International ToxScholar: Promoting Toxicology Careers Globally
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INTRODUCTION
The goals of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Undergraduate Recruitment and Education Committee’s International ToxScholar (ITS) Outreach Grant are to expand awareness of toxicology and to promote toxicology careers in developing countries through interaction of toxicologists with undergraduate and graduate scientists.

Since 2010, 27 ITS visits with scientists from 20 countries and 45 host institutions have been completed.

FOCUS OF 2018 VISITS AND COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS YEARS
In the year 2017/2018, the focus was on promoting careers in toxicology, and 3 scholars visited 11 institutions. Each scholar provided a blog post for SOT Communiqué following their visits.

Audience Reach
Scholars were able to reach a wider audience compared with some visits from previous years.

FOCUS OF 2018 VISITS AND COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Program Goals
• Fund visits for toxicologists to travel to developing countries to:
  – Expand toxicology awareness
  – Promote toxicology careers through interaction of toxicologists with undergraduate and graduate students
  – Encourage ongoing collaboration/networking between hosts and scholars

The Education Committee solicits proposals for funding visits of Full and Associate SOT Members.
• Applications due April 1st for 2018/2019 funding
• Applications due October 9th for 2019/2020 funding
  – Submit CV, supporting letter(s) from host(s) and sponsor(s), proposed budget
• Up to $1250 awarded for the SOT toxicologist to travel to ~139 eligible countries
  – Applicants are encouraged to secure matching funding from partners, such as SOT Special Interest Groups, employers, or host institutions
• Following their visits, scholars submit a final report and share their experiences via the SOT Communiqué.

FOCUS OF 2018 VISITS AND COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

From High School Students to PhD Students: Toxicology in Action
Dr. Gurjot Kaur (University of Konstanz, Germany) spent several days in India, at 4 institutions without current toxicology syllabi. She presented to a mixture of undergraduates, masters and PhD students, informing them about career opportunities in toxicology. She also attended an event with high school students focusing on air and water pollution, and careers in science and toxicology.

The examples of ongoing lead pollution in Calcutta, arsenic pollution in the state of Bihar, and air pollution in the capital city of India, Delhi, emphasised the importance of toxicology to the students. Additionally, job opportunities in India and abroad were discussed.

Career Paths in Toxicology in China
Dr. Haiyan Tong (US EPA, Chapel Hill, NC) combined attending the 2018 Chinese Environment & Health Conference with visiting institutes in China. She presented a talk in Chinese entitled “Career Paths in Toxicology” to ~50 undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members in the School of Public Health at Jinhou Medical University. She was able to connect with 20-30 graduate students about toxicological science and careers in toxicology during the poster sessions at the conference.

CONCLUSIONS
• Multiple visits by scholars and the success of blog postings show this program continues to expand awareness of toxicology in developing countries.
• The Undergraduate Recruitment and Education Committee supports this continued effort to increase the number and diversity of countries visited by ITS scholars, which are key to promoting toxicology globally.

Comments from attendees:
“The lecture was delightful and provided wide ideas for our future careers. It was an inspiration for us, women veterinarians, to pursue higher studies abroad.” 5th year – Veterinary Medicine
“The presentation was very helpful. Never knew that Zoology major can enter Toxicology” 3rd year – Zoology, College of Arts and Sciences

“I learnt the wide scope of toxicology and different sectors where a toxicologist can work. With the information you shared, I have applied for SOT membership.” 2nd year – Masters in Pharmacology

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