

The Post-y

Newsletter for the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly

Summer 2016



Message from the Chair

The last year brought another great and productive year for the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA)! We had an outstanding Executive Board that organized webinars and special events at the SOT Annual Meeting. Some of these meeting events included our annual luncheon, career session, scientific session, poster tours, and the presentation of the Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards (BPPA). Dr. Samantha Snow, one of our councilors, attended the National Postdoctoral Association Annual Meeting on behalf of SOT and has contributed a wonderful article about her experiences. Looking forward, we will again be celebrating National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week September 19-23, with blog articles and a fall career webinar. Be sure to read on for details! BPPA applications are being accepted and I highly encourage all eligible members to apply—remember, the deadline is October 1! I am looking forward to the Annual Meeting in Baltimore where we will be organizing activities for PDA members. If you haven't already, be sure to update your ToXchange profiles and your membership to Postdoctoral Member. I look forward to another amazing year engaging and serving you, the SOT PDA members.

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

Gabriel A. Knudsen, PhD



Message from the 2015-2016 Outgoing Chair

It was an honor to serve on the PDA Executive Board the last two years. The knowledge gained, the unique opportunities, and the wonderful people that I worked with made this a one of a kind experience. I would like to thank the 2015-2016 Executive Board: Gabriel Knudsen, Samantha Snow, Tongde Wu, Kari Sant, and Eugene Gibbs-Flournoy. Rachel Woodson, our staff liaison was an incredible resource throughout the year, and we were very lucky to have her help to get us through the many activities at the Annual Meeting. Aaron Barchowsky, our Council liaison, was highly involved in the committee and a tremendous help and support. In the last year, we had excellent involvement from the PDA community and representatives in all of our activities including the Annual Meeting and the Luncheon. I would like to encourage every postdoc in the Society to get involved and stay involved with the PDA. There are always opportunities for volunteers and please fill out those surveys because your feedback is vital for us to best serve you. I am confident that the new Executive Board, under Gabe's leadership, will continue to bring high quality programs.

Best wishes to all and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Councilor and Chair of the PDA!

Caitlin J. Murphy, PhD

2016–2017 SOT PDA Board

Chair

Gabriel A. Knudsen
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Vice Chair

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Secretary

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Table of Contents

Messages from Current & Outgoing Chairs.....	1	2015-2016 Postdoctoral Awards	4
NPA Annual Meeting Report and BPPA Application Information	2	2016-2017 Postdoctoral Representatives and Vacancies	5-6
Fall Career Webinar Details and 2016 Annual Meeting Highlights.....	3		

Postdoctoral Assembly Board Report on the National Postdoctoral Association Annual Meeting

Samantha J. Snow, PhD
2016-2017 PDA Vice Chair

The 14th Annual Meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) was held in Grand Rapids, MI, on March 4-6 at the Van Andel Research Institute. This year's meeting was host to approximately 400 postdoctoral scholars, administrators, faculty, and stakeholders, which provided a rich environment to network and exchange ideas on how to make the postdoctoral experience even more rewarding. There were a wide range of sessions, which included tips on developing one's leadership and management skills, communicating science to non-scientists, advice on landing a job in an alternative career, and multiple others.

One particular workshop that stood out was "You are More Than Your CV: Presenting Yourself Outside the Lab" presented by Mary M. Mitchell, President of The Mitchell Organization. The goal of this presentation was to remind/inform postdoctoral scholars that the interview process is often as much social as it is formal. The topics covered included interviewing skills, business etiquette, appropriate dress, and how to make the most of business/social events. This talk provided the spark for the idea behind the PDA's recently accepted proposal submission for an **Education-Career Development Session for the 2017 SOT Annual Meeting** submitted by Drs. Kari Sant (chair) and Samantha Snow (co-chair) entitled "Mastering Soft Skills to Advance Your Scientific Career."

In addition to the plenary talks, various workshops, and themed "lunch/dinner-arounds" designed to foster networking, the meeting also included a poster session on Saturday evening.

The intent of this poster session was to encourage idea exchange and meaningful discussion, thus allowing participants to emulate successful programs at their own institutions. Posters were judged based on content and communication with emphasis on relevance to NPA goals and dissemination of information with the potential to make a significant impact on the postdoctoral population. We are pleased to report that the poster submitted by our PDA and presented by Dr. Samantha Snow was selected for 2nd place!

For the past several years, the PDA has greatly benefited by sending a representative to the NPA national meeting as it has influenced the themes chosen for the PDA-led Education-Career Development sessions, resulted in ideas on how to improve our own PDA, and has fostered new connections with representatives from other organizations. We are looking forward to what we can gain at the next meeting, which will be held at the University of California Berkeley in San Francisco, CA!

Sincerely,
Samantha J. Snow, PDA Vice-Chair

The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) is a non-profit organization that is committed to improving the postdoctoral experience in the United States across all disciplines. For more information about the NPA's mission, programs, and the annual meeting, please see their [website](#).

2017 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award Application Now Available!

The deadline for the 2017 BPPA applications is **October 1, 2016**. Papers published between October 1, 2015, and September 25, 2016, are eligible. For details, please check out the [BPPA Description](#) on the SOT website.

We look forward to your applications!

Upcoming Trainee Webinars

The Dos and Don'ts of Landing Your First Job

Wednesday, September 21 at 12:00pm ET

SOT PDA Vice Chair Samantha J. Snow and PDA Treasurer Kari E. Sant will moderate the **Fall Career Webinar** in celebration of Postdoc Appreciation Week.

**Postdoc
Appreciation
Week is
September 19–23!**

The SOT PDA Executive Board cordially invites all SOT postdocs to join us for a webinar on how to properly conduct your first job search. Transitioning from a postdoctoral trainee to full-time employee may seem like a daunting task but it is possible with a little planning and insider knowledge on what to expect. Join us as we explore tips and strategies from experts across the different sectors on ways to help land your first permanent position. The panelists will touch on several topics including a basic timeline of when to start searching for a job, what each sector looks for in a new employee, and where to find and how to apply for positions in their respective fields. Following a short presentation by each speaker, the discussion will open up so that participants can ask the panelists questions. [Pre-registration](#) for the webinar is encouraged.

Speakers:

- Nathan Cherrington, Professor at University of Arizona
- Tammy Collins, Director of NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development
- Terry Leyden, President of the Leyden Group

Career Opportunities Related to *In Vitro* and *In Silico* Toxicology

Tuesday, October 11 at 1:00pm ET

Many graduate students and postdocs are interested in furthering the field of alternatives to animal testing but do not know what career options are available to them or how to prepare for such a career. With this in mind, the *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section and Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) are teaming up to provide this information to students and postdocs interested in pursuing a career focused on alternatives to animal testing. [Pre-registration](#) is encouraged for this webinar.

Speakers:

- Rhiannon Hardwick, Scientist, Tissue Applications, Organovo
- Brent Gilbert, Director of Business Development, Personal Care and Chemicals, Cyprotex

56th SOT Annual Meeting to be Held in Baltimore, Maryland

March 12-16, 2017

- [Abstract submissions](#) are due by October 7, 2016.
- [Online](#) and Early Bird Registration is strongly encouraged. The Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration deadline is January 13, 2017.
- There are several awards for which you can apply to assist with travel expenses to the meeting! Check here for [award deadlines](#).
- Don't forget to book your room early! Visit the [SOT housing website](#) for information on making reservations.
- Events of interest to postdocs include the Postdoctoral Assembly Luncheon, Poster Tours for Trainees, Student/Postdoc Mixer, Chat with an Expert, a PDA and GSLC-sponsored scientific session, a PDA-sponsored Career Development Session, and the SOT Job Bank.
- Make sure to update your [profile](#) in ToXchange and the SOT [Job Bank](#) before the meeting!

**Apply for 2017
Postdoctoral
Awards**

Go to [SOT Awards](#)
for details

2015–2016 Postdoctoral Awards

The Postdoctoral Assembly is pleased to recognize these award recipients.

**Allegheny-Erie Regional Chapter
Best Postdoctoral Poster Award**
Vamsi Kodali, First Place
Donna Davidson, Honorable Mention
Hillary Shane, Honorable Mention

**American Association of Chinese
in Toxicology
Charles River Best Abstract Award**
Jin Qiu Zhu

**Association of Scientists of Indian
Origin
Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow
Best Abstract Award**
Priyanka Trivedi
Ratanesh Seth
Anurag Mishra, Runner Up

**Carcinogenesis Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Award**
Elizabeth Limbeck

**Cardiovascular Toxicology
Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Travel Award**
Katie Zychowski

Impact Award
Phoebe Stapleton

**Clinical and Translational
Toxicology Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Fellows Travel Award**
Eun-Young Lee

**Colgate-Palmolive Grant for
Alternative Research**
David Pamies

**Drug Discovery Specialty Section
Emil Pfitzer Post-doctoral Travel
Awards**
Priyanka Trivedi
Sridhar Jaligama
Hemantkumar Chavan

**Hispanic Organization of
Toxicologists
Hispanic Organization of
Toxicologists Travel Award**
Kalynda Gonzales

**Inhalation and Respiratory
Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Award**
Sridhar Jaligama

Donald E. Gardner Award
Katherine Zychowski

**Lone Star Regional Chapter
Best Postdoctoral Presentation
Award**
Joseph Cichocki

**Mechanisms Specialty Section
Best Postdoctoral Award**
Sridhar Jaligama
Jill Franzosa

Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award
Karilyn Sant, First Place
Nicole Olgun, Second Place
Sridhar Jaligama, Third Place

**Metals Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Award**
Xue Fu, First Place
Hemantkumar Chavan, Second Place
Andrea D Harrington, Third Place

**Midwest Regional Chapter
Best Publication Award**
Shuo Xiao

**Molecular and Systems Biology
Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award**
Anna Kopec, First Place
Jenna Currier, Second Place
Priyanka Trivedi, Third Place

**Nanotoxicology Specialty Section
Outstanding Postdoctoral Award**
Parwathy Chandran
Donna Davidson

**Neurotoxicology Specialty Section
Toshio Narahashi Poster Competition**
Briana Miranda, First Place
Marissa Sobolewski, Second Place
Kim Keil, Third Place

**National Capital Area Chapter
Bern Schwetz Travel Award**
Shelby Skoog
Chad Bocker
Anurag Mishra

**Northern California Regional Chapter
Postdoctoral Achievement Award**
Kimberly Keil

**North Carolina Regional Chapter
President's Award for Research
Competition**
Ntube Olive Ngalame, First Place
James Sollome, Second Place
Ngome Makia, Third Place
Natasha Catlin, Third Place
Satya Achanta, Third Place

**Northeast Regional Chapter
Best Postdoctoral Poster Award**
Karilyn Sant

**Northland Regional Chapter
Three-Minute Thesis Award and Best
Postdoctoral Presentation Award**
Sarah Lacher

**Occupational and Public Health
Specialty Section
Best Publication Award**
Jamie Mirowsky

**Ohio Valley Regional Chapter
Best Postdoctoral Platform
Presentation Award**
Banrida Wahlang

Best Postdoctoral Poster Award
Xue (Sherleen) Fu

**Pacific Northwest Regional Chapter
Postdoctoral Poster Award**
Kendall Gillies

**Postdoctoral Assembly
Best Postdoctoral Publication Award**
Alicia Bolt
Pamela Noyes
Pei-Lei Yao

**Regulatory and Safety Evaluation
Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Award**
Hemantkumar Chavan
Suzanne Ramm

**Reproductive and Developmental
Toxicology Specialty Section
Best Poster Award**
Karilyn Sant, First Place
Hayley Furlong, Second Place
Samira Brooks, Third Place

**Risk Assessment Specialty Section
Perry J. Gehring Best Postdoctoral
Fellow Abstract Award**
Majory Moreau

**South Central Regional Chapter
Best Postdoctoral Poster Award**
Alexandra Noel, First Place
Malathi Banda, Second Place
Dianke Yu, Third Place

**Southern California Regional Chapter
Best Postdoctoral Presentation
Award**
Parrisa Solaimani

**Toxicologists of African Origin
Postdoctoral Travel Award**
Motunrayo G. Akande

**Women in Toxicology
Celebrating Women in Toxicology
Award**
Kimberly P. Keil

**Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement
Award**
Samantha J. Snow

2016–2017 Postdoctoral Representatives

Regional Chapter Representatives

Allegheny-Erie

Donna C. Davidson
CDC-NIOSH

Central States

Hemant Chavan
University of Kansas Medical Center

Lake Ontario

Anne Marie Gannon
Health Canada

Lone Star

Abimbola Farinde
Walden University

Michigan

Ashwini Phadnis-Moghe
Michigan State University

Mid-Atlantic

Eric Beier
Rutgers University

Midwest

Shuo Xiao
Northwestern University

Mountain West

Christina Tyler
University of New Mexico

National Capital Area

Shelby Skoog
US FDA

North Carolina

Georgia Roberts
NIEHS-NTP

Northeast

Priyanka Trivedi
Harvard Medical School

Northern California

Alicia Taylor
University of California San Francisco

Northland

Sarah Lacher
University of Minnesota

Ohio Valley

Banrida Wahlang
University of Kentucky

Pacific Northwest

Pamela Roque
University of Washington

South Central

Ashlyn Harmon
Louisiana State University

Southeastern

Guoqing Qian
Emory University

Southern California

Vijayalekshmi Nair
University of California, Riverside

Special Interest Group Representatives

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology

Shuaizhang Li
NIH-NCATS

Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

Pooja S. Naik
Johns Hopkins University

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

Mariana Cárdenas-Gonzalez
Harvard University

Korean Toxicologists Association in America

Hae-Ryung Park
Harvard University

Women in Toxicology

Alison Sanders
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Specialty Section Representatives

Biological Modeling

Christopher Ruark
ScitoVation

Biotechnology

Prathap Kumar Mahalingaiah
AbbVie

Carcinogenesis

Katherine Dunnick
ScitoVation

Cardiovascular Toxicology

Katie E. Zychowski Bufford
University of New Mexico

Clinical and Translational Toxicology

Mitchell McGill
Washington University in St. Louis

Comparative & Veterinary

Satyanarayana Achanta
Duke University

Dermal Toxicology

Carrie Mae Long
NIH-NIAID

Drug Discovery Toxicology

Hemantkumar Dilip Chavan
University of Kansas Medical Center

Food Safety

Murphy Wan
University of Hong Kong

Immunotoxicology

Angela M. Groves
University of Rochester Medical Center

In Vitro and Alternative Methods

Susanne Ramm
Harvard Medical School

Specialty Section Representatives Continued

Inhalation and Respiratory

Jaime Mirowsky
University of North Carolina

Mechanisms

Chad Brocker
NIH-NCI

Medical Device and Combination Product

Monica Pombo
Ethicon

Metals

Hemantkumar Chavan
University of Kansas Medical
Center

Mixtures

Justin M. Conley
US EPA

Molecular and Systems Biology

Bhavesh Ahir
University of Illinois at Chicago

Nanotoxicology

Donald S. Anderson
University of Montana

Neurotoxicology

Marissa Sobolewski
University of Rochester Medical
Center

Occupational and Public Health

Nicole S. Olgun
CDC

Regulatory and Safety Evaluation

Joe Cichocki
Texas A&M University

Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology

Natasha Catlin
NIEHS-NTP

Risk Assessment

Kausar Begam Riaz Ahmed
US FDA

Stem Cells

Joshua Robinson
University of California San
Francisco

Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology

Alessandro Venosa
University of Pennsylvania

Postdoctoral Representatives Needed!

Please contact the President listed if you are interested in one of these vacancies.

Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues

Daniele Staskal Wikoff, President

Ocular Toxicology

Chris J. Soms, President

Toxicologists of African Origin

Mohamed B. Abou-Donia,
President

Register for the SOT Job Bank

The SOT [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. SOT member job seekers register for free. Registrations will be valid for four months and all registrants may access the system as often as they wish.

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