

For Immediate Release

**Former U.S. FDA Official Receives Animal Welfare Award by Society of Toxicology**

**Reston, VA (January 12, 2010)**—Leonard M. Schechtman, Ph.D., is the recipient of the Society of Toxicology's 2010 Enhancement of Animal Welfare Award in recognition of the outstanding contributions he has made to the advancement of toxicological science through the development and application of methods that replace, refine, and reduce experimental animal use in research, education, and regulatory safety testing. He will be honored at a formal Awards ceremony during the SOT's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™, on Sunday, March 7, 2010 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dr. Schechtman was the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Principal Agency Representative to the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) from 1999 through 2006 and served as Chairman of ICCVAM from 2001 through 2006. Under his leadership, ICCVAM developed guidelines for nomination and submission of alternative test methods, defined and implemented test method performance standards to expedite validation, enhanced international cooperation with the ECVAM and JaCVAM, and successfully evaluated and transmitted formal recommendations to U.S. federal agencies on the scientific validity of several new alternative methods in accordance with the 2000 ICCVAM Authorization Act. These alternative safety testing methods were subsequently adopted by U.S. regulatory agencies and international organizations.

Dr. Schechtman also has contributed significantly to the development and adoption of internationally harmonized guidance on the validation and use of novel *in vitro* and *in vivo* safety evaluation methods. As president of Innovative Toxicology Consulting, he is further contributing to the development, scientific validation, and advancement of alternative methods for regulatory safety testing.

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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