

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2008



The ASGT Board of Directors has been hard at work this summer and has several announcements for the membership.

Firstly, the Search for the next Editor-in-Chief of the Society's journal, *Molecular Therapy*, is underway. As described in *Molecular Therapy*, the search will remain open from September 1 to November 30, 2008. ASGT members who are interested in becoming the Editor-in-Chief of *Molecular Therapy* should send a 1 to 2-page letter describing their vision for Molecular Therapy to Mr. Frank Mortl, III at ASGT headquarters. Access to *Molecular Therapy* is one of the great benefits to the membership of the Society and all members are encouraged to participate in the selection of the next Editor-in-Chief by applying for the

position or by encouraging outstanding candidates to apply. The deeper and more qualified the pool of applicants is, the better the journal will be.

Secondly, at the suggestion of the Membership Committee Chaired by Dr. Savio Woo, the ASGT Board of Directors has approved a change in the description of active members, adding "manufacturing technologies" to the list of interests for prospective members. It is hoped that this change will make it clear that everyone with an interest and a role in the development of gene and cell therapy is welcome in the Society. Again, ASGT members are encouraged to bring this to the attention of our colleagues in industry and/or production facilities, and encourage them to consider joining ASGT. In addition to *Molecular Therapy*, ASGT members enjoy reduced fees for the annual meeting, participation in ASGT Committees and annual meeting planning, and the Members Only section of the ASGT website, which includes a comprehensive membership directory and online access to *Molecular Therapy*.

Finally, the ASGT Board of Directors has approved the addition of a second Scientific Subcommittee to better serve the burgeoning field of Synthetic Gene Delivery. The advances in Synthetic Gene Delivery presented at the 11th ASGT annual meeting were truly outstanding and clearly cut across almost every disease and organ system. The two Subcommittees serving these ASGT members will be focused on Chemical Gene Therapy and Physical Gene Therapy & Vectorology. The formation of the new committees is part of a larger effort to more thoroughly integrate this important component of ASGT, both in terms of leadership and Annual Meeting planning.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DM Bodine".

David M. Bodine, PhD
ASGT President

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