

# SOT Student e-Letter



FALL 2011 EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GSLC

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Fall Edition of the SOT Student e-Letter! This biannual newsletter is published by the SOT Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) for graduate students. This newsletter contains information about important updates about Travel Awards from Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections, as well as the upcoming 51<sup>st</sup> SOT Annual Meeting in San Francisco next spring.

-The Graduate Student Leadership Committee

## ABOUT THE GSLC

Each Regional Chapter (RC), Special Interest Group (SIG), and Specialty Section (SS) elects one graduate student member to represent their group in the Graduate Student Leadership Committee. The GSLC *Executive Board* oversees the committee. GSLC officers include three Subcommittee Secretaries, although they do not serve on the Executive Board. The GSLC replaces the Student Advisory Council (SAC) as well as the RC, SIG and SS Graduate Committees (GC).

The GSLC was created to provide student leadership at the National SOT level. 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 GSLC, please visit us on <https://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/studentservices.asp> or just get in contact with one of us!



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## Commonly Used Acronyms

**GSLC** – Graduate Student Leadership Committee

**RC** – Regional Chapter

**SIG** – Special Interest Group

**SS** – Specialty Section



# GSLC Updates

## **ORIGINS OF THE GSLC:**

During 2010-2011, the SOT Student Advisory Council (SAC) reviewed the current governance structure of SAC and the RC/SIG/SS Graduate Committees, and identified several areas of concern. Based on functional needs, the SAC tackled strategic objectives for the group (improving meeting and communication efficiencies; student travel funding; and interaction between RC, SIG and SS student representatives). The SAC officers developed a plan, which would increase communication among the student representatives and participation in projects, as well as increase the number of candidates eligible to serve in key leadership roles. Outlined below is a summary of the restructure:

## **Changes:**

- All graduate student representatives elected by their RC, SIG and SS will be part of the GSLC
  - This improves efficiency in regards to meetings and communication (one large GSLC meeting or conference call for all members); one smaller GSLC Executive Board leadership meeting; conference calls for specific Subcommittees.
  - No separation between representatives in graduate committees based on the RC, SIG or SS they represent.
  - Only one representative per RC, SIG and SS can be part of the GSLC (“Vice” or “junior” representatives do not serve on GSLC). Once the student representative moves into the “President” or “senior” student representative position, they automatically become a member of the GSLC and serve in that capacity.
- Activities will be carried out by three *Subcommittees* (Communications; Professional Development; Programming)
  - This improves interactions between graduate Student Representatives between RC, SIG and SS.
  - Tactical work is the focus of the subcommittees composed of members without limits to a particular type of component group representation
  - *Communications Subcommittee*: Responsibilities include developing the GSLC e-Letters; posting messages on ToXchange; coordinating the Specialty Section Student Communication and Annual Meeting Student Planner publications.
  - *Professional Development Subcommittee*: Responsibilities include the development of the joint Graduate Student and Postdoc scientific session at the SOT Annual Meeting and spearheading webinars throughout the year.
  - *Programming Subcommittee*: Responsibilities include planning the GSLC-sponsored events at the SOT Annual Meeting—The Student/Postdoc Mixer; Chat with an Expert; and any additional events as needed.
- Each representative currently on GSLC will belong to one Subcommittee
  - This allows representatives to request a “preferred” Subcommittee based on interests (writing for newsletter; coordination of symposia proposal and development; planning of Annual Meeting events; etc.).

- “Task Forces” will carry out specific activities under the guidance of the Subcommittees
  - This allows for flexibility; temporary task forces can be assigned as needed due to the Subcommittee function—e.g. some student representatives of the Programming Subcommittee assist with planning the student mixer at the Annual Meeting while others will assist with the Chat with an Expert/Postdoc/Graduate Student program).
- Five officers will make up the GSLC Executive Board—GSLC Chair, GSLC Secretary, and 3 Subcommittee Chairs.
  - Each Subcommittee will have a Secretary, but the Secretary will not be a member of the Executive Board, although they are considered officers of the GSLC.
  - The five officers of the GSLC Executive Board elect the next Chair from among the current Executive Board members. In the event that none of the five members is able to serve in the next year, Secretaries from the Subcommittees are eligible for the GSLC Chair position.
- All GSLC Student Representatives elect the GSLC Secretary, 3 Subcommittee Chairs, and 3 Secretaries for all Subcommittees
  - More students will be qualified for officer positions with less restriction due to representative term lengths.
- SOT will provide travel funding for four of the GSLC Executive Board Members to attend the Annual Meeting: The GSLC Chair, and the three Subcommittee Chairs.
- The GSLC Secretary and Subcommittee Secretaries will receive half of their travel funding from SOT Headquarters and half from the component group that they represent. SOT will provide travel support for only one GSLC member per laboratory.

**Will Not Change:**

- GSLC and Executive Board will carry out strategic activities for SOT graduate students.
- Representatives must be members of a particular RC, SIG, or SS, and selected by their component group.
- A student can be a representative for only one component group.
- Student Representatives will receive travel funding, half from SOT Headquarters and half from their component group.
- GSLC Chair and Subcommittee Chairs will not be component group Student Representatives during their officer term.
- GSLC will appoint representatives as liaisons to committees (CDI, CRAD, Membership, etc.).
- Executive Board Elections, as well as elections for each Subcommittee Secretary, will occur at the Annual Meeting.
- By-Law changes subject to review by GSLC Executive Board, the GSLC, the Council Contact and then are approved by Council.

## **GSLC OFFICERS:**

Jessica R. Placido (GSLC Chair)*	<a href="mailto:jessica.placido1@gmail.com">jessica.placido1@gmail.com</a>
Kevin M. Beggs (GSLC Secretary)*	<a href="mailto:beggskev@msu.edu">beggskev@msu.edu</a>
Tammy Elmergreen (Subcommittee Chair: Programming)*	<a href="mailto:tlemmergreen@wisc.edu">tlemmergreen@wisc.edu</a>
Sarah Lacher (Subcommittee Secretary: Programming)	<a href="mailto:sarah.lacher@umontana.edu">sarah.lacher@umontana.edu</a>
Senthilkumar Perumal Kuppusamy (Subcommittee Chair: Professional Development)*	<a href="mailto:senthil-kumar-pk@uiowa.edu">senthil-kumar-pk@uiowa.edu</a>
Sarah Skolness (Subcommittee Secretary: Professional Development)	<a href="mailto:skoln005@umn.edu">skoln005@umn.edu</a>
Thomas Simones (Subcommittee Chair: Communications)*	<a href="mailto:thomas.simones@umontana.edu">thomas.simones@umontana.edu</a>
Lydia M. Louis (Subcommittee Secretary: Communications)	<a href="mailto:lmloUIS@rci.rutgers.edu">lmloUIS@rci.rutgers.edu</a>

\*GSLC Executive Board

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## **BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR REGIONAL CHAPTER**

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 about joining can be found on the SOT website. Students can join Regional Chapters and enjoy the benefits without becoming members of the national Society of Toxicology (of course there are many advantages to belonging to both SOT and a Regional Chapter!).

## **PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

SOT has established 6 Special Interest Groups (SIG) to promote the recruitment of toxicologists who share a common interest in toxicological research with a common country of origin, ethnicity, or gender. The goals of these groups are to develop and conduct programs and opportunities that promote career development and recognize accomplishments of the toxicologists in each SIG. Please visit the SOT website for more information on SIGs and how to join. Students and postdoctoral scholars receive membership in their first SIG at **NO COST!**

## JOIN A SPECIALTY SECTION

SOT has 27 Specialty Sections (SS) designed to bring together scientists of similar interests, expertise, and experience. These Specialty Sections provide an invaluable opportunity for networking and interaction with scientists and professionals from various specialties within toxicology. Specialty Sections are primary sponsors of many of the programmatic sessions during the SOT Annual Meeting. Students are 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. Please visit the SOT website for more information on Specialty Sections.

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! Simply go to the SOT website to renew your membership on-line and indicate which Specialty Section you would like to join. You can join a SS at any time during the year. If you are not already an SOT member, visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ms/becomemember.asp> to get information on how to become one! While student membership is a steal at \$20/year, as an extra bonus **your student membership dues for one SS per year are free!**

# 2012 Annual Meeting News



GET UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DETAILS ON

[HTTPS://WWW.TOXICOLOGY.ORG/AM/MEET/AM2012/](https://www.toxicology.org/AM/MEET/AM2012/)

## MEET US IN SAN FRANCISCO!

### FIVE SCIENTIFIC THEMES

The 2012 Annual Meeting will feature five scientific themes covering the following topics:

- **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**
- **Regulatory Science: Bridging the Gap between Discovery and Product Availability**

Many of the scientific sessions, including symposia, workshops, and roundtable discussions, will highlight these themes and how they relate to toxicological research. In addition, Continuing Education (CE) courses will highlight two target areas, **Drug Metabolism** and **Noncoding RNAs and Their Role in Biology and Toxicology**.

## STUDENT AWARDS FOR 2012

SOT provides many opportunities for graduate student and postdoctoral scientists including awards for travel support, research, and recognition of outstanding achievements by young investigators. Although the deadline for national SOT and Sponsored awards was October 9, there are many Regional Chapter, Special Interest Group, and Specialty Section awards for which applications are still being accepted. A full listing and description can be found on the SOT website. Also see descriptions in this newsletter in the Regional Chapter, Special Interest Group, and Specialty Section updates for more information.

# Student Events at the Annual Meeting

The GSLC sponsors a number of programs and events at the SOT Annual Meeting, each designed to add to your experience. These programs, described below, are excellent venues to network with your peers and with other meeting attendees. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities and we look forward to seeing everyone at the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco!

*-The Graduate Student Leadership Committee*

## GSLC AND PDA CO-SPONSOR A 2012 SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

The GSLC and PDA (Postdoctoral Assembly) will co-sponsor a symposium session at the 2012 Annual Meeting. The session, entitled "Epigenetic and miRNA Regulations in Carcinogenesis: Toxicological Implications" fits in the SOT scientific theme "Aberrant Gene Expression in Toxicity and Disease—Epigenetics and MicroRNAs." The symposium session is co-chaired by Jessica Placido of the GSLC and Enrique Fuentes-Mattei of the PDA. One of the goals of this session is to highlight the scientific achievements of students and postdocs, who are the presenters, as well as contributing to the overall scientific program. The research symposium demonstrates both the breadth and the depth of the most cutting-edge research in epigenetic mechanisms resulting in carcinogenesis. Increasing evidence suggests that disruption and alteration of normal epigenetic regulation mechanisms are fundamental in cancer development and progression. Graduate students and postdocs will present their recent research illustrating that exposure to air toxicants, environmental pollutants, and metals such as arsenic have been implicated in the development of many types of human cancers. This symposium continues our previous success as a co-sponsor of symposia at the 2009, 2010, and 2011 Annual Meetings. Please plan to attend and support the research of your student and postdoc colleagues!

## EXPERT AND GRADUATE STUDENT MEET-UPS TO CONTINUE IN SAN FRANCISCO

The **Chat with an Expert** (CWAE) program (previously known as "Lunch with an Expert") provides a special opportunity for small groups of students and postdoctoral scholars to meet with Associate or Full SOT member Experts to network and gain insight into the field of toxicology over an informal meal, coffee, snack, or chat. Student and Expert matching occurs in February based on the interests of the students and the area of expertise of the Experts. After completion of the matching, Experts will receive a contact list for three to six students and will notify them of the time and date for their meeting. Groups meet at the CWAE poster board in the Moscone Convention Center at the appointed time and then proceed to the selected spot for an informal discussion. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to network. This program was expanded to include Chat with a Postdoc and Chat with a Graduate Student. Information on this program and registration instructions are available on the SOT website.

## STUDENT/POSTDOCTORAL MIXER

Every year the GSLC hosts the **Student/Postdoctoral Mixer** for students and postdoctoral fellows to gather, meet new colleagues, and re-establish relationships in an informal atmosphere. The Mixer will be held Sunday night, **March 11, 2012**, from **7:30-9:00 PM**. This is a great opportunity to network with students from across the nation, as well as learn more about the different Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections of SOT. **Tickets are FREE** and can be obtained by signing up for this event when you register for the Annual Meeting on-line or via the print registration form. Ticket and meeting badge are required for entry. Complimentary refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

## IN VITRO LECTURE AND LUNCHEON FOR STUDENTS

The annual *In Vitro* Lecture and Luncheon for Students will be held on **Monday, March 12, 2012**, at the Annual Meeting. This event, sponsored by the Colgate-Palmolive Company, will discuss the importance of animal research to biomedical sciences and toxicology and the ethical obligations of the scientific community to follow the "3R's" of animal testing (refine, reduce, replace) whenever it is feasible.

Graduate students, undergraduates, postdoctoral scholars, and recipients of Colgate-Palmolive awards are among the guests at the *In Vitro* Toxicology Lecture and Luncheon. The goal of the *In Vitro* Toxicology Lecture series is to feature important research using *in vitro* and alternative techniques to study basic mechanisms and to illustrate how these test methods benefit animal welfare by refining and reducing animal use. Students and postdocs can reserve a ticket for the luncheon with a \$10 deposit when they register for the SOT Annual Meeting. Lunch is served at the beginning of the event and service concludes before the talk/main program begins. Meal service may not be available to guests who arrive after 12:30 PM.

## TOX SHOWDOWN

Join the GSLC and your peers **March 13, 2012**, from **7:30 – 9:30 PM** for the *Tox ShowDown*, an engaging quiz game patterned off the popular long-running show *It's Academic*. Teams of three contestants will compete at answering questions concerning toxicology not only in its scientific context, but as it relates to society, the arts, and culture. Sponsored by GSLC, this event is sure to be both informative and entertaining and a perfect way to celebrate the halfway point of the SOT Annual Meeting. It is a game which will provide attendees with a break, albeit still toxicologically oriented, from the more technical business of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the Tox ShowDown; no ticket necessary.

## **VOLUNTEER FOR THE SOT CE PROGRAM IN SAN FRANCISCO**

SOT's Continuing Education (CE) courses are a great resource for students and postdocs to obtain valuable information beyond what may be available through their scholastic programs, presented in a dynamic setting by world-renowned speakers who are experts in their fields. All students and postdocs are encouraged to attend, but also to volunteer to assist with the courses on-site in San Francisco. Student volunteers assist the CE Committee and SOT staff with checking in attendees, distributing the course books, and making sure the course runs smoothly overall. As volunteers, you will not only see the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a course and have personalized access to these prestigious presenters, but also get to attend for FREE! Volunteers will have an opportunity to network with the speakers and the CE Committee over lunch.

Volunteers are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and may be asked to assist with two courses (one morning and one afternoon). Two to three volunteers are needed for each course. Responsibilities include attendance at an orientation meeting and preparation of some materials Saturday afternoon (March 10) before the Sunday courses (March 11). This opportunity is available to any students or postdocs who are already registered to attend the Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in signing up as a CE course Student volunteer, please contact Jim O'Callaghan (jdo5@cdc.gov), Vishal Vaidya (vvaidya@partners.com), or David Rossé at SOT Headquarters (davidr@toxicology.org). Please review the list of courses on the Annual Meeting website and specify your top three choices. Preferences for courses will be taken into consideration as much as possible but are not guaranteed.

## **RECRUITING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM PEER MENTORS**

The Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) is asking graduate students and postdocs to join them in an important effort to recruit the next generation of toxicologists by serving as peer mentors for the Undergraduate Education Program. Into the third decade at the SOT Annual Meeting, this program provides the opportunity for promising undergraduates to learn about toxicology and the rewards of careers in biomedical science. About 40 undergraduate students have been accepted for the program. Groups consist of about 5 students plus several peer mentors and senior toxicologists. These groups interact throughout the program, including meals, and are an important way for students to learn more about a career pathway in toxicology.

Please volunteer to assist by contacting Sudheer Beedanagari (SudheerReddy.Beedanagari@bms.com) or Susan Simmons (susan@toxicology.org) then plan your arrival in San Francisco so that you can be at the opening session Saturday afternoon, March 10. Mentors continue to interact with the students through the close of the program mid-afternoon on Monday.

# SOT Regional Chapter News

## ADVANTAGES OF BECOMING A REGIONAL CHAPTER AND NATIONAL SOT MEMBER

Being a student member at the National and Regional levels provide excellent opportunities for you to interact with other student members and toxicology experts in SOT. You are permitted access to ToXchange, the SOT On-line Job Bank, and student awards. You have the opportunity to be a part of a larger community of scientists and gain 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!

**Not a Member?** Apply today!

**Already a student member of SOT or a RC/SIG/SS?** Renew your dues online. Invite your colleagues to join SOT!

*Note: Email addresses for Student Representatives for each RC/SIG are in the chart that follows this section.*

Regional Chapter	Student Membership
Allegheny-Erie	8
Central States	19
Lake Ontario	6
Lone Star	28
Michigan	24
Mid-Atlantic	70
Midwest	16
Mountain West	28
National Capital Area	25
North Carolina	61
Northeast	32
Northern California	147
Northland	7
Ohio Valley	15
Pacific Northwest	27
South Central	26
Southeastern	25
Southern California	69
Total:	633

### ALLEGHENY-ERIE CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Arpit Mehta

Allegheny-Erie Chapter held their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. The topic of education at this meeting was *Food Toxicology and Safety*. At this meeting, several students presented their research in a poster format. Best overall poster and best methodology were awarded at the end of the poster session/meeting.

The upcoming Allegheny-Erie regional chapter meeting is likely going to be held on May 10-11, 2012 in Pittsburgh. More information to come on our website <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/allegheny/meetings.asp>

Student members are encouraged to attend our next meeting and proudly discuss their research topics. Students will be able to show their work as well as get feedback from some of our experts. Best poster and best methodology will be awarded with cash prize at the end of the meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Arpit.

Thank you!

## CENTRAL STATES CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Dave Williams

The Central States Society of Toxicology (CSSOT) held its annual meeting at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE on September 22-23, 2011. The meeting allowed the opportunity for CSSOT members to catch up with fellow colleagues including 21 full members and 53 postdoctoral and student members. The annual meeting rotates each year between locations in four states including Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

Lectures at the meeting included "Evaluation of Reproductive, Endocrine, and Developmental Neuro- and Immunotoxicity of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid" by James Bus; "The Fast and the Furious: Environmental Change and What We Can Do About It" by Alan Kolok; "Peanut Allergies, Peanut Thresholds and Use of Risk Assessment Approaches for Food Allergies" by Stephen Taylor; "Non-genotoxic Mechanisms of Hemangiosarcoma Formation in Mice" by Jon Cook.

The meeting featured 35 posters presentations, four oral presentations by graduate students and two oral presentations by postdocs. Winners of the poster session included Guodong Li (KUMC), Sabine Vorrink (U of Iowa), Brad Sullivan (KUMC), D.S. Kim (ISU), Afeseh Ngwa (ISU) and Laurie Eckert (U of Iowa). Oral presentation winners were Yue Cui (KUMC) for the postdoc session and Bingxuan Wang (U of Iowa) for the student session.

Each year the meeting features a mix of various academic disciplines within the field of toxicology along with both governmental and industrial speakers as well. This mix of disciplines exposes students to new and interesting work in toxicology and creates useful networking opportunities.

If you live within the CSSOT regional boundary and are interested in becoming a student member please contact Dave Williams the current graduate student representative for CSSOT or visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/centralstates/> for more information. Student membership fees are nominal (\$10 for graduate students and free for undergraduates), so we look forward to seeing more students next fall in Manhattan, KS.

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Amelia Romoser

Please check the newly updated website at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/GCSOT/index.asp> for up-to-date information or contact our graduate student representative.

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Kevin Beggs

This past year the Michigan Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (MISOT) held two meetings. The fall meeting held in East Lansing on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was titled "The Developmental Origins of Disease: Emerging Mechanistic Knowledge". The meetings featured presentations from Dr. Vasantha Padmanabhan from the University of Michigan, Dr. Enrique Ostrea from Wayne State University, Dr. Jason Knott from Michigan State University, and Dr. Reza Rasoulpour from Dow Chemical Company. The topics included various factors affecting reproduction and development such as pesticides and epigenetics. Poster presentation awards were presented to Michelle Angrish, Kyle Poulsen, and Agnes Forgacs for the top three graduate student poster presentations.

The spring meeting marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for MISOT, and was hosted by MPI Research in Mattawan on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting discussed "Immunotoxicology and Safety Assessment – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Advances and Challenges" and featured presentations from Dr. Norbert Kaminski from Michigan State University, Dr. Lee Albee

from MPI Research, and former SOT president Dr. Michael Holsapple from ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute. In place of abstract presentations, for the first time this meeting also featured 15-minute oral presentations from select graduate students. Postdocs and graduate students interested in giving a brief presentation at next year's spring meeting are asked to contact Kevin Beggs.

The upcoming fall meeting will be held on a Friday in late October/early November. Contact the MISOT website <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/michigan/misot.html> for more information. Students and postdocs are encouraged to present abstracts for poster presentations. Awards will be available to best poster presentations. If you are not a member and are interested in becoming one please check out the MISOT website. Benefits include opportunities to network with individuals from various fields including academia and industry, as well as discussing your research with other scientists and toxicologists.

## MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

**Update Contributed by:** Ravi Sitapara

To commemorate 30 years of existence, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (MASOT) dedicated its annual spring meeting to celebrating 30 great years of success! The 30th Anniversary Meeting, titled "Toxicology at 30: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," was held on May 19 at the Hilton Woodbridge Hotel in Iselin, New Jersey. The meeting served as a prime opportunity for students to learn more about MASOT's history, network with various MASOT members, and listen to a great lineup of presenters, such as, Dr. Bob Snyder, one of the founders of MASOT, Drs. Ken Hastings (immunotoxicology), Bill Slikker (neurotoxicology) and Isaac Wirgin (PCB-induced evolutionary change in fish) who all presented on topics of current interest. The spring meeting also doubled as an opportunity for students to compete in the Student Poster Competition. Congratulations to this year's winners: *Most Outstanding* - Ashley Green, Rutgers, *Outstanding* - Cristina Dragomir, Rutgers, *Honorable Mention* - Sean Bugel, Rutgers, and *Membership Award* - Andrea DeSantis, Rutgers.

The fall 2011 MASOT meeting took place on October 11, 2011 at the Hilton Woodbridge Hotel in Iselin, New Jersey. The information-packed meeting, themed "Applications of New Technologies to Toxicology," included presentations on the evolution of toxicology, incorporating gene expression into toxicology investigation, genotoxicity and regulatory perspectives, drug safety evaluation and many other topics that will describe optimizing new technology and its application in toxicology testing.

Lastly, MASOT is pleased to announce that we offered a new SOT travel scholarship opportunity. The Geoffrey Hogan Memorial Award is a \$1500 travel/scholarship award that will be given to a student member of MASOT in memory of Dr. Geoffrey Hogan (June 09, 1940 - February 23, 2011). The award deadline was September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and the winner was announced at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

MASOT includes Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and southwestern Connecticut. Any student who is currently an SOT member and attends an institution within the chapter's region is strongly encouraged to become a member of MASOT. Membership dues for students is \$10/year and affords many of benefits such as excellent networking opportunities within academia, government and industry, meeting future colleagues and collaborators, and the chance to present and discuss your research with practicing toxicologists from a wide range of disciplines.

More information about the fall meeting and other useful MASOT information can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/midatlantic>.

Interested students are also encouraged to contact Ravi Sitapara at and/or AJ Cuevas.

## MIDWEST CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Kristina Blanke

This past spring the Midwest Regional Chapter held their 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring meeting at the Marriott Hotel and Resort in Lincolnshire, IL. The topic was 'Large Molecule Therapies and Applied Pharmaceutical Toxicology'. This was a great opportunity for students to present posters of their current research and be introduced to Toxicologist in academia and industry from the Midwest.

The Midwest Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (MRC-SOT) will co-sponsor the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall meeting with the Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) hosted by the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Champaign, IL. The fall meeting will be held on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 with the topic centered on 'Reproductive Toxicology'. Two sessions will be offered: a morning session with a workshop instructed by Dr. Rex Hess, Professor Emeritus, from the University of Illinois focused on 'Histopathological Evaluation of Spermatogenesis and Stages of the Cycle' and an afternoon session consisting of scientific presentations focused on the field of reproductive toxicology. Registration can be for either or both sessions. More information about this meeting can be found at the MRC-SOT website, <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/midwest/index.asp>.

Any students who are currently members of SOT and attend an institution within the Midwest region are strongly encouraged to become a member of MRC-SOT. The benefits for graduate students who join MRC-SOT include great networking opportunities in academia and industry, a chance to meet future colleagues and collaborators, and meetings where students can present and discuss their research with toxicologists and scientists in an assortment of disciplines.

If you would like more information regarding the Midwest Regional Chapter of SOT or the upcoming MRC meeting, please contact Kristina Blanke. Information about becoming a student member of MRC-SOT can be found at the MRC website.

Postdocs: If you would like to be the Postdoc Representative for MRC-SOT please contact Kristina Blanke for more information.

## MOUNTAIN WEST CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Chad Brocker

This spring the Mountain West Chapter held a joint meeting with the Southern California Chapter at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Society of Toxicology meeting in Washington D.C. The meeting was held at Regional Food & Drink downtown and provided a great opportunity for students to discuss their progress and catch-up with chapter members.

The Mountain West Regional Chapter meeting was held September 8-9<sup>th</sup> at the Beaver Run Ski Resort in Breckenridge, CO. The plenary topic for the meeting was "Oxidative Stress, Inflammation and Human Disease." Dr. Bin Gao from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism gave the keynote presentation entitled "Inflammation, liver regeneration, and liver cancer: a key role of Interleukin-22." There were nearly 100 attendees at the meeting and almost half were students. All students traveling from outside of Colorado were eligible for travel awards. Eight students gave platform presentations and nearly forty students presented posters. Becky Smathers (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus) won the 1<sup>st</sup> place 'Predoctoral Student Platform Presentation Award'. April Lake (University of Arizona) and Darien Shapiro (University of Utah) were both awarded 2nd place prizes for their platform presentations. Karin Streifel (Colorado State University) and Rhiannon

Hardwick (University of Arizona) received the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place 'Predoctoral Student Poster Presentation Awards', respectively. More information can be found on <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/mtwsot/index.asp>.

The Mountain West Regional Chapter of the SOT encompasses the states of Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Southern Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Any student who is currently an SOT member and attends an institution within the chapter's region is strongly encouraged to become a member of MWSOT. Benefits include excellent networking opportunities within academics and industry, meeting future colleagues and collaborators and the chance to present and discuss your research with practicing toxicologists and scientists from a wide range of disciplines.

For more information related to the MWSOT chapter and MWSOT regional meetings, please contact the graduate student representative Chad Brocker.

## **NATIONAL CAPITOL AREA CHAPTER**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Colleen McLoughlin

Joining NCAC as a student only costs \$10 and gives you the opportunity to apply for NCAC awards and network with professionals from academia, industry, and government agencies such as the US EPA and FDA. We highly encourage you to join. For more information check out <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/ncac/> or contact our graduate student representative.

## **NORTH CAROLINA AREA CHAPTER**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Kimberly Herman

The North Carolina Society of Toxicology Regional Chapter held their Spring meeting in Research Triangle Park, NC, with the topic of "Nanoparticles: Good and Bad". Special speakers Dr. Nigel Walker from the National Toxicology Program, Dr. Jared Brown from East Carolina University and Dr. William Zamboni of University of North Carolina spoke on the potential health benefits and risks of exposure and use of nanoparticles. The student poster competition also was held during the spring meeting in which there was great participation. Winners of the competition are posted at our regional chapter website.

The upcoming fall meeting is being held September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. This year's meeting will be featuring the topic of Epigenetics and Toxicology, with speakers including Dr. Dana Dolinoy of University of Michigan, Rebecca Fry from the University of North Carolina and Doug Wolf of the EPA. The fall meeting also has two very exciting events. One being, the President's Award for Research Competition (PARC) which is a yearly competition for post doctorates abstract competition, where the 1<sup>st</sup> place recipient of the award will have the opportunity to present their work at the meeting. There is also a student career panel discussion/luncheon, which allows students to interact with a panel of specialists in a variety of areas including academia, consulting, pharmaceuticals, and government in an effort to learn what opportunities are available for them in the future. Both of these special events provide great opportunities for the student and post doctorate fellows of the region.

If you are not already a student member, becoming one gives you the opportunity to network as there is a strong community of Toxicologists in North Carolina, as well as the poster competition and career panels are great experiences for any aspiring toxicologist. For questions regarding the North Carolina Society of Toxicology, the annual meeting or about how to become a student member, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/nc/index.asp> or contact Kimberly Herman with any questions.

## NORTHEAST CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Brandon Gaytán

The Northern California Regional Chapter hosts symposia, receptions, and career development events. Students are encouraged to attend all of these events, as they provide excellent opportunities to network, learn about research in the field, and explore career paths in toxicology. The number of student members is 65.

NorCal SOT held a reception at the District Chop House & Brewery during the SOT Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Students were able to network with professionals from all sectors. The NorCal Spring Symposium was held on 4/13/2011, at the Berkeley City Club in Berkeley, CA. The sessions focused on current topics in toxicology and mitochondrial dysfunction, and speakers included Bruce Ames. Over 40 students attended, participating in "Lunch with an Expert" and a poster session. On 8/30/2011, NorCal SOT and Covance co-hosted a Science and Dinner event at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, CA, which was well attended by students and professionals. Two renowned scientists gave talks on breast cancer and application of biomarkers.

Our Fall Symposium, with registration information upcoming, will be held on 10/6/2011, at SRI in Menlo Park, CA. Presentations will cover stem cells and current topics in toxicology. Students will have the opportunity to network over lunch and present posters. A Career Workshop is planned for early 2012 at UC Santa Cruz, in which a panel of experienced toxicologists will offer advice on different career paths.

NorCal SOT is offering the Young Investigator Award (deadline 1/15/2012). NorCal Student and Postdoctoral members are eligible, with each category (Student, Postdoc) receiving \$500. To apply, submit to Karen Steinmetz ([karen.steinmetz@sri.com](mailto:karen.steinmetz@sri.com)) (1) a copy of your abstract accepted at the Annual Meeting, (2) a letter (1 page) discussing the significance and potential impact of the work on toxicology, and (3) a letter of support from the major advisor.

Membership is **FREE** for students. Students may join NorCal SOT by (1) joining the national SOT on the SOT website; or (2) submitting a membership application to the Treasurer, Karen Riveles ([norcalstot.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:norcalstot.treasurer@gmail.com)). For more information, contact Brandon Gaytán, or visit our website.

## NORTHLAND CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Sarah Skolness

The Northland regional chapter of SOT (NLSOT) held its last meeting this spring at the University of Minnesota with the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety. The topic of the meeting was entitled "European Union REACH Impact on Industrial Hygiene". The keynote speaker, Dr. Pentti Kalliokoski from the University of Eastern Finland, talked about using toxicology and industrial hygiene data to meet the requirements of the European Union's REACH regulation. Following Dr. Kalliokoski's presentation, a panel of 3M scientists presented a case study of a REACH registration.

The fall 2011 NLSOT meeting "Epigenetics in Toxicology: An Emerging Field" is scheduled October 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at the Environmental Protection Agency in Duluth, MN. The Keynote speaker is Randy Jirtle, PhD, from Duke University who will present a talk entitled "Epigenetics and Toxicology in the 21st Century". Along with the fall meeting, four graduate students will be giving platform presentations of their graduate research.

Any SOT student member is encouraged to become a member of NLSOT. Benefits include great networking opportunities within industry and government, presenting and discussing research, and award opportunities. The

student travel award application for National from NLSOT is due December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. For more information about the next Northland Regional Chapter of SOT meeting, membership or chapter awards, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/northland/Index.htm> or email Sarah Skolness.

## OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

An Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology (OVSOT) recent gathering was the 2010 OVSOT Student Meeting. The event was held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, on Friday July 9, 2010. There were a total of 35 people who attended the event throughout the day, with nine student presentations.

The most recent OVSOT Meeting was held on September 24, 2010, at the University of Cincinnati's Kettering Laboratory Complex located in Cincinnati, OH. The keynote speaker was Dr. Shuk-mei Ho, Professor and Chair, from the University of Cincinnati, Department of Environmental Health, providing a platform presentation titled "Transplacental PAH Induces Methylation Changes in Asthma-Related Genes of Offspring." Students presented their research both in platform presentations and poster sessions. Monetary awards for the Best PhD Student Platform and Best Student Poster Presentations were given.

If you are interested in joining OVSOT, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/ovsot/join.asp> and fill out an application.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Chad Weldy

This autumn, the Pacific Northwest Association of Toxicologists (PANWAT) is excited to host their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting this October 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at the wonderful Bonneville Hot Springs Resort and Spa located on the Columbia River within North Bonneville, WA, just an hour outside of Portland, OR. The meeting theme will be on "The Art and Science of Research Translation in Toxicology" and we are looking forward to the participation of many fantastic and extremely experienced speakers from all across the Northwest Region. We are thankful to have a great selection of keynote speakers, including Dr. Clement Furlong from University of Washington, giving a lecture on "Research Translation in Toxicology", Dr. Erica Woodahl from University of Montana giving a lecture on "Community Engagement in Toxicology", and Dr. Peter Senter from Seattle Genetics giving a lecture on "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Toxicology". As always, PANWAT is committed to creating an environment that enhances student exposure to toxicologists across the region, and we are excited to see a diverse selection of student posters as well as student platform presentations. In addition to the traditional meeting format, we are looking forward to engaging in discussion regarding fish contamination following the Eagle Creek Salmon Hike and tour of the Bonneville Dam. For more information regarding this upcoming PANWAT meeting, visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/panwat/index.asp>

The leadership council of PANWAT has agreed upon several goals for the 2011-2012 year, the most important goal is to increase student participation! PANWAT is the regional professional society for toxicologists within the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. The Northwest region has a strong history of excellence within toxicology and we hope to continue this tradition through the increased communication and collaboration of toxicologists across the region. By engaging toxicologists within the Northwest region at the start of their career, we believe PANWAT will continue to be the organization that fosters the development of an environment that encourages the collaboration and collegiality of toxicologists in a manner that encourages excellence. If you are a student within the Northwest region who is interested in joining PANWAT, please contact the graduate student representative, Chad Weldy for more information.

## SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Greg Landry

This fall the South Central Chapter will be holding a joint meeting with the Gulf Coast Chapter in New Orleans, LA. The meeting will be held from October 26-29<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree New Orleans hotel, and will provide a great opportunity for students to present their research, naturally there will also be ample time to network and discuss their research with other practicing toxicologists and scientists in the chapter.

The meeting will have three separate themes spread over two days including molecular toxicology, *in silico* toxicology, and environmental toxicology. The regional meeting will also include a mentor-mentee dinner where graduate student participants will have the chance to meet with a mentor that matches their similar research interests or scientific fields. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain valuable advice, mentorship, and networking skills from experts who advance the science of toxicology on a daily basis. There are also several incentives for graduate students being offered such as graduate student travel awards and awards given for outstanding poster and platform presentations. Additional awards will be given for an outstanding undergraduate poster presentation and undergraduate travel awards to promote interest in toxicology training at higher education institutions in the South Central region, and future careers in toxicology. Each of these latter awards consists of \$150 and recognition at the meeting.

The South Central Chapter of the SOT encompasses Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and western Tennessee. Any student involved in toxicological-related research who currently attends an institution within this chapter's region is strongly encouraged to become a member of SCCSOT. Unlike some other regional chapters, you are not required to be a member of national SOT to be a member of SCCSOT. Benefits of our chapter include exceptional networking opportunities, the chance to meet and discuss your research with experts in your field and from other disciplines, and meeting future colleagues and collaborators.

For more information related to the SCCSOT chapter, please contact the graduate student representative Greg Landry.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Parrisa Solaimani

The Southern California SOT (SCCSOT) Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology is DUES FREE! There are two categories of membership, Full and Student. Full members are qualified persons who have a continuing professional interest in toxicology. Student members are persons with an interest in toxicology who are enrolled in a degree program at any educational institution. Please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/SouthernCal/index.asp> or contact our graduate student representative for more information.

## SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

Please consider joining our Chapter if you are a student in one of our member states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee). Chapter membership for students is an extremely inexpensive \$5.00. Participation in a newly revived chapter will allow you to make an immediate and concrete contribution. For more information please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/Southeastern/index.html>

# Special Interest Group News

## TOXICOLOGISTS OF AFRICAN ORIGINS

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Clarisse Muenyi

The Toxicologists of African Origin (TAO) became a Special Interest Group within the Society of Toxicology in 2008. TAO is an organization integrated by students, postdoctoral and professionals of African origin whose career focus is in the area of toxicology. TAO serves as a forum of interaction among Toxicologists of African Origin (African Americans and Africans) in the United States, the continent of Africa and the rest of the World. TAO has a newsletter that is published every semester. You can visit the TAO website <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/tao/index.asp> to read the newsletters and also learn more about TAO. TAO also partners with the SOT committee for Diversity Initiatives (CDI) to encourage and recruit undergraduate students of African descent to the field of toxicology.

Special Interest Group	Student Membership
AACT	43
ASIOA	33
HOT	28
KTAA	7
TAO	26
WIT	118
Total:	255

The objectives of TAO include:

- Sharing information about job openings and career opportunities among toxicologists of African descent.
- Promoting networking and communication among African and African American toxicologists.
- Providing a forum at the SOT Annual Meeting for Toxicologist of African descent to meet, interact and network.
- Participate in proposing, developing and sponsoring scientific and educational programs relevant to people of African descent.
- Serves a liaison between the Society of Toxicology and Toxicologists of African Origin.

TAO provided awards to its outgoing executive board members and two other members during the 2011 SOT Annual Meeting.

One of the goals of TAO is to increase its membership. We current have 88 members. We are actively recruiting African and African American undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral trainees and professionals working in toxicology related fields to join TAO by registering to Toxicologists of African Origin when registering for the SOT Annual Meeting. If you or someone you know would like to join or gather more information please visit the TAO website or contact TAO student representative Clarisse Muenyi.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Weimin Chen

The American Association of Chinese in Toxicology (AACT) was established in 2004 and joined the SOT Special Interest Groups in 2007. The objectives of AACT are to foster interactions among professionals of Chinese background and/or ethnicity in toxicological or related sciences through the exchange of information in education, technology, employment, or business opportunities; to facilitate collaborative activities in toxicology-related research or projects between Chinese scientists or organizations in the US and abroad; and to promote the participation of scientists of any ethnic background who share the same common interests in toxicology and related fields.

AACT has been vigorously involved in SOT activities. AACT sponsors and endorses SOT Annual Meeting programs, participates in the assembly of SOT committees, and contributes to the long-term development of SOT. In addition, AACT conducts activities relevant to the Chinese toxicologist community at the Annual Meeting, including distinguished Chinese toxicology lecture, group meeting and reception, which had approximately 250 attendees this year. The distinguished Chinese toxicology lectureship award was given to Dr. Xianglin Shi, professor and William A. Marquard Chair in cancer research at University of Kentucky. AACT also provides forum discussions under ToXchange, AACT newsletter, and AACT website <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/aact/index.asp> where you can find or exchange a lot of helpful information. Our fall newsletter will be out soon!

AACT highly encourages students working in toxicology or related fields both in the US and abroad to join AACT. Once our by-law revisions get approved, AACT members do not necessarily need to be SOT members, although becoming SOT members assures that you are eligible to be an AACT officer and eligible for AACT awards. For the 2011 SOT Annual Meeting, AACT provided the Jean Lu student scholarship award to Alexandria Lau. AACT also provided three Charles River Best Abstract awards. The winners were Li Zhan, Lei Li, and Jun Xu. If you or someone you know would like to join AACT or get more information, please visit the AACT membership website or contact AACT student representative Weimin Chen. AACT currently has 45 student members.

## HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF TOXICOLOGISTS

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** AJ K. Cuevas

The Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (HOT) was founded in 2004 and became an official Special Interest Group (SIG) within the Society of Toxicology in 2006. This SIG is comprised of professionals and trainees of Hispanic origin with expertise in scientific areas associated with Toxicology. HOT proudly continues to serve as facilitator and catalyst for interaction, fellowship, networking, professional development and the sharing of ideas and knowledge for Spanish and Portuguese-speaking scientific communities globally.

A key venue for HOT members and supporters to network and foster the exchange of ideas is at the SOT Annual Meeting. This past year we had yet another successful turnout at our annual evening reception, held at the RFD Lounge. Students, postdocs and professionals were able to meet and mingle. Thanks to our loyal sponsorship (Battelle, Celanese, and Ingenieros Lemus of Mexico), HOT continued its tradition of providing three HOT Student Travel Awards. Congratulations to the 2011 HOT Travel Award winners: Dr. Zeliann Craig – University of Illinois; Citlalli Osorio-Yañez – CINVESTAV-IPN Mexico; and Marco A. Sanchez-Guerra – CINVESTAV-IPN Mexico. HOT would also like to congratulate HOT student members that were awarded an SOT Travel Award for the 2011 meeting: Ingrid Druwe – University of Arizona; Priscilla Encarnacao – University of Connecticut; Paulina Gomez-Rubio – University of Arizona; Jose Torres – Texas Southern University; and Azita Cuevas – New York University. The 2012 HOT Travel Award deadline is rapidly approaching (January 7, 2012; visit our website <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot/awards.asp>

HOT is always actively recruiting outstanding Hispanic students working in toxicology related fields. Membership benefits are plentiful: A plethora of information sharing, networking opportunities with national and international sister organizations, a forum for face-to-face meetings with Hispanic professionals at the SOT Annual Meeting, and travel awards. Membership is free for student SOT members (for first SIG or \$15/yr). Keep your eye out for HOT's bi-monthly issue of *Toxenlaces*. This information-packed newsletter highlights professionals and students, provides updates on HOT activities, award and fellowship opportunities, and serves as an invaluable resource for students. Stay tuned for information regarding the annual HOT reception to take place at SOT 2012. For more information please visit the website or contact the HOT Graduate Student Representative: Azita (AJ) Cuevas.

## ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN AMERICA

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Sandeep Sreevalsan

Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO) is a nationwide special interest group (SIG) of SOT that promotes fellowship among scientists of Indian origin living in North America. It acts as a scientific and educational society that establishes open channels of communication among its members.

Every year at their reception, ASIO honors and recognizes senior scientists for their contributions to the field of toxicology as well as their active participation in ASIO-related activities. Through three SOT endowment funds, ASIO also awards travel grants to several graduate and postdoctoral students who will be presenting posters or speaking at a session at the SOT Annual Meeting. The mission of ASIO is to enhance collegiality, fellowship and networking amongst individuals engaged in the active learning and practice of toxicology. Members meet at the reception held during the SOT Annual Meeting. In addition to awards, updates on all ASIO activities are presented. We also circulate a tri-annual newsletter with information on ASIO activities and opportunities for career advancement.

ASIO also organizes a Lunch and Learn (LNL) program aimed at mentoring graduate students and postdoctoral research scientists of Indian origin. These sessions address participants' queries regarding a wide range of topics including: Network building, resume writing, interview preparation and careers in toxicology.

Membership is free for students and postdocs and can be renewed online through the SOT website. For further information about ASIO please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/asio> or contact ASIO student representative Sandeep Sreevalsan.

## KOREAN TOXICOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Jong Sung Kim

The Korean Toxicologists Association in America (KTAA) had been in existence since the 1980's and joined the Special Interest Group (SIG) of the SOT in 2006. The mission of the KTAA is: 1) to promote collaboration in toxicological research and relevant issues among the Korean community, 2) to provide networking opportunities among professionals with Korean heritage who are engaged in toxicological science and related fields, and 3) to recognize the accomplishments of and to promote career development opportunities for toxicologists with Korean heritage. In alignment with these objectives, KTAA has hosted receptions during SOT annual meetings, established committees for selecting/identifying scholarship recipients, sponsored/endorsed SOT annual programs, and actively participated in various SOT committees.

The 2011 KTAA annual meeting reception was held in Washington, DC on March 7, 2011 and approximately 44 people were in attendance. KTAA provided one graduate student scholarship award and one graduate student and postdoctoral trainee award in the reception: Young Soo Choi Student Scholarship Award, Hee Yeon Kim (University of Washington), post-doctoral trainee award, Dr. Young-Na Yum (National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation (NIFDS), KFDA), and graduate student trainee award, Kyung-Jin Jang (Wyss Institute at Harvard University). The Young Soo Choi Student Scholarship Award is intended to assist graduate students with a modest cash prize. In addition, the Korea Institute of Toxicology (KIT) sponsors a graduate student and a post-doctoral trainee award every year open to those that are presenting (poster or presentation) at the SOT conference.

KTAA is asking SOT members of Korean heritage (or those with Korean interests) that are not yet KTAA members to consider joining our SIG. More information on the KTAA can be found here: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/ktaa/index.asp>. The Officers of KTAA are hoping to expand membership to ensure that toxicologists of Korean heritage or interests will continue to have a "home" at the SOT to connect with other scientists! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact KTAA student representative Jong Sung Kim. Number of Student Members: 16

## WOMEN IN TOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Jennifer Head

The Women in Toxicology SIG was established in 2001 and since that time has been dedicated to providing its members with a variety of services and opportunities. Of the many goals of WIT, some of our main objectives include providing women with the skills and opportunities to develop their careers in toxicology as well as foster mentoring relationships to retain as well as recruit women into the field of toxicology.

If you have any questions about WIT, I can be reached by email at [Jennifer\\_Head@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Jennifer_Head@urmc.rochester.edu)  
To learn more about WIT please visit our newly updated website or visit our page on ToXchange.

WIT would like to recognize achievements by its members, including students and postdoctoral fellows. At the SOT Annual Meeting in Washington D.C., the following awards were given: Mentoring Award – Dr. Louise Winn, Queen’s University; Student Achievement Award – Azita K. Cuevas, New York University; Colleen E. McCoughlin, Virginia Commonwealth University; Student Achievement Award Honorable Mention – Jenna M. Benson, University of Montana; Postdoctoral Achievement Award – Dr. P-i Li Yao, University of Texas at Austin Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger; Scholarship Fund Student Award – Alexandria Lau, University of Arizona.

WIT encourages its members and those interested in becoming members to apply for these awards for 2012. The deadline for the student achievement, postdoctoral achievement and Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student awards is December 16, 2011. The deadline for the mentoring award is November 18, 2011. For more information about applying, please visit our website.

As WIT is always looking to encourage its members to gain leadership experience, we will be accepting nominations for graduate student representatives for 2012. Those interested in having their name on the ballot may contact the president of WIT, Brinda Mahadevan at [brinda.mahadevan@abbott.com](mailto:brinda.mahadevan@abbott.com).

### **REGIONAL CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP GSLC REPRESENTATIVES**

<b>REGIONAL CHAPTER</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
Allegheny-Erie	Arpit Mehta	<a href="mailto:Arpit.mehta@rx.lecome.edu">Arpit.mehta@rx.lecome.edu</a>
Central States	Dave Williams	<a href="mailto:cwilliams8@kumc.edu">cwilliams8@kumc.edu</a>
Lone Star	Amelia Romoser	<a href="mailto:aromoser@cvm.tamu.edu">aromoser@cvm.tamu.edu</a>
Michigan (GSLC Secretary)	Kevin Beggs	<a href="mailto:Beggskev@msu.ed">Beggskev@msu.ed</a>
Mid-Atlantic	TBD	
Midwest	Kristina Blanke	<a href="mailto:kblanke@wisc.edu">kblanke@wisc.edu</a>
Mountain West	Chad Brocker	<a href="mailto:chad.brocker@ucdenver.edu">chad.brocker@ucdenver.edu</a>
National Capital Area	Colleen McLoughlin	<a href="mailto:mcloughlince@vcu.edu">mcloughlince@vcu.edu</a>
North Carolina	Kimberly Herman	<a href="mailto:knherman@ncsu.edu">knherman@ncsu.edu</a>
Northern California	Brandon Gaytan	<a href="mailto:bgaytan@berkeley.edu">bgaytan@berkeley.edu</a>
Northland (Professional Development Subcommittee Secretary)	Sarah Skolness	<a href="mailto:skoln005@umn.edu">skoln005@umn.edu</a>
Ohio Valley	TBD	
Pacific Northwest	Chad Weldy	<a href="mailto:weldyc@u.washington.edu">weldyc@u.washington.edu</a>
South Central	Greg Landry	<a href="mailto:glandr@lsuhsc.edu">glandr@lsuhsc.edu</a>
Southeastern	TBD	
Southern California	Parrisa Solaimani	<a href="mailto:psolaimani@mednet.ucla.edu">psolaimani@mednet.ucla.edu</a>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP	REPRESENTATIVE	EMAIL
American Association of Chinese in Toxicology	Weimin Chen	<a href="mailto:chenwe14@msu.edu">chenwe14@msu.edu</a>
Association of Scientists of Indian Origin	Sandeep Sreevalsan	<a href="mailto:SSreevalsan@cvm.tamu.edu">SSreevalsan@cvm.tamu.edu</a>
Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists	AJ Cuevas	<a href="mailto:amj316@nyu.edu">amj316@nyu.edu</a>
Korean Toxicologists Association in America	Jong Sung Kim	<a href="mailto:jongsung-kim@uiowa.edu">jongsung-kim@uiowa.edu</a>
Toxicologists of African Origin	Clarisse Muenyi	<a href="mailto:csmuen02@gwise.louisville.edu">csmuen02@gwise.louisville.edu</a>
Women in Toxicology	Jennifer Head	<a href="mailto:Jennifer_Head@urmc.rochester.edu">Jennifer_Head@urmc.rochester.edu</a>
Council Liaison	Donald Fox	<a href="mailto:dfox@optometry.uh.edu">dfox@optometry.uh.edu</a>
SOT Staff	David Rossé	<a href="mailto:davidr@toxicology.org">davidr@toxicology.org</a>



# Specialty Section News

Note: Email addresses for Student Representatives for each SS are in the chart that follows this section.

## BIOLOGICAL MODELING

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Miyuki Breen

The objectives of Biological Modeling Specialty Section (BMSS) are 1) Serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the Society of Toxicology 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 Society of Toxicology 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. This Specialty Section provides members with a venue for networking, developing educational programs to highlight the latest developments in the field, and enhancing the use of biological models in toxicology research and risk assessment.

BMSS will sponsor Perry J. Gehring Student Award for Excellence in Biological Modeling that are focused on all aspects of biologically based modeling in Toxicology at the Society of Toxicology 51st Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, March 11-15, 2012. The Student Awards will be presented at our BMSS Business Meeting and Reception in San Francisco, CA. Each award will consist of a plaque and a cash award. More information about this award can be found at the BMSS website, <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/BMSS/>

To become a BMSS member, you must be a member in good standing of the Society of Toxicology. If you are already a member of the SOT, you can become a BMSS member at **any time** by filling the application form at the BMSS website, <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/BMSS/#Membership>. The cost of BMSS membership is \$15.00 per year. Student members received one free membership in the Specialty Section of their choice. Additional student memberships in Specialty Sections are \$15.00 per year per section. You can apply at the same time for SOT and BMSS memberships. You can also email, fax or mail your BMSS application to SOT. For more information on being a student member of Biological Modeling, please contact Miyuki Breen.

Specialty Section	Student Membership
Biological Modeling	13
Biotechnology	4
Carcinogenesis	30
Cardiovascular Toxicology	10
Comparative & Veterinary	10
Dermal	13
Drug Discovery Toxicology	33
Ethical, Legal & Social Issues	6
Food Safety	17
Immunotoxicology	56
In Vitro and Alternative Methods	28
Inhalation and Respiratory	30
Mechanisms	47
Metals	33
Mixtures	12
Molecular Biology	33
Nanotoxicology	34
Neurotoxicology	63
Occupational and Public Health	17
Ocular Toxicology	3
Regulatory and Safety Evaluation	27
Reproductive and Developmental	46
Risk Assessment	38
Stem Cell	1
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology	14
Total:	618

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Jeremy Larson

Biotechnology has been defined as "any technological application that uses biological systems or living organisms to make or modify products or processes for specific use." In the field of toxicology, biotechnology has been used most abundantly in the context of biotechnology-derived products (e.g. biotherapeutics). The Biotechnology Specialty Section (BTSS) aims to: (1) create a forum for SOT members pursuing a specific area of biotechnology or aiming to have a better understanding of biotechnology and (2) develop a variety of cutting-edge programs and educational activities that emphasize current issues in biotechnology and exemplify the mission of SOT. Members are employed in academia, government, regulatory organizations (e.g., Food and Drug Administration [FDA]), and industry (e.g., agriculture, environmental health sciences, and biopharmaceuticals). BTSS encourages student membership and sponsors two awards, one of special interest to students and another for students and postdoctoral fellows. Both have an application deadline of December 1. First, the BTSS Student Achievement Award will be presented to two students in good standing who must attend and present an abstract at the SOT Annual Meeting. Second, the Biotechnology SS Best Paper Award recognizes the authors of the best paper in the area of biotechnology published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal between January 1 and December 1 of the year preceding the SOT Annual Meeting at which the award is presented.

During the 2011 Annual Meeting, we celebrated our inaugural year as a Specialty Section at our reception with approximately 80 participants. Congratulations to our 2010 BTSS award winners! Sadiye Rieder and Arunkumar Asaithambi each received a BTSS Student Achievement Award for their respective research that was enthusiastically presented at the SOT Annual Meeting. Moreover, John L Vahle *et al.* from Lilly Research Laboratories were awarded the BTSS Best Paper Award for their review of carcinogenicity assessments of biotechnology-derived pharmaceuticals (*Toxicol. Pathol.* 2010; 38(4):522-53). We are eager to welcome you as a new member at the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco! Please refer to our Web page ([www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/btss/index.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/btss/index.asp)) for more information pertaining to awards, membership, and events. For more information, please contact Jeremy Larson.

## **CARCINOGENESIS**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Jessica Wos

The Carcinogenesis Specialty Section (CSS) is an enthusiastic and diverse group of more than 250 members. Our membership includes representatives from academia, industry, and government. The interests of the CSS vary from the study of carcinogenesis at the molecular level to clinical and population-based research. Our areas of expertise include biotechnology, basic science research, environmental health, pharmaceutical applications, and food safety. The CSS is highly active in SOT and sponsors many symposia, workshops, and meetings at the SOT Annual Meeting to provide outstanding opportunities for continuing education, networking, and discussion of cutting-edge research in carcinogenesis.

Student and postdoctoral membership in CSS provides excellent opportunities for networking, award recognition, and leadership development. We encourage graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to submit their abstracts for CSS competitive awards. The top graduate student abstract is chosen as the Dharm V. Singh Endowment Award, an honor that includes a plaque, cash award and the opportunity to serve as the CSS Student Representative. Additionally, first, second and third place student winners also receive a plaque and cash prize. A Postdoctoral Abstract Award winner (1st prize only) is also chosen to receive a plaque, cash prize and the opportunity to serve on CSS executive committee as the Postdoctoral Representative. All award recipients are recognized at the CSS reception held at the SOT Annual Meeting. For more information about CSS membership, activities, or award opportunities, please visit the CSS website, <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/carc/home.html>

## CARDIOVASCULAR TOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Jim Kleinedler

## CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL TOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

## COMPARATIVE AND VETERINARY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Jingtao Lu

The objectives of the Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section (CVSS) are to 1) promote the diverse application of *in vivo* animal models in toxicological research, comparative and clinical toxicology, and 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 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 which emphasize current developments and issues of interest to CVSS members, relate those developments to the activities of SOT, and stimulate interest and growth in use of *in vivo* models and veterinary toxicology in relation to the general science of toxicology; and 4) 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 2011 Annual Meeting may apply by submitting the following by late November: 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 visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/CVSS/index.asp>.

## DERMAL TOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Gayatri Sankaran

The Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section (DTSS) serves to facilitate interaction between researchers in the science of dermal toxicology. Members within this Specialty Section conduct research in toxicology, pharmacology, oncology, molecular biology, immunology, and cell biology with a common concern for dermal toxicology. The objectives of the Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section are to provide a forum for the interaction of leaders, professionals and students working in the field of dermal research. Membership with DTSS also provides the opportunity to network with leaders in Dermal Toxicology. DTSS strongly encourages any student or postdoc interested in or currently conducting research in dermal toxicology to join DTSS and discover what our Specialty Section can offer. The DTSS meeting is held every year during the SOT Annual Meeting.

DTSS members have the opportunity to apply for a number of DTSS sponsored awards. The Best Paper Award is awarded in recognition of an exceptional recent peer-reviewed publication in the field of skin toxicology and pharmacology. The Sinclair Student Abstract Award and the Stratacor-Port Royal Postdoctoral Abstract Award recognize outstanding student and postdoc candidates for their contribution to advancing the understanding of skin toxicology and pharmacology. Two Battelle Student Research Awards are awarded to graduate students for use in research projects involving dermal toxicology. The DTSS 2012 award winners will be announced at the 2012 SOT Annual Meeting. Contact the student representative Gayatri Sankaran or check the DTSS website at

<http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/dtss/awards.asp> for more information about award descriptions and deadlines. Information about becoming a member can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/dtss/membership.html>

## **DRUG DISCOVERY TOXICOLOGY**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Rachel Tanos

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.

It is a sub-specialty 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. The overarching goal is to provide an integrated understanding of a drug candidate's liabilities prior to its advancement into nonclinical development and clinical evaluation. 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.

Anyone interested in toxicology consulting, disease and pharmaceutical research, and health related government positions are impacted by drug discovery toxicology. As a graduate student member of the DDTSS you will have the opportunity to network with professionals in the field of toxicology and compete for poster prizes. The competition is open to current graduate students whose abstract has been accepted by SOT for presentation at the 2012 Annual Meeting. To find out more information about DDTSS, please visit our page on the SOT website or contact Rachel Tanos.

## **ETHICAL, LEGAL, AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Sarah Lacher

The Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (ELSI) Specialty Section provides a forum to discuss the ethical implications resulting from our research and how society and legal policies are impacted. This forum for discussing issues related to research integrity and the conduct of research with animals and humans. ELSI encourage students to join in discussing the many ethical aspects of our work. As scientists, whether working in academia, the government, industry, or as part of a non-governmental organization, we all share a responsibility in the ethical generation and use of data. Results from toxicological research are widely used by policy makers, regulatory agencies, lawyers, non-governmental organizations, and the public to establish legal and public policy. The ELSI Specialty Section offers student awards to encourage consideration of the ethical, legal, and social implications of toxicologically based research. Students are eligible if they are presenting a poster or platform session. Students must submit an accepted abstract from the SOT Annual Meeting plus an additional one-page explanation of the ethical, legal, and social implications of their work. A selected group may be asked to give five-minute presentations on the ELSI aspects of their research. Prizes include cash awards. Interested students should contact the ELSISS student representative Sarah Lacher.

## FOOD SAFETY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Brenna Flannery

The resources and knowledge of the Food Safety Specialty Section (FS3) apply to **every** scientist regardless of current areas of study because every person consumes food and should be concerned with its safety. The goals of FS3 are to 1) promote the application of toxicological principles and experimental methods for assessing food safety 2) facilitate interaction of students, toxicologists and professionals in the area of food safety 3) educate on current issues in food safety 4) stimulate interest in food safety as it relates to toxicology and 5) serve as a public resource on current issues in food safety.

FS3 recognizes the contributions students can make to the field of food safety and toxicology by offering awards for travel and scholastic excellence. These awards include: Burdock Group Travel Award, Frank C. Lu Student Award, Informa Healthcare Award and Monsanto Company Travel Award. For more information, please contact Brenna Flannery or visit our website: <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/foodsafe/fs3.asp>.

## IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Jenna Benson

The purpose of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section (ImToxSS) is to promote immunotoxicology as a discipline by: (1) increasing our understanding of the impact that xenobiotics have on the immune system, (2) advocating research into the mechanisms of immunomodulation, and (3) encourage the development of new methods and techniques to improve risk assessment. At the SOT Annual Meeting, the Section sponsors symposia, continuing education courses, workshops, and roundtable discussions. Meetings are held at SOT's Annual Meeting to discuss specialty section business and program topics for the following year. Students are encouraged to participate in the scientific program at the SOT Annual Meeting and to apply for the best presentation award. Congratulations to our 2011 Best Student Presentation award winners: Jenna Benson (1<sup>st</sup> place), Peer Karmaus (2<sup>nd</sup> place tie), and Tom Simones (2<sup>nd</sup> place tie). The next award submission meeting deadline is January 6, 2012 and must include a complete written version of an immunotoxicology presentation to be made at the national meeting as well as a letter of nomination from the student's advisor. For more information, please visit the ImTox website at <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/imtox/index.asp> or contact Jenna Benson.

## IN VITRO AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Sridhar Jaligama

*In vitro* toxicology follows the principle of "3Rs" to reduce, refine and replace the usage of animal models in laboratory research and aims at pursuing alternative toxicology methods like *in vitro* techniques to elucidate the basic mechanisms of cell injury and death in target organ systems with special emphasis on product safety evaluation. It involves the development of simple and complex cellular and subcellular systems to predict toxicity *in vivo* and for risk assessment purposes. *In vitro* and Alternative Methods (IVAM) specialty section is a venue for scientists from academic government and industrial backgrounds with expertise in the application of these alternative techniques to address the problems of cellular toxicity.

IVAM conducts regular meetings at the SOT Annual Meeting to discuss topics of interest to the membership and sponsors symposia and continuing education courses at the Annual Meeting. IVAM encourages and appreciates the research conducted by student and postdocs by offering awards for posters on subjects related to *in vitro* toxicology. In addition, IVAM also offers one MB Research award for distinction in practical *in vitro* and alternative

toxicology methods. The award winners will be presented with an award letter and a monetary award at the annual SOT meeting. The deadline to apply for these awards will be updated on the IVAM website.

Students and who are currently the members of SOT are strongly encouraged to become a member of IVAM. For more information on *In vitro* and Alternative Methods specialty section, please visit our website <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/ivss/index.htm> or contact the graduate student representative Sridhar Jaligama. If you would like more information regarding the deadlines and on the awards sponsored by IVAM, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/ivss/awards.asp>.

## **INHALATION AND RESPIRATORY**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Christopher Carosino

The Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section (IRSS) is a forum for members of the Society of Toxicology dealing with the impact of airborne substances and particles on the body. Issues of interest to the IRSS 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, particle dosimetry, and interactions between inhaled materials and infectious allergic stimuli. The SS meets regularly at the SOT Annual Meeting to promote a better understanding of inhalation and respiratory tract toxicology, to recognize students and colleagues for notable contributions to inhalation research, and to address issues of importance to this field. IRSS committees also meet regularly to write issue papers and discuss topics for symposia, workshops, and continuing education courses.

The IRSS sponsors travel awards for outstanding students, the Mary O. Amdur Student Award, two student and postdoc awards, and recognition awards for new investigators and those with outstanding career achievements. The student awards are given to the best abstract submitted each year, and consist of an engraved plaque and a \$500 cash prize. The IRSS 2012 award winners will be announced at the IRSS Reception during the 2012 SOT Annual Meeting. Submissions are due by December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to IRSS Vice-President Elect, Ian Gilmour ([Gilmour.Ian@epa.gov](mailto:Gilmour.Ian@epa.gov)).

If you have any questions about student participation, membership, or awards, contact the student representative, Christopher Carosino, or visit the IRSS webpage (<http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/inhalation>) for more information about award descriptions and about becoming a member.

## **MECHANISMS**

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Rebecca Smathers

The Mechanisms Specialty Section represents a diverse group of members of the Society of Toxicology who have in common interests and expertise in elucidating the cellular, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms of action of toxic substances. As one of the first established specialty sections (founded in 1981) we foster the study of mechanisms of action by which chemicals cause their toxic effects. Mechanisms Specialty Section provides a focal point for SOT members interested in mechanisms of action of toxic substances and promotes the development and dissemination of new advances in mechanistic research in toxicology. In the past, Mechanisms SS has sponsored a number of state-of-the-art workshops, symposia, and continuing education classes at the SOT Annual Meeting. In addition, graduate students are encouraged to apply for prestigious awards that include the Carl C. Smith Graduate Student, Robert J. Rubin Student Travel, and Renal Toxicology Awards. Postdoctoral researchers are eligible for several esteemed awards including the Gabriel L. Plaa Education and Renal Toxicology Awards and the Mechanisms Travel Award. Award deadlines for the 2012 SOT Annual Meeting range from October 10<sup>th</sup> 2011-January 20<sup>th</sup> 2012. More information for individual awards can be found on the Mechanisms specialty sections website: <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/mechanisms/Awards.asp>.

## MEDICAL DEVICE

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

The Medical Device Specialty Section (MDSS) is comprised of government, industry, consulting, and academic toxicologists who share state of the art knowledge and develop new approaches in medical device safety. Sharing state of the art knowledge was exemplified at the 2011 SOT Annual Meeting where John Fisher of the University of Maryland presented techniques to characterize the relationship between the physical properties of biodegradable materials and their tissue response. A new approach in the evaluation of medical device safety, the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) concept, was also presented at the Annual Meeting by MDSS members. Knowledge sharing will continue at the upcoming 2012 SOT Annual Meeting with planned discussions on Bisphenol A risks in a human exposure context. In spring 2012, MDSS members will be discussing the next updates to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) on biological evaluation of medical devices (ISO 10993-1) in San Diego, California. MDSS members are invited to attend two informational webinars. The first webinar is November 2 presented by Jim Kleinedler (LSU Health Science Center) on polyphenol-eluting stent restenosis and vascular healing in a rat model of arterial angioplasty and stenting. The second webinar is November 15 presented by Dr. Gosh (US FDA) and Dr. Cammack (The Science Cooperative, LLC) on the application of ISO 10993-17, Establishment of Allowable Limits for Leachable Substances. MDSS is a growing SOT specialty section that offers many opportunities to medical device toxicologists and invites graduate students and postdoctoral scientists involved with medical device toxicology to join and advance medical device toxicology. For further information, please visit [www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/mdss](http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/mdss) <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/mdss> .

## METALS

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Sandra Wise

The Metals Specialty Section (MSS) was one of the first specialty sections and played an instrumental role in the formation of specialty sections within SOT. Thirty years later the MSS is still going strong with over 200 members. The objectives of the MSS are 1) to relate the latest developments in metals toxicology to the activities of the Society of Toxicology; 2) to stimulate new growth within the field of metals toxicology; 3) to conduct programs and educational activities which emphasize the latest developments in metals toxicology; 4) to act as a resource to the Society in regards to metals toxicology; and 5) to serve as the focal point for interactions of members of the MSS.

MSS encourages student membership and offers Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Awards for outstanding presentations at the SOT Annual Meeting. This year's winners were 1<sup>st</sup> Gunnar Kwakye, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shawn Wnek, 3<sup>rd</sup> Clarisse Muenyi for the Graduate Student Awards and 1<sup>st</sup> Yang Sun, PhD, 2<sup>nd</sup> Yuanyuan Xu, PhD, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Renee Gardner, PhD for the Postdoctoral Fellow Award. Join us in 2012 for our reception in San Francisco. For questions and submissions, please visit the MSS website at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/Metals/index.asp> .

## MIXTURES

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

The Mixtures Specialty Section supports the advancement of science-based safety assessment, facilitates the ability of government, industry, and academia to work together, and encourages funding for toxicology-related research from private and federal agencies. This section was inaugurated at the 2006 SOT Annual Meeting. The overall objectives of the Mixtures Specialty Section are to 1) serve as the focal point for the interaction of

members of SOT interested in mixtures toxicology, 2) develop, propose, and conduct programs and educational activities that emphasize the latest developments in mixtures toxicology, 3) relate those developments to the activities of SOT and to stimulate new growth in mixtures 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.

Please consider joining the Mixtures Specialty Section. You can contact one of the Section officers or simply join our group when you pay your annual dues on the SOT website. For more information, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/Mix/index.asp> . For further information about the Mixtures Specialty Section or to apply for any of our awards, please visit our website.

## MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Britton Goodale

The Molecular Biology Specialty Section (MBSS) serves as a focal point for interaction of members of the Society who are interested in molecular biology. Molecular toxicology is an interdisciplinary research area with applications that span academic, industrial, and regulatory arenas. Tools ranging from transgenic technologies to reporter gene assays in single cells provide exciting opportunities to study chemical interactions with molecular targets and to understand how molecular responses lead to biological perturbations. The MBSS organizes continuing education and symposia sessions for the SOT Annual Meeting which emphasizes the latest developments in molecular biology, and welcomes student involvement.

The MBSS sponsors research awards in molecular toxicology for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to highlight outstanding research conducted by members of the MBSS. To apply for the 2012 Graduate Student Awards, research should be in the general area of molecular toxicology and applicants must be full-time students as of October 1, 2011. For the 2012 Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award, applicants must have completed a PhD and be either a student or postdoctoral member of SOT. Three Graduate Student and one Postdoctoral Fellow Awards will be given. All awardees will receive a plaque, monetary award, and will present a five-minute synopsis of their research at the MBSS meeting held during the SOT Annual Meeting in March. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2011 and applications must be submitted electronically to Dr. Craig Rowlands ([JCRowlands@dow.com](mailto:JCRowlands@dow.com)). More information can be found on the Molecular Biology Specialty Section website. To become a MBSS student member, use the SOT On-Line Membership Renewal Form.

In addition to the award opportunities for students, the MBSS elects a graduate student representative annually. This is a two-year term that allows the MBSS to be represented in the Graduate Student Leadership Council (GSLC). If you would like to be considered for the MBSS SAC representative (2012-2014), you must be a full time graduate student in good standing who can fulfill the two-year commitment of the position and have interest in SOT policy and initiatives. More information about the MBSS can be found on the MBSS website <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/molecular/MBSS.html> or by contacting Britton Goodale.

## NANOTOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Lisa Truong

The Nanotoxicology Specialty Section (NTSS) focuses on involving members of SOT interested in science and toxicology of nanoscale materials to 1) help in the responsible development of safer nanomaterials and 2) safe application of nanotechnology to toxicological and environmental health problems.

Students interested in the research of nanotoxicology are encouraged to join NTSS. The benefits to both graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to join NTSS includes a chance to meet collaborators and colleagues, great network opportunities in both academia and industry and a chance to discuss their research with toxicologists and

scientists in the various disciplines. NTSS provides the opportunity for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to compete for research awards and best publication awards that describe their outstanding work on toxicological effects on nanomaterials.

If you would like more information, please contact Lisa Truong, the graduate student representative. More information on how to become a member of NTSS can be found on the website [www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/nano/index.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/nano/index.asp).

## NEUROTOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

The Neurotoxicology Specialty Section consists of members of the Society of Toxicology who are interested in the adverse effects of chemical, biological, or physical agents on the structure and function of the nervous system. Neurotoxicology Specialty Section 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 and those with interests in neurotoxicology. 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 its members. For more information, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/neurotox/aboutNTSS.asp>.

## OCCUPATIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Lydia Louis

The goal of the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section (OPHSS) is to advance the integration of exposure, toxicological, epidemiological principles and research approaches in addressing occupational, environmentally-related, and public health issues. The OPHSS seeks to achieve this goal by 1) identifying and encouraging integrative research to further the understanding of the impact of exposure to chemicals, pollutants, and pharmaceutical drugs on the general and susceptible populations, and, in turn, 2) better informing regulatory decisions and actions that impact both individual and population health, 3) identifying and promoting the continual development and application of emerging methods, tools, and models, and 4) sponsoring and supporting activities to attract the next generation of scientists to occupational and environmental public health.

In this group you will have the opportunity to network and share information with other scientists working in the areas of occupational and public health. OPHSS includes scientists that are employed by governmental agencies, pharmaceutical companies, academia, and industry. The Section hosts a reception at the SOT Annual Meeting to provide networking opportunities for members. In addition, the Section sponsors a "Best Abstract Award" and a "Best Manuscript Award" for students who have done outstanding work in the field of occupational and public health. OPHSS also provides input to SOT and sponsors workshops, symposia, and continuing education courses at the SOT Annual Meetings. Please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/ophss/index.html> for more information.

## OCULAR TOXICOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

## REGULATORY AND SAFETY EVALUATION

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Marcy McNamara

The Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section (RSESS) provides a forum for SOT members to discuss the impact of regulations and guidelines involving the practice and application of toxicology and the safety evaluation of environmental, pharmaceutical, industrial toxicants, and other products of concern to the general public. The RSESS promotes the development of sound governmental policies and regulations based on contemporary scientific knowledge arising from the disciplines encompassed by toxicology. RSESS holds a "Great Debate" on opposing viewpoints based on current toxicological issues during SOT. RSESS welcomes student involvement and also encourages students and postdoctoral fellows to apply for travel awards offered by the Specialty Section. Students and fellows with abstracts accepted for presentation at the SOT Annual Meeting are welcome to apply; the deadline is **December 31, 2011**. For more information on award applications and membership information, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/regulatory/safety/Index.html> or contact our graduate student representative.

## REPRODUCTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Nick Heger

The Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section (RDTSS) is a subgroup of the Society of Toxicology whose members have expertise and/or responsibility for assessment of toxicology of the reproductive system or development of offspring. This multidisciplinary field encompasses all areas of male and female reproduction, developmental biology, teratology, and developmental and reproductive risk assessment, with an overarching goal of evaluating hazards and risks for the human population. Current members come from a variety of backgrounds and work in all sectors of research, development and risk assessment, including university, government, and industry settings.

The objectives of the RDTSS are to serve as a focal point for members interested in reproductive and developmental toxicology, and to conduct programs and educational activities to emphasize the latest developments in reproductive and developmental toxicology. Additionally, the RDTSS aims to stimulate new growth in reproductive and developmental aspects of toxicology, while serving as a resource to the Society in the areas of the Section's interests. This active and dynamic specialty section encourages the membership and participation of students and postdocs with research interests in reproductive and developmental toxicology, endocrinology, children's health, and other related areas. The RDTSS has made awards and funding a top priority for its student and postdoctoral members. Each year, travel awards are given to RDTSS students presenting at the SOT Annual Meeting. Additionally, students can compete for one of three awards given for the best oral or poster presentation at the Annual Meeting. Finally, a yearly award is presented for the best paper published in *Toxicological Sciences* related to reproductive and/or developmental toxicology.

For more information on membership, or award deadlines and requirements, visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/repdevtox/index.html> or contact our student representative, Nick Heger.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

Risk assessment is a dynamic process by which scientists evaluate the potential for adverse health or environmental effects from exposure to naturally occurring or synthetic agents. The Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS) is one of the largest and most diverse Specialty Sections at SOT. Our goal is to provide a forum for students, postdoctoral fellows, and professionals interested in the theory and practice of risk assessment. It is

a great place to be as our membership includes representation from academia, government, industry, and the consulting world. Our annual meeting is a rewarding place for students, postdoctoral fellows, and professional members to network over a complimentary buffet and a great debate concerning emerging issues in toxicology and risk assessment. There is truly something here for everyone and your involvement is encouraged. To further learn about our Specialty Section, becoming a member, and the numerous opportunities for students and postdoctoral fellows, visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/RiskAssess/>.

## STEM CELLS

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Justin Colacino

The Stem Cells Specialty Section held its inaugural reception at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., with approximately 35-40 members in attendance. The Stem Cells SS serves as the focal point for the interaction of SOT members interested in stem cells and stem cell toxicology. Section members have expertise in all types of stem cell models including embryonic, fetal, progenitor, induced pluripotent, mesenchymal, and immortalized stem cell lines. The SS is composed of academic, government, industry, clinical, and preclinical researchers in order to relate the developments in stem cell research to the activities of SOT to stimulate interest and growth in stem cells as it relates to the general science of toxicology. The Section may propose sessions for future Annual Meetings, exchange information *via* newsletters, present awards, host meetings, and participate in other scientific activities. At the SOT Annual Meetings, the Section will sponsor continuing education courses and symposia. Students are an important resource and are instrumental to the growth and future success of this dynamic new Section. We encourage all interested students to become members. Remember, all students are eligible to join one Specialty Section FREE with membership in SOT. Membership has steadily grown during the Section's first year, increasing by nearly 21% since the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The Stem Cells SS will be sponsoring a Continuing Education Course at the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The course, titled "Stem Cells in Toxicology," will take place on Sunday, March 11, from 8:15 AM–12 PM. This will be a Basic CE course intended for all levels stem cell toxicologists.

The Section is currently accepting nominations for all leadership positions and will hold formal elections in early 2012. Self-nominations are welcomed. Graduate Student and Postdoctoral awards are also being discussed and an announcement will be made soon.

The Stem Cells SS website is now up and running – you can view the website at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/scss/index.asp>

For more information on how to become a member of this specialty section, or for general information, please contact Justin Colacino.

## TOXICOLOGIC AND EXPLORATORY PATHOLOGY

**2011-2012 Student Representative:** Needs student representative, please contact Jessica Placido for more information.

TEPSS, the Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology, is an organization to promote the use of pathology methods and approaches in toxicology research. We develop and propose symposia and workshops for the SOT Annual Meeting, promote high-quality scholarship by selecting top students for travel awards, provide networking opportunities for pathologists at the SOT meeting, and provide pathologists' perspective to the SOT leadership. Students are encouraged to attend our meetings and apply for awards. In addition to the travel awards and the TEPSS luncheon, the biggest opportunity is in networking with

people who are actively working in the profession and who may be in careers to which graduate students are not often exposed. For more information, please visit <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/TEP/index.html> .

## SPECIALTY SECTION GSLC REPRESENTATIVES

SPECIALTY SECTION	REPRESENTATIVE	EMAIL
Biological Modeling	Miyuki Breen	<a href="mailto:mbreen@ncsu.edu">mbreen@ncsu.edu</a>
Biotechnology	Jeremy Larson	<a href="mailto:jklarson@uwm.edu">jklarson@uwm.edu</a>
Carcinogenesis	Jessica Wos	<a href="mailto:jesswos@yahoo.com">jesswos@yahoo.com</a>
Cardiovascular Toxicology	Jim Kleinedler	<a href="mailto:jklei2@lsuhsc.edu">jklei2@lsuhsc.edu</a>
Clinical and Translational Toxicology	TBD	
Comparative and Veterinary	Jingtao Lu	<a href="mailto:lujingta@msu.edu">lujingta@msu.edu</a>
Dermal Toxicology	Gayatri Sankaran	<a href="mailto:gayatri.sankaran@email.ucr.edu">gayatri.sankaran@email.ucr.edu</a>
Drug Discovery Toxicology	Rachel Tanos	<a href="mailto:Racheltanos@gmail.com">Racheltanos@gmail.com</a>
Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (Programming Subcommittee Secretary)	Sarah Lacher	<a href="mailto:sarah.lacher@umontana.edu">sarah.lacher@umontana.edu</a>
Food Safety	Brenna Flannery	<a href="mailto:flanne12@msu.edu">flanne12@msu.edu</a>
Immunotoxicology	Jenna Benson	<a href="mailto:jenna.benson@umontana.edu">jenna.benson@umontana.edu</a>
<i>In Vitro</i> and Alternative Methods	Sridhar Jaligama	<a href="mailto:sridhar.jaligama@gmail.com">sridhar.jaligama@gmail.com</a>
Inhalation and Respiratory	Christopher Carosino	<a href="mailto:cmcarosino@ucdavis.edu">cmcarosino@ucdavis.edu</a>
Mechanisms	Rebecca Smathers	<a href="mailto:rebecca.smathers@ucdenver.edu">rebecca.smathers@ucdenver.edu</a>
Medical Device	TBD	
Metals	Sandra Wise	<a href="mailto:swise@usm.maine.edu">swise@usm.maine.edu</a>
Mixtures	TBD	
Molecular Biology	Britton Goodale	<a href="mailto:goodaleb@onid.orst.edu">goodaleb@onid.orst.edu</a>
Nanotoxicology	Lisa Truong	<a href="mailto:Lisa.Truong@science.oregonstate.edu">Lisa.Truong@science.oregonstate.edu</a>
Neurotoxicology	TBD	
Occupational and Public Health (Communications Subcommittee Secretary)	Lydia Louis	<a href="mailto:lmlois@rci.rutgers.edu">lmlois@rci.rutgers.edu</a>
Ocular Toxicology	TBD	
Regulatory and Safety Evaluation	Marcy McNamara	<a href="mailto:marcy1.mcnamara@umontana.edu">marcy1.mcnamara@umontana.edu</a>
Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology	Nicholas Heger	<a href="mailto:nicholas.heger@brown.edu">nicholas.heger@brown.edu</a>
Risk Assessment	TBD	
Stem Cells	Justin Colacino	<a href="mailto:colacino@umich.edu">colacino@umich.edu</a>
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology	TBD	
Council Liaison	Donald Fox	<a href="mailto:dfox@optometry.uh.edu">dfox@optometry.uh.edu</a>
SOT Staff	David Rossé	<a href="mailto:davidr@toxicology.org">davidr@toxicology.org</a>

**This newsletter was produced by  
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