



International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathology **IFSTP**

The President's Message for 2003

The International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathologists, IFSTP, a global professional and scientific federation of national and regional international societies of toxicologic pathology, has made significant progress over the past 18 months with regard to serving its member societies, in its interaction with other societies and federations, in advancing the science of and in promoting high standards in toxicologic pathology. In particular

- IFSTP is proud to welcome the **Korean Society of Toxicologic Pathology**. With this admission, IFSTP counts now 9 society members from North America, Europe and the Far East, which represent in excess of 1500 toxicologic pathologists.
- All member societies are prospering. The Austrian/German/Swiss STP has transformed into the **European STP (ESTP)** and has invited the national STP in Europe to delegate one member into the ESTP board. The other European societies continue to function.
- The **proceedings of the 4th IFSTP symposium**, held together with the North American STP, were published as first issue of volume 30 of Toxicologic Pathology at the beginning of 2002, just 6 months after the symposium.
- The preparation of the **next triennial IFSTP symposium**, the 5th, is progressing well. It will take place in collaboration with the Japanese Society of Toxicologic Pathology in Kobe, Japan, from February 15-18, 2004. The main topics are of high interest and relevance and cover the following
 - Current understanding of mechanisms and risk assessment of carcinogenicity, including the low-dose risk posed by genotoxic and non-genotoxic carcinogens, and an update on the use of genetically modified animals in carcinogenicity testing
 - The “-omics”, a challenge to modern toxicologic pathologists in various areas, including general and reproductive toxicity, immunotoxicity and carcinogenicity testing as well as testing of endocrine disruptive chemicals
 - Update on information technology in toxicologic pathology
 - Future challenges of toxicologic pathologists regarding e.g. stem cell development or detection of infectious agents, e.g. in organ replacement therapy.

For more information please refer to <http://www.pac.ne.jp/jstp-ifstp/index.htm>

- An **IFSTP-sponsored session** on immunotoxicology and immunopathology is going to take place during the 2003 EUROTOX congress in Florence (September 28 to October 1). The proposal of IFSTP to sponsor a session on aspects on modern toxicopathology and how it supports toxicology during the 2004 congress of IUTOX (ICT X) in Finland is still pending.
- **Accreditation of toxicologic pathologists** by the International Academy of Toxicologic Pathology, an organ of IFSTP, is gaining momentum and some 30 individuals have become IATP Fellows.
- The IFSTP Professional Standards Committee is preparing a publication on **educational standards in toxicologic pathology**.
- The councilors representing the IFSTP member societies agreed at the last EC meeting in early June 2002 in Denver to conduct a **demographic survey on toxicologic pathologists worldwide**.
- IFSTP officers and councilors also discussed a first draft of a **5-year business plan** and agreed finalizing this plan at their next board meeting in Savannah in 2003.
- IFSTP officers and councilors agreed to **meet a second time this year**, namely at the fall meeting of ESTP in Hamburg (details to be communicated). This will speed up actions!
- The **IFSTP website** has now developed into a valuable archive of documents related to federation matters. It also contains some general information on IFSTP, which is publically accessible on <http://ifstp.org/>

IFSTP is looking with confidence into the future, fully committed to serve the community of toxicologic pathologists worldwide and to foster the science of toxicologic pathology, thus promoting the well-being of mankind and the environment. Comments and proposals are welcome!

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