

Message from the Chair, Ebany Martinez-Finley



Cheers and welcome from the 2013-2014 SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) board! You have elected a very enthusiastic and experienced board that is committed to furthering both the Society's mission and that of the PDA.

As many of you are aware, SOT has established a Strategic Plan to fit the mission of the Society: To Create a Safer and Healthier World by Advancing the Science of Toxicology. We are proud to be working on a number of initiatives that align with strategic priorities. Priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan include: 1) to increase scientific impact; 2) to promote recognition of Toxicology; 3) to build for the Future of Toxicology; and, 4) to enhance member engagement. I have included just a few examples of how we are doing this. Dr. Colleen McLoughlin (currently Vice-chair) has arranged several postdoctoral speakers in the co-sponsored PDA/GSLC Scientific Session for the 2014 Annual meeting in order to "enhance member engagement" by building bridges to connect diverse member groups. In addition, Drs. Hardwick and Paul have developed a webinar on "alternative" careers for toxicologists to further the 'building for the Future' initiative by connecting early career toxicologists with ideas, tools, and educational opportunities necessary to approach the evolving science and business of Toxicology.

Soon, we will ask for volunteers from the list of current Special Interest Group, Regional Chapter and Specialty Section representatives to join several task forces; one in particular will be focused on issues of

international postdocs working in the US. In doing this we are 'enhancing member engagement' by providing a mechanism for small group collaboration and cooperation. We have also lent our support to the Gordon Research Seminar (August 2013) on Cellular & Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicology headed by our former Chair, Dr. Enrique Fuentes-Mattei.

This year we will also continue to support the Annual Meeting Programs for postdocs, including the Poster tours for trainees and the Chat with an Expert Programs. The Postdoc Luncheon is always a hit, and we look forward to seeing you all there in March 2014!

I had the pleasure of presenting a poster at the National Postdoc Association meeting this past March on behalf of the SOT PDA. The poster received much attention from those in other societies and a lot of positive feedback to indicate that the SOT PDA Board is going above and beyond in its offerings to its membership. In accordance with National Postdoc Appreciation Week, we always celebrate postdocs in September. Part of our celebration will be a webinar focused on "alternative" career paths. (See details on p 2.) Be on the lookout for this and other components of our celebration this year!

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to use ToXchange to upload a CV, stay connected, and make new contacts. Please feel free to contact me or anyone on the board should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Ebany Martinez-Finley, PhD
SOT PDA Chair
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Division of Pediatric Toxicology

PDA Officers **2013-2014**

Chair

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Secretary

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PDA-Sponsored Webinar, September 18th at 1:30 pm Exploring Alternative Career Paths in Toxicology

As a part of SOT's celebration of National Postdoc Appreciation Week, the PDA Board Councilors, Drs. Rhiannon Hardwick and Katie Paul, will host a webinar September 18, 2013 at 1:30 pm to focus on alternative career options. The confirmed speakers include:

- **Damian Shea**, *North Carolina State University* (environmental toxicology and academics)
- **Tiffany Bredfeldt**, *Texas Commission on Environmental Quality* (state regulatory and legal toxicological affairs)
- **Shawn Wnek**, *Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health* (consulting)
- **Vicente Santa Cruz**, *Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, LP Specialty Chemicals Group* (chemical industry)
- **Kenneth Ferslew**, *East Tennessee State University* (forensic toxicology and academics)

Each speaker will have 15 minutes to discuss their career path and current toxicology sector, and then 15 minutes at the end for an open Q & A session with webinar participants. This is part of our celebration of National Postdoc Appreciation Week, September 16-20, 2013. Call-in details will be sent to the SOT PDA within the next few weeks.

Looking ahead to the 53rd Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, March 23-27, 2014



- Abstract submission open: Aug 15 – Oct 7, 2013
- Online and Early Bird Registration is strongly encouraged. The Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration deadline is January 31, 2014.
- Check for award deadlines: <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/af/awards.aspx>
- Postdoctoral events will include the Postdoctoral Assembly Luncheon, Poster Tours for Trainees, the Student/Postdoc Mixer, Chat with an Expert, a PDA- and GSLC-sponsored scientific session, and the SOT Job Bank!
- Update your profile in ToXchange and in the SOT Job Bank!

Register for the SOT Job Bank!

<https://www.toxicology.org/ai/newcrad/>

The Society of Toxicology CRAD Job Bank provides employers and candidates who are seeking jobs with the opportunity to establish contacts relating to their specific needs and areas of interest. Registrations will be valid for four months and all registrants may access the system as often as they wish. In addition to this service, the traditional Career Resource and Development Service program will be offered at the 2014 SOT Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, March 23-27, 2013. Please complete the online survey, located on the main menu, as this provides the feedback needed to make improvements or enhancements to the Job Bank service.

You may also be interested in [Mentor Match](#), the SOT Online Mentoring Program for SOT members.

Best Postdoctoral Publication Award: 2013 Winners

As you look ahead to the Annual Meeting, consider applying for awards, including the Best Postdoctoral Publication Award (BPPA). BPPA deadline is October 9, 2013. For other awards deadlines and descriptions check:

<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/af/awards.aspx>

Presented by the Postdoctoral Assembly, the BBPA recognizes outstanding work accomplished during formal mentored postdoctoral traineeships by recognizing recently published exceptional papers in the field of toxicology (this year the paper should be published between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013).

Applications are reviewed by the Postdoctoral Assembly Board and outside reviewers with appropriate scientific expertise. The review process follows NIH conflict of interest, confidentiality, and nondisclosure rules. Check the award section of the SOT website for specific award criteria and the application.

The 2013 BPPAs were presented at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.



Winner: Petra Haberzettl, accepted a BPPA from David Szabo (left, former Vice Chair) and Enrique Fuentes-Mattei (right, former Chair). *Exposure to Ambient Air Fine Particulate Matter Prevents VEGF-Induced Mobilization of Endothelial Progenitor Cells from the Bone Marrow.*, Haberzettl P, Lee J, Duggineni D, McCracken J, Bolanowski D, O'Toole TE, Bhatnagar A, Conklin D., *Environ Health Perspect.* 2012 Jun;120(6):848-56. Epub 2012 Mar 14.



Winner: Anne Loccisano. *Development of PBPK Models for PFOA and PFOS for Human Pregnancy and Lactation Life Stages*, Loccisano AE, Longnecker MP, Campbell, JL, Jr., *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part A* Volume 76, Issue 1, January 2013, pages 25-57.



Winner: Yuanyuan Xu. *Arsenic-Transformed Malignant Prostate Epithelia Can convert Noncontiguous Normal Stem Cells into an Oncogenic Phenotype*, Xu Y, Tokar EJ, Sun Y, Waalkes MP. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2012 Jun;120(6):865-71.

"Toxicology is what we do, but risk assessment is why we do it."—Dr. John Doull.³

Resources, meetings, and other news

The Postdoctoral Member section of the SOT website includes links to a number of online resources, including career webinars and education resources, links to the ToXchange community, and a list of useful non-SOT websites: <https://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD.asp> .

Do you have a suggestion for other non-SOT resources that would be useful to postdoctoral toxicologists? Send your suggestions to Colleen McLoughlin (vzt3@cdc.gov).

The PDA Board is looking for volunteers to serve in the following areas:

- Annual Meeting Poster Tour Workgroup: 3-5 volunteers are needed to arrange sign-up and matching to an expert, and then to facilitate this event at the Annual Meeting. Please email the PDA Secretary, Karin Striefel, to get involved (kstreifel@ucdavis.edu).
- Web Page Revision Task Force: 3-5 volunteers are needed to help review and update links on the postdoc resources webpage for SOT. Please email Susan Simmons (susan@toxicology.org) to get involved.
- Career Task Force: 3-5 volunteers are needed to help gather information to compose a white paper and blog about “Issues Facing International Postdocs in the US.” Please email PDA Treasurer, Kellie Fay, to get involved (fay.kellie@epa.gov).

Open postdoctoral representative vacancies

If you are interested in serving as a postdoc rep in any of the groups below, please contact the President designated in the listing. General questions can be directed to the PDA staff liaison, Susan Simmons at susan@toxicology.org

- **Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section**-- John Graham john.s.graham1.civ@mail.mil
- **Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section**--Evan Thackaberry, thackabe@gene.com
- **Lake Ontario Regional Chapter**--Warren Foster fosterw@mcmaster.ca
- **Southeast Regional Chapter**--Nick Filipov, filipov@uga.edu
- **Korean Toxicologists Association in America Special Interest Group**--Jim Kim, jhkim01@gmail.com

Postdoctoral Assembly Representatives

Regional Chapters			
Allegheny-Erie	Kevin	Beezhold	University of Pittsburgh
Central States	Julia	Cui	University of Kansas Medical Center
Lone Star	Amelia	Romoser	Texas A&M
Lake Ontario	VACANT		
Michigan	<i>In Process</i>		
Mid Atlantic	Daniel	Willis	New York University Medical College
Midwest	Mary	Laws	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Mountain West	VACANT		
National Capital	Chad	Brocker	NIH
North Carolina	Yuanyuan	Xu	NIEHS-NTP
Northeast	Emily	Notch	Dartmouth Medical School
Northern California	Kathryn	Page	University of California Berkeley
Northland	Kendra	Nordgren	University of Minnesota Medical School
Ohio Valley	Chi	Zhang	University of Louisville
Pacific Northwest	Josephine	Bonventre	Oregon State University
South Central	Si	Chen	FDA/HHS
Southeastern	VACANT		
Southern California	Ian	Blaby	UCLA

Specialty Sections			
Biological Modeling	Martin	Phillips	US EPA
Biotechnology	Amy	Sharma	Yale University
Carcinogenesis	Esra	Mutlu	University of North Carolina
Cardiovascular Toxicology	Michael ("Mike")	Boyle	NIEHS
Clinical and Translational Toxicology	Tracie	Baker	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Comparative and Veterinary	Sachin	Bhusari	National Toxicology Program
Dermal Toxicology	VACANT		
Drug Discovery Toxicology	Arya	Sobhakumari	Texas A&M Health Science Center
Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Mary	Kushman	US EPA
Food Safety	Brenna	Flannery	UC Davis
Immunotoxicology	Kinta	Serve	Idaho State University
In Vitro and	Sindhura	Ramasahayam	Oklahoma State University

Alternatives			
Inhalation and Respiratory	Samantha	Snow	University of North Carolina
Mechanisms	Matthew	Merrell	Emory University
Medical Device	Amber	Nagy	FDA/HHS
Metals	Alicia	Bolt	University of Arizona
Mixtures	Paul	Eden	Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright Patterson AFB
Molecular Biology	Daniel	Spade	Brown University
Nanotoxicology	Amy	Wang	US EPA
Neurotoxicology	Kristen	Ryan	NIH
Occupational and Public Health	Rajendran	Sellamuthu	University of Indiana
Ocular Toxicology	VACANT		
Regulatory and Safety Evaluation	Sentilkumar	Kuppusamy	US EPA
Reproductive and Developmental Tox	Smitha	Infante	Northern Kentucky University
Risk Assessment	Michelle	DeSimone	North Carolina State University
Stem Cells	Olive	Ngalame	NIEHS/NTP
Toxicologic & Exploratory	Christopher	Gibson	Rutgers University

Special Interest Groups

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology	Xianai	Wu	University of Iowa
Association of Scientists of Indian Origin	Sainath	Babu	Hampton University
Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists	Rene	Vinas	University of Texas Medical Branch
Korean Toxicologists Association in America	VACANT		
Toxicologists of African Origin	Stephen	Kishinhi	Meharry Medical College
Women in Toxicology (WIT)	Phoebe	Stapleton	West Virginia University