

The Post-y

Newsletter for the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly

Summer 2014



Message from the Chair Colleen E. McLoughlin

The last year brought another great and productive year for SOT PDA! We had an outstanding executive board which organized two webinars (which you can still check out online); events at the Annual Meeting including our annual luncheon, scientific session, and poster tours; and the Best Postdoctoral Publication Award (BPPA), amongst other activities. I also had the privilege of attending the National Postdoctoral Association Annual Meeting and presenting a poster on behalf of the PDA. For details on this meeting see my article below. Looking forward, we will again be celebrating National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week September 15-19th, with daily blog articles and a webinar. Be sure to read on for details! BPPA applications are now being accepted with an October 9th deadline, and I highly encourage all eligible members to apply. I am looking forward to the Annual Meeting in sunny San Diego where we will be organizing activities for PDA members. If you haven't already, be sure to update your membership to Postdoctoral Member, and update your ToXchange profiles!

We hope to engage all of our PDA members in the following year, and I want to leave you with the following mantra: Get involved, stay involved, get others involved!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas for your PDA Executive Board.

Dr. Colleen McLoughlin



NPA Meeting Report from the Chair

The 12th annual meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) was held in St. Louis, Missouri on April 4-6th at Washington University. The welcoming reception for NPA attendees started with a bang, as the tornado sirens blared through the city and the rains poured while attendees came in to St. Louis.

As the weather cleared, Dr. Susan Fitzpatrick gave the keynote address "10 Reasons Why It's Great to be a Postdoc" which provided a positive outlook to start the meeting, emphasizing the opportunities ahead for postdocs as they begin their careers.

Dr. Michael Teitelbaum gave the first plenary session presentation "Research and Postdocs in a Complex System in Disequilibrium." The highlights of Dr. Teitelbaum's talk included the history of the NPA and the great voice the organization provides for such a diverse and other often under-represented group. One quote that

Continued on Page 2

2014-2015 SOT PDA Board

Chair
Colleen E. McLoughlin
vzt3@cdc.gov

Vice Chair
Kathryn E. Page
kpage@berkeley.edu

Secretary
Karin M. Streifel
kstreifel@ucdavis.edu

Treasurer
April D. Lake
aprilddl2002@gmail.com

Councilors
John D. Clarke
clarke@pharmacy.arizona.edu

Caitlin J. Murphy
cmurph@austin.utexas.edu

Council Contact
Aaron Barchowsky
aab20@pitt.edu

Staff Liaison
Laura Apelt
lapelt@toxicology.org

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair.....	1	2014 SOT BPPA Winners.....	5
NPA Report from Chair and Message from the Outgoing Chair.....	2	Vacancies and Congratulations.....	6
A Postdoc's Perspective by Brenna Flannery.....	3-4	Upgrading your SOT Membership.....	7-8
Announcements.....	4	List of 2014-2015 Postdoc Representatives.....	9-10

NPA Meeting Report from the Chair *Continued from page 1*

summarizes the talk is “Problems facing research and postdoc systems are real and fundamentally structural. Don’t worry, you won’t be lacking challenges.” Among the challenges he mentioned were funding and career prospects.

Some potential solutions included increasing training for “alternative careers” emphasizing broad skill development and several programs with this aim (such as Masters in Bioscience Management) and continued leadership by NPA to address the ongoing challenges.

Several concurrent workshop sessions were held each day. One really great session by Dr. Gail Gasparich and Ms. Cynthia Simpson was on “Communication Tips and Techniques to Enhance Your Leadership Skills” which demonstrated many “dos and don’ts” of communication, from oral presentation skills to emails. Other session topics included conflict resolution, preparing for the first year on the job, various topics on starting, implementing, and continuing postdoc programs, and increasing data collection on postdocs. Another particularly interesting session was the second plenary session “Post Doc, Ergo Doc?” which included perspectives from different sectors – industry, academia, and funding agencies – on postdoctoral training.

Opportunities for socializing and networking abounded with networking breaks and themed lunch-arounds. The poster session included over 35 posters from different institutions and postdoctoral programs. The SOT poster was highly attended and the large variety of leadership opportunities and programs for postdoc involvement were highly lauded. Overall, the meeting was a great experience and I learned a lot, but also came away with a great appreciation for the opportunities and support SOT provides for postdocs. I encourage you to check out the NPA website, where you can even download slide sets from the meeting: <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/meetings-and-events-4/annual-meeting/2014-annual-meeting/2014-annual-meeting-workshops>.

Message from the 2013-2014 Outgoing Chair Ebany Martinez-Finley

According to Shakespeare, “parting is such sweet sorrow” and in my case no truer words have been spoken. I have had the honor of serving on the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) Executive Board since 2011; first as Secretary and then as Chair. It has been a wild ride (thus the Shakespeare reference) and I’d like to express my gratitude to all postdoctoral members for your confidence in me over the past 3 years. I would also like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the members of the board and volunteers (too many to name here) that served with me throughout my tenure - you ALL made the difference and truly showed what can be accomplished when everyone willingly contributes. I would also like to give special thanks to SOT staff for keeping the PDA on track, and of course, to the various Council members who have expressed interest in the PDA and helped us push our agenda.

If you have continued to read to this paragraph then I have a special call to you – members of the PDA. The PDA always needs volunteers to help with various projects. If you are reading this then you take an interest in the PDA and SOT, so why not volunteer? You can do it and you should do it! Not only because it “looks good on your CV” but because you make invaluable connections with your colleagues, and you hone skills that are particularly important on the job market. So reach out and help!

I leave my position in the most capable hands. The new board has experience, know-how and they have been incredibly talented at weaving themselves throughout SOT, so I have no doubt that they will be especially productive this year.

Cheers to productivity and fruitful careers!!
And THANK YOU!

Dr. Ebany Martinez-Finley

**A Postdoc's Perspective:
Bridging the Gap Between Academics and Industry
Food Safety and CRAD Postdoctoral Representative Brenna Flannery**

1. Network. It is estimated that between 60 – 80% of jobs are obtained via personal relationships (US Bureau of Labor Statistics). Therefore, make networking a priority when attending lectures, SOT meetings and other conferences. In addition, it is good practice to conduct informational interviews. Seek out someone who is in your desired position and contact them. People are usually more than willing to talk about their careers and the approach they used to attain their career goals. You will learn valuable information on how to attain that position, and you will be expanding your network while speaking the language of industry.

2. Get involved outside of research. This will demonstrate you can interact and communicate with others, building your “soft skills.” SOT has many ways to get involved including regional volunteer opportunities and serving as a postdoctoral representative for Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections, and . Furthermore, being involved in SOT will enhance your profile and network, potentially bringing opportunities to you.

3. You must take an active approach seeking out opportunities rather than waiting for them to come to you. Additionally, it is important to keep an open mind. Being too narrow in your job search will limit your possible opportunities. If you find yourself struggling to obtain a position, consider an internship to obtain experience.

4. Find your strengths. Often times we focus too much on the skills we need to improve, not what our true talents are. The book *Strengths Finder 2.0* by Tom Rath is an excellent resource for determining your strengths. Once you determine what your strengths are and why, you can form a dialogue to communicate with others about yourself.

5. Practice, practice, practice. Prepare for job interviews as if you are preparing to give an oral presentation. You will come across to the interviewer as confident, knowledgeable, and prepared. Most universities have career centers that are available for postdocs! Use them for CV, cover letter, and interview preparation.

6. Keep track of time. Often times, the hiring process can take 4 to 12 weeks after the position closing date. If you are looking to transition from your postdoc to a position by a certain date, start applying many months in advance. Never feel content in a postdoc, it is impermanent in nature.

7. Maintain a positive attitude and be persistent. Being continuously rejected for jobs can be depressing. Just remember that you are not being rejected as a person, but rather the employer is looking for someone with a slightly different skill set or slightly more experience. Non-verbal cues, such as smiling, can affect the way you are perceived in an interview, even a phone interview. So chin up and remember to smile!

“Network. It is estimated that between 60-80% of jobs are obtained via personal relationships” (US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Upcoming PDA-Sponsored Fall Career Webinar for National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week in September

The SOT PDA Vice Chair Kathryn Page will moderate a **Fall Career Webinar** in celebration of Postdoctoral Appreciation Week (Sept 15th-19th). **Date and Time are TBA so stay tuned to your ToXchange Updates!**

Postdoctoral
Appreciation
Week is
September
15th-19th!

Increasing Your Visibility and Participation in SOT as an Early Career Toxicologist.

Speakers will include:

Dr. William Slikker Jr., Director of the National Center for Toxicological Research at the Food and Drug Administration

Dr. Lauren Aleksunes, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Rutgers University

Dr. Mary Beth Genter, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health at the University of Cincinnati

Dr. Betina J. Lew, Senior Toxicologist at Church and Dwight Co. Inc.

The 54th Annual Meeting to be held in San Diego, California March 22-26th, 2015

- Abstract submissions are due by October 7, 2014.
- Online and Early Bird Registration is strongly encouraged. The Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration deadline is January 31, 2015.
- Check for award deadlines: <http://www.toxicology.org/AI/AF/awards.aspx>
- Postdoctoral events will include the Postdoctoral Assembly Luncheon, Poster Tours for Trainees, the Student/Postdoc Mixer, Chat with an Expert, a PDA- and GSLC-sponsored scientific session, and the SOT Job Bank!
- Update your profile in ToXchange and in the SOT Job Bank!



Register for the SOT Job Bank!

<https://www.toxicology.org/ai/newcrad/>

The Society of Toxicology CRAD Job Bank provides employers and candidates who are seeking jobs with the opportunity to establish contacts relating to their specific needs and areas of interest. Registrations are valid for four months and all registrants may access the system as often as they wish. In addition to this service, the traditional Career Resource and Development Service program will be offered at the SOT Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, March 22-26, 2015. Please complete the online survey, located on the main menu, as this provides the feedback needed to make improvements or enhancements to the Job Bank service. Access is free for SOT members.

You may also be interested in [Mentor Match](#), the SOT Online Mentoring Program for SOT members.

The Society of Toxicology 2014 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award Winners

Presented by the Postdoctoral Assembly, the Best Postdoctoral Publication Award (BPPA) recognizes outstanding work accomplished by formally mentored postdoctoral trainees by recognizing recently published exceptional papers in the field of toxicology.

Congratulations to the BPPA award winners at the Phoenix, AZ, 2014 Society of Toxicology Meeting! Citations for each of the winning papers can be found on the SOT website.

During the Postdoctoral Luncheon at the 2014 SOT meeting PDA Chair Ebany Martinez-Finley (in photos to the right) presented awards to three recipients. Dr. Annie Lumen was recognized for her manuscript entitled "Evaluation of Perturbations in Serum Thyroid Hormones during Human Pregnancy Due to Dietary Iodide and Perchlorate Exposure Using a Biologically Based Dose-Response Model."

Dr. Gul Mehnaz Mustafa was recognized for her publication entitled "Biomarker Discovery for Early Detection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in Hepatitis C (HCV) Infected Patients."

Dr. Phoebe Stapleton was recognized for her publication entitled "Maternal Engineered Nanomaterial Exposure and Fetal Microvascular Function: Does the Barker Hypothesis Apply?"



Annie Lumen, PhD, National Center for Toxicological Research, U.S. FDA



Gul Mehnaz Mustafa, PhD, University of Texas Medical Branch



Phoebe Stapleton, PhD, West Virginia University

2015 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award Application Now Open!

The deadline for the 2015 BPPA applications is **October 9, 2014**, for papers published between October 1, 2013, and September 30, 2014. For details please check the website:

<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PDPubAwardAnn.asp>

We look forward to your applications!

Postdoctoral Representatives Needed!
Please contact the President if you are interested!

Lake Ontario Regional Chapter-VACANT

President: Warren G. Foster

Carcinogenesis-VACANT

President: Elaine Faustman

Comparative & Veterinary Specialty Section-VACANT

President: Uford A Madden

Dermal Toxicology-VACANT

President: Jens Thing Mortensen

Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues-VACANT

President: Paul H Zigas

Medical Device-VACANT

President: Greg Erexson

Ocular Toxicology-VACANT

President: Edward Chow

Thank you to last year's PDA Board members!
Congratulations on a job well done!



Left to right: *Rhiannon Hardwick*, Councilor; *Karin Streifel*, Secretary; *Colleen McLoughlin*, Vice Chair; *Ebany Martinez-Finley*, Chair; *Kellie Fay*, Treasurer; Not pictured: *Katie Paul*, Councilor

The “How-To” on Upgrading to Full or Associate SOT Membership

The time has come; your postdoc position has ended. What happens next for your SOT membership? Heard scary stories about how hard upgrading to Full or Associate SOT membership is? Worry no more, we are here to give you the low-down, how-to, and why you should upgrade.

When to upgrade

SOT policy states that graduate students and postdocs may remain in those membership categories for 12 months after completion of the respective degree/training, recognizing that resources are limited for trainees as they get established in the next phase of their careers. But after that, it is time to move to the other member types!

Cost

Whether you upgrade to Full or Associate membership the 2014 cost will be \$138. Not too pricey with all the benefits you get! A print copy of *Toxicological Sciences* is also available with your membership for an additional \$25 for US (\$46 for the rest of the world).

Benefits

Besides the standard “recognition among your peers,” both Full and Associate memberships provide:

- SOT Publications including Annual Meeting information and the SOT newsletter *Communiqué*
- SOT official journal *Toxicological Sciences*, electronic access and discounted subscription to the print version
- Right to sponsor non-member colleague abstracts at the Annual Meeting
- Right to chair sessions at the Annual Meeting
- Eligibility for many of SOT’s distinguished awards
- Registration fees reduced for the SOT Annual Meeting
- Career Resource and Development Job Bank services at no cost
- Access to member-restricted information on SOT’s website

However, only Full membership provides:

- Voting privileges to help shape the future and direction of the Society
- Officer eligibility to assume leadership positions that help forward the mission and objectives of the Society

SOT Leadership Roles

The other difference between the two membership types involves eligibility for SOT committee and officer participation. Full membership provides unrestricted access to participation in all SOT committees, subcommittees, and component groups (Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups), providing the opportunity to have firsthand involvement in fostering the development of the strategic initiatives of the Society. For nomination to an elected SOT position the person must be a Full member. However, this is not the case for appointment by the incoming president to certain committee positions, and there are subcommittee, task force, and *ad hoc* positions for which the Full member type is not mandated. There are also rules governing the component groups which mandate that elected positions in the Presidential and Treasurer chain be Full members, whereas Councilors may be either Full or Associate members, subject to the bylaws of the component group. If you are interested in volunteering your time in an SOT leadership role, you can check out "[Get Involved](#)," fill out an [SOT volunteer form](#), or even contact the committee/group chair directly to make your interests known.

Continued on Page 8

The “How-To” on Upgrading to Full or Associate SOT Membership

Continued from page 7

Criteria for application

The type of membership for which you can apply is based on your toxicological experience, number of publications, and/or the amount of time in toxicology. Basically, if you have 5+ years postdoc experience you can apply for the “Full membership based on documented professional experience.” If you have between 3 and 5 years of postdoctoral experience, but you have at least two peer-reviewed toxicology publications (post PhD), then you qualify for the “Full membership based on peer-reviewed publications.” If you do not quite meet these criteria, then Associate membership may be for you. All three membership types require sponsorship by 2 Full SOT members, however the Full membership based on experience requires 3 sponsors. If you do not know enough Full members to fulfill this requirement, SOT headquarters staff will help you find a sponsor. Additionally, members of the Membership Committee can sponsor applications based on a critical review of your CV should no other sponsor be found. Specific requirements for each type can be found on the [SOT Types of Membership webpage](#).

Questions?

Further information can be found on the SOT website at <http://www.toxicology.org/ms/join.asp>. For answers to specific questions, please email Kathryn Page, your Membership Committee postdoc representative at kpage@berkeley.edu.

How to Upgrade

The process is simple once you know the type of membership for which you are eligible and have lined up your sponsors. Just visit the [SOT membership upgrade website](#), sign in, and fill out the online application.

Thank you, and we look forward to receiving your membership applications!

**Dr. Kathryn Page
& the 2014 SOT Membership Committee**

2014-15 SOT Membership Committee

Tao Wang, Chair
William Valentine, Co-Chair

Michael D. Aleo, Member
Rebecca A. Clewell, Member
Kathleen Gabrielson, Member
Michelle J. Hooth, Member
Michael L. Dourson, Ad Hoc Member

Senthilkumar Kuppasamy, Postdoctoral Representative
Michelle Carroll-Turpin, Student Representative

John A. Wisler, Council Contact
Aaron Barchowsky, Co-Council Contact

Postdoctoral Representatives for 2014-2015

Regional Chapter Representatives

Allegheny-Erie

Kevin Beezhold
University of Pittsburgh

Central States

Samuel Buxton
Iowa State University

Lone Star

Amelia Romoser
Texas A&M University

Michigan

Madiha Khalid
Michigan State University

Mid-Atlantic

Daniel Willis
New York University School of Medicine

Midwest

Mary Laws
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Mountain West

Jonathan Shannahan
University of Colorado

National Capital Area

Chad Brocker
National Institutes of Health

North Carolina

Samantha Snow
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Northeast

Priscilla Encarnacao
Yale University School of Medicine

Northern California

Galen Miller
University of California-Davis

Northland

Sarah Lacher
University of Minnesota

Ohio Valley

Smita Ghare
University of Louisville

Pacific Northwest

Tod Harper
Oregon State University

South Central

Si Chen
US FDA-NCTR

Southeastern

Guoqing Qian
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Southern California

Parrisa Solaimani
Western University of Health Sciences

Special Interest Group Representatives

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology

Qiangen Wu
Indiana University

Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

Mallikarjuna Basavarajappa
US FDA-NCTR

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

Teresa Palacios-Hernandez
Fundacion Universidad de las Americas Puebla

Korean Toxicologists Association in America

Jang-Won Lee
Purdue University

Toxicologists of African Origin

Yasmeen Nkrumah-Elie
Oregon State University

Women in Toxicology

Phoebe Stapleton
West Virginia University

Postdoctoral Representatives for 2014-2015

Specialty Section Representatives

Biological Modeling

Martin Phillips
US EPA

Biotechnology

Amy Sharma
Yale University

Cardiovascular Toxicology

Leslie Thompson
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Clinical and Translational Toxicology

Tracie Baker
University of Wisconsin Madison

Drug Discovery Toxicology

Sarah Lamore
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP

Food Safety

Brenna Flannery
University of California Davis

Immunotoxicology

Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe
Michigan State University

In Vitro and Alternative Methods

Sridhar Jaligama
University of Tennessee Health Science
Center

Inhalation and Respiratory

Cara Sherwood
University of Arizona

Mechanisms

Rhiannon Hardwick
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Metals

Alicia Bolt
McGill University

Mixtures

Ronald Pringle
Mississippi State University

Molecular and Systems Biology

Jill Franzosa
US EPA

Nanotoxicology

Matthew Grogg
Air Force Research Laboratories

Neurotoxicology

Kristen Ryan
NIEHS-NTP

Occupational and Public Health

Melissa Badding
National Institute for Occupational Safety and
Health

Regulatory and Safety Evaluation

Senthilkumar Kuppusamy
US EPA

**Reproductive and Developmental
Toxicology**

Brandiese Beverly
US EPA

Risk Assessment

Michelle DeSimone
North Carolina State University

Stem Cells

Ntube Ngalame
NIEHS-NTP

Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology

Mili Mandal
Rutgers University



The Post-y Newsletter is published twice annually in Reston, Virginia for the members of the Society of Toxicology Postdoctoral Assembly.

Editorial Office and Membership:

Society of Toxicology
1821 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 300
Reston, VA 20190-5332
Phone: 703.438.3115
Fax: 703.438.3113
Email: sothq@toxicology.org