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 2005 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 SOT website, http://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/studentservices.asp, or just get in contact with one of us! (See page 13 for SAC contact information).

During the 2005 SOT Annual Meeting, the SAC elected new officers. Beginning in May, the new officers are: Tracy Pickering (SAC Chairperson), John Norman (Co-Chairperson), and Jessica Berthiaume (Secretary). Congratulations Tracy, John, and Jessica!
The Annual Meeting in New Orleans was a tremendous success for graduate student and post-doctoral members. The SAC coordinated the “Lunch with an Expert Program (LWAE)” again this year. This program provides an excellent opportunity for students and post-doctoral fellows to meet with associate and full SOT members (“toxicology experts”) for informal discussions over breakfast, lunch, or dinner. We had 148 students/post-doctoral members and 35 experts participate in the LWAE program this year. For those of you who participated in the LWAE program, the SAC would appreciate your taking the time to complete the “Lunch with an Expert Survey.” This survey allows the SAC to get feedback from you in order to make improvements to the LWAE program for subsequent years. The survey can be accessed at this website listed below. Thanks to all of you who participated in LWAE!
http://www.toxicology.org/dotnet/lunchexpertsurvey.aspx

The Graduate Student/Post-Doctoral Fellow Mixer was also a success this year. Several Specialty Sections displayed posters containing information about their Specialty Sections in order to bolster student membership. Additionally, the SOT-Post-doctoral Task Force had their first informal group meeting during the Mixer. The SAC awarded student prizes to students who entered their names in a drawing using the 2005 SOT Student Event Planner. The recipients of these prizes were: Kim Lichtveld (University of North Carolina), Arno Siraki (NIEHS), and Stacy Corthals (Indiana University School of Medicine). Congratulations Kim, Arno, and Stacy!

Several student initiatives were established for the 2005-2006 SAC term. In response to input from the student/postdoctoral members and SOT Council, the SAC will be exploring the possibility of creating a room sharing program for students wanting to attend the Annual SOT Meetings. Additionally, in an effort to promote student membership in SOT, the SAC will be investigating the possibility of creating travel awards for new graduate student members in the Society. If you have any ideas or comments regarding student initiatives please contact your SAC Representative.

Pictured from left to right: Tracy Pickering (SAC Chairperson), prize winners Kim Lichtveld, Arno Siraki, and Stacy Corthals, and Christina Wilson (Past SAC Chairperson)
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 expert in SOT. You are permitted access to a job placement program, 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 facilitate communication that could open the door for new research collaborations. It’s also a great way to network with future employers! Don’t miss out on this great opportunity!

**How to apply to be a student member:** Apply today! Application information is available online at [http://www.toxicology.org/dotnet/membership_app.aspx](http://www.toxicology.org/dotnet/membership_app.aspx)
Already a student member of SOT? Renew your dues online! To renew your National or Regional SOT membership, go to https://www.toxicology.org/dotnet/2005dues.aspx

Allegheny-Erie Chapter
Student Representative: Ashley Murray

The Allegheny-Erie 2005 Spring Meeting was held on Friday, May 20 at the Hillman Cancer Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The program was “Metal-induced Toxicity.”

Gulf Coast Chapter
Student Representative: Yang Ye

The Gulf Coast Chapter Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting will be held on November 4th-5th, 2005, at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas.

Michigan Chapter
Student Representative: Tracy Pickering

The Michigan Chapter held its spring meeting on May 20, 2005, at the Brook Lodge Conference Center in Augusta, Michigan. The topic for the spring meeting was “Developmental Toxicology.” The program included four speakers as well as a continental breakfast and lunch buffet!

If you have any questions regarding how you can become involved with SOT, please feel free to contact me at tracy.pickering@mpiresearch.com or our new Michigan Chapter representative Patrick Shaw at shawpatr@msu.edu.

Midwest Chapter
Student Representative: Tisha King-Heiden

The fall 2004 meeting “Ocular Toxicology Advancements – Way Beyond Getting the Red Out” was a great success, and a very eye-opening experience! This year’s spring 2005 meeting was held May 13 in Lincolnshire, IL, and was very exciting. The focus of this meeting was “Current Topics in Great Lakes Ecotoxicology, Human Health, Regulation, and Commercial Development: How do you value the Great Lakes Resource?” In addition to presentations on current research, there was a panel discussion/debate with regional state representatives regarding current legislation that affect the Great Lakes. Additionally, the Victor A. Drill Award and the MRC Young Investigator Award winners were announced.
Many congratulations to this year’s **MRC Young Investigator Award** winner, Cynthia McDonnell (University of Illinois) for her work entitled “Molecular mechanisms of methoprene resistance in *Drosophila melanogaster* and *Anopheles gambiae* and their relationship to the mammalian aryl hydrocarbon response cascade.” This award, sponsored by Covance, provides $1500 for use toward the proposed innovative research project.

The **Victor A. Drill Award** at the spring meeting was awarded to Stacy Corthals (Indiana University School of Medicine), for her proposal entitled “Mechanisms of hemangiosarcoma development following 2-butoxyethanol exposure.” This award provides travel funds for the winning student to attend the next National SOT meeting. Tisha King Heiden (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee) was runner-up with her poster entitled “Using zebrafish to investigate the molecular mechanisms by which TCDD impacts reproduction.”

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 Tisha King Heiden at kingtc@uwm.edu.

**National Capital Chapter:**

*Student Representative: Melinda Pomeroy-Black*

On November 2, 2004, the NCAC of SOT held its annual Fall Symposium followed by the third annual Career Enhancement Day on November 3. The title of the symposium was “Toxicology of Dietary Supplements.” The symposium was well attended by representatives of government agencies, industry, and academia. Students and post-docs from Virginia Tech, the University of Maryland, Howard University, Georgetown University, George Washington University and the Food and Drug Administration attended Career Enhancement Day. The day was entitled “Writing in the Sciences.” Attendees were treated to a day of talks and Q&A on the skills necessary for writing grants, theses, and publications. Feedback on the day was once again extremely positive, and a fourth Career Day is in planned for fall 2005.

The chapter’s spring symposium was held on May 24, 2005, at Lister Hill Auditorium at the National Library of Medicine. The topic of the day was “Toxicology of Chemical Mixtures.” There was a poster competition at the meeting with awards given to graduate student and post-doc chapter members.

**North Carolina Chapter:**

*Student Representative: Wendy Jefferson*

The North Carolina Society of Toxicology Spring Meeting was held on February 17, 2005, and the topic was *Implications of Nanotechnology for Toxicologists: “What’s the big deal about such about a small issue?”* The meeting was held at the USEPA Main Building, Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC. The six pre-doctoral student poster award winners this year
were: Justin Aldridge from Duke University, Rebecca Clewell from CIIT, Tamara Tal from UNC Chapel Hill, Undi Hoffler from NIEHS, Dana Dolinoy from Duke University, and Matthew Stout from UNC Chapel Hill. We would like to congratulate all of our local participants for excellent poster presentations this year. Our Fall Meeting will be held sometime in October and there will be an opportunity for post-docs to participate in the newly established Presidents Award for Research Competition (PARC). So stay informed on all of the upcoming events in the North Carolina region via the NC SOT homepage – a link can be found from the SOT website: http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/nc/ncsot.htm

Don’t forget, student membership is a great way to learn more about the area’s current research in the field of toxicology. It’s cheap, a great way to meet others in the field, and can serve as a positive mark on your CV. Let’s get as many of our friends from all the major universities in the area who are in the field of toxicology or in fields related to toxicology to join! If you would like to become a student member, you can also go to the North Carolina SOT homepage to get all of that information. I have had a wonderful two years serving as the student representative for North Carolina, but my term is over and you have a newly elected student representative. Her name is Beth Wasilak, and she is from North Carolina State University. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Jefferson at jeffers1@niehs.nih.gov or Beth Wasilak at bawasila@ncsu.edu.

**Northeast Chapter**

**Student Representative: Joe Lynch**

The Northeast Fall Regional Chapter Meeting, featuring “Juvenile Toxicology,” will be on October 7, 2005. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, in Ridgefield, Connecticut, will be hosting the meeting.

**Northern California Chapter**

**Student Representative: Vince Seaman**

Our annual spring meeting was held on May 24, at SRI in Palo Alto, CA. It was a joint meeting with GETA (Genetic and Environmental Toxicology Association) and the topic was "Adult Stem Cells in Toxicology."

**Northland Chapter**

**Student Representative: Jessica Berthiaume**

Our spring meeting on April 20 at the University of Minnesota campus had a great turnout, particularly for students. There were three invited talks, including “Obesity in the 21st century: Genetics, environmental factors, or both?” Dr. Sheila Collins; “Protecting the children: Risk assessment, risk management, and children's environmental health,” Dr. Gail Charnley; and “Comparative approaches to understanding gene-chemical
interactions,” Dr. Carolyn Mattingly. These were great talks about issues of current interest and investigation. The graduate students had an opportunity to enjoy lunch with the speakers to learn more about building various careers in toxicology, which provided valuable insight into not only professional choices, but also on balancing a career with family life.

Please consider joining us in future meetings for exciting talks, the chance to meet professionals in toxicology, and chat with other students in the region. If you have questions/ concerns/ comments about meetings or other student-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Berthiaume at jberthi1@d.umn.edu. Questions pertaining to Regional Chapter membership can also be directed to Teri Fick at tkfick@mmm.com. Keep up-to-date with NL-SOT! Visit the chapter’s website at for the latest on NL-SOT’s activities or peruse past events. (http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/northland/Index.htm)

**Ohio Valley Chapter**

**Student Representative:  Janet Zang**

The first OVSOT student research showcase was held on May 27, 2005, at the University of Cincinnati, followed by a barbecue and social on the UC campus. One or two students from each OVSOT member schools gave 10-minute presentations on their research. Students, faculty and professionals from all OVSOT member institutions were invited to attend. Many thanks to Chris Curran, a graduate student of UC Division of Environmental Genetics and Molecular Toxicology, who brought up this wonderful idea and devoted tremendous effort in organizing this student activity with other UC students as well as liaisons from all OVSOT member institutions. A web page is under construction for this activity at http://www.eh.uc.edu/ovsot/. For details, please contact Chris Curran at currancp@ucmail.uc.edu.

WIL Research of Ashland, Ohio, and the Society of Toxicology kindly sponsored this showcase. As always, OVSOT officers were very encouraging and supportive. In addition, Ohio Valley SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) is considering a joint event next time. Two teleseminars were planned by OVSOT before our fall meeting. The first one was on April 27 with Dan Nebert as the speaker, and the second one will be in September. For more information, please contact Tim Dalton (DALTONTP@UCMAIL.UC.EDU).

Fall meeting announcement: OVSOT 2005 annual meeting is scheduled on October 27-28, 2005 in Louisville, KY.

**Pacific Northwest Chapter**

**Student Representative:  Castle Funatake**

Hold the date! The PANWAT Regional meeting will be held September 8-9, 2005, in beautiful Astoria, OR. As usual, student awards for best presentation and best poster will be given. Keep an eye on the PANWAT website (http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/panwat/home.htm) for more information. This meeting is always a student-friendly environment, and I encourage you
to attend and present your data! This spring the PANWAT Chapter announced their new student representative, Stephanie Smith-Roe (Oregan State University).

**South Central Chapter**

**Student Representative: Sharmilee Sawant**

The South Central Chapter reception at the 44th Annual Meeting of SOT in New Orleans was held in the Hilton Riverside on Tuesday evening (03/08/05). The reception, followed by a short business meeting, was well attended, and it was good to see familiar faces and welcome new ones. Dr. Martin Ronis from the University of Arkansas Medical Center invited all of us to attend the fall meeting at his campus to be held on October 20th-21st, 2005. The highlight of the business meeting was the announcement of the following student and postdoctoral travel awards:

- Student Travel Awards ($300 each)
  - Linnzi Wright (NCTR), Vijay Kale (ULM), and Shiqian Zhu (Ole Miss)

- Post Doctoral Travel Award ($300 each)
  - Dr. Neera Gopee (NCTR)

The new South Central student representative, for the 2005-2006 term, is Vishakha Bhave. Vishakha is a graduate student at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.
The Society of Toxicology’s Post-Doctoral Task Force (SOT-PDTF) enjoyed meeting those of you who were able to attend the 44th annual meeting in New Orleans. At the mixer, we got a chance to hear from Dr. Marion Ehrich, council liaison for SOT-PDTF, and Dr. George Corcoran, president-elect, on the great enthusiasm they have for our group moving forward and the importance they see in us as the future leaders of the Society.

We are gearing up again, planning some new activities including creation of a more permanent group within the Society. We would like to hear your great ideas on this and other issues and want to invite you to join/visit the discussion group for the PDTF on Yahoo. If you are not a member of the discussion group, you can become one by sending Jim Luyendyk an e-mail at luyendyk@msu.edu. If you are already a group member, visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SOTPDTF/ to look at recent activities, or just send an E-mail to the group at SOTPDTF@yahoogroups.com with your thoughts.

Thanks for your time and we hope to hear from you soon! Don’t forget to check out the post-doc section of the website at http://www.toxicology.org/MemberServices/StudentServices/PD.html!

Sincerely,

Members of the SOT-PDTF
SAC Specialty Section Coordinator: Sharmilee Sawant

Last year when SAC appointed a student liaison for Specialty Sections, the objective of SAC was to increase student membership and participation in the SOT Specialty Sections. Each Specialty Section was encouraged to identify a student member within their section to serve as an ad hoc Student Advisor to the SAC. I would like to welcome and congratulate the new Student Advisors nominated for the Specialty Sections during the SOT Annual Meeting held in New Orleans.

Noel Raynal (Carcinogenesis)  
Jamie DeWitt (Immunotoxicology)  
Sachin Devi (CVSS)  
Elena Craft (Metals)  
Michele Tayler (Neurotoxicology)

Adrian Nanez (Mechanisms)  
Adrienne Black (Dermal)  
Alison Hege (TEPSS)  
Heather Floyd (Molecular Biology)

If your Specialty Section is not listed, then your Specialty Section still needs to identify a student representative. If you are interested in the position, please contact your Specialty Section president or Tracy Pickering (Tracy.Pickering@mpiiresearch.com)

Several Specialty Sections exhibited posters to explain the activities of their Sections and the advantages of being a student member in their sections. All the Specialty Sections awarded Student Travel Awards and/or Best Paper Awards to encourage and recognize students. If you are not a member of a Specialty Section, then please sign up today! You can register to be a member of a Specialty Section any time during the year... FREE for the first one! SIGN UP TODAY by going online to the SOT website at www.toxicology.org. Enter your member ID, access the Specialty Sections segment under Member Services, proceed through the SOT online membership application and indicate which Specialty Section you would like to join. You can also sign up when you renew your SOT dues. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to be involved in one or more SOT Specialty Sections!

**Specialty Section student member tallies:**

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Student Members</th>
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<td>Biological Modeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carcinogenesis</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug Discovery</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Food Safety</td>
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<td>In Vitro</td>
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<td>Mechanisms</td>
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<td>Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>Occupational and Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductive and Developmental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toxic. and Exploratory Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative and Veterinary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermal Toxicology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues</td>
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<td>Immunotoxicology</td>
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<td>Inhalation</td>
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<td>Regulatory and Safety Evaluation</td>
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<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women in Toxicology</td>
<td>28</td>
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Animals in Research Committee (AiR)

SAC Representative to AiR: Christina Wilson

The Animals in Research Committee sponsored a workshop at the 2005 SOT Annual Meeting entitled “Toxicological Research and Testing: Best Practices and Opportunities for Laboratory Animal Refinement, Reduction, and Replacement.” The interest in this workshop was overwhelming; the workshop was a great success! The AiR Committee strives to address issues related to the effective and humane use of laboratory animals in toxicology research while promoting the development of alternatives to animal testing. The workshop addressed these issues by providing a forum for discussion regarding the best GLP requirements and laboratory practices and approaches that promote humane treatment of animals.

Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee (RALA)

SAC Representative to RALA: Melinda Pomeroy-Black

RALA is responsible for monitoring regulation and legislation and for providing educational tools for SOT members and Congress. RALA has been working on two initiatives:

1. Faxing &/or emailing letters to members of Congress about issues of interest to SOT. RALA members provide template letters about different topics for use by SOT members. The topics can include NIH funding, the impact of visa restrictions on the recruitment of international scientists, or the use of animals in research. If interested in writing to your members of Congress on these or any other toxicology-related topic, please visit http://www.toxicology.org/ai/gm/government.asp for access to these templates. Remember to use the zip code where you live (NOT work) when writing as a constituent of that representative or senator.

2. In order to promote the use of science in the regulatory and legislative decision-making process, SOT is underwriting the Saturday morning show "Weekend Edition" on National Public Radio. These spots will run from January until July of 2005 in the greater Washington, DC area. RALA is currently considering how to measure the impact of this sponsorship, so if you have any ideas, please let me know & I will pass them onto RALA.

Finally, because of the need for SOT to be a presence on Capitol Hill, SOT is considering hiring a full-time professional staff person to increase visibility. The Legislative Communications Specialist would be responsible for developing relationships with congressional staff members, managing Legislative visits, and working with RALA to monitor and make SOT members aware
of legislative and regulatory activities. We will keep you updated about the progress on this front.

**Membership Committee**

*SAC Representative to Membership: Castle Funatake*

The Membership Committee is dedicated to improving the transition from Student/Post-doc Membership to Associate and Full Membership in SOT. Did you know that if you are a Student or Post-doctoral fellow and you meet the requirements for Associate Membership, you don’t need to wait to apply for Associate Membership? Why wait to receive the added benefits and the distinction of Associate Membership in SOT?

If you have ideas or suggestions on how to facilitate the transition from Student/Post-doc to Associate Membership, please get in touch with the Membership Committee Student Representative!
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<th>Email Address</th>
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<td>Allegheny-Erie</td>
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<td>Gulf Coast</td>
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<td>Northland</td>
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<td>South Central</td>
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