



# Society of Toxicology

## Southern California Chapter

### NEWSLETTER

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**Vol. 9 No.2**

**Fall 2000**

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#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hard to believe it's already time for the Fall SCCSOT newsletter, isn't it? As autumn gets under way in San Diego, the SCCSOT Executive Council is busy planning for the Fall '00 Regional Chapter meeting to be held this year in conjunction with the 21st Annual Meeting of the American College of Toxicology. The Fall '00 SCCSOT meeting, to be held on Saturday 11 November at the Catamaran Resort Hotel in San Diego, will focus on "*New Perspectives in Environmental Toxicology*". An exciting and diverse program has been developed with presentations by environmental professionals from academia and government. I hope you can join us at this meeting.

In addition to planning for the upcoming Fall '00 Regional Chapter meeting, SCCSOT Executive Committee members have undertaken the task of "modernizing" chapter by-laws and looking toward the future of the SCCSOT. Although the Southern California chapter has historically been one of the smaller SOT Regional Chapters, our membership has been growing consistently. With continued participation from various academic groups, increasing involvement of local regulatory agencies, the presence of an ever-growing local biotechnology industry, and the influx of "big pharma" into Southern California, the Southern California chapter is likely to continue in its current growth pattern. The mission of the

SCCSOT, to foster scientific exchange at the local level, will remain the key focus of the Executive Committee as by-laws are refurbished and chapter activities are planned. The future of the SCCSOT depends heavily, though, on the participation of members like you! I encourage you to take an active interest in your Regional Chapter in the years to come.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow Executive Committee officers in keeping the SCCSOT moving forward in the new millennium. A special welcome goes out to new councilors Charlie Lapin, Brian Mathison, Heriberto Robles, and Stacie Wild who joined the SCCSOT Executive Council in June 2000. Despite overwhelming professional and personal demands on their time, SCCSOT officers and councilors have put forth tremendous effort to participate in chapter activities, plan regional meetings, compile newsletters, recruit new members, etc. I would also like to recognize the active participation of non-council members Ann DePeyster and Steve Harris, who continue to give unfailingly of their valuable time to provide support and guidance to the SCCSOT Executive Committee. The new millennium has started out strong for the SCCSOT - let's keep the momentum going!

*Thank You,*  
*Grace M. Furman*  
*President SCCSOT*

**FALL 2000 SCCSOT Meeting**

***“New Perspectives in Environmental Toxicology”***

Saturday, November 11, 2000

8:30 – 4:00 pm

Catamaran Resort

***www.catamaranresort.com***

3999 Mission Blvd, San Diego

(858) 488-1081

(See attached directions)

*Sponsored in part by*

**OREAD**

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided as part of the meeting. On-site registration fee is \$25.00 (students \$10.00). To assist us in planning lunch please **RSVP to Julie Doerr-Stevens at [gsteven1@san.rr.com](mailto:gsteven1@san.rr.com)**. Please provide (1) name, (2) affiliation, (3) complete address, and (4) number attending in your correspondence. Please **RSVP by Monday, November 6th**. See you at the meeting!

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**Attention Students!!**

***Could you be the next SCCSOT representative to the SOT Student Advisory Committee??***

SOT Council formed the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) to SOT Council as an ad hoc committee to provide communication between Council and the student members. The Committee consists of a student representative from each of the Regional Chapters. We are currently seeking a local student to represent the SCCSOT on this important committee. The student representative must be a student member of SOT or have his/her completed application for membership submitted to the Membership Committee by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, the student must plan to attend this year's Annual Meeting in San Francisco to represent the SCCSOT. A stipend of \$500 towards annual meeting expenses will be awarded jointly by

SOT/SCCSOT to the SCCSOT representative to the SAC.

SAC will meet at the Annual Meeting, and representatives will elect officers. Some members may be appointed to participate in other SOT committees (such as Placement and the World Wide Web Task Force), and for specific projects (such as planning the Student/Postdoctoral Fellow reception). The officers of the Committee will meet once by conference phone call to draft an agenda for the SAC meeting at the annual Meeting. Much of SAC business will be conducted by e-mail. The length of term for this representative is flexible.

This is an EXCELLENT opportunity for a motivated student to gain visibility in the toxicology community at both the local and national levels. If you are interested in representing the SCCSOT as a student representative to the SAC, please contact Grace M. Furman, SCCSOT president, either by phone (858.622.5958) or via e-mail ([grace.furman@agouron.com](mailto:grace.furman@agouron.com)) for further details no later than Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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**SCCSOT HAPPY HOUR AT THE NATIONAL MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO**

The SCCSOT council is currently organizing an SCCSOT social night at this years SOT meeting in San Francisco. The happy hour social for SCCSOT will be held Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars and please come and join us and mingle with your fellow students and colleagues!

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**SCCSOT CHAPTER UPDATE**

The SCCSOT has become an extremely important local Chapter that strives toward opening the lines of communication among scientists within industry, academia and government interested in toxicology. Toxicological issues important for Southern California and chapter members are discussed. Meetings have also offered the opportunity for

students to present their work, and members to network.

The election results are provided below. Due to the departure of the past President, the President Elect and Vice President were moved up to President and President Elect; respectively, and Dr. Charles Lapin was nominated as Vice President.

#### Officers:

President:	Grace Furman
President Elect:	Greg Stevens
Vice President:	Charles Lapin
Secretary:	Julie Doerr-Stevens
Treasurer:	Tina Leakakos
Councilors:	Brian Mathison Heriberto Robles Jill Ryer-Powder Stacie Wild

**By Laws:** The current SCCSOT by laws were established in 1987 and are outdated with respect to current Chapter activities, as well as with the National Chapter by laws. Therefore, considerable effort is underway within the Executive Council to draft new by laws. Once drafted, they will be submitted to the SCCSOT membership for comment.

#### Welcome New Members!

Veronica Ardi, Irvine (UCI)  
 Arezoo Campbell, Costa Mesa (UCI)  
 Evan Cohen, Lake Forest (UCI)  
 Jose Gonzalez, El Cajon (SDSU)  
 Bora Han, Richmond (Environ)  
 Jean Lord, San Diego (SDSU)  
 Victor Jain, Irvine (Allergan)  
 Julie Zhang O'Brien, San Diego (Trega)  
 Robyn Phelps, Irvine (Allergan)  
 Cynthia Simmons, Irvine (Allergan)  
 Kirk Tarlo, Irvine (Allergan)  
 Yvonne Verburgt, Anaheim (Oread)  
 Jarrad Wagner, Santa Ana (Orange Co. Forensic Sci. Services)  
 William Way, Irvine (Allergan)  
 Marshall Wen, Irvine (Allergan)

**Is your name on this list?**

Please take a moment to review the list of names below, and if your name appears on this list please send us a current email address. Your correspondence can be sent to Julie Doerr-Stevens at [gsteven1@san.rr.com](mailto:gsteven1@san.rr.com). Thank you!

Sharada Balakrishnan	Edward Lee
Karol Bice-Bentley	Antonio F. Machado
Franca A. Boccia	Mary McDaniel
Brent L. Boynton	Mark Meskin
Richard Braun	Karyn Michelson Ostfeld
Richard C. Brightman	John L. Mohr
Richard Butcher	Dennis J. Naas
Mei Ling Chang	Richard H. Pesin
Hong Wei Chen	Timothy W. Robison
Arthur K. Cho	Randy N. Roth
Ronald C. Couch	Ted Sarafian
Rocky I. Dendo	Jennifer Sasaki
Douglas Parker Evans	Bob M. Savic
Christopher Frantz	Richard Scott
John R. Froines	Robert L. Seecoff
Melanie D. Gee	Wynesta M. Smith
Sarjeet S. Gill	Scott D. Stanley
Paul E. Gurba	Allen W. Tchoi
Bora Han	Michael Templin
Rob Hatherill	Yvonne Verburgt
Paul Hochstein	M. Anthony Verity
Aida G. Howell	Jarrad Wagner
Judith Murphy Katterman	Jiaxiong Weng
Julie L. Kercher	Philip M. Zack
Angie Lee	

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### POINTS OF INTEREST USDA GOVERNANCE of RODENTS

#### Legislative Update on Animals in Science

*Submitted by Dr. Ann de Peyster (SDSU) with input from Dr. Steve DiZio, Chair of the SOT Committee on Animals in Research.*

Question: Other than the obvious, how do rats, mice, and birds differ from rabbits, cats, dogs and primates? The correct answer is "oversight by the USDA" --- but will that change?

One target of those who purport to defend the rights of laboratory animals while working relentlessly for the elimination of all animal experimentation has been the U.S. Department of Agriculture. When the USDA adopted the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) many years ago they exercised the option to not extend their oversight, which includes inspections and special reporting requirements, to smaller animals like rats and mice. As most toxicologists know, however, NIH support will only be awarded to laboratories agreeing to adhere to all provisions of the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" in all work involving ANY specie of vertebrate animal. Moreover, many laboratories and animal facilities have voluntarily sought accreditation by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), which currently assures the highest standards of care and use, regularly inspects accredited animal facilities, and makes no distinction at all between animal species used by their accredited facilities. Thus, although the USDA reporting requirements and inspections cover only larger animals (e.g., rabbits, cats, dogs, pigs, cows, primates, etc.), other rules govern the use of mice, rats, and birds. This has been the case for many years.

In March of 1998, the Alternatives Research and Development Foundation, a Minnesota-based consortium of animal-rights groups, filed suit against the USDA. They argued that the USDA's Animal Welfare Act should be amended to include special tracking and reporting of experiments that cause pain and distress in mice, rats and birds. In addition to processing many more reports from many laboratories that currently are not obliged to send reports to the USDA, the USDA would have to conduct many more inspections each year. With increased record keeping required on more animals, more inspections, and additional compliance and enforcement activities also needed to implement it, this means much more regulatory paperwork and other costs both for inspector and inspectee. Another implication is that "pain" and "distress" need better definitions and should be measurable. SOT is participating

in efforts to address this issue through their Animals in Research Committee.

Would rats, mice, and birds really receive significantly better care under this scheme? Most toxicologists and other biomedical researchers have a very difficult time understanding how that change in USDA policy would make a difference in animal health and welfare, especially since other groups already exercise control over the use of these animals.

Since that first suit was filed 2 ½ years ago by the ARDF, it has been difficult to keep up with the drama of counter arguments, counter suits, companion lawsuits, letters, and petitions filed by major players on both sides of the issue. Recently the USDA decided to settle out of court, leaving some of the major players powerless on the sidelines and many wondering what will happen next. Fortunately, there are still many people who understand that it is not in a scientists' best interest to mistreat animals in experiments, so this is just not the norm. As it is, most laboratory rats and mice breathe cleaner air and drink better water than that available to their human caretakers. Some congressional lawmakers are taking actions to prevent the USDA from implementing the settlement and proposing rules extending the AWA to rats, mice, and birds. How much more regulation and paperwork can be imposed on toxicologists and other scientists and regulatory agencies before biomedical research and testing grind slowly to a halt? If the "hassle-factor" involved in using mice and rats becomes nearly as great as when using rabbits, cats, dogs, and larger animals, then what will this mean in terms of animal use? What will this do to toxicologists and other biomedical scientists? Stay tuned as the drama unfolds.

Elsewhere U.S. Representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) planned to introduce legislation titled "Researchers and Farmer Freedom from Terrorism Act of 2000", designed to increase penalties to protect medical research personnel and research facilities. Also, here in California, on September 18 Gov. Davis signed SB 2082 that states that "manufacturers and contract testing facilities shall not use traditional

animal test methods within this state” if an appropriate alternative test method has been validated by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for the Validation for Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the alternative method has been “adopted by the relevant federal agency responsible for regulating the specific product or activity for which the test is being conducted.” In other words, if no approved alternative exists or the federal agency does not accept data from alternative models, then testing can be performed legally as before. The law is specifically directed toward safety testing and does not extend to animal testing performed for the purpose of medical research. Enforcement will be by civil actions at the city, county or state level. Although attempts have been made in many cities and states to pass such a law, this is billed as the first state statute in the U.S. to regulate animal testing. Consideration of alternatives is good. But will this serve a good purpose or will it be abused and create still more ‘hassle’ for toxicologists? It seems that even the Doris Day Animal League and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) feel that the bill is meaningless.

As a recent Wall Street Journal editorial on the USDA decision observed, “Clearly activists understand there is no public support for a ban on animal testing. So they’ve hit upon the next best thing: Regulate it to death.” Stay tuned for more as the implications of these regulations settle in.

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### **Adventures of a Colgate-Palmolive SOT Student Travel Award Winner**

I would like to thank Colgate-Palmolive and the Society of Toxicology for the invaluable opportunity provided to me this summer. As the awardee of a Colgate-Palmolive SOT Award for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods I visited Dr. Charles W. Walker’s laboratory, professor of zoology and marine biology at the University of New Hampshire. For the past 25 years as a developmental biologist he has contributed much of the current knowledge in sea star reproductive morphology.

After being introduced to *in vitro* testicular cell culture methods last year by SDSU’s Visiting Professor Dr. Robert Chapin from the NIEHS, I wanted to apply and extend this work to an ecologically-relevant species for my master’s thesis research. I had approached Dr. Walker about the possibilities of expanding his paper “Isolation and culture of spermatogenic epithelia from sea star testes for use in studies of mitosis in spermatogonia and meiosis I in primary spermatocytes” for the development of a procedure to assess the potential reproductive health risks associated with environmental pollution in marine systems. Immediately Dr. Walker invited me to New England and welcomed me into his laboratory for the summer.

During my month long stay at UNH I was exposed (can I say that as a toxicology student?) to marine invertebrate tissue culture methods, which are very different than that of mammals. Other researchers on campus and off campus, at the UNH coastal marine facility, also offered to assist and provide insight. Additionally I was able to visit the Isles of Shoals, Marine Laboratories on Appledore Island about 10 miles out in the Atlantic Ocean off the New Hampshire and Maine coasts. I look back on the experience fondly. The opportunity to do nothing but concentrate on one’s research is rare. The distractions of normal everyday life were not present, allowing me the time to focus solely on what I needed to accomplish. To be completely honest, however, I did get in a couple of days of surf (real small surf!)

Now back again at SDSU, I am working to further develop these *in vitro* methods for my master’s thesis research. My animals are housed in the Experimental Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and, in addition to my SDSU advisor, Dr. Ann de Peyster, I am in regular contact with Dr. Chapin and Dr. Walker and others I have met who have kept my motivation and spirits high during some long days and nights in the laboratory. My current plan is to be headed toward a doctoral degree program by next year. My thanks to all who have made this possible. I also want to encourage other graduate students to look into this unique award. Information on deadlines and

application forms can be obtained from the SOT website, [www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org).

Jason Gross

Master of Science Candidate

Toxicology Program

Graduate School of Public Health

San Diego State University

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### **MEMBERSHIP DUES AT WORK**

What are membership dues used for?

Funds obtained through membership dues and meeting registration are critical for normal operations of the Chapter. The majority of funds are spent towards paying for local meetings, including speaker honorariums, meeting room charges, audio-visual equipment rental and catering activities. Corporate sponsorships defray a portion of these charges, but they do not cover the entire expense. Therefore dues directly impact the quality of Chapter meetings. In addition, dollars are provided as awards to students for presentations either at the high school, undergraduate or graduate level.

More recently, sponsors have provided some assistance with meeting activities, newsletters and mailings. This has allowed the Chapter to expand its efforts with new speakers and meeting locations. These efforts have also included organization of a Chapter social night meeting to be held at the National meeting in San Francisco this year.

The SCCSOT must abide by all laws related to non-profit organizations and rules of the National Chapter. The Chapter Treasurer manages the funds obtained through meeting registration and membership dues. Account summaries are provided annually to the National Chapter.

Updating membership information is important for maintaining membership involvement and communication of Chapter activities. Therefore, the Chapter will be updating the database to identify current members and to better track dues. A mailing will go out to notify the members of this update and will require a

response providing demographic information. ***Please assist us in these efforts so that we may include you as a contact in our database system to keep you current on SCCSOT activities!***

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### **Upcoming Conferences**

**SCCSOT Fall Meeting:** "New Perspectives in Environmental Toxicology", Saturday, November 11, 2000; 8:30–4:00 pm., Catamaran Resort, San Diego, CA. email: [gsteven1@san.rr.com](mailto:gsteven1@san.rr.com) to RSVP.

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual American College of Toxicology:** November 12–15, 2000, Catamaran Resort, San Diego, CA. email: [ekagan@act.faseb.org](mailto:ekagan@act.faseb.org)

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual SOT Meeting:** March 25–29, 2000, San Francisco, CA. (HINT: Rooms go fast in SF, register early!!) [www.toxicology.com](http://www.toxicology.com)

**9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Toxicology:** July 9–13, 2000, Brisbane, Australia. email: [ictix2001@im.com.au](mailto:ictix2001@im.com.au)

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Drug Information Association Meeting:** July 8–12, 2000, Denver, CO. [www.diahome.org](http://www.diahome.org)

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### **JOB BOARD: OPEN POSITION**

Company: Alliance Pharmaceutical Corp., San Diego, CA

Position: Principle Scientist, Preclinical Drug Safety & Development

Job Summary:

Assist in developing safety assessment strategies to support product registration worldwide. Contribute to designing, implementing, monitoring and reporting of preclinical toxicology and PK/ADME studies. Coordinate preparation of preclinical safety section of INDs, NDAs and other regulatory documents as needed. Interact with Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs to ensure that adequate and appropriate preclinical safety studies are conducted to support

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planned clinical trials and represent department on product development/project teams as needed.

Education/Experience:

Ph.D. in relevant discipline (toxicology, pharmacology, etc.) with 0-2 years postdoctoral or industrial experience

MS or BS degree in a biological science with 2+ years relevant experience in toxicology

Contact: S. Sheffield, (858) 410-5286

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***Message From The Editor***

The SCCSOT Newsletter is published twice annually. The next newsletter will be published in the Spring. If you have any news of local events, employment opportunities or ideas for future publications and meetings please forward them to my attention.

Greg Stevens  
Pfizer Global R&D, La Jolla Laboratories  
4245 Sorrento Valley Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92121  
stevens@agouron.com

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**REMINDER**

RSVP for Fall SCCSOT meeting by Monday, November 6, 2000 to Julie Doerr-Stevens at [gsteven1@san.rr.com](mailto:gsteven1@san.rr.com).

