

# Society of Toxicology

## Southern California Chapter

### Summer 2011 Newsletter

#### Officers July 2011

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**President's Message**

After serving on Council for what seems like eternity (since 2003) I have carefully avoided the Chair, but I guess we each have our moments of weakness! I am delighted though to be serving as President only because of the great team I know I can count on to continue to strengthen and increase the relevance of our Chapter to her members and community. At the last count, our Chapter membership is just under 400 members split almost evenly between Academia, Government, and Industry and as such representing one of the most diverse Chapters of the Society. We however need more members to step up and contribute with ideas or by serving on council.

Join me in thanking Bob Dunn, our outgoing President and current Past President (he is not gone yet). Bob shepherded our Chapter through another very successful year as will be highlighted below under "2010/2011 Highlights".

We are in full planning mode for our Fall meeting scheduled for Oct 7<sup>th</sup> and to be hosted by our generous and highly dependable partners at Allergan, represented by our VP, Andrew Seacat. The theme for this symposium will be toxicological challenges with siRNA's and Nanoparticles. More details will be forthcoming.

I look forward to working with you all for continued success of our Chapter.

Best regards, Tony Ndifor

## 2010/2011 Highlights

(Submitted by Tony Ndifor)

We had a very well attended and highly successful meeting at UCLA. At the March 2011 SOT meeting in Washington DC, we hosted another boisterous joint reception with our Mountain West Chapter colleagues. The food invited seconds and thirds and the beer, a delightful (in)toxicant. Thanks to Michelle Horner for selecting the menu and Husam Younis for helping select the venue. We also contributed two posters in celebration of SOT's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A historical poster celebrating our Chapter in history, and a poster to the Time Capsule due to be unveiled in 25 yrs! Mark your calendars. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, we participated in the Greater San Diego Science Fair and awarded prizes to 4 very deserving students (see "2011 Greater San Diego Science Fair"). We hope to continue our presence at this event and hopefully expand our participation to other similar activities that encourage and nurture future scientists. We clearly have the resources to do so and it is left to each of you- our members-to help identify the opportunities for support.

## 2011 Annual SCCSOT Meeting

The 2011 SCCSOT Annual Meeting will be held on October 7th, 2011, at the Allergan campus, Irvine, CA. The theme of the meeting will focus on Nanotoxicology and RNA interference. We are lining up an elite list of speakers, so mark your calendars and plan to be there.

This meeting also offers a great opportunity for students and postdocs to showcase their research on poster presentations. The abstract submission form is included in this newsletter.

## 2011 Greater San Diego Science Fair

SCCSOT coordinated judging by local toxicologists at this annual event as part of the K-12 SOT Outreach Program and presented certificates and awards (\$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$50 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place) to the winners. We are grateful to our K-12 coordinator, Diana Johnson for organizing our participation at the fair and to the volunteering judges- Annette John-Baptiste,

Husam Younis, Tony Ndifor and Virunya Bhat- the lead judge. The quality of the science by these local high school students was very impressive. Congratulations to the winners!

First Place: \$100 + certificate: Seung-Taek Oh & Adam Leon for their work on "The Effect of Monsanto Round-up on land snails"

Second Place: \$50 + certificate: Yichen Song & Sophia Wang for their work on "Reduction of Cardiac Adenylyl Cyclase from Pressure-Overload Increases Murine Mortality".

The contribution of SCCSOT to this important event was highlighted in a presentation by Virunya Bhat at the annual meeting in DC. More information can be found at [SOT K-12 Outreach Activities](#)

## Outreach

It is no accident that out of our Society's 5 Strategic Priorities:

- Increase Scientific Impact
- Advocate the Value of Toxicology
- Build for the Future of Toxicology
- Expand and Deepen Member Engagement
- Strengthen Organizational Effectiveness,

several of them relate directly to membership outreach. We need to reach out and share the value of Toxicology, as well as inspire and nurture young students to join our field, as our healthy future and that of the Society depends on it. To demonstrate its commitment, the Society has established and funded numerous ways to facilitate membership outreach activities including Tox Scholar, Guest Lecturer and Global Scholar programs -

<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/eo/toxscholar.asp>

Our Chapter is making outreach her priority for this year and will also allocate resources to supplement SOT HQ funding as necessary. What we need, **is your participation**. Council alone does not have the spread represented by our 400 people strong membership. On behalf of Council, I therefore strongly urge you to

consider telling your neighboring grade school or community college or 4 yr college about Toxicology. SOT has everything you may need- slides, short demo experiments, video, flyers. Please consider being an Ambassador of our Society.

We look forward to hearing from you about outreach opportunities, future symposium ideas or any constructive feedback to help our Chapter better serve you. While in Washington DC, one cannot miss the “No Taxation without Representation” car tags and stickers advocating conventional wisdom that there is a certain expectation of some returns or privileges for paying. We hope, as non-dues paying members you still have expectations from the chapter! Let your voice be heard.

### **SCCSOT Membership**

Not an SCCSOT member yet? Consider joining today! The SCCSOT is one of the active regional chapters of the national Society of Toxicology, with a nice blend of members with Industry and academic backgrounds. Keeping our chapter active and relevant requires a group effort. Our membership committee works hard to attract new members, but you can help by encouraging your colleagues to join as well. Annual membership dues are **FREE!** Membership application forms may be downloaded from our web page. <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/SouthernCal/index.asp>

### **SOT CCT Meetings Eligible for Seed Money and Profit Sharing**

SOT Sponsors two types of meetings outside of the SOT Annual Meeting: Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) and Non-SOT meetings. CCT meetings are one- to two-day focused, open registration, scientific meetings in contemporary and rapidly progressing areas of toxicological sciences. Non-SOT meetings are sponsored by other not-for-profit

organizations and SOT will either endorse or provide sponsorship money to toxicology-related meetings.

The Society will underwrite all the liabilities of the CCT meeting with the expectation that the meeting will at least break even financially. The goal of providing \$25,000 seed funds is to stimulate the creation of CCT meeting proposals.

For more information about CCT meetings, please visit the [SOT Web site](#).

<http://www.toxicology.org/ms/cctMeetings.asp>

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### **Promoting Public Education around Environmental Toxicology and Sustainability**

Earth Through A Lens (ETAL), a non-profit public charity founded by SoCal SOT member **Larry Fechter** held its second annual exhibit in Rancho Mirage and Palm Springs in April in honor of Earth Day. ETAL seeks to promote public education around environmental stewardship by holding a national photographic competition for images of the natural environment (mountains, water, deserts) or human impact on the environment (degradation, restoration, and consumption). The top 45 images selected by a professional jury of museum directors, curators, and top environmental photographers then form the public display designed to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. A parallel contest for public school children attracted submissions from students from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 12th grades. The winning images may be viewed on the gallery page at the website [www.earththroughalensps.com](http://www.earththroughalensps.com).

A total of nearly 400 images were received from photographers in 31 states and 3 Canadian provinces.

ETAL is an annual project open to both amateur and professional photographers. Images for the 2012 display will be accepted during the period

of October-early January with a public display held from April-June, 2012. The K-12 Subcommittee of SOT is reviewing model

programs to recommend for school outreach, including ETAL. Larry will be showcasing some of the entries at the fall meeting.

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**More information is available at the ETAL website. Below are the 3 top winners.**



**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE – MAUREEN RUDDY BURKHART  
LONGMONT, CO  
“MEETING OUR NEEDS”<sup>1</sup>**



**2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE – JOHN GREBSCH  
PULTNEYVILLE, NY  
“UNDULATING HILLS”**



**3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE – GARY DOROTHY  
PALM SPRING, CA  
“OLD TRUCK IN BRITTLEBUSH”**

Southern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (SCCSOT)  
**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Students are invited to submit an abstract to participate in a Poster Session for the SCCSOT Annual Meeting. Abstracts on any toxicology-related subject will be welcomed (e.g. environmental toxicology, drug development, risk assessment, product safety assessment, pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism, reproductive toxicology, etc.).

Students will display and attend their posters during an afternoon poster session. Prizes will be awarded to outstanding posters. Posters will be judged by anonymous volunteer members of the SCCSOT on the basis of clarity, scientific merit and impact. In order to be eligible for a prize, students must participate in the poster viewing and discussion session.

**ABSTRACT INFORMATION**

Title   
(e.g., Ovarian Toxicity of 4-Vinylcyclohexene and Related Olefins in B6C3F<sub>1</sub> Mice)

Author(s)   
(e.g., J K Doerr-Stevens, S B Hooser, B J Smith, and I G Sipes)

Organization   
(e.g., University of Arizona, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Tucson, AZ)

Abstract  
(< 300 words)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

<p>Name <input type="text"/></p> <p>Affiliation / Address (below)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>City <input type="text"/> State <input type="text"/> Zip Code <input type="text"/></p> <p>Phone Number <input type="text"/> <small>enter 10 digits</small> FAX Number <input type="text"/> <small>enter 10 digits</small></p> <p>EMAIL (principle contact) <input type="text"/></p>	<p>Abstracts and Contact information must be received 1 week prior to the scheduled presentation date.</p> <p>Posters will be displayed during the poster session and are to be set-up during the afternoon break period. Posters will be mounted on presentation boards and should not exceed 4 feet by 6 feet.</p> <p>Additional specifics regarding poster set-up will be provided at the registration table on the day of the meeting.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in an oral presentation</p>
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PLEASE SAVE A COPY AND SEND AS AN ATTACHMENT TO AIDA SACAAN - aida.sacaan@pfizer.com