

Theme of NEUROTOX 26:

“Unifying Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders: Scientific, Translational and Clinical Implications”

June 6-10, 2010 • Portland, Oregon

Rationale for the Theme:

- Over the past several years, research into neurological diseases and disorders has evolved to recognize that clinical presentation and disease severity can vary widely within a given disease or disorder and that there are often overlapping similarities in seemingly different disease states. For example, protein aggregation is a pivotal component of Alzheimers, Parkinson’s, Tauopathies, and Huntington’s disease. Deficits in executive function are observed in disorders such as ADHD, schizophrenia, and autism.
- Determination of the underlying mechanisms responsible for these pathological processes is likely to prove critical to understanding how to treat these devastating diseases. Although genetic factors have long been a primary focus in neurological disease, identification of a single gene that can be associated with a significant number of cases in a variety of neurological diseases is exceedingly rare. This rarity has led to the emerging recognition that environmental factors or gene-environment interactions are likely to play a pivotal role in a variety of neurological diseases and disorders.
- Exposure to a variety of neurotoxicants has been associated with characteristic derangements of nervous system function, some fleeting in nature and others virtually permanent. Furthermore, exposure to neurotoxicants has been hypothesized to play a role in the development of many neurological diseases and disorders. The 26th *International Neurotoxicology Conference* will focus on common mechanisms in neurological disease and the role of environmental exposures and gene-environment interactions in the development of neurological disease and disorders.

