

The SOTudent e-Letter



2006 Spring Edition

Published by: The SOT Student Advisory Committee

A Message from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

Dear Students,

Welcome to the spring edition of the SOTudent e-Letter! This newsletter, published by the SOT Student Advisory Committee, is a biannual publication for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. This newsletter contains highlights from the 2006 SOT Annual Meeting, important Regional Chapter updates, and other important news for student members.

About the SAC

Each SOT Regional Chapter selects one graduate student member to represent their Chapter on the Student Advisory Committee. The SAC was created to provide student liaisons between the Regional Chapters and National SOT. Our job is to address the needs of students in the Society and to promote student participation and membership. If you are interested in learning more about the SAC, you can access the following page on the SOT website, www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/studentervices.asp, or just get in contact with one of us! (See page 13 for SAC contact information).

During the 2006 SOT Annual Meeting, the SAC elected new officers. Beginning in May, the new officers are: John Norman (SAC Chairperson), Patrick Shaw (Co-Chairperson), and Kristina DeSmet (Secretary). Congratulations to John and Kristina!

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2006 SOT Annual Meeting Highlights

Submitted by John Norman, 2006-2007 SAC Chairperson

A huge thank you for all the student and post-doctoral members who attended the SAC functions at the 2006 Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in San Diego. Once again the Annual Meeting was a tremendous success for the student and post-doctoral attendees. The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) had a busy year preparing for several events.

The kick-off event for the meeting was the annual Student/Post-Doctoral Mixer. The Mixer was well attended and provided an excellent setting for students to interact and network with one another. Posters from the Specialty Sections and from some of the SOT Regional Chapters were also displayed at the Mixer for student/post-doctoral perusal. The SAC awarded prizes, including iPods, in conjunction with the 2006 SOT "Student Event Planner," a convenient student guide to the SOT Annual Meeting.

The newest program initiated by the SAC was the Room Sharing Program. This initiative allowed students and other meeting attendees at various institutions to locate a roommate to help share in the cost of the Annual Meeting. There were approximately 30 to 40 attendees who used the service for the 2006 meeting and the SAC recommends that SOT continues and expands the service.

The Lunch with an Expert (LWAE) program is an annual event sponsored and coordinated through the SAC. The LWAE facilitates student networking with professionals who come from diverse backgrounds. This year, over 180 students and 40 experts participated in the LWAE program. The SAC is working to streamline and simplify the process for student participation for the 2007 Annual Meeting.

During the Annual Meeting, the SAC held elections for new officers. The new term began on May 1, 2006, and the newly elected officers are: **John Norman** (SAC Chairperson), **Patrick Shaw** (SAC Co-Chairperson), and **Kristina DeSmet** (SAC Secretary).

The SAC is pursuing several new initiatives in the upcoming year to better serve the growing student body of the SOT, a group with over 1,000 members. As part of the SAC's primary mission, we are proposing several initiatives to increase student membership and participation. The SAC also hopes to compile a resource guide that will include programming ideas for students to use at their own institutions and Regional Chapters as well as tips for poster and platform presentations at the annual meeting. The guide will also contain an alumni directory to better facilitate student networking.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding student events, student initiatives, or student membership, please contact your SAC Regional Chapter Representative or SOT headquarters. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Charlotte!

Regional Chapter Information

Regional Chapter student member tallies:

ALLEGHENY-ERIE	9
CENTRAL STATES	11
GULF COAST	5
LAKE ONTARIO	2
MICHIGAN	13
MID-ATLANTIC	31
MIDWEST	8
MOUNTAIN WEST	21
NATIONAL CAPITAL	20
NORTH CAROLINA	45
NORTHEAST	19
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	12
NORTHLAND	4
OHIO VALLEY	10
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	24
SOUTH CENTRAL	21
SOUTHEASTERN	19
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	19

SPRING 2006 TOTAL

287 National SOT members are members of Regional Chapters; 6 are members of more than one Regional Chapter

Total number of National SOT student members:

1,030

Proportion of Current Student Members:

Graduate Students = 72%

Post-Doctoral 292 = 28 %

How can you become a Regional Chapter and a National SOT student member?

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

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

Already a student member of SOT? Renew your dues online! To renew your National or Regional SOT membership, go to www.toxicology.org/ai/mi/memberinfo.asp and select the "Membership Renewal On-Line" link.

Central States Chapter

Student Representative: Kristian Fried

Flourishing since its revival two years ago, the SOT Central States (CS) Regional Chapter has rapidly grown and today once again takes pride in being the heartland's premier toxicological society. It extends across Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and central/western Iowa, serving 213 SOT members, including 50 student members.

The annual award ceremony for the prestigious John Doull Medal was one of the central events of last year's meeting in Ames, IA. Dr. Gregory A. Reed from the University of Kansas Medical Center was the recipient of this distinguished prize. He was honored for his outstanding contributions to the field of toxicology, most recently regarding human studies. CS President Dr. Charles Barton led the event, which started with an entertaining evening of social time and turned into a focused scientific convention the morning after. The meeting featured prominent invited speakers as well as platform sessions by post-docs and graduate students. The Central States Chapter proudly awarded \$ 500 travel support to the best presenter of each category to attend the national meeting in San Diego. The next annual CS meeting is scheduled for October 6th, 2006 and will be held in Kansas City, KS. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Xinru Wang, President of the China Society of Toxicology.

The chapter's camaraderie and fellowship foster a conducive atmosphere for collaborations. Relationships established during the meeting in Iowa were refreshed at the national meeting in San Diego, leading to strong links between researchers, departments and institutions throughout the southwestern Midwest.

Student Membership is free. Please contact the CS President Dr. Charles Barton, President-Elect Dr. Yvonne Wan, or Student Representative Kristian Fried (kfried@kumc.edu) for further information.

Michigan Chapter

Student Representative: Patrick Shaw

The Michigan Regional Chapter of SOT held its spring meeting at Brook Lodge in Augusta, MI, on Friday, May 19th. The topic of the meeting was nanotechnology and drug delivery. Students were encouraged to register and attend the event. The meeting's speakers included both academic professors and pharmaceutical industry experts, and breakfast and lunch were included in the meeting registration fee.

Midwest Chapter

Student Representative: Kristina DeSmet

This year's spring 2006 meeting was held on Friday, May 12th in Lincolnshire, IL and was a joint meeting with the Midwest Teratology Association. The focus was "Exogenous Disruption of Endocrine Function: Thyroid and Testicular Toxicity." Following the meeting students presented their work at a poster session. The best poster received the Victor A. Drill Award which entails a paid trip to the following year's national SOT meeting. This year's Victor A. Drill Award recipient was Kristina DeSmet from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her work was titled, "Near-Infrared Light Therapy Increases Cell Viability in an *In Vitro* Model of Parkinson's Disease.

The Young Investigator Award was also announced at the 2006 spring meeting. This award consists of \$1500 to be used at the discretion of the student towards costs that is associated with toxicological training, education, and research. This year's recipient was Sara Lovern from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her proposal was titled, "Uptake and Retention of C₆₀ and TiO₂ Nanoparticles in Zebra Mussels."

If you have any questions regarding the Victor A. Drill Award, MRC Young Investigator Award, or about becoming involved in the Midwest Regional Chapter please contact Kristina DeSmet at kddesmet@uwm.edu .

National Capital Chapter

2005-06 Student Representative: Mashaeh Al-Namaeh

The NCAC-SOT Spring Symposium was on May 22, 2006 at the Lister Hills Auditorium, NIH Campus, Bethesda, MD. The title of the symposium is "Public Health Concerns in Disaster Preparedness." Students displayed scientific posters of their research and the best posters were awarded cash prizes. For more information and photos, please check the NCAC Web site www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/ncac/Default.htm .

North Carolina Chapter

Student Representative: Beth Wasilak

This year marks the 25th Anniversary for the North Carolina Chapter of SOT. On February 16th NCSOT held a very special spring meeting to celebrate this event. The 25th Anniversary Celebration was titled *Toxicology Then and Now* and was held at the US EPA in Research Triangle Park, NC. The meeting featured two distinguished speakers: Tom Miya, founding President of the NCSOT, and Linda Birnbaum, Past-President of NCSOT and SOT. Each presenter gave an enlightening retrospective view of toxicology in North Carolina over the past

25 years as well as an insightful look into the future of the field. The meeting also featured a poster competition for pre-doctoral student members, with six \$500 cash awards up for grabs. The student award winners were: Elizabeth MacKenzie and Jae Young Kim of North Carolina State University, Alicia R. Timme-Laragy of Duke University, and T.L. Tal, J. Ciencewicky and Yu-Mee Kim of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Congratulations to all student award winners and all other poster presenters!

Don't forget, student membership in NCSOT is a great way to learn more about current regional research in the field of toxicology. Membership is inexpensive and can serve as a positive mark on your CV. There are two annual local meetings sponsored by NCSOT that provide great networking opportunities as well as a chance to share your research with others and possibly win a merit award. Student membership is open to all local graduate students as well as undergraduates studying in the field of toxicology or any related fields. If you would like to become a student member please visit the North Carolina SOT homepage at www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/nc/ncsot.htm for more information.

Northland Chapter

2005-06 Student Representative: Jessica Berthiaume

The Northland Chapter just had its Spring meeting in St. Paul, MN on May 10th. The meeting focused on risk assessment and contemporary regulatory issues including the implementation of REACH in the European Union. Speakers included Karen Blackburn (Proctor & Gamble), Resha Putzrath (USEPA), and Greg McCarney (3M). There was also a poster session in which several students received monetary prizes for their presentations; Kaleb Lund, Josh Pyatskowitz, Nicolette Zeliadt and Tim O'Brien. Congratulations students!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our next chapter meeting will tentatively be taking place on September 28th, 2006. The meeting will be in a workshop format. Details to follow. Members of NL-SOT and other interested parties are invited to participate in a discussion forum concerning the direction of the Toxicology Graduate Program at the University of Minnesota. The informal meeting will take place in June. Interested persons should contact Micheal Murphy (murph005@umn.edu).

Speak your mind!

The NL-SOT is interested in improving its outreach efforts with students, both members and non-members. We would love to get input from you! If you have ideas, comments or questions about student activities within NL-SOT please contact our student representative, Lisa Schmidt (schm1154@umn.edu).

Keep up to date! Get information about the chapter's activities and membership by checking out our website at: www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/northland/Index.htm.

Pacific Northwest Chapter

2005-06 Student Representative: Stephanie Smith-Roe

PANWAT has a new student representative. David Castro, a graduate student in Dr. David Williams' lab in the Dept. of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology at Oregon State University, will replace Stephanie Smith-Roe, who recently defended her thesis in the same department. This year's PANWAT meeting will be held at the University of Montana in Missoula from August 24 – 25, and the topic will be related to animal models for disease. Students are highly encouraged to attend the PANWAT meetings, which are very student-friendly and offer an excellent opportunity to present data and to develop networking skills. Please visit the PANWAT's homepage for additional information (www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/panwat/home.htm).

South Central Chapter

Student Representative: Vishakha Bhave

Hi, folks. It was fun to meet with you at the SOT annual meeting in San Diego. There was significant student participation from our chapter and many students won awards at the annual meeting. University of Louisiana at Monroe will be hosting this year's regional chapter meeting on October 12-13, 2006. Students will be able to present recent work during poster and platform sessions. Student awards will be given for best platform and poster presentations. There will be separate awards for non-student/non-faculty (includes postdoctoral fellows and research associates) best platform or poster presentations. The Chapter gives two Technology Transfer Awards at the Fall Meeting, each a cash award of up to \$ 750. The award enables graduate students to visit another laboratory and learn a new technique not available in the home laboratory or university. In addition to these awards, the chapter also gives three travel awards to graduate students or post-doctoral fellows to attend the Annual SOT Meeting. Call for abstract submission and deadlines for these award applications will be announced soon via e-mail to all the student members. If you have any questions about the awards or if you are interested in joining or becoming involved in the South Central Regional Chapter, contact Vishakha S. Bhave at bhavev@tribe.ulm.edu.



SOT Post-Doctoral Assembly

Initiatives for the Coming Year

The Post-Doctoral Assembly (PDA) Board has been working since our inception to provide resources and leadership opportunities for post-docs in the Society. We have lots of new ideas for the coming year which were refined in discussions at the Annual Meeting.

Current initiatives include:

- Conducting a survey of post-docs to get to know our members better and gauge their needs. Results will be posted to the Web site and used to identify specific programs of interest to post-docs in the Society.
- Submitting a proposal for a platform session at the 2007 Annual Meeting which will highlight research conducted by post-docs. This will done be in conjunction with platform sessions for specific research topics.
- Development of post-doc representatives in Specialty Sections, Regional Chapters and Special Interest Groups. Some Regional Chapters have already elected post-doctoral representatives. We currently have a group of individuals in the PDA working on outlining the selection and roles of these reps and where they will fit in the PDA and Society as a whole.
- Designing a "First Time Presenters Program" which will welcome first-time post-doctoral poster presenters to the Society and PDA.

Experts will be asked to volunteer to visit post-docs at their poster, giving newcomers to the Society a warm welcome and opportunity to network with other scientists.

- Creation of awards geared towards post-docs.
- Maintenance of current activities including further issues of the "Post-Y," articles for the *Communiqué*, and updating the PDA Web site www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD.asp.

Please feel free to contact us (SOTHQ@toxicology.org) for input on any of the above Initiatives. We want to hear from you!

Specialty Section Information

Specialty Section student member tallies:

BIOLOGICAL MODELING	10	COMPARATIVE AND VETERINARY	6
CARCINOGENESIS	30	DERMAL TOXICOLOGY	9
DRUG DISCOVERY	23	ETHICAL, LEGAL, AND SOCIAL ISSUES	4
FOOD SAFETY	13	IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY	36
IN VITRO	14	INHALATION	27
MECHANISMS	44	METALS	32
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	27	NEUROTOXICOLOGY	61
OCCUPATIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH	11	REGULATORY AND SAFETY EVALUATION	13
REPRODUCTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL	50	RISK ASSESSMENT	35
TOX. AND EXPLORATORY PATHOLOGY	3	WOMEN IN TOXICOLOGY	27

Total: 475

Some Student Members belong to more than one Specialty Section, so 371 SOT Student Members belong to Specialty Sections.

SOT Committee Reports

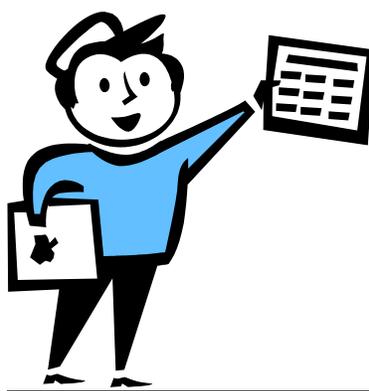
The Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee (RALA)

RALA exists to educate and raise the awareness of Congressional members and staff in matters relating to toxicological issues. RALA regularly seeks the input of members of SOT for topics to be presented into Congressional Science Briefings (CSB). These CSBs exist as lunch-hour briefings designed primarily to educate members of Congress and their staff on important issues as well as to enhance SOT's standing in the national political setting. Past CSBs have included information about West Nile Disease, dietary supplements, and pesticide use, and one on nanomaterial safety is planned for the fall.

RALA also makes use of Cap Wiz, a service providing convenient on-line access to contact your Senators and House of Representative members regarding important issues relating to toxicology. RALA has developed several form letters addressing various issues ranging from the use of animals in research to policies concerning international students. The letters are fully customizable and are a valuable tool. The RALA Web site can be accessed by going to www.toxicology.org/ai/gm/government.asp and clicking on the "Write a Letter to Congress" icon.

Every year RALA hosts a booth at the SOT Annual Meeting. This year at the RALA booth we had several computer terminals that allowed conference attendees to use the Write to Congress site. The booth was a success with approximately 175 letters written to Congress. Thank you for all your support and please visit the RALA booth at the 2007 annual meeting.

If you have any further questions or ideas for RALA, please contact the SAC RALA liaison John Norman at John_Norman@urmc.rochester.edu or visit the RALA web page www.toxicology.org/ai/gm/government.asp.



SOT Awards for Graduate Students and Post-docs

The Society of Toxicology is very supportive of student/post-doc members, and provides a variety of awards to assist with research, provide travel support for the Annual Meeting, and in recognition of outstanding young scientists. In most cases, applicants must be members of SOT, so if you are not currently a member, please submit your member application (apply on-line at www.toxicology.org/ai/mi/memberinfo.asp) before September 1. Once accepted, you will also qualify for the lower student member rate for Annual Meeting registration.

Many students receive travel funding to attend the meeting through SOT Graduate Travel Support. The Novartis Graduate Fellowship is given annually to support an outstanding graduate student. The next Colgate-Palmolive Post-Doctoral Fellowship Award in *In Vitro* Toxicology will be awarded in 2007; this fellowship is awarded in alternate years.

Full descriptions and updated applications for all SOT awards can be found after July 1 at www.toxicology.org/ai/af/awards.aspx . The deadline for all 2007 SOT awards is October 9, 2006. In addition, many Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections provide a variety of awards to students, and that information is also linked from the Awards Web page.

The Student Advisory Committee Regional Chapter Representatives

Allegheny-Erie	Adam Straub (acs27@pitt.edu)
Central States	Kristian Fried (kfried@kumc.edu)
Gulf Coast	Courtney Hill (cehill@utmb.edu)
Lake Ontario SAC Chair	John Norman (John_Norman@URMC.Rochester.edu)
Michigan SAC Co-chair	Patrick Shaw (shawpatr@msu.edu)
Mid-Atlantic	Lauren D'Angelo (dangelo@usip.edu)

Midwest SAC Secretary	Kristina DeSmet (kingtc@uwm.edu)
Mountain West	***Karen Thomas (karen.thomas@pharm.utah.edu)
National Capital	Devon Graham (dgrah001@umaryland.edu)
North Carolina	Beth Wasilak (bawasila@ncsu.edu)
Northeast	Laura Savery (LauraSaveryUSM@hotmail.com)
Northern California	Jessica Houghton (jshoughton@ucdavid.edu)
Northland	Lisa Schmidt (schm1154@umn.edu)
Ohio Valley	Samuel Mcneely (scmcne01@gwise.louisville.edu)
Pacific Northwest	David Castro (castrod@onid.orstedu)
South Central	Prajakta Palkar (palkarps@tribe.ulm.edu)
Southeastern	Carey Hines sothq@toxicology.org
Southern California	Erin Hsu (erinhsu@ucla.edu)
SAC chair	John Norman (John_Norman@URMC.Rochester.edu)

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