

## THE FIFTY-FIRST YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 2011–2012

The Society of Toxicology held the 51st Annual Meeting and ToxExpo in San Francisco, California at the Moscone Convention Center and approximately 7,300 attended. The scientific program featured more than 3,000 presentations including special lectures and the late-breaking and grace period abstracts. Leroy Hood, from the Institute of Systems Biology, Seattle, Washington, was the Plenary Opening Lecturer. His lecture was titled “Systems Medicine, Systems Toxicology, Transformational Technologies, and the Revolution from Reactive to Proactive (P4) Medicine”—Predictive, Personalized, Preventive, and Participatory. Witold Filipowicz from Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland delivered the Keynote Medical Research Council (MRC) Lecture entitled, “Role of microRNAs in Control of Gene Expression in Human Physiology and Pathology.”

The Themes for the year were: Aberrant Gene Expression in Toxicity and Disease—Epigenetics and microRNAs; Characterizing Toxic Modes of Action and Pathways to Toxicity; Clinical Toxicology from Bedside to the Bench and Back; Influence of Global Climate Change on Environmental Health Issues; and Regulatory Science: Bridging the Gap between Discovery and Product Availability. There were more than 340 exhibitors who participated in the ToxExpo, including 62 first time exhibitors, 73 international companies from 22 countries, and 271 US companies from 39 states. There were 13 Continuing Education courses presented at the Annual Meeting. Over 2400 attendees participated in the program.

The Society launched its revised 2012–2015 Strategic Plan. “Creating a Safer a Healthier World by Advancing the Science of Toxicology” continues to be the Society’s vision. The key objectives by priority are: Increase Scientific Impact, Promote Recognition of Toxicology, Build for the Future of Toxicology, Enhance Member Engagement, and Develop and Implement Metrics to Improve Organizational Success and Accountability, and Strengthen Organization Effectiveness. The work of the Professional Needs Assessment Task Force, Job Market Survey Subcommittee, and the Global Strategy Task Force was completed, thus these task forces were sunsetted.

SOT launched the Domestic ToxScholar Outreach Grants and the International ToxScholar Outreach Grants. These Society-sponsored programs help educate undergraduates about our profession both in the US and abroad. The Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) and the Education Committee provide funds for the Domestic ToxScholar Outreach Grants, which cover visits to US undergraduate institutions. CDI reviews applications for presentations at undergraduate institutions with a high proportion of students from underrepresented minority groups. The Education Committee sponsors the International ToxScholar Outreach Grants program covering visits to institutions in underserved nations. In January, the Endowment Fund Board approved the creation of the Daniel and Patricia Acosta Diversity Student Endowment Fund. The 2011 impact factor for *Toxicological Sciences (ToxSci)* was 4.65, and *ToxSci* continues as a top original research scientific journal.

Society leaders including SOT Executive Director Shawn Douglas Lamb, SOT 2012–2013 President William Slikker Jr, and SOT 2012–2013 Past President Jon C. Cook, traveled to Capitol Hill and presented Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) with the SOT 2012 Congressional Science Leadership Award for his

enduring vision and preeminent leadership in fostering recognition throughout the legislative community of the importance of supporting sound science as a basis for making effective policy decisions.

The SOT Communications Committee awarded the Landmarks Program Award to the Ames Test in recognition of its significance to the field of toxicology and to science in general. The plaque was given to Dr. Bruce Ames, who with his colleagues at the University of Berkeley, developed the *Salmonella* reverse mutation assay (widely known as the Ames Test) in his laboratory in Barker Hall during the 1970s. The test revolutionized the field of genetic toxicology, stimulated new directions in cancer research, and was truly a landmark in the field of toxicology. The Chancellor of Berkeley approved the positioning of this plaque in Barker Hall on March 8, 2012, outside of classroom 110, the classroom that was dedicated to Dr. Ames.

The total number of members in the Society reached an all time high of 7,455. The Society had an operating budget of approximately \$7M. Though the budgetary needs continue to grow yearly, the Society was able to maintain a balanced annual budget without having to increase dues and fees.

Originally founded in 1997 and active for more than a decade, the Lake Ontario Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (LORC/SOT) recently fell into a period of inactivity. The chapter is geographically located in central west New York, a small section of northeast Pennsylvania, and much of southern Ontario, between the Michigan, Allegheny-Erie, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast Regional Chapters. After several months of talk and member activity, the Lake Ontario Regional Chapter was revitalized. The Carcinogenesis Specialty Section celebrated 25 years, and the Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section and Neurotoxicology Specialty Section celebrated their 30-year anniversaries.

The SOT Awards Committee established a new award entitled the SOT Translational/Bridging Travel Award to assist award recipients with travel to the SOT Annual Meeting. The SOT Awards Committee offered this award to either a mid- or senior-level scientist or clinician, with at least ten years postdoctoral research or clinical practice experience and who has an active research program, or currently is active either in the practice of clinical toxicology, medical toxicology, disease prevention, or in the application of translational toxicology. The first award recipient was Xuemei Huang.

In 2012, there were 150 available job positions listed during the Annual Meeting. Of those positions 10 were with SOT Corporate Affiliates, 73 were with corporations, and 67 were with government, academic, and nonprofit companies. In terms of job seekers at the Annual Meeting, there were approximately 220 members of SOT who had created a job bank profile in the three months prior to the Annual Meeting. Other candidates included 49 paying nonmembers, 19 of whom were professionals, 9 were postdocs, and the remaining 21 were students.