



## What is the Society of Toxicology?

The Society of Toxicology (SOT) is a scientific organization for professionals involved in toxicology. Founded in 1961, the Society is a global organization with more than 7,000 members from over 50 countries.

The Society is working to build the future of toxicology and is dedicated to increasing the scientific impact of toxicology, advocating the value of toxicology, and increasing the visibility of the organization and members as scientific leaders.

The Society's members represent the broad spectrum of sciences that toxicology encompasses, including chemistry, genetics, microbiology, modeling, molecular biology, neurobiology, pathology, pharmacy, veterinarian sciences, and others. Members are drawn from academic institutions, industry, government, and the private sector and work together to help the organization advance science to enhance human, animal, and environmental health.

## What is Toxicology?

Toxicology is the study of the adverse effects of chemical, physical, or biological agents on living organisms and the ecosystem, including the prevention and amelioration of such adverse effects. Toxicologists conduct basic research to learn how living systems work and what changes natural processes. Toxicologists assist in the development of safe consumer goods. Some toxicologists develop and enforce regulations to ensure that chemical, physical, and biological agents are produced, used, and disposed of safely. They may teach others about the safe use of these substances. They may train future toxicologists or conduct research. Toxicologists work in education, government, industry, and other organizations.

## The Organization

SOT is governed by an 11-person elected council and is managed by administrative offices in Reston, Virginia.

SOT is dedicated to building for the future of toxicology, expanding and deepening member engagement, and strengthening organizational effectiveness, such as SOT offers rich and diverse services for members through a vast network of committees and task forces. The Society has 27 Specialty Sections focusing on specific areas in toxicology, 18 Regional Chapters that foster scientific exchanges of information at the national and local levels, and 6 Special Interest Groups that are dedicated to increasing the diversity and inclusiveness of the organization.

*"As we celebrate our 50th anniversary year, let us take stock of where we stand today. From the small meeting of nine toxicologists who spent the day talking about the pros and cons of starting an organization so toxicologists could share their professional experiences to an organization of more than 7,000 from more than 50 countries that meet annually and hold more than 215 scientific sessions. The Society of Toxicology in 2011 is a major player in moving the new scientific paradigm forward so that we can enhance the protection of human health and the environment."*

**Jon C. Cook**  
SOT President  
2011–2012

## Scientific Excellence

*Toxicological Sciences*, is the official publication of the Society and a premier peer-reviewed, toxicology journal. The journal's scientific impact factor, a measure of its importance in

terms of the quality and frequency of articles cited by other scientists and journals, has continued to climb the past ten years to a point where the journal is now the fourth most prestigious journal in the field of 77 toxicology journals. The journal is published monthly and contains original research articles in all areas of toxicology. *The Toxicologist*, another publication produced by the Society, features the abstracts of presentations from the SOT Annual Meeting. Abstracts of articles in *Toxicological Sciences* are available on-line at [www.toxsci.oxfordjournals.org](http://www.toxsci.oxfordjournals.org).

## Scientific Meetings

Each year the Society sponsors the SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo, which is the largest meeting of its kind in the world for presentation of groundbreaking toxicological research. The meeting draws more than 7,500 scientists

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from all over the world. The Annual Meeting provides the most comprehensive coverage of toxicology through more than 2,500 presentation abstracts and over 90 scientific poster and platform sessions. The meeting also offers continuing education programs ranging from basic to advanced courses on a multitude of topics of interest to toxicologists. The ToxExpo is the largest exposition of its kind in the world and features more than 350 exhibits of the latest instruments, equipment, supplies, and services.

## **Professional Training and Public Education**

SOT is working to build for the future of toxicology by investing important resources in professional and public education through its publications, Annual Meeting, scientific meetings, and the official Web site, [www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org). Programs are offered to attract undergraduate students into toxicology. Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows actively participate in the Society and SOT coordinates several community outreach programs, including educational programs related to K–12 students.

## **Public Outreach/Communications**

SOT is dedicated to providing information to the general public about toxicology and explaining how scientific research can help in understanding exposure to chemicals in a variety of situations. SOT has access to toxicologists with a wide range of disciplinary knowledge who can provide expert opinions to the public, the media, Members of Congress, and regulatory agencies. Contact Martha Lindauer at 703.438.3115 or e-mail her at [martha@toxicology.org](mailto:martha@toxicology.org).

Find out more about the Society of Toxicology at [www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org)

**SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY**  
*Dedicated to Creating a Safer and Healthier World*