OCCUPATIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALTY SECTION NEWSLETTER

Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology

Winter 2010

*** Think green before you print!***

**ARE YOU READY FOR SOT 2010?!**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL OPHSS LUNCHEON AT SOT 2010!!**

You are cordially invited to the Occupational & Public Health Specialty Section Annual Meeting & Luncheon Reception on **Monday, March 8, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

Repeating the success of our previous annual meetings, the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section of SOT will once again be hosting a luncheon meeting in Salt Lake City, with a **free box lunch** and refreshments. This will be a great opportunity to make new acquaintances, renew old ones, and network with students and colleagues. A short business meeting will be held immediately after lunch to introduce our new officers, present the Best Abstract and Paper awards, as well as our new mid-career manuscript award. We will also discuss plans for future activities (so please bring your ideas).

This year OPHSS has invited **Dr. C. Arden Pope III** to speak at the luncheon. Dr. Pope is the Mary Lou Fulton Professor of Economics and Associate Dean (CFHSS) at Brigham Young University. Dr. Pope's presentation is entitled **“20 Years of Air Pollution Epidemiology in 20 Minutes.”** We are sure that you will enjoy this presentation and hope you will contribute to a lively discussion afterwards. (Read more about Dr. Pope on page 3)

**DATE:** **Monday, March 8, 2010**

**LOCATION:** **Salt Palace Convention Center (Room 255-B)**

11:45: Lunch (Free box lunch with refreshments)
12:00-12:35: Guest Speaker – **Dr. C. Arden Pope III**
12:35-12:45: Awards
12:45-1:30: Business Meeting including discussion of program ideas for 50th anniversary SOT meeting (SOT 2011)

Please **RSVP:** By **March 1, 2010** (allisonstock@chevron.com or madden.michael@epa.gov). Your timely response is important to ensure that the appropriate number of lunches will be ordered. Hope to see you there!
This year at SOT 2010...

**OPHSS-SPONSORED SESSIONS**

**Monday March 8**
Historical Highlights Session: *Translating toxicology to public health protection: lessons learned from Superfund*
- Ballroom I
- 12:10 pm -1:30 pm

**Tuesday March 9**
Symposia: **POPs: What's new and why should we care?**
- Ballroom I
- 9:00 am – 11:45 am

**Wednesday March 10**
Informational Session: **The 2009 TN Fly Ash Spill: An Environmental Emergency Case Study**
- Ballroom D
- 7:30 am- 8:50 am

**OPHSS-ENDORSED SESSIONS**

**Sunday March 7**
Gene-Environment Interactions Influence Cytokine Biology in Immunotoxicity and Disease: Genomic, Genetic, and Epigenetic Perspectives- CE Course

**Monday March 8**
Silica and Asbestos Immunotoxicity: Mechanisms to Fibrosis, Autoimmunity, and Modified Tumor Resistance

**Tuesday March 9**
Research Advances and Enduring Needs in Children’s Environmental Health Protection
Weighing Complex Data in Risk Decisions: Concepts of Evidence-Based Toxicology

**Wednesday March 18**
TRPIng the Sensor: The Role of TRP Channel Signaling in Cardiopulmonary Toxicity

**Thursday March 19**
Toxicological Challenges in Green Product Development

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MORE ABOUT OUR OPHSS LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER:
Dr. C. ARDEN POPE III

As mentioned above, Dr. C. Arden Pope III is the Mary Lou Fulton Professor of Economics and Associate Dean (CFHSS) at Brigham Young University. He received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University (1981) where he studied economics and statistics and was a Fellow in Environmental Health and Public Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health (1992/93). He has conducted research on a variety of issues related to natural resource and environmental economics. His cross-disciplinary research in environmental epidemiology has resulted in seminal studies on the effects of air pollution on pulmonary and cardiovascular health. Dr. Pope has conducted or collaborated on key studies of short- and long-term air pollution exposure which have influenced environmental public health policy and air pollution standards in the U.S., and worldwide. He has also played prominent roles in reviewing and interpreting this literature, and is one of the world’s most widely cited and recognized experts on the health effects of air pollution.

Dr. Pope is an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians (2008) and has been the recipient of: the Karl G. Maeser Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award, BYU’s highest faculty honor (2006); the Utah Governor’s Medal for Science and Technology (2004); the Thomas T. Mercer Joint Prize from the American Association for Aerosol Research and The International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (2001); and various other awards.

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SOT REOPENS ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS FOR 2010 ANNUAL MEETING IN SALT LAKE CITY

SOT Council and the Scientific Program Committee recently announced that they have reopened abstracts submissions for the 2010 Annual Meeting. Authors have the option to submit an abstract(s) either as a late breaking or grace period submission. Scientists now have until February 15, 2010 to submit their abstracts.

Go to the following link to submit your abstracts in OPHSS topic areas!
http://sot2010.abstractcentral.com/

- Late breaking abstracts are defined as those abstracts deemed to be novel, state-of-the-art research whose results were not available before the October submission deadline.

- Grace period abstracts are defined as those abstracts that scientists had to wait until after the abstract deadline to determine if funding was available for SOT Annual Meeting attendance or those who have new travel restrictions stating that they can only attend a meeting if they are presenting an abstract.

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SHOWCASING OUR OPHSS MEMBERS!

The OPHSS Newsletter is pleased to add a new segment that is focused on showcasing the wealth of knowledge and expertise within the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section. To kick off this segment, both Dr. Toyohi Isse and Dr. Gloria Post kindly provided interviews.

Meet **Toyohi Isse, M.D., PhD**.

Japan has the largest number of SOT members outside of North America. We are pleased and honored to have Dr. Toyohi Isse in our specialty section. Dr. Isse is the Deputy Director (Associate Professor) of the Section of Postgraduate Guidance in the School of Medicine at the University of Occupational and Environmental Health (Kitakyushu, Japan). Dr. Isse is also an industrial physician with Kyushu Electric Power Co. and has served in this capacity at other major Japanese companies such as Yaskawa Electric Company. One of the responsibilities of an industrial physician is dealing with issues arising from high risk and hazard work place situations. In addition to SOT, Dr. Isse is a member of the Japanese Society of Toxicology, the Japan Society of Occupational Health, Society of Neuroscience, and councilor for the Research Meeting for Biological Monitoring and Biomarkers. Here are some of Dr. Isse’s responses to a few of our interview questions:

Q: Tell us about your current activities that relate to occupational and public health.
A: Currently, I work in the area Career Resource and Development of occupational physicians in Japan. I introduce job-seeking occupational physicians to companies seeking occupational physicians or public health specialists. I make referrals and network with occupational physicians and specialists on specific working place issue. I also analyze the needs, demands and distribution trends of occupational physicians and occupational health services in Japan. Lastly, my research is focused on alcohol and acetaldehyde toxicity, and mutation and mitochondrial damage.

Q: Do you have words of advice for students and post-docs?
A: Nothing ventured, nothing gain.

Q: Do you have any hobbies or personal interests?
A: I am a Class C Referee of Fukuoka Rowing Association.

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**Toyohi Isse, M.D., Ph.D.**
Deputy Director (Associate Professor)
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Meet **Gloria Post, Ph.D., DABT**

Dr. Gloria Post has worked as a Research Scientist in the Office of Science (formerly the Division of Science, Research and Technology) at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) since 1986. She became interested in toxicology while an undergraduate at Princeton University and later received her doctorate from Thomas Jefferson University where she worked on benzene metabolism and toxicity with Robert Snyder. She subsequently did post-doctoral research at Duke University with Daniel Menzel on sulfur dioxide and at Thomas Jefferson with George Kalf on benzene. She had a continuing interest in applying toxicology to public health problems and that led her to the NJDEP. She has recently been appointed to US EPA Science Advisory Board’s Exposure and Human Health Committee.

**Q:** Tell us about your current activities that relate to occupational and public health.

**A:** My overall responsibility is to evaluate the health effects of contaminants found in New Jersey’s environment. I have worked on such chemicals as MTBE, perchlorate, PFOA, and hexavalent chromium, and many others. Currently, as one of two toxicologists doing human health risk assessment at NJDEP, I am involved in evaluating a wide range of contaminants, especially those found in drinking water. I am a member of the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute, an advisory group which provides advice on drinking water issues to NJDEP’s Commissioner. I also am involved with assessments of contaminants found in groundwater, surface water, soil, and fish. These assessments are used as the basis for guidance or for proposed regulatory standards. I serve as a project manager for research projects conducted by academics or by consultants. And I get involved with issues where toxicology expertise is needed, e.g. Tom’s River cancer cluster, and responding to inquiries from the public. I am able to publish my work, and my colleagues and I published a paper on PFOA in NJ drinking water in the May 2009 issue of Environmental Science and Technology. I also co-authored a soon-to-be-published chapter on health effects of drinking water contaminants for the new edition of the American Water Works Association’s Handbook of Water Quality and Treatment.

**Q:** Do you have words of advice for students and post-docs?

**A:** There are many different careers and opportunities in toxicology, and you may not be aware of all of them. Try to investigate what these opportunities are so you will really enjoy your eventual career choice. The experience and knowledge you get during graduate and post-doctoral research will be very valuable no matter what type of career you pursue in toxicology. I use all the basic principles and background experience that I gained in graduate school and post doc to further the work that I do now.

**Q:** Do you have any hobbies or personal interests?

**A:** My family and I have enjoyed visiting and camping at national parks in the US and Canada, including Alaska and the Virgin Islands. We also enjoy visiting other countries, most recently Italy and China. We enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing and cross-country skiing, and we enjoy entertaining friends and family.

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**Gloria B. Post, Ph.D., DABT**

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WHERE DOES MY OPHSS MEMBERSHIP MONEY GO?

Every year, when membership fees are due, you’ve probably looked at the checkbox next to Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section and wondered ‘where does my $15/year go?’ That trivial amount makes a world of difference for OPHSS. When you attend an SOT meeting part of your registration fee, along with your specialty section dues, make up the entire source of revenue for OPHSS. And where does this money go? Right back into the SOT annual meeting to benefit the OPHSS membership. Your annual fees pay for the Best Abstract and Best Manuscript student awards (plaque and monetary award), room set up for the OPHSS Luncheon (audio-visual equipment, microphones, flip charts, etc.) and the food for the luncheon itself. OPHSS council members work hard to avoid wasteful spending. For example, instead of renting a laser pointer for the OPHSS Luncheon, it is more cost-effective for an OPHSS council member to just bring his/her personal laser pointer for the meeting.

What your annual dues are not used for….although SOT offers to set up specialty section council meetings (with refreshments) during the annual SOT meeting, with the charges assessed to the specialty section, OPHSS council members prefer to make such arrangements on their own, and even ‘go Dutch’! We’ve even looked at more cost-effective ways to have executive council meetings throughout the year rather than paying a fee for a conference line. And in case you are wondering, the council positions are voluntary.

So the next time annual fees are due, rest assured, that the OPHSS council members are going to make sure your $15 annual dues goes a long way.

Amanda S. Persad, Secretary/Treasurer OPHSS

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ATTENTION STUDENTS AND POST-DOCTORAL MEMBERS!

Don’t forget to attend the student/post-doctoral mixer at the annual meeting in Salt Lake City this year. The mixer takes place on Sunday, March 7, 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm in Room 355 of the Salt Palace Convention Center. Meet the OPHSS Executive Committee and learn more about ways to become involved in our specialty section, and get free food and fun stuff! Mentors, remind your students about this event!

Eileen Hayes, President of OPHSS

WHAT: Student /Post-doctoral Mixer  
WHERE: Room 355 (Convention Center)  
WHEN: Sunday, March 7, 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- **National Academies:** THE EXPOSOME: A POWERFUL APPROACH TO EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND THEIR INFLUENCES ON HUMAN DISEASE February 25-26, 2010  Washington, DC

- **49th Annual Society of Toxicology Meeting**-March 7-11, 2010, Salt Lake City, UT

- **SOPHE and Prevention Research Centers (PRC) Program Joint 2010 Conference:** Advocate, Communicate and Translate to Enhance Research and Practice.
  - CDC, Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)  April 7-9, 2010, Atlanta, GA.

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