



The Post-y

Spring 2006

Semi-annual Newsletter of the Society of Toxicology Post-Doctoral Assembly

Message from the Outgoing Chair

Jim Luyendyk

Dear SOT Post-Docs,

I would like to thank all of you for making the first year of the SOT Post-Doctoral Assembly (PDA) a huge success. Your enthusiasm and ideas have helped to shape the programs offered by the PDA, and will continue to provide direction in the upcoming year. The PDA was busy this past year! To see what the PDA Board accomplished in the past year, please visit our website <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD.asp>, which continues to grow daily. Our 2005-2006 Annual Report as well as meeting minutes are available for download.

The numerous accomplishments of the PDA Board in the past year are due largely to the efforts of its outgoing Board Members: Jennifer Durringer (Co-Chair), Peyton Myers (Councilor), Mark Powley (Secretary/Treasure) and George Corcoran (Council Liaison). I am pleased to pass on the Chair position of the PDA board to Jennifer Durringer for the next year. In addition, the SOT Post-Doctoral Membership has elected a new PDA Board for 2006-2007. This new group brings a great deal of enthusiasm to the PDA and I am confident that this will result in improvement of the SOT Post-Doctoral experience.

Importantly, the success of the PDA in the SOT depends on you! We can improve the SOT Post-Doctoral experience if you tell us how. In addition, there are several ways you can become involved in PDA activities. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or other PDA Board Members with your ideas.

Hope to see all of you in Charlotte in 2007!

Sincerely,

Jim Luyendyk

SOT PDA Chair, 2005-2006

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Out-going Board members (right to left) Jim Luyendyk (Chair), Peyton Myers (Councilor) and Mark Powley (Secretary/Treasurer) have a laugh at the PDA Board meeting in San Diego.

Thank You

Thank You to the following individuals who have contributed their time and enthusiasm to the Post-Doctoral Assembly this past year:

- *Jim Luyendyk, Chair*
- *Mark Powley, Secretary-Treasurer*
- *Peyton Myers, Councilor*
- *George Corcoran, Council Liaison*
- *Betty Eidemiller, Headquarters Liaison*

Message from the 2006-2007 Chair

Hello SOT post-docs!

My name is Jennifer Durringer and I am the new Chair of the Post-Doctoral Assembly for the 2006-2007 term. It is with great pleasure that I assume this role on the Board in conjunction with our newly elected officers. The PDA accomplished a lot during our first year as an official entity within SOT. Post-doc issues are being discussed and we have become more involved in the Annual Meeting through the post-doc mixer and partnership with CRAD to develop symposia of interest to post-docs. I want to thank all of the outgoing Board Members, our Council Liaison George Corcoran and Headquarters Liaison Betty Eidemiller for their tireless efforts in keeping the PDA going. It's been a great year!

As you can see below, we have many initiatives for the coming year. I would like to invite each of you to take advantage of the leadership and networking opportunities available within the PDA by volunteering for any project that is of interest to you. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Board Members if you have questions, suggestions or want to get involved! I look forward to working with you and to striving further to meet the needs of post-docs in the Society.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Durringer



PDA Chair Jennifer Durringer at the meeting with SOT Council in San Diego

Initiatives for the Coming Year

The PDA Board has been working hard since our inception to bring post-docs in the Society the resources and leadership opportunities they need. We have lots of new ideas for the coming year which were refined in discussions at the Annual Meeting.

Current initiatives include:

- Conducting a survey of post-docs to get to know our members better and gauge their needs. Results will be posted to the website and used to identify specific programs of interest to post-docs in the Society.
- Submitting a proposal for a platform session at the 2007 Annual Meeting which will highlight research conducted by post-docs. This will be done in conjunction with platform sessions for specific research topics.
- Development of post-doc representative positions in Specialty Sections, Regional Chapters and Special Interest Groups. Some Regional Chapters have already elected post-doctoral representatives. We currently have a group of individuals in the PDA working on outlining the selection and roles of these reps and where they will fit in the PDA and Society as a whole.
- Designing a "First Time Presenters Program" which will welcome first-time post-doctoral poster presenters to the Society and PDA. Experts will be asked to volunteer to visit post-docs at their poster, giving newcomers to the Society a warm welcome and opportunity to network with other scientists.
- Creation of awards geared towards post-docs.
- Maintenance of current activities including further issues of the "Post-Y," articles for the *Communiqué* and updating the PDA website.

We welcome your input and help in any of these initiatives. Please feel free to contact us. We want to get you involved!



2006-2007 PDA Board Elections

Mark Powley

After being governed by appointed officers for the first year, the PDA held its first election this past February. Nominations for Co-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and Councilor were solicited from SOT membership during December and on-line voting was conducted during February. Importantly, nearly 20% of identified SOT Post-Doctoral Members voted in this election. The officers were announced before the Annual Meeting and introduced at the SOT Post-Doctoral Event. We would like to thank all the nominees and those who participated in this process.

Here are the 2006-2007 PDA Officers:

Chair:	<i>Jennifer Durringer</i> Post Doctoral Fellow Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology Oregon State University
Co-Chair:	<i>Michail Panagiotidis</i> IRTA Post Doctoral Fellow Laboratory of Signal Transduction National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Secretary/Treasurer:	<i>Aaron Rowland</i> Research Associate Department of Toxicology and Pharmacology University of Utah
Councilor:	<i>Kristen Mitchell</i> Post Doctoral Fellow Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology University of Texas Medical Branch



Resources: NIH Announces New Investigators Program

Kristen Mitchell

In January 2006, the NIH announced a new funding program designed to provide exceptional postdoctoral scientists with both mentored and independent research support.

The **NIH Pathway to Independence Award** will provide up to five years of support for talented postdoctoral researchers with no more than 5 years of postdoctoral training. The first two years of the award consist of support for mentored research and will allow the researcher to complete his or her postdoctoral training before transitioning to an independent research position. Funding for this mentored phase may not exceed \$90,000, and can be used for salary, fringe benefits, and research support costs.

The next three years of support are provided to the sponsoring institution/organization to which the researcher has been recruited as an independent scientist. During these three years, the individual would be expected to establish his or her own independent research program and prepare an application for R01 funding. Funding for this three-year portion may not exceed \$249,000 and may be used for salary, fringe benefits, research support allowance and applicable F&A costs. The Pathway to Independence Award is limited to post-doctoral scientists who propose research that is consistent with the mission of one or more of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers. Applications will be accepted and reviewed according to the standard NIH grant submission/review guidelines, and about 150-200 grants will be funded in the initial year of the program. More information on the Pathway to Independence award can be found at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/pathway_independence.htm.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

Jennifer Duringer

Sunday evening Post-Doctoral Assembly Event

For the first time ever, post-docs held their own social event at the Annual Meeting in San Diego. Following a motivating speech by Achievement Award winner José Manautou, the Board and Council liaison George Corcoran spoke to post-docs on our accomplishments over the last year and where we would like to go in 2006-2007. Afterwards, attendees had the opportunity to network and discuss plans for future initiatives of the PDA.

CRAD/PDA seminar

The PDA partnered with the Career Resource and Development Committee (CRAD) to offer a seminar titled "Life After Your Post-Doc: Advice on Finding and Landing a Job." A stellar panel representing experts from industry, academia and the government were present to give advice about obtaining a job, from where to start looking to negotiating salaries and benefits. A summary of the questions asked and answers given is available at the PDA website under "Resources for PDA Members."

Meeting with Council

This year the Student Advisory Committee and the PDA changed the format for the meeting between Council and students and post-docs to be more informal. The goal was to provide an opportunity for students and post-docs to network with Council members and to facilitate communication about issues they would like to have addressed in the coming year. The meeting was very effective, as many new acquaintances were made and a variety of issues were discussed.



Guest speaker José Manautou (2006 Achievement Award winner) motivates post-docs at the Sunday evening PDA event.



Panel members from the CRAD seminar give advice to post-docs on landing a position in academia, industry and government.

Off-site Meeting Held at SOT Headquarters in December

Mark Powley

On December 2, 2005, the PDA Board assembled at SOT HQ to hold the first annual planning meeting. In attendance were Jim Luyendyk (Chair), Jennifer Duringer (Co-Chair), Peyton Myers (Councilor), Mark Powley (Secretary/Treasurer), George Corcoran (Council Liaison), and Betty Eidemiller (HQ Liaison). The goal of this meeting was to discuss several proposed initiatives and to plan for the remainder of the 2005-2006 fiscal year. An aggressive agenda was proposed that included discussions of post-doc representation in Specialty Sections/Regional Chapters, the SOT Recruitment and Retention Task force findings, and development of a Post-doc/Graduate student career tracking database. Two major accomplishments of this meeting were the establishment of PDA election procedures and planning for PDA associated events at the 2006 SOT Annual Meeting. These events included the Post-doc mixer, PDA Board business meeting, the CRAD/PDA Symposia, as well as the meeting between the PDA, the Student Activity Committee, and SOT Council.

Meeting minutes are available on the PDA website (<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD.asp>).

If you have questions or would like to learn more about current PDA initiatives, please contact a PDA officer or SOT HQ (sothq@toxicology.org).

Notes from the National Post-Doctoral Association Meeting

Jennifer Duringer

As one of the many tools the Board of the Post-Doctoral Assembly and SOT Council uses to ensure we are targeting programs and issues of interest to post-docs, we send one individual to the National Post-Doctoral Association's (NPA) annual meeting each year. This past April 21-23, Jennifer Duringer (PDA Chair) attended the meeting which was held at the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. Of interest to the PDA was the release of a document titled "Recommended Postdoctoral Policies and Practices for Disciplinary and Professional Societies." This new document provides guidance to disciplinary and professional societies in addressing the training and professional development needs of postdoctoral scholars, while also encouraging the systematic collection of data on postdoctoral members of the societies. In brief, the recommendations are as follows:

- Create a post-doctoral membership category.
- Provide career development resources for postdoctoral members.
- Create a postdoctoral committee and/or appoint postdoctoral representation on other committees.
- Appoint a designated staff member or other liaison for postdoctoral affairs.
- Provide opportunities for postdoctoral members to interact with senior society members for the purposes of networking and informal mentoring.
- Collect, analyze and report data regarding the status and professional development of postdoctoral members on a regular basis.
- Address postdoctoral training policies as part of society advocacy efforts.

As you can see, the PDA and SOT are already hard at work in each of the above categories. If you have any suggestions or would like to help further the PDA's development of any of the above goals, please feel free to contact any of the Board members or SOT HQ at sothq@toxicology.org.

In addition, please visit the National Post-Doctoral Association's website at <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/>. It is full of useful information for post-docs and administrators alike. Apply as an individual member for only \$35/year and enjoy benefits such as subscription to NPA E-Alerts, a periodic news announcement, and the POSTDOCKET, the NPA's official quarterly newsletter; access to members-only NPA web content and features including the Institutional Postdoctoral Policies Database, The Postdoctoral Association (PDA) Toolkit, and portions of the International Postdoc Survival Guide; and national representation on postdoctoral issues.



Application for Associate/Full Membership in SOT

Are you aware that there are actually three types of SOT membership available to post-docs? One option is to become a Graduate Student/Post-Doctoral member, or you can apply for Associate or Full membership, depending upon your level of experience in toxicology and your publication record.

SOT encourages those who have been Student/Post-doctoral members for one year or more to apply for associate or full membership to take advantage of a broader range of membership benefits. If the student applicant qualifies, the student will be accepted as an associate or full member but will continue to pay dues at the student rate (\$20) for one year as well as receive a free Specialty Section membership for that year.

No matter which type you pursue, you will find membership in the SOT to be a valuable part of your career development. For full details, please visit the web site <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/mi/memberinfo.asp>.

Regional Chapter News

Pacific Northwest Association of Toxicology (PANWAT) ~ Jennifer Duringer, PANWAT member



PANWAT held their annual meeting on the Oregon coast at the Astoria Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites on September 8-9, 2005. The theme of the conference was "Nutraceutical Development and Safety Assessment." Prize awards were given to graduate students and post-doctorates for the best platform and poster presentations. Sabrina Peterson (University of Washington) won first place for her platform presentation titled "The apiaceous vegetable constituents psoralen, 5-methoxypsoralen, 8-methoxypsoralen, and apigenin inhibit CYP1A2-mediated aflatoxin mutagenicity." Haley Neff-LaFord (Washington State University) won second place for her platform presentation titled "Exploring mechanisms that underlie aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR)-mediated increases in IFN-g and iNOS levels in the lungs of mice infected with influenza A virus." Timothy Park (Oregon Health Sciences University) won first place for his poster on "'Methylazoxymethanol (MAM) targets distinct protein networks in the neonatal brain." Isacc Mohar (University of Washington) won second place for his poster on "'Effect of acetaminophen on cytosolic and mitochondrial glutathione in the livers of wild-type and GCLM-null mice." Congratulations to all of the winners!

Allegheny-Erie Chapter of the Society of Toxicology ~ Pallavi Limaye, Post-Doctoral Representative



The 18th Annual Spring AE-SOT meeting was held at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott in Coraopolis, PA on April 7, 2006 and focused on a topic of great current interest, nanoparticles. Our first speaker, Dr. Nora Savage of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spoke of the governmental role in encouraging and funding this important research through collaborations with other federal government agencies such as National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). The second speaker, Dr. Petia Simeonova of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) discussed her current research in nanoparticles, particularly related to use of nanotubes in examining cardiovascular disease. The Spring meeting was also a showcase for seven exceptional posters presented by scientists from the Magee Women's Research Institute, University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia University, and NIOSH. Best Methodology award was received by Michael Keane (NIOSH), and Adam Straub (Pitt) received the Best Overall Poster award. Over all, the meeting was very successful with over fifty attendees. Our 2006 Fall AE-SOT meeting is tentatively scheduled to be in October. The topic and other details to follow.

Gulf Coast Society of Toxicology (GCSOT) ~ Kristen Mitchell, GCSOT Member

The GCSOT chapter of SOT held its annual meeting in November 2005 at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center in Austin, TX. Highlights of the session included a keynote discussion of endocrine disruptors, presented by Drs. Stephen Safe, Andrea Gore, and Cheryl Walker. Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows presented poster and platform presentations in the afternoon. Rania Milleron, a postdoc from University of Texas at Austin, was awarded first place for the platform presentation "Heat shock induces caspase-dependent apoptosis via a novel apoptosome, piddosome and death-receptor independent pathway." Second place was awarded to Guobin He from the University of Texas MD Anderson, Science Park Research Division, for the platform entitled "Thiazolidinediones, a class of insulin sensitizers, suppress IGF-1 tumor promoting activity." Michael Schmiederer, a postdoc at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, received a third-place award for his presentation entitled "The role of p53 in the response of human lung fibroblasts exposed to butadiene diepoxide." Congratulations to all of the winners! The 2006 Annual Meeting of GCSOT will be sponsored by Baylor University in Waco, TX.

If you have information on your regional SOT chapter you would like to submit for future issues, please send us an E-mail at SOTHQ@toxicology.org.