

THE THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1996-1997

Highlights: The year began with the Society having just over 4000 members, about half of whom were full members residing in the U.S. There were 16 charter members in this Thirty-sixth year that were still fully active. The Annual Meeting was held at the Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, a continuation of a trend toward the use of convention centers in medium-sized cities. Total registration for the meeting was 4697, an increase of about seven percent over the previous year. The Lake Ontario Chapter was approved as the seventeenth Regional Chapter of the Society. The management agreement between SOT and ADG, Inc. for association management services was renewed for an additional three year period. The society continued to enlarge and improve its home page on the World Wide Web.

The thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology was held from March 9 to 13, 1997 at the Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. President James S. Bus and Vice-President R. Michael McClain presented the SOT Long-Range Plan "Horizon 2000" to the members in the form of process, priorities and committee initiatives. This was the culmination of a Council activity that had been undertaken over a period of more than one year. President Bus noted the importance of such a plan in an environment where rapid change occurred on a global basis. For the Society to continue to enjoy the growth and influence it has had in the past, a road map for the future was imperative. With annual changes in leadership, there must be a means for providing continuity and strategic direction for the Society. The plan had eight major components. These were:

- (I. Support and advance basic and applied research in toxicology
- (II. Foster the use of sound science to improve risk assessment
- (III. Better public understanding of toxicology
- (IV. Changing employment demographics and training needs
- (V. Animals in research
- (VI. Changing computing and communications technologies
- (VII. Strengthen international relations
- (VIII. Need to establish a stable and broad financial platform

This vision was amplified during the Thirty-sixth year by a series of President's Messages in the Society's newsletter. The Scientific Program in Cincinnati included 16 symposia, 9 platform sessions, 52 poster sessions, 14 poster/discussion sessions and 12 workshops. There were 1712 abstracts accepted for this meeting. The two Roundtable Discussions were on the topics of "How should Carcinogenesis Data from Transgenic Animals be Applied in Regulation" and "Chromium Picolinate: Benefits and Hazards". In addition, there were 247 exhibitors at the meeting.

The Continuing Education Courses numbered 14 (one was given twice) and attracted 2372 registrants. The subjects were Use of Benchmark Dose in Risk Assessment (given twice); Endocrine Control of Reproductive Development – Normal and Abnormal Aspects; Toxicology of Agents:

Metals; The Role of Toxicology in Ensuring the Safety of New Food Technologies and Practices; Epidemiology for Toxicologists II, Methodology; Techniques for Determining Genetic Polymorphism; Cell Signaling in Toxicology; Neuroimmunology: Implications for Toxicology; Making Sense of Antisense; Methods for Assessing Chemical Interaction with the Estrogen Receptor; Molecular Basis of Genotoxicity Assays; Nephrotoxicity: Basic Mechanisms and Recent Advances and Unique Problems Associated with the Use of Animals in Inhalation Toxicology.

The Board of Publications continued to review the performance of the Society's two scientific journals. Of concern was the length of time from acceptance of a manuscript to the actual publication of the article. While times have shortened in recent years, the Board encouraged the Editors to continue to work with their editorial staffs and with Academic Press to further speed the process. The primary focus of the Board, however, was to move the Society closer to the establishment of a new journal to replace "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology". Working closely with the Council of the Society, the Board of Publications developed a plan to communicate with the membership on this matter and to maintain good relations with the publisher. In November 1996, the Board chose the name "Toxicological Sciences" for the new journal after earlier preferences were found to be in use already.

The Awards Committee, chaired by Past-President Jack H. Dean, reviewed the awards nominations from members and made the following selections. The Achievement Award was made to Kevin E. Driscoll of The Procter & Gamble Company and the Education Award was given to Albert E. Munson of the Medical College of Virginia. Mary O. Amdur received the Merit Award, recognizing her many years of major contributions to the science of Toxicology. The Public Communications Award was given to Audrey Gotsch of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Lucio G. Costa of the University of Washington and Durisala Desai of the University of Mississippi will share the Zeneca Traveling Award Lectureships. The Board of Publications Award for the best paper in "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology" was given to F.L. Fort of TAP Pharmaceuticals and co-authors H. Ando, T. Suzuki, M. Yamamoto, T. Hamashima, S. Sato, T. Kitazaki, M.C. Mahony and G.D. Hodgen. Their paper was titled "Mechanisms for Species-specific Induction of Leydig Cell Tumors in Rats by Lansoprazole" *FAAT* 26:191-202 (1995). For the best paper in "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology", the Board selected work by P.R.S. Kodavanti of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and coworkers T.R. Ward, J.D. McKinney, C.L. Waller and H.A. Tilson. Their paper was titled "Increased [³H]-Phorbol Ester binding in Rat Cerebellar Granule Cells and Inhibition of ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ Sequestration in Rat Cerebellum by Polychlorinated Diphenyl Ether Congeners and Analogs: Structure-Activity Relationships" *TAP* 138: 251-261 (1996). The Lehman Award was not given at this meeting. The Awards Ceremony was held again on the last evening of the meeting, Thursday March 13, immediately preceding the Final Night Reception. The Awards Committee also has, with Council approval, undertaken the development of several new SOT Awards.

The Treasurer has reported that the audit of the Society's financial accounts was completed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996. The Society had an excess of income over expenses in that period of almost \$200,000 which was significantly less than the preceding year. Increased activity of SOT Committees and a decrease in investment income seemed to account for this difference. Corporate Associate Membership, an important source of funding for SOT activities reached a peak of 67

members in 1994 and has declined to 55 as of June 1996. Part of this decline is attributed to corporate mergers and acquisitions.

The Placement Committee experienced its usual busy schedule during the Annual Meeting. There were 292 candidates for employment and 140 positions listed, a candidate to position ratio of 2.09. This ratio is less than that seen in the three previous Annual Meetings. The Committee also held a Mid-year Placement Service. There were 28 employers and 130 candidates registered. A placement survey was conducted and the results extensively reported in the Spring 1997 issue of “Communiqué”.

The Membership Committee had two scheduled reviews of applications for membership in SOT. These followed the April 1 and October 1 submission deadlines. Two recent changes in the application process have resulted in an increase in the number of applicants. This result was desired in order to increase the membership base. The changes were the elimination of an application fee and a relaxation of some of the requirements for full membership in the Generally Recognized as Expert category. In the Full, Associate and Student categories, the number of applications in the Thirty-sixth year was 464 as compared with 305 in the Thirty-fourth year. The Committee noted that sponsor letters often provide too few details on the applicant and has recommended that such letters be returned for rewriting. There was also discussion of the need for mentoring of new members but the only approach finding acceptance in the Committee was a new member reception at the Annual Meeting. Ethical issues relating to prospective members have continued to surface and the need for a legally sound, professional approach to such issues when raised by an existing member has drawn the attention of both Council and the Membership Committee. Finally, strong recommendations were made for providing a formal orientation for new Committee members and the Committee chair.

Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections remained strong and contributed much to the vitality of the Society. A seventeenth Regional Chapter, Lake Ontario, was approved. There remained thirteen Specialty Sections.

With the Long Range Plan identifying “Need for Basic and Applied Research to Improve Risk Assessment” as the highest priority strategic initiative, there was need for an action plan. A “Task Force to Improve the Scientific Basis for Risk Assessment” was formed and held its first meeting in March 1995. The charge to the Task Force was to stimulate efforts to improve the use of scientific data as a basis for risk assessment, impact the generation of data appropriate for risk assessment, promote the development, validation and use of better testing and risk assessment methods and seek to facilitate acceptance of new science and methods by regulatory agencies. The Task Force began its work by identifying impediments to the use of sound science in risk assessment and how SOT could address those issues. Contacts were established with Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections and relevant committees to carry out defined tasks.

The Council of the Society met six times during the Thirty-sixth year, in May, July, September, November, January and March to manage the day-to-day operations of the Society. Council proposed four amendments to the Bylaws regarding the composition of the Continuing Education Committee Article 4, Section 6), a more accurate description of the work of the Regulatory Affairs and Legislative

Assistance Committee (Article 4, Section 7), greater flexibility in determining the policy regarding journal subscriptions and late payment of dues (Article 6, Section 4) and establishment of a one year “grace” period for nonpayment of dues (Article 6, Section 5). These amendments were approved by the membership by sizeable margins. A further amendment of the Bylaws regarding the Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee was under development by Council. This change would increase to scope of the Committee’s charge to consider issues relating to the funding of research in toxicology. Also considered was a change in the procedure for assessment and prorating of dues for incoming members. Council spent considerable time on the question of sponsorship of the Burroughs Wellcome Award. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund, which underwrites this award in toxicology, wants to assume sole sponsorship of the award, including selection of recipients and administration. As of the spring of 1997, SOT was no longer involved with the Fund or its awards. The Society’s Council also worked with the officers of the Toxicology Education Foundation on Foundation bylaws and funding. The contract with Capitol Associates remained in force and this organization monitored legislative activities in Congress as they related to SOT and toxicology, including funding matters. Council approved Honorary Membership for Dr. Roger Wolcott Russell and Dr. John E. Casida. Among the more routine items of business handled by Council was site selection for future meetings, resolution of questions regarding the qualification of proposed members, SOT membership in other organizations, requests for funding of satellite and other meetings, insurance programs for members and improvement in communications with members. Early in the Thirty-sixth year, Council developed an outline for its meetings based on the key points in the long Range Plan. This facilitated keeping the ongoing work of SOT in line with that plan.

The Council for the Thirty-sixth year of the Society consisted of President James S. Bus, Vice President R. Michael McClain, Vice President-Elect Steven D. Cohen, Treasurer Mary E. Davis, Treasurer-Elect Mary Jo Vodcnik, Secretary David L. Eaton, Past President Jack H. Dean and Councilors Carole A. Kimmel and H. B. Matthews (1995-1997) and Linda S. Birnbaum and Raymond F. Novak (1996-1998). Shawn Douglas Lamb of the management firm Association Development Group (ADG) remained as Executive Director. The Society’s web site home page was at <http://www.toxicology.org>.