

# African Society for Toxicological Sciences

[www.africansocietyfortoxicologicalsciences.org](http://www.africansocietyfortoxicologicalsciences.org)

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## PRESS RELEASE

Nashville, Tennessee, January 20, 2005 - - The African Society of Toxicological Sciences (ASTS) will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> annual symposium on **Tuesday, March 8, 2005 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM** in Salon 3 of the Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. The ASTS symposium brings together toxicologists and environmental health scientists from industry, academia and regulatory organizations across the world with an interest in toxicological issues that affect Africa. Students also participate in the symposium. This symposium is held as part of the American Society of Toxicology (SOT) annual meeting scheduled for March 6-10, 2005 at the Ernest Morial Convention Center.

The theme of this year's symposium will be "**Emerging Health and Environmental Adverse Effects of Pharmaceuticals and Industrial Chemicals and the Need for Good Regulatory Policy in Africa.**" The keynote speaker will be John O'Donoghue, DVM, PhD, DABT, former Director of Health and Environmental Laboratories of Eastman Kodak Co.

The 2005 ASTS symposium is special given that it will be the inaugural event recognizing the society as a special interest group of the SOT with a focus on health and environmental issues that impact Africa.

Furthermore, the society is pleased to be sponsoring three scientists from Africa to attend the SOT meeting for the first time with the ASTS-NEF travel Award. The three invited scientists and awardees are: Prof. Isaac U. Asuzu, Department of Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State, Nigeria; Dr. Orish E. Orisakwe, Department of Pharmacology, College of Health Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nnewi, Nigeria; and Dr. Jahun Jahun, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Amadou Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

ASTS is a US non-profit organization interested in promoting the acquisition and utilizations of knowledge in the sciences with emphasis on toxicological sciences relevant to the continent of Africa. One of its overarching objectives is to promote human health through research and education. ASTS has received funding from the **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS/NIH)** thanks to the support of Dr. Kenneth Olden to achieve its goals. The 2005 ASTS-NEF Travel Award was funded in part by **Eastman Kodak Co, Rochester, NY**. ASTS is currently partnering with the **African Education Initiative (NEF)** and the **Third World Medical Research Foundation (TWMRF)** to promote technical training and research activities in many countries in Africa.

Additional information on the meeting, the mission, and vision of ASTS can be obtained by sending an email to [hlantum@rochester.rr.com](mailto:hlantum@rochester.rr.com) (cc: [sanmi.areola@nashville.gov](mailto:sanmi.areola@nashville.gov)) or by visiting the ASTS website at [www.africansocietyfortoxicologicalsciences.org](http://www.africansocietyfortoxicologicalsciences.org).