

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1987-1988

Highlights: The Society experienced a year of growth and internal review. More importantly, through the establishment of the Tox-90's Commission, the Society set in place a means to consider the future of the science, of teaching and training in the science and of the Society itself. This effort complemented other planning efforts by Council with respect to finances, the Annual Meeting and related matters to keep the Society strong, scientifically sound and relevant to the needs of the upcoming decade.

The twenty-seventh Meeting of the Society of Toxicology was held at the Loews Anatole Hotel in Dallas Texas on February 15-19, 1988 and included the usual scientific sessions, technical exhibits and meetings of related specialty sections along with the Continuing Education Program. The Annual Meeting of Members was also a part of the meeting and was held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, February 17 in the Terrace Ballroom of the hotel. The meeting was chaired by President Jerry B. Hook who introduced his report with some statistics of the meeting. Total registration for the meeting was 2802. The six Continuing Education sessions drew 1411 registrants and the Scientific Program was one of the strongest in history with particular growth in the Poster/Discussion sessions. Tried last year on an experimental basis with two sessions, both heavily attended, this year there were 10 such poster/discussions.

In his report to the members, President Hook noted that there were "no big issues, no big fires that had to be put out, but (there was) a solid organization moving forward into the future." One item of continuing concern for Council had been the level of financial reserves. Although the Society remained in a strong financial position, there had been a failure to increase reserves at the same pace that income and expenditures were growing. In the twenty-sixth year, reserves actually declined due to reduced interest income, increased Headquarters services to members, increased committee activities and some carry-over expenses from the Silver Anniversary. To even out the imbalance between the timing of income and the timing of expenditures, the Finance Committee chaired by Treasurer Gary L. Lage and including Jerry B. Hook, James E. Gibson, William O. Berndt and Mary E. Davis, recommended that the Society move the accounting system from cash basis to an accrual basis. To keep income in line with demand for funds, the Finance committee also recommended a small increase in Annual Meeting registration fees, a possible application fee to cover the costs of processing new member applications and a modest increase in member dues. These steps, accompanied by a reaffirmation that interest income should be directed to reserves and not operating budgets, should allow the reserves to grow to the desired level of about one year's operating expense from the current level of just over six-month's. The Society's operating budget continues to approach the \$ 1 million per year mark.

The future health of the Society will be determined not just by the fiscal prudence of the Council but more importantly by the kinds of people elected to membership and to office in the Society. On these grounds, the future is most promising. The Membership Committee processed 326 applications during the twenty-seventh year. From this 116 were recommended for full membership, 112 for associate membership and 69 for student membership. As before, the applications were processed on a twice yearly basis with the Headquarters staff providing valuable assistance to the committee in this effort. The Nominating Committee presented the customary slate of well-qualified candidates for elected office. At the Annual Meeting of Members, Secretary Steven D. Cohen announced the results of the election. The new officers to begin service May 1, 1988 were Curtis D. Klaassen, Vice President-Elect and Jack H. Dean and Meryl H. Karol, Councilors (1988-1990). The elected Committee members were Marion Ehrich and A. Jay Gandolfi (Education Committee 1988-1991), expanding that committee to six members; Daniel Acosta and Melvin E. Andersen (Membership Committee 1988-1991) and for the Nominating Committee Richard S. Waritz representing the Regional Chapters, Bernard A. Schwetz from the Specialty Sections, Robert L. Dixon from the Past Presidents and Jeanne M. Manson representing the membership at large.

The Education Committee approved 53 out of 59 applications for student travel grants to attend the Dallas meeting. The applications not approved represented more than the allotted two per academic institution. Five of these awards were given in honor of H.P. Drobeck a former Treasurer of SOT. There were 16 applications for the four SOT Graduate Student Fellowship Awards. These awards were sponsored by Hazleton Laboratories, Hoffmann-LaRoche, Procter & Gamble and Stauffer Chemical and were presented at the Annual Banquet of the Society. The Education Committee will administer and present a new award beginning in 1988. Colgate-Palmolive will sponsor a two year post-doctoral fellowship in in-vitro toxicology. Also under review were fellowships and awards to be sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

President Hook presented to the Annual Meeting of Members three proposals to amend the By-Laws of the Society. In each case, the proposal was to make an ad hoc committee into a standing committee, specify the number of members and their term, indicate the means of selecting the chair and describe the general terms of reference for the committee. The three committees are Awards, Ethics and Placement. The proposals were subsequently submitted to the membership for mail ballot and approved during 1988.

The Board of Publications consists of the President of the Society, three other members appointed by Council and three auditors- the Society's Vice President and the editors of TAP and FAAT. The Board is charged with setting editorial policy for the two journals including appointments of editors, associate editors and editorial boards.

The Board of Publications reported that the Society's journals "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology" and "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" continued to be healthy with the numbers of manuscripts submitted remaining stable. Of special note was the excellent interaction between the two editors B. A. Schwetz (FAAT) and I. G. Sipes (TAP) in the reassignment of manuscripts from one journal to the other based on goodness of fit of the research with the objectives of the journal. There were 51 such transfers in the past year. TAP published 15 issues in five volumes totaling 2542 pages in 1987. FAAT published eight issues in two volumes of 1436 pages in 1987. The acceptance rate for the journals was just over 40% for TAP and just over 50% for FAAT. A committee of the Society has begun negotiations with Academic Press regarding renewal of the publishing contracts for the two journals. There continued to be concerns on the part of the Society and Academic Press regarding the practice of members giving personal issues of the journals to libraries thus possibly decreasing the number of institutional subscriptions. The Board of Publications had also expressed concern over the increased competition for good manuscripts arising from the number of new specialty journals in toxicology, especially where the research was mechanistically oriented.

The Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award Advisory Committee, chaired by Tom S. Miya, reviewed nine highly competitive applications for the 1988 Award. The recipient will be the University of Mississippi with Harihari Mehendale as the Scholar. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund generously increased the Award from \$250,000 to \$300,000 for the five-year period. William Carlton completed a three-year term on the Advisory Committee and with the concurrence of the Council of SOT and the Directors of the Fund, he was replaced by Toshio Narahashi.

The Annual Meeting is to a large degree characterized by five technical or professional activities. The Continuing Education Committee, chaired by William J. Tierney, presented a slate of six courses at the Dallas meeting. The Committee estimated that about 40% of scientists attending the Annual Meeting also participated in at least one of the Continuing Education courses. The topics presented were Respiratory Tract Toxicology; Methods in Male Reproductive Toxicology; Immunotoxicology; Gastrointestinal Toxicology and Endocrine Toxicology. The planning for the next meeting of the Society was well advanced with six courses identified and about half of them completed. The Committee has identified a number of courses which experience has shown should be given on a three to five year cycle.

The Scientific Program is the centerpiece of the Annual Meeting. The Program Committee for the twenty-seventh year of the Society was chaired by the Vice President James E. Gibson and they scheduled 1074 abstracts along with reviewing proposals for 25 symposia. The final program consisted of 12 symposia, 12 platform sessions, 28 poster sessions, 10 poster/discussion sessions and two poster/demonstration sessions. There was also an innovative plenary session in which

were presented abstracts selected on a competitive basis to represent the best in toxicology research. The Committee on Public Communications presented a one and one-half day program on communicating basic concepts in toxicology to non-scientists and included novel educational materials, presentations and computer-based teaching devices. An adjunct to the scientific program from the early days of the Society has been the technical exhibits. With time, the Society has increased the number of exhibitors and taken steps to increase traffic in the exhibit hall such as by having refreshments available and at the Dallas meeting, the reception was held in the exhibits area. As a further step in enhancing the exhibit portion of the meeting, Council changed the exhibit management agreement and engaged IMG to handle the exhibits. Since IMG also provided the Headquarters operation for the Society, increased efficiency and an improvement in the number and quality of the exhibits was expected. The Placement Service provided important professional support for scientists and employers. At the Dallas meeting there were 210 jobs listed and 239 candidates registered. The Service provided 16 interview rooms to assist in the employment process. The Committee also presented a seminar on Career Planning in Toxicology. On a quarterly basis, the Placement Service provided mailings of candidates and job openings and on two occasions, employers were given computer generated lists of candidates matching the qualifications they sought. The Awards of the Society of Toxicology provided one of the highlights of the Annual Meeting. The Awards Committee, chaired by Past President John Doull, selected the awardees from nominations provided by the membership and presented the awards at the Annual Banquet. The Frank R. Blood Award for the outstanding publication in one of the Society's journals was given to Debra L. Laskin, Ann M. Pilaro and Ji Sungchul for their paper in TAP. The Arnold J. Lehman Award recognizes an individual who has made major contributions to the control of chemical agents. Underlying the contribution is the application of sound scientific principles to the regulatory process. The 1988 award was made to Kundan S. Khera of Health and Welfare Canada. The Toxicology Education Award was made to John Autian and the Achievement Award, recognizing significant contributions to the science of toxicology by a member of the Society to Jeanne M. Manson of Smith Kline and French Laboratories. The Society's most prestigious award, the Merit Award, was given to Seymour L. Friess in recognition of his distinguished career in toxicology. Dr. Friess was the fifteenth President of the Society.

Tom S. Miya also chaired the Tox 90's Commission which was convened in Durham, NC in January of 1988 to examine three issues important to the Society and to the profession. What will be the science of toxicology in the future? How will the science of toxicology be brought to bear in minimizing the uncertainty in estimating toxicological risks of societal activities? How will individuals be educated to enter the discipline in the future and maintain their expertise? After three days of discussion and consensus building using both plenary and small group activities a final report began to be drafted for consideration by Council. Although that report was not completed during the twenty-seventh year of the Society, there were some clear items of consensus and

twenty-one draft recommendations. Toxicology will be driven by advances in related fields, and new technology and knowledge developed by all relevant disciplines must be integrated into toxicology. Good science and adherence to the scientific method must be addressed continually by the discipline of toxicology. Issues of critical importance to this field including risk estimation of health effects from exposure to chemical and physical agents and the educational needs of future toxicologists can only be addressed by meeting these objectives.

President Jerry B. Hook reported to the membership that he had set up a small Task Force on Women in Toxicology. There had been some interest expressed in this activity despite the Society's record of appointing and electing women to key positions. The Task Force was charged with determining whether an ad hoc committee on this subject would be advisable. The Task Force met during the Annual Meeting and proposed the distribution of a questionnaire to the women members of SOT from which would be derived a directory of women available to participate in and contribute to the activities of the Society. The Task Force saw itself as a forum for the encouragement of women and minorities in the study of toxicology and participation in Society activities. A number of proposals for discussion at future meetings were put forth including "successful women toxicologists-how did they do it?"

Ethical issues occupy the time and attention of many professional societies and the twenty-seventh year of SOT was no exception. The Society has a Code of Ethics, adopted in January 1985 and an Ethics Committee. The Chairman of that Committee, Marshall Steinberg, briefed both the Council and the Membership on activities relating to the Code of Ethics. Important issues raised included the limitation to professional ethics to the exclusion of personal ethics and the composition and operation of the proposed Hearing Committee.

The Information Handling Committee (INFOCOM) under the active leadership of George J. Cosmides had another busy year. Among the activities initiated or completed were the following: a series of articles on Toxicology and Related Information Resources for publication in FAAT; a proposal for annotated bibliographies on alternatives to animal testing; a recommendation that SOT join EDUNET and make TELEMAIL available to each member; a proposal for an SOT salary survey developed jointly with the Placement Service (Council subsequently decided against this project); and a joint project with the Committee on Public Communication to set up a database on the availability and location of teaching and public awareness materials on toxicology and related topics. The database was subsequently located at SOT Headquarters. In view of the work of the TOX 90's Commission and the likelihood of several ad hoc committees being established, the activities of the Information Handling Committee were ended as of April 1988.

The Council of the Society of Toxicology has approved the formation of a fifteenth Regional Chapter, Southern California. In addition, the Mountain West Chapter was granted approval to add Colorado to the states of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming and southern Idaho comprising the Chapter. An organizing group was approved to form a chapter in the Pittsburgh area from members now belonging to the Mid-Atlantic and Ohio Valley Chapters. Geographical considerations clearly prompted this request. The Presidents or their representatives from 13 of the 14 existing Chapters met at the Dallas meeting to discuss chapter issues such as insurance procedures, standardized reporting for the IRS and timing of chapter annual financial reports. The Chapters were encouraged to promote student presentations at regional meetings as a way to both increase the local program and provide students with valuable experience prior to presenting at the annual meeting of SOT.

The Specialty Sections have been in existence for about 10 years and are seven in number with an eighth, Risk Assessment, in the planning stages. These Sections have taken an active role in formulating symposia and helping to increase the quality of the scientific sessions at the Annual Meeting. The Sections have also sponsored joint meetings with other organizations and the Inhalation, Mechanisms, Metals, Neurotoxicology and Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Sections sponsor various awards.

These are largely directed toward students in recognition of publications or research of special merit. The Inhalation Section also has a Career Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the field of inhalation toxicology. The award was given to Herbert Landahl.

The Council of the Society met in May, July, September and November of 1987 and in February of 1988. These two-day meetings dealt largely with the day-to-day operations of the Society. The site for the 1992 meeting was selected (Seattle); finances of the Society and the Society's journals were examined in detail and ways to enhance income and reduce expenses explored in detail. The work of each standing and ad hoc committee was reviewed by the appropriate Council Liaison and decisions reached on membership issues, annual meeting program, awards and related topics. The Council for the twenty-seventh year of the Society included President Jerry B. Hook, Vice President James E. Gibson, Vice President-Elect Roger O. McClellan, Secretary Steven D. Cohen, Treasurer Gary L. Lage, Past President John Doull and Councilors Michael A. Gallo and Christopher F. Wilkinson (1986-1988) and John L. Emmerson and I. Glenn Sipes (1987-1989).