

## THE TWENTY-THIRD YEAR OF THE SOCIETY

### 1983-1984

The Society held its annual scientific and business meeting at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, GA, on March 12-16, 1984. The business meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the President, Dr. Gabby Plaa, who announced that over 2000 people had registered for the meeting, an all-time high. He spoke briefly about the year's activities and accomplishments. He said that under the existing rules, the Nominating Committee was appointed by the President but a proposed change in the Constitution and By-Laws, if approved by the members, would make it an elected committee and thus provide more input from the members. The Finance Committee, on the other hand, was an elected committee and a change in the Constitution and By-Laws made it an appointed committee. It would be composed of the Treasurer, several members of Council and the Executive Secretary. This was indeed a departure from the original intent of not allowing the Council to have full control of the finances of the Society. The President mentioned the efforts of many in trying to develop a code of ethics that the members would be willing to approve.

The Treasurer, Dr. Waritz, reported that the Society was now operating on an estimated \$500,000 per year budget. The fiscal year was changed from the calendar year to May 1 through April 30, which put all the annual meeting income and expenses into the same fiscal year. Reserves in 1981 increased from \$229,000 to \$507,000 in 1984. A projection of reserve funds for FY84 was approximately \$750,000 with an operating budget of about \$400,000, a very comfortable margin for a non-profit organization.

The Secretary this year was Dr. Marshall Steinberg of Hazleton Laboratories, who was elected to this office at the March 1983 meeting in Las Vegas and on October 1, the newly appointed Executive Secretary, Mr. Joseph R. Wasdovich, replaced Mr. William S. McCormick, who retired on August 31, 1983.

The Program Committee had an unusually busy year, for 760 abstracts were submitted for review, the largest number to date. These were divided into 17 platform sessions with 229 papers and 15 poster sessions with 532 posters. Poster Session 3A, for example, had 61 posters, while another, 7A, had 71 posters. The previous high for any one session was 49. These sessions were, from all accounts, well attended, but like so many scientific meetings the quality of slides and posters was not always the best and some presentations were below expectations. Dr. Fred Oehme had some rather caustic remarks about the kind of performance of some of the participants in the May/June Newsletter of 1984. The abstracts were published in *The Toxicologist*, Vol.4, No.1, 1984.

The first day, Monday, March 12, was devoted to "Refresher Courses" that were organized by the Committee on Professional Relations and Standards.

These included: (1) Selection of Tests for Assessment of Hepatotoxicity in Animals; (2) Role of Endotoxins in Toxicity; (3) Current Concepts and Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis; (4) Neurotoxicology Training Course. The Committee prepared a long-range program for continuing education at the annual meeting and submitted it to the membership via a

questionnaire. A substantial majority favored the current format of four courses in a single day. The topics of interest over the next four years were: regulatory/safety evaluation/risk assessment; pathotoxicology, including clinical pathology; toxicokinetics, inhalation exposure and pulmonary function; carcinogenicity; target organs, liver and lung. The respondents also favored having the courses made available for credit by certifying boards. These courses were now in their fourth year and continued to be one of the most sought after events at the annual meeting. The fee, \$25-50 per course were no deterrent to attendance. The number of courses increased from one in 1981 to two in 1982 and four in 1983 and 1984.

The first of a series of seven symposia was on Tuesday morning and was sponsored by the Metals Specialty Section on "Metal Carcinogenesis" chaired by Dr. F. William Sunderman, Jr. University of Connecticut. Two symposia were held on Tuesday afternoon, one on "Mechanisms of Species Differences in Toxicity of Chemicals" sponsored by the Mechanisms Section and the other on "Mechanisms of Neurotoxicity" sponsored by the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section.

On Tuesday evening there was a symposium on "Risk Assessment for Developmental Toxicity" organized by the Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Section of SOT. On Wednesday morning the European Society of Toxicology and SOT co-sponsored a symposium on the "Role of Receptors in Toxicological Response." This was chaired by Dr. Robert Hess of Ciba-Geigy, Basel, Switzerland, and Dr. Robert Dixon, Research Triangle Park, NC. Symposium number 5 on the "Toxicity of Fluorinated Volatile Anesthetics" was held on Thursday morning with Dr. A.J. Gandolfi of the Department of Anesthesiology, University of Arizona, presiding. The symposium on Thursday afternoon on "Development and Assessment of Fibrosis" was chaired by Dr. George C. Fuller of G.D. Searle and Company and the principal speaker was Darwin A. Prokop, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman and Professor of Biochemistry, Rutgers University Medical School. The seventh and final symposium on Friday morning was titled "New Approaches for the Evaluation of Pulmonary Toxicology" and was sponsored by the Inhalation Toxicology Section.

In keeping with the previous year's program, a New Investigators Colloquium was arranged for Wednesday afternoon by the SOT Education Committee and Mr. Jon Cook, a graduate student at North Carolina State University, was the chairman. Ms. Laurie A. Basting of Rutgers University and winner of the 1983-84 Procter and Gamble Award, again presented a paper on work she was doing on 2,6 dichloro-4-nitroaniline.

The Specialty Sections were very active in this year's program as evidenced by their sponsorship of several symposia. The membership in each appeared in the Society of Toxicology Directory for 1984 and the list is very impressive. They have held regional meetings, given awards for meritorious work, encouraged students with student awards and in many ways have strengthened the role and importance of toxicology as a scientific discipline. The Inhalation Section gave its first annual award to Dr. Herbert Stokinger, and this year to Dr. Harold C. Hodge. Student awards have been given by the Mechanism and Neurotoxicology Sections and perhaps others as well.

There were 87 booths displaying new advances in electronic equipment, animal holding facilities, new publications and other things of interest to toxicologists. For a number of years there was considerable resistance to having exhibitors but as the Society grew it needed additional funds and this not only provided the means of doing so but created a special area where people could meet and see first hand the new advances in technology. It has been a most welcome addition to the annual meeting.

The Regulatory and Legislative Assistance Committee was busy monitoring the various bills introduced in the House and Senate that were of concern to the Society of Toxicology. Some dealt with issues of animal welfare, risk assessment, and alternative methods in research, and these were brought to the attention of the members via the Newsletter. The Society Chapters and Specialty Sections were asked to watch for any State legislation that might have a serious impact on toxicological research.

The Technical Committee was given the very difficult problem of evaluating procedures used in handling and disposing of hazardous chemicals in the research laboratory. Extremely toxic chemicals were being used with increased frequency, particularly carcinogens and teratogens. The Committee recommended to Council that this matter be the subject of a symposium for the 1985 meeting in San Diego and identified four topics: (1) legal responsibilities for handling and disposing of waste; (2) potential exposure of personnel carrying out standard toxicology protocols; (3) chemical decontamination and (4) incineration of waste. It also recommended that the symposium be cosponsored with the American Industrial Hygiene Association and that the Headquarters office of SOT keep on file a list of individuals, books and papers that would be useful to investigators seeking information on proper handling and disposal of toxic materials.

In March 1985, Dr. Plaa appointed a Communication Task Group to develop a multifaceted program through which the Society of Toxicology could communicate to the general public on toxicological issues. This was an idea that was long overdue and the Task Group met the challenge with some creative suggestions. Their first concern was to determine the Society's goal in communicating to the public on toxicological issues; what audience it wanted to reach; the tools needed to reach the goals and how to measure the degree of success. The audience included health professionals, i.e., the Surgeon General and medical practitioners; youths below the ninth grade; general public; media people; high school science, biology and chemistry teachers; government decision makers. The cost was estimated to be relatively modest for the likelihood of good rewards. The Task Group was composed of: Drs. Anne A. Autor; Bernard A. Schwetz, Chairman; Donald A. Fox; Donald W. Lamb; Matilda S. McIntire; Richard A. Parent; R. Craig Schnell and James S. Woods.

The Education Committee received 52 applications for SOT Student Travel Awards but, due to limited funds, only 39 were funded. In 1982 Council approved \$6,713; in 1983, \$17,000 and this year, 1984, approved \$20,000 for travel. In addition to its responsibility for processing the Procter and Gamble Fellowship Award of \$8,000, an additional Fellowship Award of \$4,000 was made available through the courtesy of the Hazleton Laboratories, Vienna, VA.

A change in the Constitution and By-Laws now provides two dates for the Membership Committee to review applications for membership, namely January 1 and July 1, and the admission of student members. The Committee met in September and recommended 101 for Active membership; 42 for Associate and 16 for Student membership. At their February meeting 1984, 32 were recommended for Active, 13 for Associate and 24 for Student membership.

The Committee on Regional Chapters had the responsibility of overseeing the authorized chapters and to determine if they were in compliance with the rules set forth by the Council. To date, the following chapters and numbers of members are: Gulf Coast (125); Michigan (140); Mid-Atlantic (1000); Midwest (135); National Capital Area (100); North Carolina (300). Requests for authorization of three new chapters were approved by Council and they were Mountain-West (70), Ohio Valley (65) and Southeastern (40). The concept of Regional Chapters has certainly succeeded and they are viable and a competitive force in toxicology. Their regional meetings provide opportunities for scientific exchange among the members. The five Specialty Sections and the six Regional Chapters were all recommended for reauthorization.

For the past several years, numerous recommendations were made regarding permanent headquarters and administration support for the Society but the Council could come to no decision. The 1983-1984 Committee thought the present arrangement at Akron, OH, was the most economical for the immediate future. Those who looked at the possible sites were generally in favor of Washington, D.C. It is known as a headquarters city for many scientific organizations with good transportation and is near the action, scientifically and politically. Other possible sites were Atlanta, GA, and Research Triangle Park, NC. The Committee, composed of Dr. Robert Dixon (chairman), A. Wallace Hayes, Mark Hite and Marshall Steinberg recommended that the study be continued with special emphasis on financial considerations.

The Board of Publications announced that it had reached an agreement with Academic Press to publish *Fundamental and Applied Toxicology* and the first issue, Volume 4, No. 1 appeared in January 1984. Editorial statements of *TAP* and *FAAT* were reviewed to provide guidelines to prospective authors and journal subscribers and to clarify the roles of each. The editor of *TAP* received 680 manuscripts in 1983, accepting 228, rejecting 288 and 124 still in review. The editors of *FAAT* received 102 manuscripts, accepted 54, rejected 15 and 33 were in review. The Council bought an additional 120 pages from Academic Press for *FAAT* to prevent further delay between acceptance and publication of manuscripts.

The Information Handling Committee, established in 1982, spent a considerable amount of time studying modern concepts of data processing that could be adapted to SOT needs. Through a private contractor the 762 abstracts were indexed by author and abstract number(s) and printed as a separate document for the 1984 meeting in Atlanta. It was suggested that this data processing function be carried out at the headquarters office. The Committee studied ways in which modern data processing could be used in membership survey, placement service and handling messages at the annual meeting.

The Placement Service prepared a brochure on what the service was and how it worked, along with application forms for employer and for candidates seeking positions. The new fee schedule with a reduced rate for registration prior to the annual meeting brought a much greater response. Those who chose to register at the meeting paid the premium fee plus an additional surcharge.

At the banquet on Thursday evening, the President and members of the Council presented the following awards: The Frank R. Blood Award went to Erik Dyburg, Norway; Erik J. Soderland, Norway; Sidney D. Nelson, USA and Christer von Bahr, Sweden, for their paper, "Species Differences in Kidney Toxicity and Metabolic Activation of Tris (2,3, dibromopropyl) Phosphate" (*Fundamental and Applied Toxicology*, Vol.2, 187-194, 1982). The Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award went to the Medical College of Virginia on behalf of Philip S. Guzelian, Jr., M.D. The Education Award went to Drs. Ernest Hodgson and Frank Guthrie, both of North Carolina State University. The Arnold J. Lehman Award was presented to Dr. Tibor Balazs, for his scientific accomplishments in the control of chemical agents. The recipient of the Achievement Award was Dr. Melvin E. Andersen for his outstanding contribution in the field in inhalation toxicology. The Merit Award, the highest given by the Society, was presented to Dr. Tom S. Miya, in recognition of a distinguished career in toxicology.

Mr. Philip Bartholomew of the University of Connecticut was selected by the Education Committee to receive the Society of Toxicology Graduate Fellowship Award, sponsored by the Procter and Gamble Company and Miss Patricia Ganey of Michigan State University was selected to receive the new Hazleton Laboratories Fellowship Award of \$4,000.

Dr. Wm. E. McCormick received a plaque in honor of his many years of service as Executive Secretary of SOT.