

# SOT Student e-Letter



WINTER 2012-2013 EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GSLC

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the SOT Student e-Letter! This biannual newsletter is published by the SOT Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) for graduate students. This edition of the newsletter contains important information about the upcoming 52<sup>nd</sup> SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, including the wide range of opportunities for students to network and get involved. It also contains information on where to find updates on the SOT website and links to websites where you can learn more about the SOT component groups.

-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 GSLC. 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 former Student Advisory Council as well as the RC, SIG and SS Graduate Committees.

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 at the [graduate student page](#) on the SOT website or just [get in contact with one of us!](#)



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## Commonly Used Acronyms

**SOT** – Society of Toxicology

**GSLC** – Graduate Student Leadership Committee

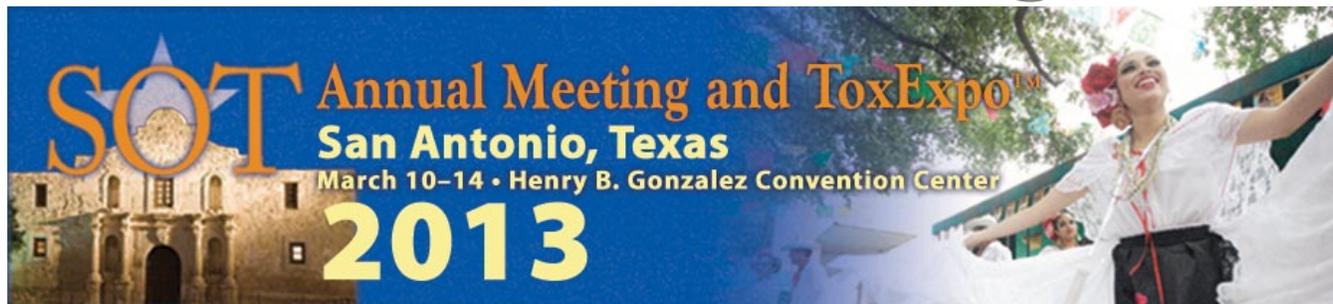
**RC** – Regional Chapter

**SIG** – Special Interest Group

**SS** – Specialty Section



# 2013 Annual Meeting News



**GET UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DETAILS AT:**

**[HTTP://WWW.TOXICOLOGY.ORG/A/MEET/AM2013/](http://www.toxicology.org/A/MEET/AM2013/)**

**MEET US IN SAN ANTONIO!**

## **FIVE SCIENTIFIC THEMES**

The 2013 Annual Meeting will feature five scientific themes covering the following topics:

- **Application of Systems Biology to Toxicology**
- **Biomarkers for Exposure Assessment, Safety Evaluation, and Translational Medicine**
- **Effects of Nanomaterials on Biological Systems**
- **Molecular Basis of Genetic Variability and Susceptibility to Toxicants**
- **Regulatory Science: Advancing New Approaches for Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment**

Many of the scientific sessions, including symposia, workshops, and roundtable discussions, will highlight these themes and how they relate to toxicological research.

## **STUDENT AWARD FOR 2013: NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

The **Outstanding GSLC Award** recognizes a student representative who has contributed to the society in a significant manner, i.e. above and beyond the normal expected basic service as a representative. Academic achievements are not considered for the award. Representative nominations and support letters should be submitted by **February 1, 2013**. The recipients will be honored at the Graduate Student/Postdoc Mixer on Sunday, March 10. For more information, please visit the [SOT website](#).

# 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. The events are summarized below, but you can find additional information on the [Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Events page](#) of the Annual Meeting website. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the 2013 Annual Meeting in San Antonio!

*-The Graduate Student Leadership Committee*

## **GSLC AND PDA CO-SPONSOR A 2013 SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM**

The GSLC and Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) will co-sponsor a symposium session at the 2013 Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, March 13** from **9:00-11:45 AM**. The session, entitled “Role of Systems Biology in Characterizing Risk of Developmental Origins of Disease” fits well with the SOT scientific theme “Application of Systems Biology to Toxicology.” The symposium session is co-chaired by GSLC Chair Tammy Palenski and David Szabo of the PDA. The goal of this symposium is to consider emerging knowledge and information from systems biology to inform risk assessment and decision making in the arena of developmental origins of disease. Growing evidence suggests that chemical exposures in early life can have immediate and long-term effects on the structure and function of organ systems, leading to the development of disease later in life. Systems biology approaches can aid in understanding molecular, cellular, metabolic, and morphological changes resulting from such exposures. These approaches, which include analysis of complex data sets from multiple experimental sources, interdisciplinary 'omics tools, and computer simulation modeling, are increasingly being applied to better understand developmental origins of disease. Current systems biology approaches on how to better identify developmental origins of disease and its implications to the risk assessment process through several case studies will be presented. This symposium continues our previous success as a co-sponsor of symposia at the past four Annual Meetings. Please plan to attend and support your student and post-doc colleagues!

## **EXPERT/GRADUATE STUDENT MEET-UPS**

The **Chat with an Expert (CWAE)** program 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 with three to six student names and will notify each of them of the time and date for their meeting. Groups meet at the CWAE poster board in the registration area of the Convention Center at the appointed time and then proceed to the designated place 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 environment. The Mixer will be held **Sunday, March 10** 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 RCs, SIGs, and SSs within SOT. **Tickets are FREE** and can be obtained by signing up for this event when you register for the Annual Meeting online or *via* the print registration form. A ticket and meeting badge are required for entry. Complimentary refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

## TRAINEE DISCUSSIONS WITH PLENARY LECTURER AND MRC SPEAKER

Graduate student and postdoctoral scholars will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Beutler informally after his Plenary Opening Lecture. The meeting will take place **Monday, March 11** from **10:00-11:00 AM!**

Every year, SOT hosts a Medical Research Council (MRC) speaker. After the talk, this year's MRC speaker, Professor Nicholson will be available to meet informally with graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. This meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 13** from **10:00-11:00 AM!**

Room size will be limited. Reserve a ticket for one or both of these events with your Annual Meeting registration. Learn more about the speakers on the [Featured Sessions page](#) of the Annual Meeting website.

## IN VITRO LECTURE AND LUNCHEON FOR STUDENTS

The annual ***In Vitro* Lecture and Luncheon** for Students will be held on **Monday, March 11** from **12:00-1:20 PM**, at the Annual Meeting. This event is sponsored by the Colgate-Palmolive Company. 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, reducing, and replacing animal use whenever feasible. Graduate students, undergraduates, postdoctoral scholars, and recipients of Colgate-Palmolive awards are among the guests at the *In Vitro* Toxicology Lecture and Luncheon. Register *via* the Annual Meeting registration, and the \$10 deposit will be returned upon entry to the event.

## TOX SHOWDOWN

Join the GSLC and your peers **Tuesday, March 12, 2013**, 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 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 and chaired by Phil Wexler and Dr. Sue Ford, this event is sure to be both informative and entertaining and a perfect way to celebrate the halfway point of the SOT Annual Meeting. The *Tox ShowDown* will provide attendees with a fun break, from the more technical business of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the *Tox ShowDown*; no ticket necessary. If you are interested in becoming a contestant on one of the three teams, email Phil Wexler directly at [wexlerp@mail.nih.gov](mailto:wexlerp@mail.nih.gov).

## POSTER TOURS FOR TRAINEES

A well-received event that debuted at the 2012, **Poster Tours for Trainees** will once again provide students and postdoctoral scientists the opportunity to participate in a one-hour guided poster tour with an expert toxicologist. This event will allow trainees to take part in critical evaluation of cutting-edge toxicology methods and research findings, network with an expert, and perhaps even build a long-term relationship with a senior toxicologist. Options to sign up for specific times will be coming soon.

## RECRUITING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM PEER MENTORS

The Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) is asking graduate students and postdocs to join in an important effort to recruit the next generation of toxicologists by serving as peer mentors for the Undergraduate Education Program. Into its 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. An estimated 40 undergraduate students will be 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 peer mentors provide an important way for students to learn more about career paths in toxicology.

Please volunteer to assist by contacting [Natalie Johnson](mailto:nmjohngo@jhspk.edu) [nmjohngo@jhspk.edu] or [Susan Simmons](mailto:susan@toxicology.org) [susan@toxicology.org]. Plan your arrival in San Antonio so that you can be at the opening session Saturday afternoon, March 9. Mentors continue to interact with the students through the close of the program mid-day on Monday, March 11.

## YOU TOX VIDEO CHALLENGE

The **YouTox Video Challenge** is a fun new video submission competition where you can compete for cash prizes (\$300-first, \$200-second, \$100-third). Winners will be recognized at the annual meeting. See the [graduate student page](#) on the SOT website for more information and a link to the flyer. The deadline has been extended to 14 February 2013. Show everyone why you love Toxicology!!!

# GSLC Communications Update

The Communications Subcommittee of the GSLC has been working to improve communication with student members by reducing the length of the bi-annual e-letters and sharing the extra information in the form of short updates posted throughout the year. The updates should be sent to the email address you have registered with SOT. If you miss any of the email updates or accidentally delete them, they are stored in ToXchange on the [graduate student page](#) under "Graduate Student Announcement Topics". Updates that have been posted already this year include announcement of award winners and notable seminar topics/events from RC fall meetings, announcement and summary of a webinar hosted by the Professional Development Subcommittee, continuing education opportunities, and annual meeting alerts. Look for an update on the recent activities in SSS and SIGs to be posted soon!

# Student Membership Information

Being a student member at the national level provides excellent opportunities to interact with other student members and toxicology experts in SOT. You are permitted access to ToXchange, the SOT Online Job Bank, and student awards. Most importantly, you have the opportunity to be a part of a larger community of scientists and gain eligibility for student leadership positions. Membership in SOT facilitates communication that could open the door for new research collaborations. It is also a great way to network with future employers!

**Not a Member? [Apply today!](#) Already a student member of SOT, [then renew your dues online.](#)**

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

There are 18 RCs within the SOT 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. Though students can join RCs and enjoy the benefits without becoming members of the national SOT, there are many advantages to belonging to both SOT and a RC!

## **PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

SOT has established 6 SIGs 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.

## **JOIN A SPECIALTY SECTION**

There are 27 SSs within the SOT designed to bring together scientists of similar interests, expertise, and experience. The SSs are primary sponsors of many of the programmatic sessions during the SOT Annual Meeting. Students are encouraged to join a SS because such groups provide students with opportunities for future employment and collaborations, as well as provide a platform for students to suggest scientific sessions and symposia for the Annual Meeting. The SSs encourage student involvement by providing funds for competitive **student travel awards and best abstract awards** that recognize your accomplishments.

## **JOINING A COMPONENT GROUP IS EASY!**

Simply indicate which RC/SIG/SS you would like to join when you renew your national membership online. You can join a component group at any time during the year by clicking on "Manage Membership" on the [SOT Members page](#). While student membership is a steal at \$20/year, as an extra bonus **student membership dues for one SS and one SIG per year are free!**

# GSLC Contact Information

## GSLC OFFICERS:

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### \*GSLC Executive Board

## GSLC STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

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## SPECIALTY SECTIONS

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This e-letter was produced by the Graduate Student Leadership Committee.

