

NAME OF REGIONAL CHAPTER AESOT

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## **ANNUAL REPORT: 2010-2011**

May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011

### **I. Officers/Committees:**

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>
President:	Nicolas Stewart	Kelly Brant
Vice President:	Aaron Barchowsky	Aaron Barchowsky
President-Elect:	Kelly Brant	Sachin Devi
Secretary:	Robin Gandley	Robin Gandley
Treasurer:	William Mackay	William Mackay
Councilors:	Mark Weisberg James Fabisiak Jim Scabilloni	Mark Weisberg James Fabisiak Jim Scabilloni
<i>Past-President</i>	Jeffrey Smith	Nicolas Stewart
SAC Representative:	Antonia Nemec	Arpit Mehta
PDA Representative:	Fujun Liu	Fujun Liu

#### Committees:

Awards – Jim Fabisiak  
Communications/Website – Jim Scabilloni  
Education – Aaron Barchowsky  
Finance – Mark Weisberg  
Membership – Robin Gandley  
Newsletter - Mike Savides  
Nominations – Nicolas Stewart  
Program – Sachin Devi

### **II. Activities:**

#### **Meetings:**

**Annual 2010 Spring AESOT** meeting was held at Bridgeside Point in Pittsburgh, PA on April 30. The topic for the meeting was “Nanotoxicology”. The first speaker was Timothy Nurkiewicz PhD Associate Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology in the Center for Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences at West Virginia University. The title of Dr. Nurkiewicz’s presentation was “Microvascular consequences of nanoparticle inhalation: Dr. Martin Philbert PhD Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Michigan spoke next discussing “Toxicology as the basis for smart design of nanoimaging and nanotherapeutic agents”. A poster session was also included in the meeting and awards were given for the best presentations (Details provided below).

**Annual 2011 Spring AESOT** meeting was held at Bridgeside Point in Pittsburgh, PA on April 29, 2011. The topic for the meeting was “Food Toxicology and Safety”. Christopher Sommers PhD, Research Leader at USDA presented “Safety of foods treated with novel process

intervention technologies". He was followed by Professor James Pestka PhD from Michigan State University presenting "Vomitoxin, Friend or Foe?: Molecular mechanisms of common mycotoxin". A poster session was also included in the meeting and awards were given for the best presentations (Details provided below).

Planning is underway for the Spring 2012 AESOT meeting for May 10-11 at the Bridgeside Point Facility in Pittsburgh. The proposed meeting will have 3 Symposiums; Cardiopulmonary Toxicology, Metabolic Disease and Toxicology and Telemetry Based Assessments of Cariopulmonary Toxicology and Metabolic Disease. Each session will include a keynote speaker as well as presentations from trainees working in related areas.

#### **Awards:**

##### **2010 Mary Anne Stock Research Award (\$1,000) went to:**

Arpit Mehta, MS Student  
LECOM School of Pharmacy  
Erie, PA  
Project: Mechanism of Acetaminophen Autoprotection  
Mentor: Sachin S. Devi, B. Pharm., Ph.D.

##### **2011 Mary Anne Stock Research Award (\$1,000) went to:**

Ida Karimi and Alison Simmons (Indiana Area High School Students)  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Biology  
Indiana, PA  
Project: Effects of nitrite on development of embryos and early larval stages of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)  
Mentor: Thomas Simmons, Ph.D.

##### **Travel Award (\$500) awarded 2010 for 2011 National SOT meeting went to:**

Fu-Jun (Frank) Liu, Ph.D., Post-doctoral Fellow  
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health  
Dept. Environmental & Occupational Health  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Project: Mechanisms of the Werner Syndrome protein in protecting against Cr(VI)-induced telomere loss.  
Mentor: Patricia Opresko, Ph.D.

##### **Poster Awards from Spring of 2010 AESOT Meeting**

###### **Best Methodology Poster**

T.L. Knuckles  
Center of Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences  
West Virginia University  
Poster: Pulmonary nanoparticle deposition alters arteriolar sympathetic constriction: Role of nitric oxide, prostanoids and alpha-adrenergic receptors.

Best Overall Poster

Jason R. Cannon

Pittsburgh Institute for Neurological Diseases

University of Pittsburgh

Poster: Gene therapy approaches in a sporadic model of Parkinson's Disease.

**Poster Awards from Spring 2011 AESOT Meeting**

Best Methodology Poster

R. Sellamuthu

Toxicology and Molecular Biology Branch

Health Effects Laboratory Division

NIOSH

Morgantown, WV

Poster: Blood Gene Expression Profiling Detects Silica Exposure and Toxicity.

Best Overall Poster

Yang Liu

Environmental & Occupational Health

Graduate School of Public Health

University of Pittsburgh

Poster: The Global Burden of Aflatoxin-Attributable Liver Cancer Risk – A Risk Assessment.

**Education:**

*2011 PJAS Awards of Excellence:* As outreach and support for K-12 educational scientific programs, AESOT provided two awards of excellence for science presentations at the 2011 Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences (PJAS) Region 7 meeting. The PJAS is a statewide organization of middle and senior high school students and teachers designed to stimulate and promote interest in science through the development of research investigations. Several hundred middle and high school students compete annually by presenting results of independent scientific investigations conducted at area schools and universities. They are judged both on the quality of a submitted written report and on oral discussion of the project with panels of judges.

Competition is grade and scientific discipline based. Students with the highest scores in a number of different scientific categories advance to statewide competition and potentially national competitions with support from PJAS. AESOT provided additional merit certificates with a \$100 stipend to both an outstanding middle school student, Senque Little-Poole, and an exceptional high school student, Kristopher Sabatini. The criteria for the AESOT awards were scientific focus on toxicology, high scores from the judges, and special recommendations from individual judges. Mr. Little-Poole was in eighth grade at The Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy and performed experiments sponsored by Mr Brian Rose investigating "Toxic Waters". Mr. Sabatini was in eleventh grade at Central Catholic High School and performed experiments at Carnegie Mellon University on the "Pesticides effects on UV stressed yeast mutation rates." Both students received near perfect scores on their projects and

presentations, with high recommendations from the judges. AESOT was proud to support the PJAS and these two exceptional rising stars in science.



AESOT vice-president Aaron Barchowsky with 2011 PJAS Award of Excellence winners Kristopher Sabatini and Senque Little-Poole.

**Membership:** The AESOT has a total of 71 active members including 14 students and 7 post-doctoral fellows.