

Southern California SOT Regional Chapter Winter Newsletter

Jan 2012



Chapter Officers

President: Tony Ndifor

VP: Andrew Seacat

VP Elect: Vince Torti

Secretary: Tom Zanardi

Treasurer: Tina Leakakos

Past President: Bob Dunn

Councilor: Aida Sacaan

Councilor: Jacob Jabbour

Postdoc Rep: David J. Castro

Student Rep: Parrisa Solaimani

Web Site Liaison: Brian H. Mathison

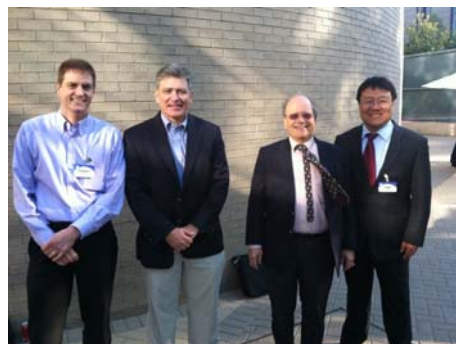
K-12 Liaison: Diana Johnson

Fall 2011 Meeting Highlights

Our SCCSOT 2011 fall meeting took place on Friday October 7, 2011 at Allergan, in Irvine, CA. The theme of the meeting was: Advancing the Science of Toxicology: Non-coding RNAs and Nanoparticle Toxicity. Attendance was very good with over 100 participants from academia, industry, and CROs. The morning session focused on non-coding RNAs while the afternoon session explored nanoparticle toxicity. Five speakers presented during each session allowing a very generous exploration of each topic. The first speaker of the day was Dr Hubert Chen of Regulus who presented a nice overview of microRNAs, their growing therapeutic utility and accompanying safety considerations. Dr. Robert Tanguay from Oregon State University presented his research which introduced a role for non-coding RNAs in developmental toxicology. The next two speakers, Dr. Amy Yang of Pfizer and Dr. Kai Wang of the Institute for Systems Biology, showcased the developing area of how microRNAs can serve as extracellular biomarkers. Dr. John Rossi of the Beckman Research Institute at the City of Hope Hospital wrapped up the session by presenting his recent advances in delivering siRNAs with nanoparticles.

Following a great outdoor lunch, the afternoon session on Nanoparticles was started by Dr Tian Xia of UCLA. Dr. Xia addressed some of the challenges associated with nanomaterial safety assessment and presented strategies to

link the physicochemical properties of nanomaterials to their biologic effects. Dr. Randy Frame (DuPont) and Michael Kleinman (UCI) proceeded to address individual target organ responses with their developed bioassays in the lung and heart respectively. Dr. Robert Schiestl of UCLA presented his findings on TiO₂ nanoparticles and their ability to induce DNA damage and genetic instability in mice. The session was concluded with a talk from Dr. Brian Thrall of PNNL. Dr. Thrall discussed the challenges of incorporating variables such as cell dosimetry, receptor recognition, and innate immunity in unraveling mechanisms of nanomaterial-cell interactions.



Some of our Speakers (L-R) R. Tanguay, R. Frame, M. Kleinman, & T. Xia

The day concluded with poster presentations by student members and a wine and cheese reception. This included a wine tasting contest hosted by one of the key sponsors, QPS. Our immediate Past-President Bob Dunn was on hand to give the awards for the 3 best posters.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ SOT Meeting Reception
- ◆ Council Elections

Poster Session Winners

1st Place (\$500): C.R. Marin-Muller, Baylor College of Medicine: "A Reciprocal Repression between Tumor Suppressor miR-198 and Mesothelin Regulates Proliferation and Metastasis in Pancreatic Cancer."

2nd Place (\$250): A. Keebaugh, University of California-Irvine: "Cardiovascular Toxicity of Semi-Volatile Constituents of Particulate Matter in an Atherosclerotic Mouse Model."

3rd Place (\$100): V. Bahl, University of California-Riverside: "Smoke and Chemicals from Cigarettes Impair Stem Cell Growth."



Best Poster Winners (L-R): V. Bahl, Bob Dunn (Past- President), C.R. Marin-Muller, A. Keebaugh

Chapter Awards

Our chapter has traditionally given an award recognizing the Past President during the fall meeting. Unfortunately this activity was inadvertently left off the agenda during the meeting. To make it up, our Past-Past President, Michelle Horner offered to gather the past presidents at Amgen (6 at last count) to honor Bob Dunn for his leadership. In addition, Council gave Tina Leakakos an award for her sustained, dedicated service as Treasurer of our Chapter for over 10 years. Please join us in congratulating Bob and Tina for their dedication to our chapter.



Chapter Treasurer, Tina Leakakos with recognition Award



Some Council Executive Members



Past-Presidents present Immediate Past-President Bob Dunn with Chapter Recognition Award (L-R): J. Wisler, H. Hamadeh, R. Dunn, M. Horner, S. Wild, D. Badger

Reception at 2012 SOT meeting in San Francisco

This year's joint reception with the Mountain West Chapter will take place on **Monday March 12th from 5pm-7pm** at the Thirsty Bear Brewing Company, conveniently located across from the Moscone Convention Center. Thirsty Bear Brewing Company serves Spanish Tapas to accompany their fine craft beer. We look forward to seeing you there! <http://thirstybear.com/>



Chapter Vacancies

It is time to renew and revitalize our chapter leadership. We have vacancies for Secretary, two councilors, a Vice President Elect, a student representative and a post-doctoral representative. If you are interested in any of these positions please drop me a note. Being engaged in your regional chapter council is an excellent opportunity

to network, learn more about the Society, enhance your leadership skills, and serve your chapter. It requires very little of your time, but the gains are priceless! We therefore strongly encourage you to consider joining a great team. We are particularly short on academic representation and would welcome candidates from our colleagues in academia.



(L-R): A. Seacat (Winner of wine tasting contest), T. Leakakos, W. Bee



Some of our Student members at fall meeting