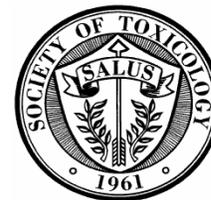


SOT Student Newsletter



FALL 2008 EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Students,

Welcome to the fall edition of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Student e-Letter! This twice yearly newsletter is published by the SOT Student Advisory Council (SAC) for graduate students. This newsletter contains information about the upcoming SOT Annual Meeting in Baltimore, as well as important updates from Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups and Specialty Sections. We are also including important information about Travel Awards and other news for student members of SOT.

The Student Advisory Committee

ABOUT THE SAC

Each Regional Chapter and Special Interest Group elects one graduate student member to represent their group in the Regional Chapter Graduate Committee (RC-GC). In addition, each Specialty Section elects a graduate student to serve on the Specialty Section Graduate Committee (SS-GC). The officers from the RC-GC and SS-GC form the SAC.

The SAC was created to provide student liaisons to the National SOT. Our job is to address the needs of students in the Society and to promote student participation and membership. If you are interested in learning more about the SAC, you can access our web site at www.toxicology.org/AI/SPD/SACdes.asp, or you can just get in contact with one of us! See page 22 for SAC contact information.



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Commonly Used Acronyms

- SAC** – Student Advisory Committee
RC/SIG-GC – Regional Chapter/
Special Interest Group Graduate
Committee
SS-GC – Specialty Section Graduate
Committee
LWAE – Lunch with an Expert

Student Advisory Council Updates

BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR REGIONAL CHAPTER

The SOT has 18 Regional Chapters whose purpose is to foster scientific exchange at the local level. These chapters sponsor regional meetings throughout the year that offer exceptional scientific programs, renowned speakers, and opportunities for student involvement in poster and seminar sessions. A list of the Regional Chapters and information on joining can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/RC/regionalchapters.asp>. Students can join Regional Chapters and enjoy the benefits without becoming members of the national Society.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOT has established six Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to promote the recruitment of toxicologists who share a common interest in toxicological research with a common country of origin, ethnicity, and gender. The goals of these groups are to develop and conduct programs and opportunities that promote career development and recognize accomplishments of the toxicologists from within each SIG. Please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/sig.asp> for more information on SIGs. Students and postdoctoral fellows receive membership into their first SIG at **NO COST!**

JOIN A SPECIALTY SECTION

The Specialty Sections of the SOT provides an invaluable opportunity for networking and interaction with scientists and professionals from various specialties within Toxicology. Specialty Sections (SS) are primary sponsors of many of the programmatic sessions during the SOT Annual Meeting. Students are highly encouraged to join a SS because not only can these groups provide students with opportunities for future employment and collaborations, but they also provide a platform for students to suggest scientific sessions and symposia for the Annual Meeting. Specialty Sections encourage student involvement by providing funds for competitive **student travel awards and best abstract awards** that recognize your accomplishments and hard work. Joining a Specialty Section is easy ... First, point your web browser to www.toxicology.org. Once you log in to the site, navigate to the Membership Renewal on-line option under Membership, and indicate which Specialty Section you would like to join. You can register for SS membership at any time during the year. And, while SOT student membership is a steal at \$20/year, as an extra bonus, **your student membership dues for one SS per year are free!**

NIH LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

NIH sponsors a Loan Repayment Program (LRP) to encourage clinical research. To qualify for the LRPs, applicants must possess a doctoral-level degree (except for the Contraception and Infertility Research LRP); devote at least 20 hours per week to research funded by a domestic nonprofit organization or federal, state, or local government entity; have educational loan debt equal to or exceeding 20 percent of their institutional base salary; and be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. They must also be willing to commit to two years of clinical research in the areas of Clinical Research, Pediatric Research, Health Disparities Research, Contraception and Infertility Research, and Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds. For more information, please visit www.lrp.nih.gov. The deadline for application is **December 1, 2008**.

SOT STRATEGIC PLAN: WHERE DO STUDENTS FIT IN?

Submitted by Kristina DeSmet, RC-GC Chairperson

The vision of SOT is to create a safer and healthier world by advancing the science of toxicology. In order to accomplish this vision the Society has developed a **Strategic Plan** that will be implemented over the next three years. Five main priorities have been established that will engage the leadership of SOT as well as the membership including student members. These priorities are: increase scientific impact, advocate the value of toxicology, build for the future of toxicology, expand and deepen member engagement, and strengthen organizational effectiveness. Within each of these priorities are specific objectives that SOT would like to accomplish. To view the complete SOT strategic map visit www.toxicology.org.

This is a big transition for the Society. Committees will be able to work independently with less micromanagement from Council. Goals and objectives will be accessed by outcome measures to determine the effectiveness of current and new projects as related to the strategic plan.

Thinking and acting strategically will give us the ability to meet strategic objectives and priorities. The SAC as well as the RC-GC and SS-GC are committed to implementing this new strategy in order to **increase student engagement** as well as **build the future of toxicology by attracting, supporting and retaining quality students**. We will be measuring the success of current programs such as Lunch with an Expert and the Graduate Student/Postdoc Mixer and adding new programs as we see fit to build on the student experience within SOT. If you have any suggestions on how SAC can improve the student experience visit the graduate student section of the SOT Web site and click on "Ask the Student Advisory Council a Question."

STUDENT LIFE

TO POST-DOC OR NOT TO POST-DOC...

Submitted by Kim Henderson, Student Rep for Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section

For graduate students in toxicology, the SOT Annual Meeting is always a favorite conference because of its obvious applicability to research interests and the numerous opportunities for students from across the country and around the world to network with each other and with potential employers. Whether it is at a poster session, the graduate student mixer or at the local pub, one conversation seems to keep resurfacing, and that is the issue of pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship. The idea of gaining another few years of experience outside of your dissertation area and broadening your skills is appealing. However, the prospect of working another two-four years making very little money is very unappealing to most students who just spent five to six years getting by on their graduate stipends. The big question then becomes, "Do I really need to do a postdoc or can I just get a job?"

If your **career goal is academia**, then yes, you usually must do an academic postdoc, and perhaps more than one. Preferably it will provide teaching experience, abundant publications, and your own funding. If your **goal is to work in industry**, then it is not as simple. Weighing into the decision to do a postdoc are shorter term considerations of college loans and new growing families versus the attractiveness of a well-paid position down the road, especially after years of training. The value of significantly enhanced scientific depth for long term career development may be diminished by the short term considerations.

The general consensus from the powers that be (people who actually look at CVs and do the hiring) is that a postdoc outside of your dissertation lab makes you more competitive against someone who did not have that experience. A postdoc in industry, which seems hard to come by, or a good academic postdoc (*i.e.*, publications) in an area in which the company is interested can be very helpful, if not required, for most positions. To say it's essential though would not be correct and a lot of this comes down to your own experience and timing. If you're looking for a job in industry at a time when positions are available, you may be able to get an industry job right after graduation, assuming your expertise meets the needs of the position. If you don't restrict the initial job search to discrete geographies and are willing to move, this can help your chances even more. However, some

industry sources warn that not doing a postdoc can sometimes hurt your upward mobility. This could be because the postdoc is often a career stage centered on developing independence and scientific breadth. Since these are both highly valued by industry and early impressions often dictate upward mobility, the postdoc may contribute to more successful careers in the long run.

Other considerations for future career prospects are participation in scientific competitions, like the poster competitions sponsored by Specialty Sections at the Annual Meeting and those sponsored by the Regional Chapters at their meetings throughout the year. Participants can achieve visibility that helps them participate in other venues (e.g., Regional Chapter or Specialty Section student representative) and possibly make contacts to land a job. These also create opportunities for networking with scientists and hiring managers, either informally at posters and receptions, or through formal venues like Lunch with an Expert. Although over-aggressive networking is a turn-off, professors needing postdocs and hiring managers in industry enjoy interacting with students. They also may have opportunities themselves or know someone who does. It is clear that everyone seems to have a different path to get to where they want, and there's no one prescribed path that ensures success for everyone. The key is to be flexible and prepared to take advantage of opportunities, even those that may not have occurred to you initially. So, to postdoc or not to postdoc, this is the question and the answer is yes, maybe, sometimes no.

This article was originally published in the Drug Discovery Toxicology Newsletter.

2009 Annual Meeting News



**SOT 48th Annual Meeting
& ToxExpo™**

March 15–19, 2009



GET UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DETAILS AT WWW.TOXICOLOGY.ORG/2009 !

REMEMBER, THE ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 3, 2008 AT 11:59 PM!

FIVE SCIENTIFIC THEMES

The 2009 Annual Meeting will have five themes, including **Biomarkers, Epigenetics, Inflammation and Disease, Nanotechnology, and Neurodegenerative Disease**. Many of the scientific sessions, including symposia, workshops, and roundtable discussions will highlight these themes and how they relate to toxicological research.

SOT TRAVEL AWARDS FOR 2009

The SOT provides many opportunities for its graduate and postdoctoral members including awards for travel support, research and recognition of outstanding achievements by young investigators. The SAC would encourage all student members of SOT to apply for the SOT Awards. A full listing and description can be found on the SOT Web site at www.toxicology.org/ai/af/awards.aspx. The deadline for applying is **October 9, 2008**. In addition to these travel awards, many Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections provide travel support for students as well! Check out the descriptions below in Regional Chapter and Specialty Section updates for more information!

STUDENT EVENTS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The SAC sponsors a number of programs and events at the SOT Annual Meeting. Each event is designed to add to your experience at the Annual Meeting. These programs are excellent venues to network with your peers and with other meeting attendees. See the descriptions below. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities and we look forward to seeing everyone at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Baltimore!

The Student Advisory Committee

LUNCH WITH AN EXPERT

The SAC and SS-GC are sponsoring Lunch with an Expert (LWAE) at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Baltimore. The LWAE program provides a special opportunity for small groups of students and postdoctoral fellows to meet with Associate or Full SOT member Experts to network and gain insight into the field of toxicology. After completing student and Expert matching during the month of February, Experts will be provided with a list of three to six student e-mail addresses and a list of recommended questions to send to participants prior to the Annual Meeting. Students and postdoctoral fellows may sign up to participate in the LWAE program by indicating their interests on the registration form by **February 1, 2009**. Based on participant feedback, the SS-GC will encourage Experts to learn a little about the participants when they contact the group in late February/early March to set up a meeting time and place. For more information please visit: <http://toxicology.org/ai/spd/lunchexpert.asp>.

STUDENT MIXER

Every year, the SAC hosts the **Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Mixer** for students and postdoctoral fellows to gather, to meet new colleagues, and to re-establish relationships in an informal atmosphere. The mixer will be held Sunday night **March 15, 2009** at the start of the meeting so you can begin networking right away. SAC representatives from the Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections will also be on hand to answer any questions you might have about membership or events. Complimentary tickets are obtained by registering for this event on the Annual Meeting Registration Form. Ticket and meeting badge are required. Complimentary refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

IN VITRO LUNCHEON

On **Monday March 16, 2009**, the annual **In Vitro Student Luncheon** will be held at the Annual Meeting. It is estimated that only 50% of animal studies predict human efficacy and more importantly human toxicity. Therefore, each year this luncheon occurs to discuss research and policy efforts to develop alternatives to animal testing. Tickets can be obtained by registering for this event on the Annual Meeting registration form and paying a \$5 fee which will be returned to you upon entry.

SEE YOU IN BALTIMORE!

SOT Regional Chapter News

Regional Chapter and Special Interest Group Graduate Committee

Kristina DeSmet, Chair

Erica M. Sparkenbaugh, Chair-elect

Melanie B. Weed, Secretary

HOW CAN YOU BECOME A REGIONAL CHAPTER AND A NATIONAL SOT MEMBER?

Being a student member at the National and Regional levels provides excellent opportunities for you to interact with other student members and toxicology experts in SOT. You are permitted access to the SOT On-line Job Bank and student awards and recognition, and you have the opportunity to be a part of a larger community of scientists and eligibility for student leadership positions. Membership in SOT gives you the opportunity to network at the National and Regional SOT meetings and facilitates communication that could open the door for new research collaborations. It's also a great way to network with future employers! Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

How to apply to be a student member: Apply today! Application information is available online at http://www.toxicology.org/dotnet/membership_app.aspx

Already a student member of SOT? Renew your dues online! To renew your National or Regional SOT membership, go to www.toxicology.org/membership.asp?page=dues.

ALLEGHENY-ERIE CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Antonia A. Nemeč

The Allegheny-Erie Regional Chapter of the SOT fall meeting will be held Friday September 26, 2008, in Pittsburgh, PA. The topic of this year's meeting is Pharmacogenetics. The guest speakers are Drs. Robert W. Sobol, Jr. and Robert A. Branch. Additional information and meeting registration information will be available on our web site, <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/allegheny/index.asp>.

Additionally, our chapter offers awards for student members. The awards include a \$500 **Travel Award** to help defray the cost of the 2009 Annual National SOT Meeting in Baltimore, MD and a \$1000 Student Research Award. More information about these awards, the application process, and the deadlines can also be found at the awards section of our web site, <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/allegheny/awards.asp>.

CENTRAL STATES CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Erik K. Pacyniak

The Central States Chapter of SOT will hold their annual meeting September 24–25, 2008, at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. The Regional Chapters of the SOT are an important part of the organization, and provide a friendly milieu for good science and renewing and making friendships and connections. We strongly encourage you to become a member of the Central States Chapter. Even if you are not a member, please make every effort to attend our meeting in Kansas City. We have put together an exciting program that will be of interest to a wide audience of toxicologists and other individuals.

Four awards will be given (two for oral presentation, two for poster presentation). For each type of presentation, one student and one postdoctoral fellow with the paper judged best by the Chapter officers will receive cash toward attendance at next year's SOT meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. More information can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/centralstates/>.

GULF COAST CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Natalie Malek Johnson

The Gulf Coast SOT planned to hold its fall meeting at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston November 6-7, 2008. Watch the chapter Web site for more information about the location. The general theme will encompass "Environmental, Genetic and Dietary Influences on Autoimmune Diseases." We are pleased to have a special group of speakers giving talks about different issues related to our central theme. Robert W. Luebke, Ph.D., Environmental Protection Agency, will address immunotoxicity and how it relates to autoimmunity, the types of environmental factors that induce autoimmunity, and the types of immune function altered. Robert L. Rubin, Ph.D., University of New Mexico School of Medicine will speak about how drugs influence immune function and their role in autoimmune diseases. Gabriel Fernandes, Ph.D., UT Health Science Center, San Antonio, will discuss how diet influences immune function, including if dietary interventions can have an effect on autoimmunity. A discussion group with the speakers moderated by Dr. Rolf Koenig, Ph.D., Graduate Program Director, University of Texas Medical Branch, will address the following three topics: 1) suggested new approaches that toxicologists could take in studying autoimmunity, 2) in what ways could toxicology be useful in understanding human health and the development of autoimmune diseases, and 3) ideas regarding partnerships between toxicologists and other scientists to increase knowledge and awareness of xenobiotics in autoimmune diseases. In addition to presentations from invited speakers, selected students will give oral presentations, vendors will have displays, and there will be a student and postdoctoral poster session, followed by a banquet and awards.

Students and postdocs are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts. The registration form for students will also have a box to check if they want to apply for the **student travel awards** to the national SOT meeting in Baltimore. The **deadline** for registration for the fall GCSOT meeting (as well as application for GCSOT student travel awards) will be the week of **Oct. 20-24th**. We look forward to your participation.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Erica M. Sparkenbaugh (RC-GC Chair-elect)

The Michigan SOT held its spring meeting on May 9, 2008, in Midland, Michigan. The theme of the meeting was "Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century" and the keynote speaker was Dr. Melvin Andersen of The Hamner Institute for Health Sciences. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the National Research Council's 2007 Report "Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century" and how scientists could incorporate the recommendations of the report into their laboratory programs, including increasing the use of human cells and reducing animal testing. The meeting was followed by a tour of the Dow Chemical Toxicology Laboratories.

The Fall Meeting of MISOT will be held on November 14, 2008, at NSF International in Ann Arbor, MI. The theme of the meeting will be "Epigenetics in Toxicology" and will include seminars from Dr. Jay Goodman (Michigan State), Dr. Doug Rouden (Wayne State), Dr. Howard Hu (University of Michigan), and Dr. Dana Dolinoy (University of Michigan). These speakers will present on topics including DNA methylation in human cancers, nutrigenomics, and gene-environment interactions. The Fall Meeting will also include a poster competition, with **three awards** for best undergraduate student, graduate student and postdoctoral/research associate poster presentations. Deadline for registration is November 1, 2008, and registration forms can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/michigan/misot.html> . Hope to see you there!

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Patricia Gillespie

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SOT invites you to attend our annual fall meeting to be held October 16th, 2008 at the Woodbridge Hilton in Iselin, NJ. The topic for this year's meeting is "Toxicology in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Hot Topics, New Developments, and Emerging Issues." The program will feature prominent scientists with diverse backgrounds from the Mid-Atlantic scientific community who will discuss "cutting-edge" issues.

For students interested in becoming a member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, dues are only \$10 and an application can be obtained from our SOT web site: (<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/RC/midatlantic/>). Please feel free to contact one of the student representatives, Patricia Gillespie (pag286@nyu.edu) or Jessica Placido (jessica.placido1@gmail.com), if you have any additional questions or concerns.

MIDWEST CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Ofek Bar-Ilan

"New Developments and Strategies in Toxicity Testing" was the topic of the Spring 2008 meeting, which was held on May 16 in Lincolnshire, IL. Speakers included Drs. Daniel Krewski, Melvin E. Anderson, Martin L. Stephens, and Chris Bradfield. Along with the wonderful speaker presentations, students displayed their diverse work at the poster session. The student who presented the best poster was awarded the **Victor A. Drill Award**, which grants a paid trip to the 2009 National SOT meeting. This year's recipient was Sandeep Gopalakrishnan from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, whose poster was entitled "Hyperglycemia induced oxidative stress is attenuated in cardiac tissue by 670nm photobiomodulation in an experimental model of diabetes." The **Young Investigator Award** was also announced at the 2008 Spring meeting. This award consists of \$1500 to be used at the discretion of the student towards costs that are associated with toxicological training, education, and research. This year's recipient was Ofek Bar-Ilan from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her proposal was entitled "Zebrafish as a Model to Assess Toxicity of Nanomaterials."

The Fall 2008 meeting is scheduled for November 7 at Midwestern University in Downers Grove. This meeting's focus is "Regional Issues in Environmental Toxicology," and will feature speakers Dr. Rebecca Klaper (Great Lakes Water Institute), who will discuss emerging contaminants such as nanoparticles and drugs, and Dr. Ken Runkle (Illinois Department of Public Health), who will analyze the state's fish monitoring and safety evaluation program.

If you have any questions regarding the Victor A. Drill Award, the Young Investigator Award, the Fall 2008 or Spring 2009 meetings, or about becoming involved in the Midwest Regional Chapter, please contact Ofek Bar-Ilan at barilan@wisc.edu.

MOUNTAIN WEST CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Ebany J. Martinez-Finley

The Mountain West SOT will hold its 26th annual regional meeting on October 2nd and 3rd at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. The topic for this year's meeting is "Epigenetics in Toxicology." Plenary Speakers include Matthew Tessema, Ph.D. (Lung Cancer Program, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute), David A. Jones, Ph.D. (Huntsman Cancer Institute), Bernard W. Futscher, Ph.D. (University of Arizona, College of Pharmacy), and Karla Bowles, Ph.D. (Myriad Genetics). This year we are including a new "Industry Education Workshop" featuring speaker Michael R. Moore, Ph.D. and sponsored by Covance.

There are a limited number of \$250 **Student Travel Awards** to attend and present at the meeting. Please send abstracts and a copy of your CV to <https://webapps2.utah.edu/conferences/mwsot/>. Monetary awards are also offered for best student poster and platform presentations. As always we welcome participation from those outside of our region. More information is available at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/MtWest/MWSOTHome.html>

NORTH CAROLINA AREA CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Melanie B. Weed (Secretary)

The North Carolina SOT Fall Meeting will be held October 23, 2008 at NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC. This year's topic is "Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Environment." For the second year in a row the fall meeting will include a student and postdoctoral luncheon followed by a panel session where students are encouraged to ask questions pertaining to industry, academic, and government jobs in Toxicology. The luncheon will provide more interaction between the students in Toxicology throughout North Carolina. This meeting will also feature presentations from President's Award for Research (PARC) postdoctoral award winners as well as speakers on this year's topic. Please look for the official meeting notice and registration forms at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/nc/index.asp> -- see you there!

Membership in NCSOT is a great way to learn about the current toxicology research opportunities in the region. Student membership is inexpensive and looks great on a CV! Membership is open to all graduate students as well as undergraduates studying in the field of toxicology or related fields. If you would like to become a member please visit the NCSOT Web page at: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/nc/ncsot.htm>.

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Sarah Champion

The Northeast Chapter of the SOT will hold its annual fall meeting on October 24, 2008, at the Charles River Preclinical Facility in Shrewsbury, MA. The topic for this year's meeting is "Biologics- Past, Present, and Future." The deadline for registration and abstract submission is September 29th. This local meeting provides a great opportunity to learn about current toxicology research in the Northeast region, in addition to the opportunity to gain recognition for all of your hard work in the lab. Student posters will be judged and the best will be awarded cash prizes of \$750, \$350, and \$150. Further information and registration materials are available on the Northeast SOT home page at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/Northeast/>. Information on how to become a student member of the Northeast Regional Chapter can also be found on our home page. Student membership is only \$10 and is open to all local graduate students.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Susanne M. Brander

The Northern California chapter will be hosting a fall symposium on Safety Pharmacology on October 16th, 2008. This event will be co-hosted by Roche, Inc. and held at the Roche meeting facility in Palo Alto, CA. Attendees will be treated to a full day of speakers from organizations such as Roche, Genentech, CorDynamics, Amgen and Charles River, covering all aspects of Safety Pharmacology testing. This will be a terrific opportunity to network with other Bay Area toxicologists, and meeting attendance is **FREE** for students and postdoctoral researchers. NorCal SOT has also chosen new officers, now led by president George Clemens.

NORTHLAND CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Sarah J. Gilpin

The Northland Chapter has been busy over the past year. A big initiative for our Regional Chapter is to add more student members and get graduate students and postdocs involved in the regional and national meetings and events. To accomplish this, we are looking to create an endowment fund to provide money in the form of educational awards, discounted or free chapter membership, travel awards, etc. We are also trying to get young people excited about toxicology early on via our K-12 outreach program. We hope to add more events this year to tell kids and young adults what toxicology is all about to increase interest and careers in toxicology.

A very successful joint meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and the Northland Chapter was held at the US EPA Mid-Continent Ecology Division Conference Center in Duluth, MN, last March 31-April 2nd, 2008. The theme of the meeting was "Action and Reaction: Challenges in Linking Exposure to Effect." There were many cutting edge papers on perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals and environmental and aquatic toxicity presented. Another session was based on endocrine disrupting chemicals in fishes. General toxicology topics and sediment toxicity were the other two sessions explored. The chapter also hopes to continue this tradition and hold spring meetings on emerging toxicology concepts every year.

Coming up in the fall of 2008, an annual chapter meeting will be held in the Twin Cities metro area. Many new and innovative toxicology topics are being discussed for meeting presentations. Details and exact topics and presentations are to be determined, but students will be highly encouraged to present their research or posters and to attend this meeting at a reduced registration rate. Please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/northland/> for more information when it becomes available.

OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Blake Warner

The Ohio Valley Chapter of SOT will host their annual meeting on November 7, 2008 at Wright State University in Dayton, OH. The topic of the meeting is "BioChem Defense, Warfare, and Terrorism." The meeting will include keynote speakers from Wright State University, Wright Patterson Air force Base, and Battelle. Student events include poster and oral presentations with monetary prizes, and Lunch with an Expert. The deadline for registration is October 8, 2008. For more information and a final meeting agenda, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/ohiovalley/>.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Sumitra Sengupta

The 25th annual meeting of The Pacific Northwest Regional Chapter of the SOT (PANWAT) will be held on the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis on 19-20th September, 2008. The scientific theme is "Defining relevant biological responses to protect and improve human health." Our keynote speaker is Kim Boekelheide from Brown University who will be discussing "Toxicology Testing for the 21st Century." All students of this region are encouraged to present their work. We anticipate 100 participants which includes a large number of graduate and undergraduate participants. To increase participation by undergraduate researchers, their registration fee is waived for the meeting. The one and a half day meeting will include outstanding presentations by eleven invited speakers who represent the strength and breadth of our Regional Chapter. Scientific sessions include High Content Toxicity Testing, Environmental Influence on Cancer, Neurotoxicity and Epidemiology and Current Scientific Issues in the Courtroom. A dynamic poster session is also planned that focuses on early career toxicologists. Awards will be provided for most outstanding poster or platform presentations. We will also sponsor an outreach session that is open to the public that will focus on "Methamphetamine: Health Risks in the Lab and in the Community." For more information about the chapter activities and membership please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/panwat/home.htm>. We invite toxicologists in the Pacific Northwest region to join our Regional Chapter. Please visit our Web site for more information.

SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Ronald B. Pringle

The 2007 Annual Fall Meeting of the South Central Chapter was held September 27-28th at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS, with 107 people in attendance. Dr. Robert Roth from Michigan State University delivered the keynote address. Award winners at the meeting include Mitchell Wilbanks, University of Louisiana-Monroe (Technology Transfer Award; \$750.00); N. Mirajkar, Oklahoma State University (Best Student Platform Presentation; \$150.00); Chris Davis, LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport (Best Student Poster Presentation; \$150.00);

Jamaluddin Shaikh, Ole Miss. (Best Nonstudent/Nonfaculty Presentation; \$150.00); and Donna Franklin, Ole Miss. (Undergraduate Student Poster Award; \$100.00).

The 2008 SCC Spring Reception was held jointly with the Gulf Coast Chapter at Gordon Biersch Brewery and Pub in Seattle on March 17, 2008, with a combined chapter attendance of approximately 75 people. Travel awards (\$300 each) were given to Ronald Pringle of Mississippi State University and Mitchell Wilbanks from the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

Our 2008 Annual Fall Meeting is scheduled for September 18-19th at NCTR near Jefferson, AR, with "Trends in Toxicology" as the central theme. We are pleased to have Dr. James Popp as the keynote speaker for the meeting. The reception will be held at the William J. Clinton Library on the evening of the 18th in Little Rock, AR, with a self-guided tour included in the registration fee. The annual meeting is a great chance to meet toxicologists in the region, and this venue gives researchers (particularly students) an opportunity to share their current work and compete for awards.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

2008-2009 Student Representative: Sudheer Reddy Beedanagari

The Southern California SOT (SCCSOT) Regional Chapter has been actively involved this year with several out-reach programs. At the 2008 SOT annual meeting, SCCSOT held a joint reception with the Mountain West Regional Chapter. This reception was held at the Hilton Hotel in Seattle, WA. The reception was attended by 150 attendees. This event immensely helps students to interact with people and to make valuable contacts.

Our annual Regional Chapter meeting will take place on Oct 2nd, 2008, at UC San Diego Faculty Club, San Diego, CA. The topic for this year is "Cardiotoxicity: A Mounting Concern for Novel Therapeutics." The meetings will include presentations by several speakers pioneering in the field from academic and industry background, lunch and graduate student poster session. This year we are also inviting three students from the abstracts submitted to give oral presentations. We will be awarding cash prizes for both best student poster and oral presentations.

Finally, if you are an SOT member in the Southern California region, please consider joining our Regional Chapter SCCSOT. The membership is free for all applicants. For more information contact me at sudheer@ucla.edu or visit us at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/SouthernCal/SCALMembAp2008.pdf>.

Special Interest Group News

For Officers, see the Regional Chapter Graduate Committee list above

WOMEN IN TOXICOLOGY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Jennifer D. Cohen

The mission of the Women in Toxicology (WIT) is to promote the recruitment to and retention of women toxicological sciences professions, to provide leadership for career development opportunities for women toxicologists, and to promote and recognize the accomplishments of women toxicologists.

At the 2008 SOT meeting in Seattle, we had a great turnout at our Annual WIT Meeting/Reception, where approximately 125 meeting attendees joined us in our networking session, business meeting, and mentoring panel

discussion. We also gave **Student Achievement Awards** for outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, and community service. They were presented to graduate students Kylee Eblin (University of Arizona) and Sheung Ng (NYU Medical Center), and postdoctorate Devon Graham (Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation). The first Annual WIT Elsevier Award in mentoring woman in the field of toxicology was presented to Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.Sc., ATS (EPA). Dr. Birnbaum has demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in mentoring over 30 graduate and/or undergraduate students and WIT was honored to be able to present her with this first-ever award. This year, WIT will be sponsoring the **Women in Toxicology SIG Student Achievement Award**. This award shall be given to a SOT student member (current or pending; graduate student or postdoctoral fellow) who has demonstrated academic achievement in the field of toxicology and who has provided leadership and service in their chosen field and/or their community. Nominees who are not WIT members are strongly encouraged to join. Applications will be evaluated based on 1) letter of recommendation from the student's advisor, and 2) *curriculum vitae* of the nominee which includes specific descriptions of the student's academic and leadership qualifications. Please submit electronically to the WIT Awards Committee by **January 11, 2008**, to [Melissa Rhodes](mailto:Melissa.Rhodes@wita.org). The winner receives an engraved plaque and a \$300 cash award.

Also, the **Women in Toxicology SIG Elsevier Mentoring Award** will be given to an individual (male or female) in academia, government, industry, or a related field who has been a major influence in the mentoring of women scientists entering the field of toxicology and/or whose leadership and service have provided career development opportunities for women toxicologists or encouraged women to achieve their professional goals. An annual award of \$3,300 will be presented, and the deadline for submission is January 11, 2008. Contact: [Melissa Rhodes](mailto:Melissa.Rhodes@wita.org)

REGIONAL CHAPTER GRADUATE COMMITTEE

Region	Representative	E-mail
Chairperson	Kristina DeSmet	kddesmet@uwm.edu
Michigan (Chair-Elect)	Erica Sparkenbaugh	sparkenb@msu.edu
North Carolina (Secretary)	Melanie Weed	mweed@med.unc.edu
Allegheny-Erie	Antonia Nemeč	Aan3@pitt.edu
Central States	Erik Pacyniak	epacyniak@kumc.edu
Gulf Coast	Natalie Johnson	njohnson@cvm.tamu.edu
Lake Ontario	Jamie O'Brien	Jamie_OBrien@URMC.Rochester.edu
Mid-Atlantic	Patricia Gillespie	Pag286@nyu.edu
Midwest	Ofek Bar-Ilan	barilan@wisc.edu
Mountain West	Ebany Martinez	eimartinez@salud.unm.edu
National Capital Area	Amy Shaw DeLong	shawae@vcu.edu
Northeast	Sarah Campion	Sarah.campion@uconn.edu
Northern California	Susanne Brander	smbrander@ucdavis.edu
Northland	Sarah Gilpin	Gilp0004@tc.umn.edu
Ohio Valley	Blake Warner	Warner.333@osu.edu
Pacific Northwest	Sumitra Sengupta	sengupts@onis.orst.edu
South Central	Ronald Pringle	rpringle@cvm.msstate.edu
Southeastern	Melinda Prucha	mprucha@ufl.edu
Southern California	Sudheer Beedanagari	sudheer@ucla.edu
Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists	Enrique Fuentes Mattei	efuentes@rcm.upr.edu
Women In Toxicology	Jennifer D Cohen	Jdcohen@e-mail.arizona.edu

Specialty Section News

Specialty Section Graduate Committee Officers

Thomas Kannanayakal, Chair

Shepard Martin, Chair-elect

Daniel Hochman, Secretary

BIOLOGICAL MODELING

2008-2009 Student Representative: Rebecca A. Clewell

The mission of the Biological Modeling Specialty Section (BMSS) is to 1) serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the SOT interested in "Biological Modeling" toxicology, 2) develop, propose, and conduct programs and educational activities that emphasize the latest development in "Biological Modeling" toxicology, 3) relate those developments to the activities of the SOT and stimulate new growth in "Biological Modeling" toxicology as it relates to the science of toxicology; and 4) act as a resource to the Society in the area of the Section's interest.

BMSS is again sponsoring the **Biological Modeling SS Perry J. Gehring Student Award** for Meritorious Poster/Platforms that are focused on all aspects of biologically-based modeling in Toxicology, to be presented at the 2009 SOT Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The Student Awards will be presented at our BMSS Business Meeting and Reception. Each award will consist of a plaque and a cash award. The competition is open to current graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Each candidate, whose abstract has been accepted by the SOT for presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting, must submit 1) a copy of the abstract, 2) a letter (2 pages maximum) discussing the significance and potential impact of the work on toxicology and biological modeling, and 3) a letter of support from their major advisor. The application should be submitted as a single PDF file containing all supporting documents. To participate in the BMSS Student Award competition, membership in SOT and/or BMSS is not necessary. Research areas of interest include all aspects of biologically-based modeling and simulation. Issues of interest may include, but are not limited to, models of complex biological systems, biological insights gained through model development, model validation, and mathematical/statistical/computational approaches to modeling. The deadline for submission of applications is **January 15, 2009**. We encourage all interested graduate and postdoctoral scholars to submit their abstract for consideration to Craig Zwickl at zwickl@lilly.com.

CARCINOGENESIS

2008-2009 Student Representative: Supraja Narasimhan

The Carcinogenesis Specialty Section (CSS) draws members from academia, industry, and government. The subjects discussed and presented during CSS annual meetings range from studies investigating molecular mechanisms involved in carcinogenesis and toxicology, to understanding how genetics plays an important role in disease phenotypes at the cellular, molecular and population level.

CSS is an active group of SOT, especially at the Annual Meeting. CSS sponsored 3 symposia, 1 workshop, and 1 roundtable discussion as the primary SS, and 2 symposia and 3 workshops as the secondary endorser, for the 2008 Annual Meeting held at Seattle. CSS has published its 2008 summer newsletter online with updated information on goals for the Baltimore meeting, current officers, and the person to contact to submit recent advances or scientific opinion in an upcoming CSS Newsletter. Please check the link to find out more about the symposia CSS is planning on endorsing for the 2009 Annual Meeting at Baltimore and much more http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/carc/CSS_NL_Summer08.pdf.

Awards: Please submit abstracts no later than **November 16th, 2008** for the **Best Abstract Award**. Three **Graduate Student Awards** (for first, second and third place) and one **Postdoctoral Fellowship Award** will be given out. The graduate student winners will be presented with plaques as well as checks worth \$500, \$300 and \$100 and the postdoctoral winner will be presented with a plaque and check for \$500. In addition, a **Merck Award** of \$1000 and a plaque will be presented to one student presenting an abstract at the 2009 Annual Meeting (funding pending). Please **see the SOT Web site** for more detail on the abstract and recommendation letter to be submitted together. The Web site also provides details about the opportunities for first place winners (graduate and postdoctoral) (<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/af/awards.aspx>). To qualify, the work must be related to the field of Carcinogenesis. The contact person is Dr. Ivan Rusyn (iir@unc.edu).

CSS always welcomes students and postdocs to become members. To sign up for SOT membership please visit the following link (www.toxicology.org/dotnet/membership_app.aspx). If you are currently a member of SOT, you can join the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section by using the SOT On-line Membership Renewal form. **Remember that students and postdocs receive the first Specialty Section membership at no cost.**

If you have any questions regarding CSS and how to become a member, or any other inquiries, please contact the student representative (nsupraja@bu.edu).

COMPARATIVE AND VETERINARY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Wei Zou

The objectives of the Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section (CVSS) are to 1) promote the diverse application of *in vivo* animal models in toxicologic research comparative and clinical toxicology, environmental toxicology and to explore effects of animal disease, nutrition and other physiological confounding factors that affect toxic endpoints, 2) serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the SOT who are interested in veterinary toxicology and in the use of *in vivo* animal models in toxicology, 3) conduct cutting-edge programs and educational activities that emphasize current developments and issues of interest to CVSS members, 4) relate those developments to the activities of the SOT, and stimulate interest and growth in use of *in vivo* models and veterinary toxicology in relation to the general science of toxicology, and 5) act as a resource to the Society in the area of veterinary toxicology and *in vivo* animal models.

CVSS encourages student membership and offers a **Graduate Student Award** for an outstanding poster presentation at the SOT Annual Meeting. Any current graduate student whose abstract has been accepted by SOT for presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting may apply by submitting the following by November 30, 2008: 1) a copy of the abstract, 2) a brief discussion of the significance of the findings, and 3) a letter of support from their major advisor describing the role of the student in the study. For questions and submissions, please contact CVSS VP Mike Murphy (murph005@umn.edu).

DERMAL TOXICOLOGY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Michael G. Borland

The objectives of the Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section (DTSS) are to provide a forum for the interaction of individuals involved in risk assessment, pharmacokinetics, dermal penetration/absorption, hypersensitivity and dermal toxicity, regulatory issues, basic skin biology, and for other professionals working in the field of dermal research. DTSS provides many opportunities for students interested in Dermal Toxicology, through the following awards:

Paper of the Year Award: To be eligible, a paper must have been published or in press in a peer reviewed journal during the period of August 1, 2007, to July 31, 2008, and first-authored by an SOT member. The paper must also have a DTSS member as an author. Deadline for submission of nominations is December 15, 2008.

Dermal Toxicology SS Student and Postdoc Awards: These awards recognize outstanding student candidates for their contribution to advancing the understanding of skin toxicology and pharmacology. Each candidate whose abstract has been accepted by the SOT for presentation in the 2009 Annual Meeting must submit a copy of the abstract in electronic form (Word doc) before December 1, 2008.

The nomination for "Paper of the Year" award and abstracts for student/postdoc awards should be sent to Bob Osterberg at rosterberg@aclairo.com before the deadline. Winners will be announced at the DTSS 2009 annual meeting. We highly encourage any students or postdocs interested in or currently conducting research in dermal toxicology to join DTSS and discover what our Specialty Section can offer.

DRUG DISCOVERY TOXICOLOGY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Kimberly Henderson

The Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section (DDTSS) provides a forum for discussion of emerging technologies, predictive toxicology, safety pharmacology, target validation and safety assessment in a discovery research environment. Drug Discovery Toxicology is a subspecialty created to fulfill the growing need for incorporating predictive and integrative toxicological approaches early in drug discovery and development. Early application of these approaches is the key to identifying potential liabilities and providing necessary perspective that helps reduce attrition of drug candidates at later stages of the process. This Specialty Section seeks to foster discussion and provide guidance around appropriate application of technologies and approaches that may refine or compliment traditional animal-based toxicology models. It also aims to identify gaps in novel and emerging technologies that require further development and application.

As of July 2007, we have 305 members comprised of industry, academic, government, and student participants. We are also very excited about the establishment of the **Emil A. Pfitzer Student Award Fund** which will provide awards to well-qualified students applying modern toxicology to enhancing the discovery of new drugs and ensuring their safety. The annual **Graduate Student Poster Prizes** at the 2008 Seattle SOT meeting displayed an array of interesting and innovative research. 1st place went to Leah Mitchell, University of New Mexico, for her abstract "Inhaled Multiwalled Carbon Nanotube Induction of Immunomodulatory Cytokines and Stress Associated Enzymes *In Vivo*"; 2nd place to Sumitra Sengupta, Oregon State University, for her abstract "Chemical Genetics to Identify Molecular Pathways controlling Tissue Regeneration," and 3rd place to Kimberly Henderson, University of California, for her abstract "Boric Acid as a Novel Endoplasmic Reticulum Modulator and Calcium Release Antagonist in DU-145 Prostate Cancer Cells." Runners-up included Craig Fisher, University of Arizona, for his abstract "Hepatic Transporter and Drug Metabolism Enzyme Expression in Humans with Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease" and Peter Bui, University of California, for his abstract "NNC55-0396, a Potentially Safe Therapeutic T-type Ca²⁺ Channel-Specific Antagonist, does not Strongly Inhibit CYP3A4."

DDTSS will have another poster competition at the 2009 SOT meeting with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes of \$600, \$300, and \$100. Submit your abstracts to Mark Fielden, mark.fielden@roche.com, by March 1st.

ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

2008-2009 Student Representative: Daniel Hochman

The Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues Specialty Section (ELSI-SS) will be of interest to toxicologists concerned about the broader impact of our research on bioethical and societal decision-making as well as the conduct and application of toxicology based research. Academia, industry, contract laboratories, governmental, and non-governmental organizations all shares the same responsibility in the ethical generation and/or use of data. In the exercise of their functions toxicologists constantly face a number of situations that may have direct or indirect ethical, legal and social ramifications. Results from toxicological research are widely used by policy makers, regulatory agencies, lawyers, non-governmental organizations and the public to establish legal rules and public policy.

ELSI-SS sponsors a **Student Award** to encourage consideration of the ethical, legal, and social implications of toxicologically-based research. All current pre- or postdoctoral scholars presenting a poster or platform

presentation at the Annual Meeting are eligible to compete for the ELSI awards (membership in ELSI SS is NOT required). Submission requirements include 1) the presentation abstract, 2) one-page long discussion of the ELSI aspects of the research, and 3) a letter of support from the advisor outlining the student's role in the research as it relates to ELSI considerations. Students may be contacted by the review committee for a brief discussion of the submission. Deadline for submission is February 1, 2009, and applications should be sent to Melinda Pomeroy-Black at mblack@lagrange.edu. For more information about ELSI SS and the student award, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/ELSI/>.

FOOD SAFETY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Li Xu

The Food Safety Specialty Section (FS3) is one of a few SOT sections specifically dedicated to the needs of a specialized industry. The purpose of FS3 is to provide a communication forum of toxicologists and other professionals involved in food safety. As an active subgroup of SOT, FS3 hosts symposia, workshops, continuing education courses, roundtable session within the format of SOT annual meeting. FS3 will hold its annual reception at the SOT Annual Meeting, March 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland. All interested students are welcome to attend.

To recognize outstanding presentations and encourage student participation in SOT annual meeting, FS3 sponsors several awards yearly. These include: 1) **Burdock Group Travel Awards**, 2) **Frank C. Lu Award**, 3) **Informa Healthcare Award**, and 4) **Monsanto Company Travel Awards**. Current graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the area of Food Safety/Food Toxicology are encouraged to compete for these awards. Winners will receive a cash prize and recognition plaque at the annual reception. For more information about our Special Section, student membership, awards, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please visit the Web site at <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/foodsafe/fs3.html> or contact Li Xu at susanxu@uga.edu.

IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Haitian Lu

Members of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section (ImTox SS) explore the role of the immune system in health and diseases, sharing the goals of 1) increasing the understanding of the impacts that xenobiotics have on the immune system, 2) advocating for the research into the mechanisms of immunomodulation, and 3) encouraging the development of new methods and systems to facilitate the safety evaluation of drug candidates and consumer products, as well as the risk assessment of environmental chemicals. The ImTox SS members are actively studying allergy and asthma, developing immune systems, immune signaling pathways, and many other avenues leading to better understanding the perturbations of the immune system by xenobiotics.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are welcome to attend the scientific programs sponsored by the ImTox SS at SOT Annual Meetings, including symposia, continuing education courses, workshops, and roundtable discussions. The ImTox SS also encourages and acknowledges student and postdoc research efforts by presenting the awards for Best Presentation by a Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow in Immunotoxicology which may be presented as the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards depending on the number of submissions received. Please submit to Dr. Danuta Herzyk (danuta_herzyk@merck.com) before the deadline February 1, 2009. The ImTox committees (awards, communications, memberships, program, regulatory, and education) are open to students and postdocs who are ImTox SS members, serving as another mechanism to enhance student involvement. Becoming a student member of the ImTox SS, which represents a discipline receiving increasing attention from both industry and governmental agencies, would provide unique opportunities for the interaction with academicians, industry professionals, and risk assessors on the cutting-edge of emerging technologies in this field. Please feel free to contact the student representative Haitian Lu at luhaitia@msu.edu or visit http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/imtox/stu_info.asp for more information.

IN VITRO AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS

2008-2009 Student Representative: Prajakta Palkar

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section (IVAM) was founded in 1994 and consists of members who have expertise or special interest in the application of in vitro techniques to study the basic mechanism of cell injury for target organ systems and develop in vitro test systems to address problems of cellular toxicity, with a special emphasis on product safety evaluation. IVAM sponsors many symposia, workshops and platform sessions at the Annual Meeting. Every year IVAM recognizes outstanding scientists for their work in *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Toxicology with two awards. The **IVAM SS Student Award** deadline is January 1, 2009, and is based on the scientific merit of the submitted abstract as well as a letter of support from the student's advisor. IVAM co-sponsors the **MB Research Award for Distinction in Practical *In Vitro* and Alternative Toxicology Methods** and is meant to focus on the practical aspects of in *vitro* or alternative methods as opposed to basic research or mechanism-based research. This award will have an independent panel of judges composed of MB Research staff and IVAM executive council members. This award will be presented based on the best abstract submitted. Deadline for submission is January 1, 2009. Only abstracts submitted for the SOT Annual Meeting will be considered. For more information regarding IVAM and the student awards, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/ivss/index.htm> .

INHALATION AND RESPIRATORY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Leah Mitchell

The Inhalation Specialty Section (ISS) provides a focus for members of the SOT dealing with the impact of airborne chemicals and particles on the body. Issues of interest to ISS include indoor and outdoor air pollution, occupational exposure to airborne contaminants, therapeutic drug delivery by inhalation, deposition and pharmacokinetics of agents delivered by the inhalation route, and interactions between inhaled materials and infectious allergic stimuli. The Section meets regularly at the SOT Annual Meeting to promote a better understanding of inhalation toxicology, to recognize students and colleagues for notable contributions to inhalation research, and to address issues of importance to this field.

As a student member of the Inhalation Specialty Section you will be introduced to many important figures in the field which opens up doors to future employment and opportunities for collaborations. ISS student members are also encouraged to apply for one of two **Student Awards** as well as the **Paper of the Year Award**, all of which have a cash honorarium and look great on your *curriculum vitae*. Nominations are due as early as December so go to <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/inhalation/> for more information. The student representative for ISS is Leah Mitchell, Lmitchell@salud.unm.edu. Contact Leah with any questions you may have, including what fun events the ISS student members are planning for Baltimore in 2009!

MECHANISMS

2008-2009 Student Representative: Emma-Jane Poulton

The Mechanisms Specialty Section opened its doors in 1982, making it the first Specialty Section established in the SOT. The section was founded to encourage study of the mechanisms of action by which toxicants exert their deleterious effects, and this goal remains at the heart of the section. At the 2009 Annual Meeting in Baltimore the Specialty Section will sponsor many symposia, workshops, and roundtables showcasing the importance of mechanistically-based research in many different areas of toxicology. The section will also hold its annual business meeting at the event.

The section actively encourages student and postdoctoral participation. Membership in the section offers students the opportunity to connect with many scientists with interests in mechanisms. The section also offers two awards at the Annual Meeting, the Merck Postdoctoral Travel award (funding pending), and the Carl C. Smith Graduate

Student Award. For more information on these awards please visit the Awards Web page at <http://www.toxicology.org/AI/AF/awards.aspx>. For more information on the section please see <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/mechanisms/index.html>.

METALS

2008-2009 Student Representative: Amy L. Albrecht

The Metals Specialty Section (MSS) is a subgroup of the SOT whose members have expertise in all aspects of metal toxicology. This includes mechanisms of action, analytical procedures, regulatory issues, assessment of target organ toxicity. The section holds regular meetings at the SOT Annual Meeting to discuss topics of interest to the membership such as programming for the next year and student involvement. MSS also sponsors symposia and continuing education courses.

MSS supports student involvement and achievement with monetary awards for best research poster presentation. There are three student and three postdoctoral awards given at each SOT Annual Meeting. The deadline for application is January 15, 2009. Being a student member of the MSS offers a unique opportunity to meet and interact with other scientists in the area of metals toxicology. These relationships are invaluable for networking in the scientific community for potential postdoctoral positions, collaborations, and job prospects. Student members are critical to the growth and future success of this section. Students are encouraged to participate and influence the programming and development of the MSS.

For questions on becoming a member or information about the MSS or SOT in general, contact any members of the executive committee by e-mail. Addresses can be found on the SOT Web site. If there are other ideas to promote the growth of the MSS, please contact the MSS President Y. James Kang at james.kang@louisville.edu or the student representative, Amy L. Albrecht at aalbrecht@medicine.nodak.edu. We look forward to meeting you and encourage your participation in the Metals Specialty Section! Our Web site is <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/Metals/>.

MIXTURES

2008-2009 Student Representative: Marc-André Verner

Mixtures Specialty Section (MSS) is a focal point for those interested in the experimental evaluation, modeling and risk assessment of the combined effects of chemicals. The evolving membership of MSS represents academia, government, and industry as well as private sector. The MSS provides a forum within SOT for highlighting scientific advances and current challenges regarding combined action of chemicals (e.g., additivity, synergism, antagonism, and potentiation). As a resource to the SOT in the area of mixtures, the section aims to develop, propose, and conduct programs and educational activities that emphasize the latest developments in mixtures toxicology.

Being part of this section is a great opportunity to network with researchers within the field of mixtures toxicology. Furthermore, the Specialty Section awards students and postdoc in recognition of their research efforts in mixtures toxicology. The Section offered three student/postdoc awards at the SOT 2008 meeting in Seattle. Three awards will be given at the 2009 SOT meeting in Baltimore:

Best Abstract Awards in Mixture Toxicology. All abstracts on mixture toxicology accepted for presentation at SOT-2009 are eligible for this award. However, the applicants should either choose "mixtures" as the category for presentation or list "mixtures" as a key word during abstract submission to facilitate consideration for this award. The Best Abstract Award winner will receive an achievement plaque and blue ribbon recognition during his/her award presentation at SOT. The next top five abstracts will receive blue ribbon recognition.

Wiley's Best Postdoctoral Presentation in Mixture Toxicology Award. Abstracts with postdoctoral fellows as the lead authors are eligible for this award. The work described should have been conducted during postdoctoral training. The applicants provide a copy of their abstracts (as accepted by the Scientific Program Committee), a letter of support from the postdoctoral mentor as well as a 3-page synopsis of the work highlighting its originality and significance. This documentation may be sent either electronically (kannan.krishnan@umontreal.ca) or as a hard copy to Kannan Krishnan, DSEST, University of Montreal, 2375 Cote Ste Catherine, Montreal, PQ, Canada, H3T 1A8 by 14th January 2009. The winner will receive an achievement plaque, \$500 check, and a gift certificate(s) from John Wiley Publishers.

Journal of Applied Toxicology Award for Best Student Presentation in Mixture Toxicology. Graduate students who are lead authors on an abstract are eligible for this award. The work described should have been conducted during graduate training. The applicants provide a copy of their abstracts (as accepted Scientific Program Committee), a letter of support from the major advisor as well as a 3-page synopsis of the work highlighting its originality and significance. The above documentation may be sent either electronically (kannan.krishnan@umontreal.ca) or as a hard copy to Kannan Krishnan, DSEST, University of Montreal, 2375 Cote Ste Catherine, Montreal, PQ, Canada, H3T 1A8 by 14th January 2009. The winner will receive an achievement plaque, \$500 check, and a gift certificate(s) from Wiley/Journal of Applied Toxicology.

Students are encouraged to join the Mixtures Specialty Section (one free SS membership per year for student members of the SOT). See our Web site to apply (<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/Mix/index.asp>). For further information, please contact student representative Marc-André Verner (verner.marcandre@gmail.com).

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Sarah Wilson

Specialty Section meetings are a great venue for students to present and discuss their work, while developing networks for future collaboration and employment. The Molecular Biology Specialty Section is an organization integrating members of the Society that are using or interested in applying the varied approaches of molecular biology in their research programs. Molecular toxicology has become an increasingly important focus of the academic, industrial, and regulatory arena. Tools ranging from transgenic technologies to reporter gene assays in single cells are providing exciting opportunities for studying the effects of toxic agents at their molecular targets, and for understanding the regulation and mechanisms of these interactions.

The Molecular Biology Specialty Section is pleased to announce the opportunity for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to compete for research awards in molecular toxicology. For the **2009 Graduate Student Awards**, applicants must be full-time students as of October 1, 2008 and research should be in the general area of molecular toxicology. Three awards will be given. 1st place will receive \$500, 2nd place will receive \$300, and 3rd place will receive \$100. For the **2009 Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award**, applicants must have completed a Ph.D. and be either a Student or Postdoctoral member of SOT. Research should be in the general area of molecular toxicology and a single postdoctoral award of \$500 will be given. Applicants for all awards should submit an electronic version of their abstract, a 2-page narrative describing their research hypothesis, background and significance, and a letter of recommendation from their advisor. All awardees will receive a plaque and will present a 5-minute synopsis of their research at the MBSS meeting. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2008. Applications must be submitted electronically as a PDF to Dr. Rusty Thomas rthomas@thehamner.org. Include a header with your name on each page.

NEUROTOXICOLOGY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Derek Drechsel

The **Neurotoxicology Specialty Section (NTSS)** consists of members of the SOT who are interested in the adverse effects of chemical, biological, or physical agents on the structure and function of the nervous system. NTSS members have research, regulatory, and/or industrial interests in the field of neurotoxicology as it relates to

environmental chemicals and pharmaceuticals. The major aim of this section is to promote the exchange of information among neurotoxicologists. At the SOT Annual Meeting, the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section conducts regular meetings, plans and sponsors workshops and symposia, and facilitates the discussion of research and career topics of mutual interest to members. For more information online, visit our *new* Web site <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/neurotox/neuro.html>.

The NTSS reminds students that the section sponsors two awards for which students are strongly encouraged to apply. The **Best Abstract Award** is open to all NTSS members presenting at the annual SOT meeting. Self-nominated abstracts are judged for originality, clarity, and significance covering any aspect of neurotoxicology. Presenters of the 5 best abstracts will receive ribbons for display on their poster at the annual meeting to acknowledge and commemorate their achievements.

The **NTSS Student Poster Award Competition** offers up to three prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$150 for first, second, and third prize at the SOT meeting. There is one competition for graduate students and another for postdocs. Submission requirements include a copy of the SOT submitted abstract no longer than 1 page, and a letter of support from the student's advisor outlining the role of the student and independence conducting the research, sent to the chair of Student Awards Committee. Students should be members of NTSS, or show evidence of application for membership.

Deadline for these two awards is January 15th, 2009. More information can be found by visiting <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/neurotox/index.asp>.

Students are also reminded that they can select ONE FREE Specialty Section when they pay their annual dues. Neurotoxicology maintains one of the largest student memberships of all Specialty Sections and provides a great opportunity to interact with experts in the field and become involved in SOT. Please consider the advantages of joining the NTSS!

OCCUPATIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

2008-2009 Student Representative: Adrienne L. King

Are you interested in nanotechnology, occupational asthma, cancer clusters, sick building syndrome, children's health initiatives, or biomonitoring? Members of the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section (OPHSS) work on these issues as well as many others which involve protecting the health of workers and the public. One of OPHSS's goals is to improve and increase student participation in our Specialty Section (SS). At the Annual Meeting during the Student Mixer, our officers will be present to elaborate on the activities of our SS. Although OPHSS is a smaller SS, it is composed of toxicologists, epidemiologists, and other occupational and public health specialists employed by a wide variety of organizations. As such, you will have the opportunity to network and find out more about careers in governmental agencies, pharmaceutical companies, academia, and/or industry. OPHSS also has outreach to, and collaboration with other related societies (e.g., ISEE, SOEH, APHA, and AIHA) as part of its agenda. For more information about the OPHSS please visit the SOT Web site or contact our student representative Adrienne L. King at aking@ms.soph.uab.edu. OPHSS provides students with newsletters, two student awards, **Best Abstract Award** and **Best Manuscript Award** each worth \$500, and the opportunity to participate in our reception at the Annual SOT Meeting. The deadline for application for these awards is January 15, 2009. The contacts for submission are Angela Harris (aharris@ctech.com) or Allison Stock (allisonstock@chevron.com). We look forward to your participation in OPHSS!

REGULATORY AND SAFETY EVALUATION

2008-2009 Student Representative: Jaishree Bankoti

The Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section (RSESS) provides a forum for the interaction of SOT members to discuss the impact of regulations and guidelines involving the practice and application of toxicology and the safety evaluation of food additives, nutraceuticals, therapeutic drug products, environmental, industrial,

and household chemicals, and other products of concern. One of the highlights of the RSESS reception at the Annual SOT Meeting is the great debate, which involves an enlightening debate on emerging issues in toxicology. In conjunction with SOT, RSESS actively coordinates and sponsors scientific forums and workshops aimed at creating awareness and discussion on a scientific topic of interest. This year's RSESS sponsored workshop entitled "Hemangiosarcoma in Rodents: Mode-of-action evaluation and human relevance" will be held December 4-5 in Arlington, VA. The central goals of this workshop are to 1) summarize current understanding of modes of action (MOAs) for various compound classes, 2) share data and information with the scientific and regulatory communities to promote and guide future research on non-genotoxic MOAs for hemangiosarcoma in rodents, and 3) identify research tools and approaches to studying hemangiosarcoma and related vascular lesions. To register and submit an abstract for this workshop please visit http://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/hr-COF_meeting.asp#sponsors.

Additionally, to promote student participation at the annual SOT meeting, RSESS encourages students to apply for **Student Awards** offered by the Specialty Section. Winners of 2008 awards were Venkatesh Hedge (University of South Carolina School of Medicine), Binu Philip (Indiana University School of Medicine), Jennifer Phillips (Michigan State University) and Vikrant Vijay (North Carolina State University). The awards are given to graduate students or postdoctoral fellows and defray the cost of travel to the SOT meeting. The deadline for applying for the **Student Travel Award** is January 30, 2009. Students and fellows with abstracts accepted for presentation at the SOT Annual Meeting are welcome to apply. The research topic should be directed at enhancing the evaluation of the safety of any potentially regulated substance. The RSESS award contact is Dr. James C. Lamb at Jim.Lamb@weinberggroup.com. The RSESS publishes a newsletter 2 to 3 times every year with information on recent activities as well as articles on topics of current toxicological concern. The fall 2008 RSESS newsletter has a compilation of interesting articles such as "Meeting Common Needs for a More Reliable and Efficient Testing and Assessment Paradigm" (Vicki Dellarco), "Learning from the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Testing Process" (James C. Lamb), "Alternatives to Animal Testing for Cosmetic Safety Evaluation" (Robert L. Bronaugh), and "Qualification of Biomarkers of Nephrotoxicity through the Pilot Process for Biomarker Qualification at the FDA and the EMEA" (Federico M. Goodsaid). For further information on the activities and interests of the RSESS please contact the officers listed on the SOT Web site at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/regulatorysafety/Index.html>.

REPRODUCTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL

2008-2009 Student Representative: Sheung Ng

The Reproductive and Developmental Specialty Section is a subgroup of the SOT whose members have expertise and/or responsibility for assessment of toxicology of the reproductive system or development of offspring. Included are all areas of male and female reproduction, developmental biology, teratology, and developmental and reproductive risk assessment. The section holds regular meetings at the SOT Annual Meeting to discuss topics of interest. In addition, the section sponsors a number of travel and presentation awards for students at the national meeting who have done outstanding work. Three to four awards are given each year, with a plaque and monetary award for each. At the upcoming meeting, we plan to have our own SS student-postdoc mixer, which not only gives us fun, but also might help the young scientists networking within the field of reproductive and developmental toxicology. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/repdevtox/>.

RISK ASSESSMENT

2008-2009 Student Representative: Shepard Martin

The Risk Assessment Specialty Section of the SOT is one of the largest Specialty Sections. Our membership consists of approximately equal representation from academics, government, industry, and the consulting world. Our goal is to provide a forum in the world's most prestigious toxicology organization for those interested in the theory and practice of risk assessment. We propose sessions for the Annual Meeting, exchange information via newsletters, present awards, sponsor a teleconference series on pertinent topics in risk assessment, and

participate in other scientific activities. Our SS provides the **Risk Assessment SS Best Student Abstract Award** to recognize outstanding postdoctoral and graduate student scientist presentations at the SOT Annual Meeting. Last year's winners were Rebecca Clewell, Best Graduate Student Abstract, and Miyoung Yoon, Best Postdoctoral Student Abstract. To learn more about our Specialty Section please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/RiskAssess/index.asp> .

Award: Risk Assessment SS Best Abstract
Best Student Abstract Award
Best Postdoc Abstract Award

Contact: Elaine Faustman at Faustman@u.washington.edu
Deadline: 1/14/2009

Award: Risk Assessment SS Best Published Paper Advancing the Science of Risk Assessment
Risk Assessment SS Best Published Paper Demonstrating an Application of Risk Assessment

Contact: Ed Ohanian at ohanian.edward@epa.gov
Deadline: 1/14/2009

TOXICOLOGIC AND EXPLORATORY PATHOLOGY

2008-2009 Student Representative: Daher Ibrahim Aibo

The Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology Specialty Section (TEPSS) was established with the goals of establishing scientific and educational programs dealing with current advances and policies regarding experimental pathology and to guide discussions regarding the application of these considerations to regulatory policy and risk assessment practices.

TEPSS sponsors a very generous **Student Travel Award** for national meeting attendees. Nominees must be the first author of an SOT-accepted abstract concerning research in toxicology that presents work illustrating the integrated application of pathology (morphologic or clinical pathology) endpoints with other scientific approaches, e.g., molecular or systems biology, imaging, or *in vitro-in vivo* correlations, to enhance the understanding of whole animal or tissue toxicologic responses. Applicants must submit the following to the TEPSS Councilor: 1) a copy of their abstract (the candidate must be the first author and the presenting author), 2) a letter (maximum 2 pages) describing their research project and professional goals, and 3) a letter of sponsorship from an academic advisor who is a member of SOT.

Abstracts will be judged based on scientific merit and clarity of presentation. Consideration will also be given to candidates whose professional goals include the incorporation of the science of pathology in their research work.

TEPSS Travel Award winners will present a brief (10 minute) synopsis of their research project at the TEPSS Reception during the Annual SOT Meeting, where they will be recognized for their accomplishment with a plaque and check for \$1000. Please contact [Donna Dambach](#) or the [TEPSS Web site](#) for additional information.



SPECIALTY SECTION GRADUATE COMMITTEE

Specialty Section	Representative	E-mail
Chairperson	Thomas Kannanayakal	Thom.jk@gmail.com
Risk Assessment (Chair-Elect)	Sheppard Martin	Sam506@uga.edu
Ethical Legal & Social Issues (Secretary)	Daniel Hochman	gtowndog@hotmail.com
Biological Modeling	Susie Ritger	sothq@toxicology.org
Carcinogenesis	Supraja Narasimha	Supraja_n_2000@yahoo.com
Comparative & Veterinary	Wei Zou	zouwei@msu.edu
Dermal Toxicology	Michael Borland	MGB149@psu.edu
Drug Discovery Toxicology	Kimberly Henderson	hndkim@aol.com
Food Safety	Li Xu	li.xu@tiehh.ttu.edu
Immunotoxicology	Haitian Lu	luhaitia@msu.edu
In Vitro/Alternatives	Ann-Marie Matei	sothq@toxicology.org
Inhalation & Respiratory	Leah Mitchell	lmitchell@salud.unm.edu
Mechanisms	Emma-Jane Poulton	epoulton@u.washington.edu
Metals	Amy Albrecht	aalbrecht@medicine.nodak.edu
Mixtures	Marc-Andre Verner	Verner.marcandre@gmail.com
Molecular Biology	Sarah Wilson	sewilson@mail.usf.edu
Neurotoxicology	Derek Drechsel	Derek.drechsel@uchsc.edu
Occupational & Public Health	Adrienne L King	Acl1nrc@uab.edu
Regulatory & Safety Evaluation	Jaishree Bankoti	Jaishree1.bankoti@umontana.edu
Reproductive & Developmental	Sheung Ng	ng@env.med.nyu.edu
Toxicologic & Exploratory Pathology	Daher Ibrahim Aibo	d.aibo@yahoo.com

This newsletter was produced by
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SOT | Society of
Toxicology

1821 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 300
Reston, Virginia 20190
Tel: (703) 438-3115 Fax: (703) 438-3113
E-mail: sothq@toxicology.org
Web site: www.toxicology.org