

# Targeting Trends

Reporting the latest news in Molecular Surgery



## Control Conjugates: The Perfect Companion for Targeted Toxins

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Denise Higgins, Editor



The field of targeted toxins has made enormous strides in the years since Advanced Targeting Systems introduced the first research targeted toxin in 1994. We now offer 16 different targeted toxins, with more on the way. The number of important papers in high impact journals continues to rise, and the sophistication of the studies is very impressive.

Much of the research using targeted toxins has been dedicated to characterizing the lesions caused by these molecules. We studied this important work to understand where ATS could be most helpful. The result of our analysis is the offering this

year of new control molecules that chemically resemble the targeted toxins, but are not targeted to any cell type.

Saporin alone (not conjugated) has been used by some researchers as a control. But without a stand-in for the targeting agent, there are fundamental differences in physiochemical structure. The new controls solve this problem. Some researchers have included the targeting agent mixing the antibody or peptide with saporin. While this has the components of the targeted toxin, it does not include the structural features of the conjugation chemistry. The new controls solve this difficulty.

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## SFN 2001 Abstract Award Winner



Doug Lappi congratulates Mary Ann Greco as she proudly shows off her ATS cap and mug, some of her prizes for presenting the winning abstract using an ATS product at the 2001 SFN meeting in San Diego. There were 62 competing research presentations--a record number for ATS research products.

**Hypocretin B-Saporin Lesions of the Brainstem Increase REM Sleep at Night**  
CA Blanco-Centurion, RJ Salin-Pascual, D Gerashchenko, MA Greco, PJ Shiromani.  
Harvard Medical School & UNAM, Mexico City

This year's award-winning abstract featured orexin-SAP (Cat #IT-20) and anti-DBH-SAP (Cat #IT-03). This poster described data on the role of the locus coeruleus in sleep regulation.

Mary Ann Greco was the presenting author and will be contributing the cover story in *Targeting Trends* April 2002 issue. She will discuss the fascinating and surprising results. Congratulations, Mary Ann!