me in thanking you for your support and encouragement.

Appreciatively,



William D. Barbo, MS, MBA
Chair, MSMR Board of Directors

2015 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. But one bill aimed at research did pass in Connecticut this year, despite the efforts of our members. It requires universities to offer for adoption dogs and cats that have been used in research. The law is poorly worded and could lead to problems for the universities, the adopters and the animals.

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.

We celebrated **Massachusetts Biomedical Research Day** on October 21st at the glorious Union Club. We awarded the MSMR Honors, heard recipients' remarks and had a wonderful luncheon. The 2015 Honorees are: **Michele Cunnene**, Mount Ida College; **Mark Levin**, Third Rock Ventures; **Claudia Merson**, Yale University; **Dr. Matthew Meyerson**, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; **Rep. Joseph Wagner**, Mass. Legislature; **Rabbi Paul Levenson**, retired, inaugural recipient of the Levenson Award for Outstanding IACUC Non-Affiliated Member Service.

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 FY2015 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 Conference* collaboratively with NCABR and the FBI WMD Directorate, in Chapel Hill, NC in March. One hundred fifty 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 7th *Annual Enrichment Symposium* –

225 attendees and presenters and 20 vendor exhibitors at the Boston Marriott Newton (March 9, 2015).

Co-produced, with NJABR, the *3Rs Sharing Conference* on May 14, 2015 in Newton, MA - 75 in-person attendees and approximately 70 on-line attendees.

Big Data and the IRB was produced by Quorum Review IRB and co-sponsored in Boston by MSMR and BU School of Medicine. (Oct. 24, 2014)

Research Animal Law was an MSMR workshop kindly hosted by Burns & Levinson, LLP. 48 registrants and four speakers. (Dec. 8, 2014)

And we continue to offer our unique on-line course *Introduction to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees*. In FY2015 we held four 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 added 10 **What A Year!** stories to the American Physiological Society's vast digital archive of teaching resources. Even though our consulting contract with APS on this project has ended with the completion of their federal grant, we have agreed to continue as an active partner in the APS's Life Science Teaching Resource Community. The Archive now houses more than 7,500 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.

We provided journalists with background on one story and live radio and TV interviews for other stories. 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 and Becker College 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.

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

MSMR's Annual Meeting on June 26, 2015, was held in sequential sessions at The Colonnade Hotel in Boston. The Business Meeting of Members formally accepted five new members, elected or re-elected ten representatives to the Board. The members also approved the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes and the FY 2016 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 meeting was a detailed discussion of and eventual acceptance of our 2016 - 2018 strategic plan, whose budget had been approved at last year's annual meeting. The plan calls for aggressive growth policies, staff increases, enlargement of the MSMR Board of Directors, realignment of the various volunteer committees, a re-invigoration of our secondary school outreach - including the creation of a no-fee membership category for high schools - the development of new member services and programs and a continued expansion of our collaborations with organizations around the country.

One unresolved issue was the organization's name. After much discussion and (later) further polling of members, we elected to keep our name, but change our identification mark and branding to the one seen on the cover of this annual report: *MSMR - Supporting Biomedical Sciences in New England*.

Some of the other business of the meeting included a review of our websites' traffic (MSMR and **What A Year!**), discussion of the new website to be introduce in early 2016 and identification of potential new members.

We recognized generous sponsors of the Annual Meeting: Boston Children's Hospital (Gold); Charles River Laboratories, Partners Healthcare, the Massachusetts Medical Society and Pfizer, Inc., Sanofi and Taconic (all Bronze); Boston College (Copper); Tufts University, Paul T. Clark, JD, and Patricia A. Preisig, PhD (Friends).

After the Business Meeting, we moved to the Huntington Ballroom for our Luncheon. Retiring 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. Donald Ingber of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University. The Wyss Institute provides groundbreaking inventions. Dr. Ingber's presentation described their developments in human organs on chips and in programmable nanotherapeutics. Complex as these topics can be, he was able to elucidate them brilliantly and wittily to our members and guests

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Ingber's remarks, Dr. Dittrich and Board Member Lynn Brum announced the winners of the 24th 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.) Shown here are the winning students from the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science, who dominated this year's Competition.



Financial Results for FY2015

Support & Revenues			
	Contributions and membership fees		\$321,626
	Consulting and workshop fees		176,876
	Interest income		1,538
	Grants		38,000
	Annual Meeting net of costs		9,186
	60th Anniversary Gala net of costs		0
Total Revenues			
			\$547,226
Expenses			
	Program services, general advocacy and educational outreach		\$397,571
	Management and general		50,809
	Member development and fundraising		23,851
Total Expenses			
			\$472,231
Increase in net assets			
			\$74,995

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.

24th Annual Student Competition



Each year MSMR conducts two student competitions judged by engaged 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 website 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: tie: **Sanjay Ganeshan** and **Karthik Karnik**, both of Mass. Academy of Math and Science; Second Place: **Pariya Prama**, Science and Technology Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut; Third Place: tie **Kristen Behrakis**, Mass. Academy of Math and Science, and **Anshul Joshi** and **Adarsh Suresh** (joint entry), of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. Honorable Mention: Sarah Lynne Duquette, Fang Han and Bethany Ross, all of Mass. Academy of Math and Science.

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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MSMR

Changes: Dr. Jernigan, Dr. Flotte, Ms. Birnbaum and Dr. Deaver completed their service and retired from the Board. Mr. Biran, Dr. King, Dr. Ressler, Dr. vanderSpek and Dr. Zyry were elected to the Board. At the Annual Meeting, Dr. Niemi retired from the Board. Mr. Barbo was then elected Board Chair and Dr. Farquhar was elected Board Vice Chair.

Students Contests, continued

Many thanks to our judges: Satish Adusumilli, PhD, Kathryn Allen, BS, Enrique Arévalo, PhD, William Avery, JD, Kelly Balko, BS, Danielle Bornstein-Elbirt DVM, Marissa M. Cardwell, PhD, Michael DePiano, Melissa Dragon, BS, Lori Duggan, MS, Carolyn Fader, CPIA, Kristin Ferrigno, MLAS, Lynn R. Jackson, DVM, Jennifer S. Kilpatrick, MS, Sharron Kirchain, DVM, Silva Krause, PhD, Karen Krueger, DVM, Tracy Lewis, BS, David Lee-Parritz, DVM, Toni O'Connell, Marie Ortega, CMAR, CPAI, Linda Pedersen, MM, Maria Pepin, BS, Curtis W. Schondelmeyer, 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 in 1982 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 and 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
- 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 Life Science Teaching Resource Community
- 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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