President's Message at TAO Reception 3/28/22

WELCOME! Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, the state of affairs of the Toxicologists of African Origin is alive and well. Looking at things from the PAST, the PRESENT and the FUTURE:

Past

TAO was established 14 years ago, in 2008, with solid foundation by our forefathers and mothers through the wonderful Society of Toxicology (SOT). We thank our forefathers, mothers, past presidents including Drs. Marquea King, Sydney Green, among others for their continued support and help to see TAO grow.

Present

There have been some dissention within our internal group and I would like to see it alleviated moving forward. I would like to set up a Work Group with some past presidents, SOT representatives and any other interested parties to solve some of the problems moving forward.

In Ghana, West Africa, we currently have at least 50 individuals that have signed up to be members of SOT and by extension TAO. The logistics with SOT council are ongoing to bring all of them on board.

Future

Strengthen the leadership team. Continue to raise funds to support students. On the Mentoring Programs I would like to see the areas that have been successful to be continued and those that have not to be reorganized or eliminated. The last two years have been difficult because of the pandemic. For the mentoring programs, perhaps we can set up a monthly call in number for students and other interested parties to talk to. This may involve access to scholarships, funding sources, career counseling, among others.

TAO has done abundantly well for funding other students, faculty from other countries relative to other SIG groups. This includes people from continental Africa and African Americans here in the United States of America and Globally. For this purpose, we welcome the membership of all ethnicities that share a like mind to accomplish the stated objectives of TAO.

The TAO Webinar Series was opened with Professor George Acquaah-Mensah of the Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The topic was on Biological Drivers of Breast Invasive Carcinoma in Black/African-American Patients.

Our Mission

The Toxicologists of African Origin-Special Interest Group (TAO-SIG) was established to support and expand the diversity and inclusivity initiatives of SOT among scientists of African ancestry that reside within the United States of America and Globally. For this purpose, we welcome the membership of all ethnicities that share a like mind to accomplish the stated objectives of TAO.

Mentoring

The TAO Website has information about Mentors and Mentees.

- Mentoring event, SOT meeting
- @MEZE, 345 6th Avenue, San Diego, CA; Long Live TAO, Long Live SOT! Together we shall overcome!

For the rest of the RECEPTION, you have the time to network, talk, exchange ideas but by all means please stay safe and well. The pandemic is still with us. I would like to acknowledge the incoming President Dr Nardos Tassew and have her introduce herself.

TAO Reception

3/28/22, 6-8pm @MEZE, 345 6th Avenue, San Diego, CA

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