



A symposium by and for high school students to be held by videoconference during the Society of Toxicology 2008 Annual Meeting in Seattle

Teacher Information

Synopsis of Event:

Small groups of high school students from around Washington State will develop 10 minute presentations designed to educate other students about a health or environmental health issue of importance to the students or their community. Volunteers from the Society of Toxicology (SOT) will work as advisors to the students during January and February as they develop their projects. In March, twelve groups of students will present their projects to one another and to a panel of scientific experts via a videoconference link during the SOT Annual Meeting. Student groups not making a live presentation will have the opportunity to submit a video, PowerPoint or podcast version of their project for a virtual poster session at SOT. A panel of experts will provide comments/feedback to each student group presenting in the virtual poster session.

There is no cost to students, teachers or schools to participate in this event.

Background

Each year, the Society of Toxicology sponsors an educational event for local teachers, students or the general public as a part of their annual scientific meeting. This year's event is designed to enable students and teachers from around the state to participate, without having to travel to Seattle (the site of the annual meeting in 2008). In addition, we are hoping to build connections between teachers and toxicologists that will last beyond the term of this project.

Toxicology is the study of the negative effects of chemicals on living organisms. Toxicologists help identify and characterize the risks associated with exposure to chemicals and work to prevent and repair the consequences of exposure to harmful substances.

The Event:

TEAMS: Toxicologists Educating and Mentoring Students
A symposium by and for high school students in Washington State

Format: Student groups from around the state will work with toxicologist mentors to prepare 10 minute presentations to present to each other and a panel of experts during the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting via a videoconference link.

There will be two videoconference sessions, one morning and one afternoon, each incorporating 6-7 presentations. Students not making a live presentation have the option to prepare a video or PowerPoint/audio of their project which will be presented at SOT in a virtual poster session. The virtual presentations will also be reviewed by experts from SOT and comments will be sent to the students after the event.

Student Projects:

Goal: Students will prepare a 10 minute presentation to educate other students about a health or environmental health issue of importance to them or their community. The presentation will demonstrate that the students understand the role that toxicology plays in identifying, characterizing and solving such issues.

Presentations should be informative, engaging and based on sound scientific principles and data.

Presentations can be in the form of speeches, skits, multimedia, art or other approaches approved by the sponsoring teacher.

Students are encouraged to work in small groups to prepare and present their projects. Groups of 3-5 students are recommended, but not mandated.

Each student group will have a toxicologist mentor available for consultation, advice and discussion, starting in January 2008. Teachers need to indicate how many groups they will have working on presentations, so we know how many mentors to assign. Mentors can be invited to give a presentation to your students, or work informally as advisors and resources by e mail and telephone communication.

For classes that have more than one student group preparing presentations, the teacher (and/or the class, at the teacher's discretion) will decide which presentation will be presented in the live videoconference and which will be presented in the virtual poster session.

All groups presenting at the SOT meeting (either in the live videoconference or in the virtual poster session) will receive comments and feedback on their projects from a panel of SOT experts.

Each student participating will receive a certificate acknowledging participation for their graduation portfolio and a memento from the Society of Toxicology.

Key concepts that will be discussed by toxicologist mentors:

Risk vs hazard
The importance of dose
Routes of exposure

Dose-response relationships
Individual Susceptibility
Objective evaluation of data, information
Recognition that there can be multiple valid perspectives on a given issue

As a participating teacher, you will receive:

- One or more toxicologist mentors for your class for the project
- An introductory event orientation via videoconference
- Substitute reimbursement for the day of the student videoconference presentation (if needed)
- Transportation cost reimbursement to get students to videoconference facility (if needed)
- A \$200 stipend to help purchase materials for your classroom
- A letter of thanks for your participation sent to your principal
- Comments and feedback on student projects from an expert panel of toxicologists at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting
- A copy of the videoconference recorded on DVD

As a participating teacher, your responsibilities are:

- Locate your school technology person and arrange to use the K20 videoconference equipment on the scheduled dates
- Attend the orientation videoconference (Jan 17, 2008, 3:30-5:00pm)
- Work with your toxicologist mentor(s) and discuss how you would like to involve them (presentation to class? Teleconference discussion with individual groups? Email discussion with individual groups?) and what your expectations/needs are.
- Distribute Videoconference Release Forms to participating students , then collect and return them to Jon Sharpe, TEAMS Teacher Coordinator
- Submit the names of students and the topics they will present prior to the student presentation session
- If your class develops more than one presentation, select one for presenting at the live videoconference
- Consider submitting any additional presentations as a video, podcast or PowerPoint with audio to receive feedback from the experts at SOT in a virtual poster session
- Bring one or more groups of students to the videoconference session on March 18, 2008 to present their projects.
- Complete and return event evaluation forms to Jon Sharpe

Timeline:

Jan 11, 2008	Deadline for teachers to sign up
Jan 17, 2008	Teacher orientation 3:30-5:00pm, by video and/or web conference

Jan 21, 2008	Mentors available to start working with classes
Jan-Feb	Students work on projects, with mentor assistance as needed
Mar 4	Teachers/classes select presentations for live videoconferences Student groups submit titles, authors of projects to Steering Committee
Mar 18	The TEAMS Symposium Live videoconference presentations during SOT meeting; Virtual poster session during SOT meeting

Acknowledgments

The 2008 TEAMS High School Symposium is sponsored by the Society of Toxicology. It builds on the success of two other great programs in Washington, the Youth Network for Healthy Communities and the Student Biotech Expo. The organizers are grateful to both of these programs for their generous sharing of materials, lessons learned and experience to make the SOT program a success for all.

Apply by Jan 11, 2008 to participate.

Application is easy. Simply fill out the teacher application form on the [TEAMS website](#) and return it to Jon Sharpe.

Questions?

Contact Katie Sprugel, Event Chair (ksprugel@amgen.com, 206-265-7881) or Jon Sharpe, Teacher Coordinator (jsharpe@u.washington.edu, 206-685-5333).