Michigan Society for Medical Research
PROGRESS REPORT
2001 – 2005

THE MORE WE KNOW

THE MORE WE DISCOVER

Education Through:
INFORMATION • COLLABORATION • ADVOCACY
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Society for Medical Research thanks you for your advocacy and for your generous support. Both greatly enhance our ability to serve as a voice of reason in a complex environment threatened by anti-research causes and advocates limitations on the use of animals in biomedical research.

We are extremely proud that, over four years, our work with members of the Michigan Legislature culminated in nearly unanimous support for the new Michigan Research Facility Protection bills SB1175 and SB1176 signed into law by Governor Granholm. This law now makes acts of violence against researchers and their work an offense punishable by penalties and imprisonment.

Our work in other areas was equally substantial.

As you’ll note throughout this report, the Michigan Society for Medical Research remains dedicated to two themes: empowering our colleagues in medical research to take advantage of available knowledge in the war on biomedical research, and educating our state’s citizens — beginning with school age children — on the essence and facts of humane biomedical research.

Our work is represented through security network forums, annual meetings, IACUC sessions and special conferences, an annual essay competition for middle and high school students, awards recognizing our colleagues who have provided exceptional leadership to this cause, and our BioFocus newsletter and other key communication vehicles.

Your continued support will permit us to expand and refine our programs:

• Broadening the essay contest to include several categories.
• Increasing the circulation of BioFocus newsletters to include more teachers.
• Redesigning and enhancing our website with more materials for students, teachers and members.
• Increasing our hands-on opportunities for students and teachers.
• Enhancing communications with our members, such as new seminars on media training, crisis event management, new research initiatives, ethical implications, and federal and governmental issues for research facilities.
• Establishing and supporting the network of IACUC committees.
• Establishing cooperative initiatives with other Michigan groups to permit greater sharing and coordination of program planning and implementation.

We are counting on your continued advocacy and support so that we can sustain — and further heighten — our support of biomedical research on your behalf.

LOUIS G. D’ALECY, D.M.D., Ph.D.
President, Michigan Society for Medical Research
Annual Meeting

Our annual membership symposia features nationally recognized researchers, policy and opinion leaders, and journalists on contemporary issues vital to our organizational mission. More than 600 people attended our meetings over the past four years. Themes, such as 2004’s “If Disaster Strikes Are You Prepared? Critical Incident Protocol,” provide a forum for discussion and debate and engender vital public and private partnerships. Other themes included: Michigan’s Research & Development Climate, Animal Research in the Post-Genomic Era, Research Advocacy, and The Use (and Misuse) of Toxicologic Data.

IACUC 2001–2005

An “IACUC 101” conference and other interactive IACUC conferences were held in collaboration with NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare and University of Michigan to provide an environment for new — as well as seasoned members — to learn the latest regulations and complex issues involving the welfare of animals in research. Experts in the field provide guidance on developing and maintaining strong and effective animal care and use programs and ethical issues, and give insight into future developments. Morning and early afternoon sessions offer a basic, yet comprehensive, overview of the laws, regulations, and policies that govern the humane care and use of laboratory animals, illustrated with examples and approaches for successful administration. The program also reviews resources to help IACUCs remain abreast of relevant issues, as well as to identify networking opportunities. Materials and information provided during the courses are applied during the afternoon sessions in which participants are challenged to consider, deliberate and develop action plans for a variety of potential IACUC scenarios.

Security Network Forums

Over the past 18 months, MISMR has convened quarterly meetings of security personnel from major research facilities throughout Michigan. These forums allowed security experts to discuss strategies for dealing with animal rights advocates, their tactics, and provocative actions. For the first time, these meetings are joining institutional security leaders, local police, and the FBI in addressing the threat and destruction of animal rights activism faced by all research organizations.
Advocacy Awards

To identify, honor and recognize individuals for outstanding research, education and science advocacy, the MISMR board annually conducts an awards campaign. Our Educational Leadership Award, named for Bennett J. Cohen, honors scientific achievement that has improved the health and welfare of humans and animals. Our Science Education Award acknowledges leaders in the promotion of science. These awards, as well as others presented by MISMR, bring public attention to those advocates whose work embodies the mission of the Society.

Essay Contest

Our annual essay competition for middle and high school students, now in its 16th year, remains one of the only educational efforts designed to specifically counterbalance the anti-research and animal use propaganda aimed at our youth by PETA and other groups. Since 2001, we have received over 2,000 essays from some 100 schools throughout Michigan. We honor the contest winners at the MISMR annual meeting and publicly recognize winners through literature and media coverage.

“Research with lab animals has resulted in many remarkable lifesaving and life-extending treatments for companion animals, farm animals, wildlife and endangered species.”

— Situnyiwe Chirunga, First Place Winner, Essay Contest 2005

ESSAY CONTEST AWARDS

This award is presented to Michigan middle and high school students who have submitted winning essays demonstrating the process and benefits of biomedical research.

2005:  
Situnyiwe Chirunga — John Glenn High School, Westland

2004:  
Jenna Dahn — John Glenn High School, Westland

2003:  
Audrey Sanders — Kenowa Hills High School, Grand Rapids

2002:  
Kasey Howrigon — Plainwell High School, Plainwell
Jim McCarthy — Kenowa Hills High School, Grand Rapids
Brittney Gwynn — Hally Magnet Middle School, Detroit

2001:  
Steve Graves — Kenowa Hills High School, Grand Rapids
Mandy Maley — Chippewa Middle School, Port Huron

BENNETT J. COHEN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of biomedical research and health care. It is named for the pioneer and visionary who founded and directed the unit for laboratory animal medicine at The University of Michigan, and cofounder and first president of the Society.

Roger S. Newton, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Pfizer Global Research & Development and Director, Esperion Therapeutics (2005)


Monica A. Schroder, D.V.M., Associate Director of Professional Services Laboratory Animal Medicine & Sciences, The University of Michigan (2003)

Benedict R. Lucchesi, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Pharmacology Department, The University of Michigan (2002)

BOARD ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Gary L. Hofing, D.V.M., Ph.D., Past President, Michigan Society for Medical Research and Senior Director, Laboratory & Animal Care, Pfizer Global Research & Development

SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARD

This award is presented to persons who have developed, implemented or contributed to an advocacy program that promotes science and science education.

Bruce Kocher, Ed.D., Vice President of Student Services, Kalamazoo Valley Community College (2005)

Merlin E. Ekstrom, D.V.M., Director, Division of Laboratory Animal Resources, Wayne State University (2005)

Inez M. Jill Karolyi, M.S., Senior Research Associate Scientist, Human Genetics Department, The University of Michigan (2003)

Mary Oriold Dereski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Director, Community Outreach and Director, Institute of Chemical Toxicology/Center Molecular & Cellular Toxicology, Wayne State University (2002)

Donna Benedict, English Teacher, Chippewa Middle School, Port Huron (2001)

LEGISLATIVE & RESEARCH ADVOCACY AWARD


Jill Costello, Legislative Aide to Senator Tom George, M.D. (2005)

Senator Tom George, M.D., 20th District, Michigan Senate (2005)
In 2005, Senator Tom George, M.D., received the Legislative & Research Advocacy Award. For years, MISMR has helped educate Michigan legislators about issues facing researchers in this state— notably, the need for protection from animal rights activists. In January 2005, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm signed into law Public Acts 519 and 520 which now increase the penalties for destruction to research laboratories.

Governor Granholm also provided greetings for the attendees at MISMR’s 2005 annual meeting: Michigan’s Research & Development Climate: State Government, Medical Research & You. The meeting provided a dialogue to address science and medical research issues in public debate and to help shape the future direction for biomedical research in Michigan.

The MISMR website receives more than 50,000 hits a month and has had nearly 2 million visits over the past four years. It has been augmented with new and updated materials as well as a new section on contingency planning and emergency preparedness.

The Michigan Senate joined with MISMR in resolving to commemorate October 21, 2005 (the birth of Alfred Nobel) as Biomedical Research Day. Senate Resolution 0076 was introduced by Senator Tom George, M.D., October 18, 2005. The resolution encourages the citizens of Michigan to take a moment and celebrate the achievements of biomedical research in improving human and animal health, and acknowledge the many scientists, researchers, doctors, veterinarians and countless others who make this important work happen. Biomedical research cannot go forward without both talented practitioners, and an understanding and supportive public.

**Publications & Website**

*BioFocus*, our newsletter designed for science teachers and produced by members of the research community, enhances the understanding of multifaceted biomedical research. It offers tips and perspectives by researchers for enhanced science education.

While the MISMR website serves as a principal source of information on animals in biomedical research, publications such as *BioFocus* provide a critical offline educational and informational tool for teachers, students and others.

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**Web Hits**

606,000

2005

410,000

2004

364,000

2003

**Newsletter Topics**

- Sharing Science with Children
- Animal Experiments are Vital
- Science Competitions
- Ideas for Science Fair Projects
- Why Veterinary Pathology is Cool!
- What is Toxicology?
- Introducing the IACUC
The Michigan Society for Medical Research is a nonprofit educational organization which promotes the understanding of medical research including the appropriate use of animals. We direct our educational efforts to demonstrate the relationship between animal research and the scientific progress while emphasizing that humane considerations guide the use of animals in research.

Board Achievement Award

In appreciation of outstanding contributions and service towards promoting the goals of the Society the MISMR board awarded long standing board member and ex officio Gary L. Hofing, D.V.M., Ph.D. with the Board Achievement Award in 2003.

“We simply must do what we can to foster better public understanding of biomedical research.” — Gary L. Hofing, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Current 2005 MISMR Board:

Front Row L to R: Babette Krause, Molly Greene, Rebecca Ellish-Stengle, Louis G. D’Aleyce, Cindy M. Hoorn


INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

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Dow Chemical Company
Dow Corning Corporation
Esperion Therapeutics, Inc.
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Pfizer Global Research & Development / Ann Arbor Site
Pfizer Global Research & Development / Safety Science, Kalamazoo Site
The University of Michigan
Van Andel Research Institute
Wayne State University

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (MI AALAS)
American College of Cardiology (Michigan Chapter)
American Heart Association (Michigan Affiliate)
American Veterinary Medical Association (Michigan Chapter)
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute

SPECIAL PROGRAM SPONSORS

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