



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

***ANNUAL REPORT: 2011-2012***

**1 May 2011 to 31 July 2012**

**I. Officers:**

<u>Office</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>
President:	Sachin Devi	Tim Nurkiewicz
President-Elect:	Tim Nurkiewicz	Aaron Erdely
Vice President:	Aaron Barchowsky	Aaron Barchowsky
Secretary:	Robin E Gandley	Robin E Gandley
Treasurer:	William James Mackay	William James Mackay
Past President	Nicolas A Stewart	Kelly A Brant
Councilors:	Mark Weisberg	Mark Weisberg
	Jim Scabilloni	Jim Scabilloni
	James P Fabisiak	James P Fabisiak
PDA Representative:	Fujun Liu	Phoebe Stapleton
GSLC Representative:	Arpit Mehta	Hannah Pope-Varsalona

***(note: an amendment to our By-Laws will be submitted this quarter to increase the number of Councilors to six for the 2012-2014 cycle)***

***President's comment: this has been a very successful and transitional year for A-E SOT. We have made significant changes to our operating procedures. Because these changes have resulted in positive outcomes for A-E SOT, additional proposed changes are forthcoming. The current Officers remain committed to the continued success of A-E SOT, and we collectively recognize that this cannot be accomplished and sustained unless operational changes are established at the regional chapter level, as well as between chapters and National.***

**II. Committees:**

Awards:	Jim Fabisiak
Communications:	Mark Weisberg
Education:	Aaron Barchowsky
Finance:	Mark Weisberg
Membership:	Tim Nurkiewicz
Newsletter:	Michael Savides
Nominating:	Kelly A. Brant
Program:	Aaron Erdely
Web:	Jim Scabilloni

**III. Activities:****a) 2012 A-E SOT Annual Meeting**

**Location:** Thermo-Fisher Scientific Building  
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania

**Dates:** May 10th and 11th.

**Registered Attendees:** 54.

*Vendors/Sponsors Present:* Fisher Scientific, Data Sciences International, TSI Inc..

*Highlights:*

- 1) Historically, A-E SOT held two, single day meetings in the Spring and Fall. To conserve resources and increase impact, this year we moved to a single Annual Meeting with a multi-day format.
- 2) Three scientific sessions were highlighted by invited Keynote speakers. Four young investigators, two post-doctoral fellows and two graduate students also presented in these symposia.
- 3) 15 Posters were presented over two poster sessions.
- 4) An unofficial reception dinner was well attended by many of the attendees and sponsors.
- 5) Awards:

2011 Mary Anne Stock Student Research Award (2 were awarded)

Alison Simmons (presented at our Annual Meeting) and Ida Karimi

Department of Biology

Indiana Area School District

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Indiana, PA

*Abstract: Effects of Nitrite on Development of Embryos and Early Larval Stages of the Zebrafish, Danio Rerio*



**Keynote Speakers at the 2012 A-E SOT Meeting.** From left: Dr. Dusty Sarazan (DSI), Dr. Matthew Campen (University of New Mexico, Dr. Jefferson Frisbee (West Virginia University).

#### 2012 Student Travel Award

Hannah Pope-Varsalona

Department of Environmental & Occupational Health  
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health  
Pittsburgh, PA

Abstract: *Investigating roles for DNA Polymerase  $\eta$  in protecting against Cr(VI)-induced mutations and telomere aberrations.*

#### 2012 Best Methodology

Cody Nichols

Division of Exercise Physiology  
Center for Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, WV

Poster: *Acute Inhalation Exposure of Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles Induces Diastolic Dysfunction and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Mice*

#### 2012 Best Overall Poster

Andrea A. Cronican

Department of Environmental & Occupational Health  
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health  
Pittsburgh, PA

Poster: *Effects of Arsenic Exposure on ABCA1 Gene Expression, APP Processing, and Cognition in Mice*

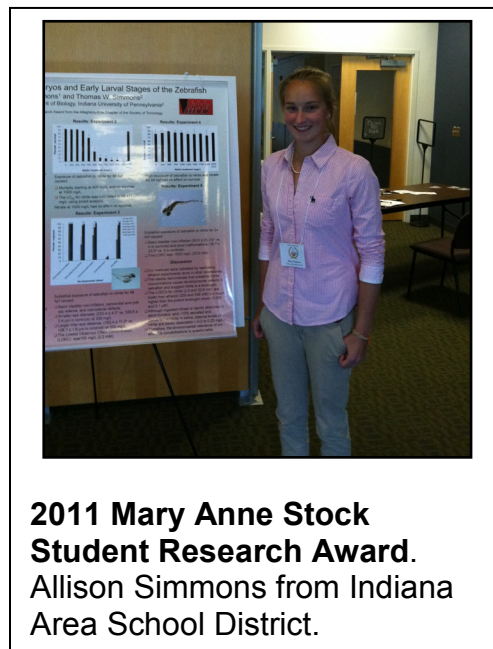
6) **for complete details: see Attachment 1, Final Program**

7) The 2012 Mary Anne Stock Student Research Award has been determined, but not yet officially announced. Traditionally, this occurs after the deadline for our annual report.

**IV. Newsletter:** The A-E SOT Newsletter is in production and will be posted after our website is updated.

**V. Website:** With the support of SOT (Raul Suarez), we began a major overhaul of our website, and this process is still ongoing. We anticipate that this upgrading will be complete by October 2012.

**VI. 2013 Annual Meeting:** We have selected 30-31 May 2013 for next year's meeting. This will be held at the WVU Erikson Alumni Center (<http://alumni.wvu.edu/eac>). The WVU Department of Physiology & Pharmacology has already committed financial and administrative support. Charles River has also committed to financial support and vendor participation. We are pursuing additional support through the WVU Center for Cardiovascular & Respiratory Center, the WVU Health Science Center Research and Graduate Studies Office, and several other vendors.



**2011 Mary Anne Stock Student Research Award.**  
Allison Simmons from Indiana Area School District.

**VII. New Meetings:** The Student Committee (Chaired by Hannah Pope-Varsalona) initiated a Student Interests Meeting. To date, this meeting has initiated a student membership drive, added "lunch with an expert" to our 2013 meeting program. This new meeting will be held quarterly, and the location will alternate between sponsoring Institutions.

**VII. Budget/Bank Statement:** Generous donations from sponsors (Fisher Scientific, DSI and TSI) and an increase in meeting attendance resulted in a budget surge in the A-E SOT account over the course of this year. All outstanding balances had been paid. As of our most recent account balance on ToxChange (May 2012), A-E SOT has \$12,812. This represents greater than a \$3000 increase since 2011. Furthermore, we are now operating in the black. Sponsors are being pursued for the coming fiscal year, and we have already secured one (Charles River), as well as Institutional support (WVU). We will pursue SOT support next year for our annual meeting as well. The purpose of this will be two-fold: 1) expand our awards for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and young investigators, and 2) increase our outreach impacts.

**VIII. Outreach:** The 2010-2011 A-E SOT Annual report was late. As such, it encompassed our long-standing support of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) with two merit-based monetary awards to outstanding middle and high school students. We are not including the activity again in this report to avoid redundancy. Nonetheless, we would like to indicate that our reports are back on the SOT timeline, and not only will PJAS support continue, but we will also initiate formal outreach to more young scientists in public schools in the A-E SOT region.