



**ALLEGHENY-ERIE REGIONAL CHAPTER  
of the  
SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY**

***ANNUAL REPORT: 2019-2020***

June 1, 2019-May 31, 2020

**Officers:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>President</b>	Marisa Kreider	Vamsi Kodali
<b>President - Elect</b>	Vamsi Kodali	Britt McAtee
<b>Vice President</b>	Vanessa Fitsanakis	Todd Stueckle
<b>Secretary</b>	Robin E. Gandley	Robin E. Gandley
<b>Treasurer</b>	William J. Mackay	William J. Mackay
<b>Past President</b>	Aaron Barchowsky	Marisa Kreider
<b>Councilors</b>	James P. Fabisiak Timothy Nurkiewicz Nicole Olgun Alexander Ufelle Mark Weisberg	Mark Olfert James P. Fabisiak Timothy Nurkiewicz Alexander Ufelle Mark Weisberg
<b>Postdoctoral Representative</b>	Briana De Miranda	William Mandler
<b>Postdoctoral Representative</b>	William Mandler	Avinash Kumar
<b>Graduate Student Representative</b>	Rachel Baur	Rachel Baur
<b>Graduate Student Representative</b>	Shelbie Burchfield	Regina Schnegelberger
<b>K-12 Outreach</b>	Anne E. Simmons	Anne E. Simmons
<b>RC4 \ FUTURE Liaison</b>	Vanessa Fitsanakis	Todd Stueckle

**President's comment:** All the events starting from March have been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. We had planned the 34th Annual Meeting of the Allegheny-Erie Society of Toxicology Regional Chapter to be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. We were successful in attracting additional funding through sponsorships from several new industrial partners. Our other key annual event that was also cancelled is the reception that we give to the members at the SOT annual meeting. Thanks to the continued energy and commitment of the leadership, we had a good year in terms of all the other activities between June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and March 2020. We have increased industry participation in the regional chapter membership. Our chapter now has a good balance of academia, government and industry members, this allows us to provide better exposure and mentoring opportunities for the student members. We have identified several opportunities for ToxScholar, FUTURE and other outreach opportunities in the coming year and look forward to an exciting year.

**Committees:**

	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>Awards</b>	Marisa Kreider	Vamsi Kodali
<b>Communications</b>	Mark Weisberg	William Mandler
<b>Education</b>	Aaron Barchowsky	Aaron Barchowsky
<b>Finance</b>	William Mackay	William Mackay
<b>Membership</b>	Tim Nurkiewicz	Tim Nurkiewicz
<b>Nominating</b>	Jim Antonini	Jim Antonini
<b>Program</b>	Marisa Kreider	TBD
<b>RC4/FUTURE Representative</b>	Vanessa Fitsanakis	Todd Stueckle
<b>Web</b>	Katie Roach	William Mandler

**Activities:****a) 2020 A-E SOT Annual Meeting**

Location: University Club, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

*The original planned meeting was supposed to take place on April 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Pittsburgh. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was postponed to September 2020. Due to ongoing travel restrictions, the leadership is currently planning a virtual meeting with the same program.*

In the appendix at the end of the report is attached our program for the planned 34th Annual Meeting of the Allegheny-Erie Society of Toxicology Regional Chapter. The two-day conference included three symposia with the theme “Toxicology in the Real World”. Our keynote speakers include 1, Dr. Kent Pinkerton, University of California, Davis. 2, Dr. Aleksander Stefaniak, PhD., CDC/NIOSH Morgantown, WV and 3, Dr. Olivier Joliet, University of Michigan.

We thank SOT for accepting our application to support Speaker and Student Travel. SOT awarded us \$2000 to support Speaker Travel and another \$2000 to support Student Travel.

We would like to thank SOT Education and Career Development Committee (ECDC) for awarding us \$1000 in matching funds towards the Mentoring Initiative.

We also attracted sponsorship from Cardno ChemRisk LLC, PPG Industries Inc, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, University of Pittsburgh, Azer Scientific, RJ Lee Group Inc and Data Sciences International (DSI).

## **Awards:**

### **2019-2020 Maryanne Stock Student Research Award**

Molly Schreiner, Slippery Rock University.

#### *Mentor and Host Institute*

Prof. Aaron Barchowsky, University of Pittsburgh, Public Health 4133, 130 DeSoto Street, Pittsburgh PA 15261

#### *Project Title*

"Tissue progenitor cell dysfunctional in arsenic-promoted muscle decline and metabolic impairment."

### **2020 Graduate Student Travel Award**

Mariana Farcas, West Virginia University/NIOSH, Morgantown, WV.

### **2020 Postdoctoral Student Travel Award**

Avinash Kumar, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

### **RC4 Undergraduate Travel Award**

Maira McCormick, Johns Hopkins University/University of Pittsburgh.

## **Newsletter:**

In 2013 we discontinued our Newsletter and associated committee. All "news-worthy" communications and announcements are posted on our website and distributed via ToXchange. This has worked well thus far, although can be difficult during registration for our non-SOT member guests.

## **Website:**

Our website is regularly updated with information about awards, the annual meeting, and changes in the officers.

## **2020 Annual Meeting:**

We have tentatively selected the first or second week of May 2020 for next year's meeting. This meeting will be held at the Erickson Alumni Center, West Virginia University, Morgantown. Support for this meeting venue will be solicited from the University administration and our sponsors. To increase participation and vitality from the two regions we are rotating the meeting location between Pittsburgh and Morgantown.

## **New Meetings/Activities:**

For the past 7 years, AE-SOT joined with the Michigan and Lake Ontario Regional Chapters to organize a joint reception at the National SOT meeting. Apart from cost saving, these joint receptions have fostered

productive interactions between the chapters. In 2020, we planned our 8<sup>TH</sup> Joint reception but unfortunately it was canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Budget/Bank Statement:**

Our balance as of May 2020 was \$ 25,391. To reduce the cost of the regional annual meeting, our chapter has been proactively working to increase industrial sponsors and meeting attendees. To reduce the reception cost at the Annual Meeting, we have been organizing a joint reception together with Michigan and Lake Ontario Regional Chapters.

### **Outreach:**

We have been continually working on increasing our undergraduate outreach. The last few years, every year our chapters members have been reaching out and fostering relationships with local undergraduate universities. As a part of the ToxScholar program, we have worked previously with Slippery Rock University (PA) and Alderson-Broaddus University (WV). The 2019-2020 MaryAnne Stock award winner was a Slippery Rock undergraduate who reached out during one of these ToxScholar visits. Moira McCormick, who won the undergraduate poster presentation award in 2019 AE-SOT was nominated for the 2020 Regional Chapter Communications and Collaboration Committee (RC4) Undergraduate Travel Award. She was one of the three RC4 Undergraduate Travel Award winners in 2020. In 2020-2021, through the FUTURES program we hope to continue our outreach. With the travel restrictions and most of the universities going virtual, we are exploring our virtual options. We have reached out to some of the undergraduate universities in our region and are currently working on different virtual program options.

### **Other:**

In 2017-2018, we amended our bylaws to increase the number of graduate student and postdoctoral representatives to both include participation from various regions of the chapter and to create a path of succession in the positions. Ever since then, we have been rotating the regional chapters annual meeting location between Pittsburgh and Morgantown. We now have a good balance of members from industry, government and academia. There is also a good balance in the membership from various regions of the chapter.

### **Feedback and Ideas:**

A. How might SOT better support your group's activities (perhaps something the Society should be doing that we currently do not do, or do not do effectively, that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?). Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.

COVID-19 has impacted our way of performing group activities, we are performing more virtual activities and events. We thank SOT for providing us options like WEBEX platform. It would help with organizing virtual events more effectively if SOT can provide more digital tools like e-poster platform etc.

B. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g. stopped, modified, etc.)?

The cost of chapter reception at the SOT annual meeting is increasing every year. It would be great if SOT looks into this and decreases the cost associated with organizing an onsite chapter reception.

C. What changes does your component group anticipate making in the way in which it operates in the coming year?

We plan to change the way we are organizing events. We are organizing virtual meetings in place of in person meetings. In place of traditional Lunch with an expert session at the annual in person meeting, we are organizing virtual Mentor-Mentee matchup.