

# Society of Toxicology

## Southern California Chapter

**January 2011**

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### **President's Message**

(Submitted by Robert Dunn)

The Southern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (SCCSOT) has had another successful year. SCCSOT remains a dues-free regional chapter and has successfully maintained this status since 2000. The chapter represents a diverse membership from academia, biotechnology, the pharmaceutical industry, and regulatory bodies, among others, to promote and support the discipline of toxicology in Southern California.

As we move into the new decade I would like to acknowledge the fellow members of the SCCSOT council for their continued high level of voluntary contribution to our chapter. Specifically I would like to thank Past President Michelle Horner for her guidance as we transitioned to the new leadership team in mid 2010. Michelle was diligent in keeping us on track for our fall meeting. In addition, the other members of the SCCSOT council worked hard on specific tasks to enable us to reach our major goals for the fall meeting and the fundraising to support the meeting and our future plans. In addition, I would also like to extend a special thanks to Tina Leakakos for her tireless contribution to the chapter especially with regard to the fall

meeting. Tina was absolutely instrumental in the meeting's success and in coordinating interactions with the UCLA venue as well as speaker reimbursements.

### **2010 Annual SCCSOT Meeting**

The 2010 SCCSOT Annual Meeting was held October 8th, 2010, at the Grand Horizon Room of the Covell Commons, UCLA Campus. This was the first year we have held our annual meeting at UCLA. The meeting's theme was: "ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF CARCINOGENIC RISK ASSESSMENT." Despite the fact that we held the meeting in a new location, we had a nice turnout of about 70 participants attending. In addition our speakers were a cross section of academia, industry, and consultant scientists with expertise in both traditional and cutting edge technologies in the constantly evolving field of carcinogenic risk assessment. Our sponsors included pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and CROs. We were able to fund a large portion of our annual meeting solely through sponsorship contributions and this was a testament to both the value of the meeting and the quality of the scientific program.

Awards were presented for outstanding student poster presentations at the meeting.

There were 10 student posters with participants representing several institutions across Southern California including UCLA, UC Riverside, and USC

### **First Prize (\$500): Ashley Swanson, UC-Riverside**

*In-vitro Replication Studies of Carboxymethylated DNA Lesions Induced by N-Nitroso Compounds.*

### **Second Prize (\$250): Ilona Bebenek, UCLA**

*Dexamethasone Mediated Regulation of CYP2S1.*

### **Third Prize (\$100): Ciara Remillard, UCLA**

*Gene-Environment Interactions Relevant to Parkinson's Disease in Drosophila.*

### **2010 Fall Meeting Award Winners**



Pictured: Robert Dunn (SCCSOT President), Ilona Bebenek, Ashley Swanson, Ciara Remillard, and Michelle Horner (SCCSOT Past President).

### **2010 Greater San Diego Science Fair**

SCCSOT coordinated judging by local toxicologists at this annual event as part of the K-12 SOT Outreach Program. A special thanks goes to Diana Johnson (K-

12 Liason), and to Annette John-Baptiste, Brad Hirakawa, and Virunya Bhat for serving as judges at this event. The quality of the science by these local high school students was very impressive. SCCSOT awarded \$100 prizes to Meredith Lehmann of The Bishop's School (Transportation Networks and the Propagation of Novel H1N1 Swine Flu-Like Epidemic) and Xinyue "Alice" Fang of Torrey Pines High School (Wildfire Air Pollutants and Asthma Hospital Admissions: An Observational Study).

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **2011 Annual SCCSOT Reception at SOT in Washington DC.**

The SCCSOT is organizing a joint reception with the Mountain West chapter during the SOT annual meeting again this year. Our prior combined chapter receptions have been very successful. Last year's reception in Salt Lake City attracted more than 100 people.

As you know this is a very important year for SOT as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. The reception will take place on Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> at "RFD" from 6-7:30 PM. This year's venue is close to the convention center (within walking distance) and should be a nice addition to the other celebrations taking place during the week. We look forward to seeing you there!

***REGIONAL FOOD & DRINK  
810 SEVENTH ST N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001.***

Finally, the SCCSOT will present a poster featuring our chapter's history. Be sure to stop by and view our poster as well as those of the other regional SOT chapters. Historical posters will be on display from Sunday, March 6 to Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in the pre-function space outside the Exhibit Hall (L Street Bridge).