



Society of Toxicology Southern California Chapter NEWSLETTER

Summer 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Submitted by Drew Badger)

This past year has been another great one for Southern California SOT (SCCSOT). In October 2004, we held a successful and well-attended SCCSOT meeting in San Diego on developmental and reproductive toxicology that was run collaboratively with Northern California SOT. We participated in the annual Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair and awarded two students for outstanding scientific projects and presentations in support of SCCSOT K-12 education. In March 2005, it was great to see familiar faces and to meet new colleagues at our annual SOT regional chapter social. And in preparation for 2005-2006, we held officer elections for SCCSOT.

The 2005-2006 SCCSOT season brings with it some enthusiastic new participants and exciting challenges. Recent elections and appointments were made and we are excited to welcome our new executive council members as described below. The balance of having new faces is the reality of loss. Many thanks are extended to Stacie Wild (exiting Past President) and Julie Doerr-Stevens (exiting secretary) who have both been critical contributors within SCCSOT over the past several years. I would like to thank our past president, John Wisler, for his contributions to the Chapter in 2004-2005 and who will continue to work with SCCSOT as Past-President. We look forward to working with all of them over the coming years at the regional and national

levels of SOT. Moving forward, there are several areas of focus for our chapter including an effort to bolster our membership and improve communication more broadly among toxicologists within the southern California region. Our chapter remains dues-free which is intended to encourage membership expansion. Our web liaison, Brian Mathison, is also working with national SOT to extend communication to all Southern California toxicologists within the national SOT database, and continues to refine and update the SCCSOT website. We continue to seek opportunities for student involvement and to provide training and awards that will serve them going forward in their careers. And we will continue to be actively involved in K-12 education via our regional and national representatives. In fact, with the 2006 national SOT meeting being held in San Diego, our chapter will be involved in hosting some of the local events including the K-12 activities.

In the spirit of past years, SCCSOT will continue to seek out collaborations with other regional chapters and facets of the national association. Our upcoming fall meeting fits this paradigm as it will be sponsored by the Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section of national SOT. Although this year's meeting will not be co-hosted with other regional chapters, a meeting invitation will be extended to surrounding regional chapters as well as members of the hosting specialty section, Drug Discovery Toxicology.

As president, I will attend a face to face meeting with other regional chapter presidents in Chicago in August to discuss regional-specific issues and to see

if there are experiences shared that could contribute to greater regional impacts and participation. Combining this broad perspective with a bright and collaborative executive council, 2005-2006 will no doubt continue the tradition of excellence. I look forward to an eventful year, to working with enthusiastic new and existing members of SCCSOT council and membership, and in continuing to foster one of the strongest regional chapters of SOT. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or wish to actively participate in our regional chapter at Badger_Drew@allergan.com.

Thank You,

Drew Badger, Ph.D., D.A.B.T.

Email: Badger_Drew@allergan.com

President SCCSOT

FALL 2005 SCCSOT Meeting

Drug Discovery Toxicology and Biomarkers: Bridging the Gap between Non-Clinical and Clinical Research

**Thursday, October 13, 2005
Allergan, Inc., Irvine, CA**

The [SCCSOT Fall Meeting](#) program will be sponsored by the Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section of national SOT and represents a very exciting and timely topic. Attendees will hear from some of the industry's leaders in drug discovery who will provide perspective of small to large pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. The keynote address will encompass a discussion of in silico and experimental methods of predicting, detecting and appropriate decision making around genotoxicity. The latter talk will be given by Dr. Ronald Snyder, Director Genetic and Molecular Toxicology, Schering-Plough Research Institute. Other topics will include screening cardiovascular approaches, applied panomics, and other strategies in the new drug discovery paradigm. A graduate student

poster discussion session is also planned for the meeting, and abstracts on any topic in toxicology maybe submitted. Please look for a detailed program agenda and abstract submission form as the meeting date approaches. Council is currently actively working on all of the details of the meeting. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the SCCSOT President, Drew Badger, at Badger_Drew@Allergan.com. We look forward to another successful SCCSOT meeting and your participation!

SCCSOT CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

From your Secretary

Introduction of [SCCSOT Executive Council](#) for 2005-2006:

Officers:

President:	Drew Badger
Vice President:	Dave Hovland
Vice President-Elect:	Randy Sleet
Secretary:	Tony Ndifor
Treasurer:	Tina Leakakos
Councilors:	Greg Stevens Michelle Horner
Past President:	John Wisler
K-12 Liaison:	Diana Johnson
WWW Liaison:	Brian Mathison
Program Committee:	Steve Harris Ann de Peyster

If you have a need to get in touch with any of these individuals, please contact our in-coming Secretary, Tony Ndifor, at andifor@amgen.com.

Congratulations to this years [SCCSOT Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair winners](#) Katherine Humphus, **Grade 9, La Jolla High**, and Charles Wong, **Grade 10, San Diego High!** Katherine's project was entitled "Effects of Diazinon on the Digestive System of Mature Daphnia magna". Her project entailed investigating the pesticide Diazinon and its effects on freshwater aquatic life. Charles's project was entitled "Effects of Glycoprotein-120, Indinavir, Celebrex on Human Cerebral Endothelial". His project examined the potential interactions between celebrex, indinavir,

and glycoprotein 120 in relation to cascading protein signaling disruptions on the blood-brain barrier. We hope to see this year's winners and their posters at our Fall meeting to give all of our members an opportunity to interact with these bright young scientists! We encourage them to keep up the great work! SCCSOT coordinates judging by local toxicologists at this annual event as part of the K-12 SOT Outreach Program. A special thanks to those individual that stepped forward this year to participate, Michael Bieraugel (Allergan), Shuyan Lu (Pfizer Inc), Tom Carpenter (Amylin) and Diana Johnson (SCCSOT K-12 Liaison). If you are interested in participating in this half-day event next April 2006, please let Diana Johnson know at d4johnson@ucsd.edu.

{Highlights of the SCCSOT 2004 Fall Meeting were graciously provided by our Program Committee Advisor, Steve Harris. Many thanks!}

The [2004 Fall SCCSOT Meeting](#) brought the Southern and Northern California Chapters of the Society of Toxicology together to discuss "Reproductive & Developmental Toxicology: Pharmaceutical, Environmental, and Legal Considerations." With close to 100 attendees from academia, industry, and consulting firms, the meeting was exceedingly well attended. Both chapters give thanks to our sponsors Gene Logic Inc., Covance, Amgen, Allergan, and the Stephen B. Harris Group. Also, we thank the Hyatt Islandia, San Diego for hosting this meeting. In addition, we are grateful to Drs. Stacie Wild, Susan Rice, John Wisler, and Stephen Harris for organizing an outstanding meeting.

The meeting opened with a brief Introduction and Welcome from the two Presidents of their respective SOT Regional Chapters, Dr. John Wisler (SCCSOT) and Dr. Susan Rice (NORCALSOT). The morning presentations consisted of three lectures centering on "The Basics" of Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology. Dr. John DeSesso from Mitretek Systems, Falls Church, VA opened up the meeting with a comprehensive presentation entitled an "Introduction to Organogenesis" including a history of the science of Teratology. Dr. Susan Rice of Susan A. Rice and Associates,

Inc. Grass Valley, CA provided an excellent Introduction to Developmental Neurotoxicology. Following the morning break, Dr. Stephen Harris of the Stephen B. Harris Group, San Diego, CA lectured on DART (Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology) Testing and the essential considerations for the interpretation of study data.

After an enjoyable Mexican buffet lunch, sans margaritas and cerveza on the patio, the talks moved from "The Basics" in DART to "Current Hot Topics." Dr. Robert Howd from CAL-EPA (OEHHA), Oakland, CA opened the afternoon session with a very interesting talk entitled "Perchlorate Exposure: DART Issues." Dr. Gary Shaw from the California Birth Defects Monitoring Program, Berkeley, CA presented a very eye-opening talk entitled "Neural Tube Defects and Other Birth Defects Associated with Maternal Obesity." After the afternoon break, Dr. Sarah Mattison from the Center for Behavioral Teratology at San Diego State University presented an update on "Prenatal Exposures to Selective Serotonin Re-Uptake Inhibitors and Neurodevelopment Outcomes." After the afternoon session concluded, a break ensued, and we all re-convened for a Poster Session and Reception followed by a delightful dinner. The highlight of the evening was Dr. Marcelo Bertolini of UC Davis's Department of Animal Science talk entitled "Lessons Learned from *in vitro* Manipulations of Animal Embryos."

The next morning we assembled to hear about "The Future of DART." Dr. Mari Golub from the Primate Center, University California Davis, Davis, CA and CAL EPA began the morning with a very interesting talk addressing the issues of "Essential and Toxic Trace Elements: Implications for DART Evaluations." Dr. Jimmy Spearow from the Department of Environmental Toxicology, University of California Davis, Davis, CA gave an enlightening talk on "Sensitive Species and Strain Considerations: Estrogenic Compounds as an Example." Following the morning break, Dr. Doug Dolginow from Gene Logic Inc. Gaithersburg, MD presented a critical and futuristic look at DART with a talk entitled "Understanding Toxicogenomics in DART Testing." Dr. Steven Gilbert from the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders, Seattle, WA concluded our meeting. Steve's presentation entitled "Ethical, Legal, and

Social Issues Related to DART” was an invaluable talk to end a great meeting

The [SCCSOT Web Site](#) is continually being updated and enhanced thanks to the hard work and dedication of Brian Mathison our WWW liaison. Please visit the regional chapter section of www.toxicology.org. Additional or updated links (not of a commercial nature), comments, and suggestions are greatly appreciated (brian_mathison@att.net).

Attention Graduate Students

OPEN POSITION SCCSOT Representative of the SOT Advisory Committee

Would you like to...

- Have your expenses paid up to \$500 for attendance to the National SOT meeting next year in San Diego?
- Have an opportunity to get involved in SOT at the national level (not a bad thing to put on your CV)?
- Have an opportunity to meet other graduate students (this could make for a fun meeting)?
- Have an opportunity to meet influential toxicologists in your field (this could lead to employment opportunities)?

The SAC is the perfect place for students to take initiatives and to serve as a liaison between SOT council and student members. Within the SAC, communication is primarily through conference calls and e-mails to address issues that concern students. At the annual SOT meeting, the SAC gets together to discuss student-related matters or the feedback received from students. Many ideas, including "Lunch with an Expert" and "SOTudent e-Letter", have been implemented in the last couple of years based on the SAC efforts. Eligibility requirements to become the new SCCSOT student representative are easy and as follows:

- ◆ Current enrollment in a graduate program,

- ◆ Application in the process or completed for a student membership in SOT as well as SCCSOT (SCCSOT is dues FREE),
- ◆ Commitment for at least 1 year,
- ◆ Attendance at the SOT 2005 annual meeting (the travel costs are subsidized by \$250 from the chapter matched by \$250 from SOT).

If you would like to find out more information about SAC, have any questions, or become the new SCCSOT SAC representative please contact SCCSOT President, Drew Badger, at Badger_Drew@Allergan or at 714-246-5858. You can also check out the student section on the SOT website:

<http://www.toxicology.org/MemberServices/StudentServices/student-services.html>. Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Attention Members

Please take a moment to check that your **contact information is current** within our SCCSOT regional chapter. Go to...

- www.toxicology.org
- Search for "Southern California Regional Chapter"
- Click on one of our links
- Look under "Membership Information" for the "Current Directory" link or use the "Application" link to send us your current contact information

Any questions or problems, please contact the SCCSOT secretary, Tony Ndifor, at andifor@amgen.com. Many thanks!!

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP

Do you know of a graduate student, post-doc, professor, or toxicologist that would like to join the SCCSOT? It is as easy as following the steps outlined above. All that is needed is current contact information. There are NO membership dues and an individual does NOT need to be a member of the national SOT.

Even with a strong core working group, regional chapters are only as good as the level of participation, including that of members who are

not on council. We continually seek active participation from the membership and working with your peers in toxicology is a great way to contribute to the community, to network, and to broaden your toxicology perspective. If you have interest in participating on any level, please contact Drew Badger (Badger_Drew@Allergan.com) or other members of SCCSOT council and they will bring your ideas and interests to the table.

Upcoming Conferences

SCCSOT Fall Meeting: “Drug Discovery Toxicology and Biomarkers: Bridging the Gap between Non-Clinical and Clinical Research”, Thursday, October 13, 2005, Allergan, Inc., Irvine, CA.

45th Annual SOT Meeting: March 5-9, 2006, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA. Abstract Submission Deadline is October 3, 2005. For more details refer to www.toxicology.org

Message from the Editor

After 8 years of service on the SCCSOT council, I have decided to step-down. It has been a pleasure working with all the dedicated members of the council, and interacting with all of our members, sponsors, and scientific presenters over the years. Thank you for all your support. The new incoming secretary and newsletter editor will be Tony Ndifor. Tony is a Principal Scientist within the Department of Toxicology at Amgen. Should you have any news of local events, employment opportunities or ideas for future publications and meetings please forward them to his attention (andifor@amgen.com).

Julie Doerr-Stevens
