## Dr. Rania Siam Joins ATS Team of Scientists

ATS is happy to welcome Dr. Rania Siam to our team of scientists. Rania joined ATS in April to lend her expertise to a recently awarded SBIR Phase II grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health.



Dr. Siam examines the latest data on the development of somatostatin receptor antibodies.

Rania is originally from Egypt and moved to Montreal, Canada in 1994 to pursue graduate studies. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, McGill University under the supervision of Dr. Gregory Marczynski. Her Ph.D. thesis focused on cell cycle regulation by a signal transduction cascade. She then moved in 2001 to The Salk Institute for Biology Studies in San Diego, California to pursue post-doctoral studies in the laboratory of

Dr. Susan Forsburg. Her postdoctoral study involved the regulation of eukaryotic cell cycle by a checkpoint and replication protein. Rania is happy to have recently joined ATS as a research scientist to develop monoclonal and recombinant antibodies against the extracellular domains of the five somatostatin receptors.

On a more personal note, Rania's husband, Mohamed



Salma, nearly 2, can't wait for her first library card



Omar, age 9, loves skateboarding, soccer

Khedr, is director of engineering technology of an Illinois-based company. They have two lovely children. Omar was born in Egypt; he is 9 years old. He attends Doyle school and loves to skateboard and play soccer. Salma is almost 2 years old and was born in San Diego. She loves to read—right-side up or upside down, just as long as she has a book in her hands, she's happy.

## Substance P-Saporin (SP-SAP) Drug Development Update

Substance P-Saporin (SP-SAP) is under development as a chronic pain therapeutic with tremendous potential to permanently eliminate suffering in many painful diseases and conditions. ATS is awaiting news from the National Institutes of Health on further funding to fulfill FDA requirements to bring SP-SAP to clinical trial in humans.

ATS has a patent on SP-SAP and has completed extensive preclinical studies in animal models. All the results to date demonstrate SP-SAP as an effective, safe treatment for the elimination of chronic pain. With such positive data, intense patient demand, and few options for treatment, it is surprising that this project would not move forward more quickly.

The biggest reason for not rushing forward to FDAmandated toxicology studies and on to clinical trials is not due to the usual suspects. It's not negative preclinical data. It's not lack of positive preclinical data. It's not proof of efficacy. It's not indications of toxicity. It's money.

The United States economy has hurt many businesses and the biotechnology industry is among the hardest hit. Investors are few and most are saving their cash to try to keep their present portfolio companies alive. The \$5 million it will take to bring SP-SAP to clinical trial is not a huge sum, and ATS continues to search for foundations, investors, or partners to help speed the process.

ATS remains dedicated to bringing SP-SAP to market to meet the unmet needs of a suffering population. If you have an interest in sponsoring this development, please contact Denise Higgins at ats@atsbio.com.