

For Immediate Release

LSU Professor Awarded Prestigious Translational Impact Award by Scientific Society

Reston, VA (January 12, 2010)—Kenneth E. McMartin, Ph.D is the recipient of the Society of Toxicology's 2010 Translational Impact Award. Dr. McMartin is being honored by the Society for his outstanding contributions to the translation of basic toxicological findings to clinical medicine.

He is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Dr. McMartin also serves as the Director of the LSUHSC-S interdisciplinary graduate program in toxicology, and Co-Director of the Pharmacokinetics Core for the Center for Experimental Cancer Therapeutics. Dr. McMartin's early studies showed that, in experimental methanol poisonings, formic acid was the proximate toxicant and had a causative role in the severe metabolic acidosis observed for these intoxications. He worked with collaborating laboratories to develop treatment modalities. This effort culminated in the commercialization of the antidote 4-methylpyrazole, now called fomepizole. The ensuing product development progressed through animal experimentation and then phase I-phase III clinical trials. Importantly, fomepizole is now utilized worldwide and has become the standard of care for both ethylene glycol and methanol poisonings.

In recent years, Dr. McMartin has conducted mechanistic experimental studies on the pathogenesis of the renal toxicity of ethylene glycol, demonstrating that the precipitation of calcium oxalate crystals in the kidneys was a causative factor in the observed renal tubular toxicity. He is currently investigating mechanisms of toxicity for diethylene glycol poisonings, an important problem evident by recent and past epidemic intoxications worldwide.

He will be honored at a formal Awards ceremony on March 7, 2010, during the SOT 49th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™, March 7–11, 2010 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Society of Toxicology is a scientific not-for-profit organization for professionals from around the world who are involved in the study of toxicology. With more than 6,000 members, the Society is creating a safer and healthier world by advancing the science of toxicology. SOT is a forum for novel discoveries and approaches related to toxicology, fosters integration of sub-disciplines that support the evolution of toxicology, and, among other things, increases the impact of toxicology on human health and disease prevention.

For additional information about the 2010 Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ visit, <http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2010/>.

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