



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

ANNUAL REPORT: 2012-2013

1 May 2012 to 31 July 2013

I. Officers:

| <u>Office</u> | <u>2012-2013</u> | <u>2013-2014</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| President: | Tim Nurkiewicz | Aaron Erdely |
| President-Elect: | Aaron Erdely | Patti Erdely |
| Vice President: | Aaron Barchowsky | Aaron Barchowsky |
| Secretary: | Robin E Gandley | Robin E Gandley |
| Treasurer: | William James Mackay | William James Mackay |
| Past President | Kelly A Brant | Timothy Nurkiewicz |
| Councilors: | Mark Weisberg | Mark Weisberg |
| | Jim Scabilloni | Jim Scabilloni |
| | James P Fabisiak | James P Fabisiak |
| | | Hollie Skaggs |
| | | Kelly A Brant |
| | | Elaine Freeman |
| PDA Representative: | Phoebe Stapleton | Kevin Beezhold |
| GSLC Representative: | Hannah Pope-Varsalona | Hannah Pope-Varsalona |

President's comment: The last year was very successful for A-E SOT. This is directly attributable to the energy and commitment of the current officers. The conversion of having two smaller meetings per year to one single high impact meeting has been a tremendous success. The spring meeting had a 70% increase in attendance compared to the previous year while attracting significant sponsorship. A primary goal of A-E SOT is to continue this momentum and provide the region with an annual high impact meeting.



II. Committees:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Awards: | Jim Fabisiak |
| Communications: | Mark Weisberg |
| Education: | Aaron Barchowsky |
| Finance: | William Mackay |
| Membership: | Tim Nurkiewicz |
| Nominating: | Kelly A. Brant |
| Program: | Aaron Erdely |
| Web: | Jim Scabilloni |

III. Activities:

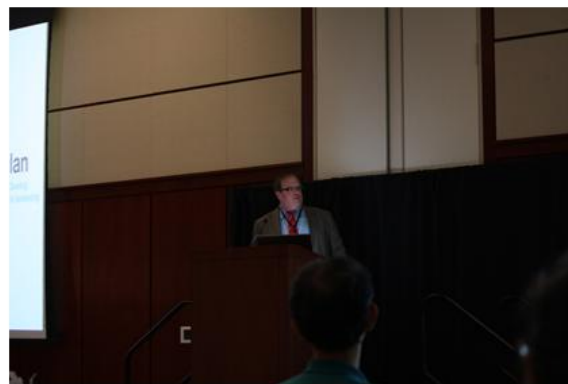
a) 2013 A-E SOT Annual Meeting

Location / Date: Erickson Alumni Center, Morgantown, West Virginia. May 30th and 31th, 2013.

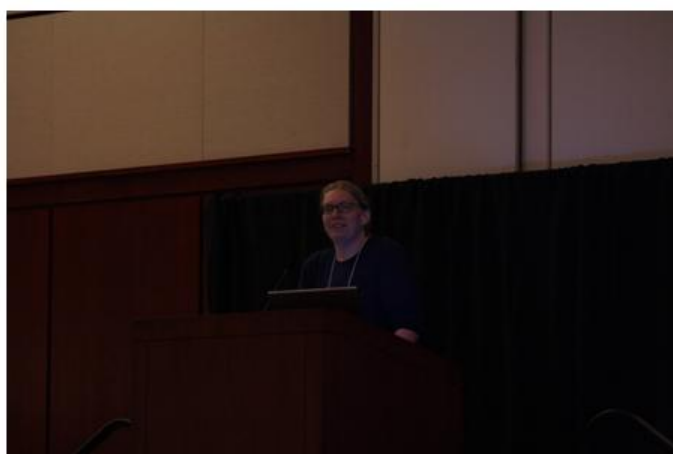
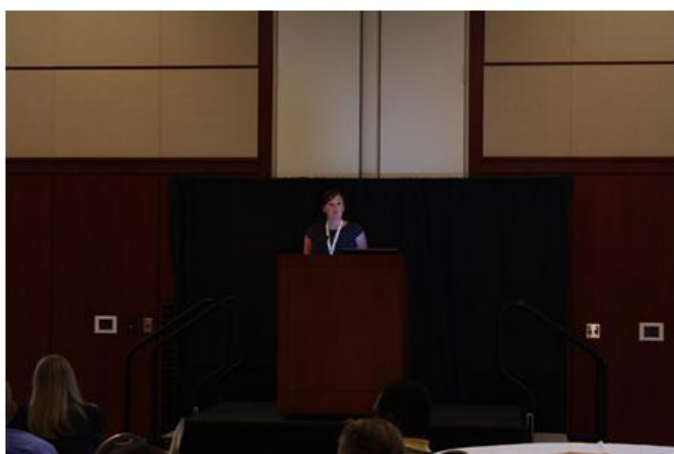
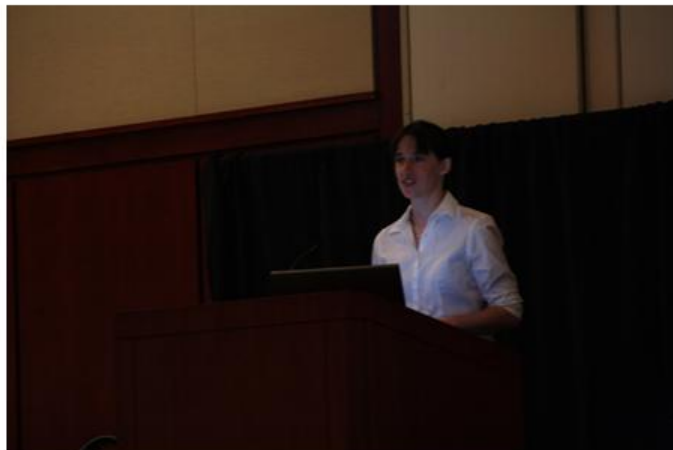
Registered Attendees: 86 (8 vendor participants attended but were not required to register).

Highlights:

- 1) Three Keynote speakers, Dr. Jeffrey Salisbury (top), Dr. Michael McCawley (bottom left), and Dr. Loren Wold (bottom right) presented to begin each scientific session.



- 2) Three young investigators, three post-doctoral fellows and three graduate students also presented in these symposia.



- 3) A fourth session for our gracious sponsors titled “Novel approaches to Enhance Toxicological Research: From Characterization to Molecular Mechanisms” was included in the program. This session was well received by chapter attendees and several of the sponsors have already inquired about returning in 2014.
- a. RJ Lee Group (Dr. Kristen Bunker, upper left)
 - b. DMT – Danish Myo Technology (Dr. James Park, upper right)
 - c. Myriad / Rules Based Medicine (Rich Stratton, lower left)
 - d. Ingenuity Systems (Dr. Sohela Shah, lower right)



- 4) 39 abstracts were presented during the two day meeting as part of two poster sessions or invited oral presentations.
- 5) An unofficial reception dinner was well attended by many of the attendees and sponsors.
- 6) 2013 A-E SOT Awards:

2012 MaryAnne Stock Student Research Award

Diana Yesica Garcifigueroa

Affiliation: Dept. Environmental & Occupational Health, University of Pittsburgh

Project: GCPR signaling in As(III) promoted adipocyte dysfunction

Mentor: Dr. Aaron Barchowsky

2013 Graduate Student Travel Award

Breanne Yingling

Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology, & Cell Biology, School of Medicine, West Virginia University

Abstract: ALTERATIONS IN LUNG HOST DEFENSE AFTER PULMONARY EXPOSURE TO SILVER NANOPARTICLES IN RATS

Mentor: Dr. Jenny R. Roberts

2013 Postdoctoral Travel Award

Dr. Phoebe Stapleton

Dept. of Physiology and Pharmacology, School of Medicine, West Virginia University

Abstract: DOES THE BARKER HYPOTHESIS APPLY TO MATERNAL NANOMATERIAL EXPOSURE AND FETAL MICROVASCULAR FUNCTION?

Mentor: Dr. Timothy Nurkiewicz

2013 Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation

Shilpi Oberoi

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, University of Pittsburgh

THE GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE CAUSED BY ARSENIC IN FOOD

2013 Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation

Katelyn Siegrist

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV

GENOTOXICITY OF MULTI-WALLED CARBON NANOTUBES AT OCCUPATIONALLY RELEVANT DOSES

2013 Best Postdoctoral Fellow Poster Presentation

Nicki Marshall

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV

EXPOSURE TO TRICLOSAN AUGMENTS THE ALLERGIC RESPONSE TO OVALBUMIN IN A MOUSE MODEL OF ASTHMA

2013 Best Postdoctoral Fellow Oral Presentation

Todd Stueckle

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV

NOVEL EXPOSURE AND LUNG CANCER GENE MARKERS FOR CARBON NANOTUBE EXPOSED HUMAN LUNG EPITHELIAL CELLS

2013 Best Methodology

Courtney Roper

University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, PA

DIESEL FINE PARTICULATE COMPOSITION OF PM_{2.5} IN DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH, PA AND THE EFFECTS ON INFLAMMATORY RESPONSES IN MICE

2013 Best Overall Poster

Andrea Cronican

Department of Environmental & Occupational Health, University of Pittsburgh

GENOME-WIDE ALTERATION OF HISTONE H3K9 ACETYLATION PATTERN IN MOUSE OFFSPRING PRENATALLY EXPOSED TO ARSENIC



- 7) This past year A-E SOT was able to acquire funding from SOT to aid in student travel and lodging for our annual meeting attendance. The funding was extremely beneficial as it provided a means of attendance for many students who would not have otherwise been able to attend.
- 8) The 2013 Mary Anne Stock Student Research Award has been determined, but not yet officially announced. Traditionally, this occurs after the deadline for our annual report.

***** For complete 2013 meeting details: see Attachment 1, Final Program. Additional photographs are available. We are happy to provide a CD with all photographs from our annual activities and meeting if requested.**

IV. Newsletter: In a 2013 teleconference (quorum present), we decided to discontinue our Newsletter, and associated committee. This reflected a redundancy with regular announcements on our website. Currently, all "news-worthy" communications and announcements are posted on our website, and distributed via ToXchange.

V. Website: With the support of SOT (Raul Suarez), we overhauled our website in October 2012, and this is now an ongoing process (or living document).

VI. 2014 Annual Meeting: We have selected 8-9 May 2014 for next year's meeting. This will be held again at the WVU Erikson Alumni Center (<http://alumni.wvu.edu/eac>). The WVU Department of Physiology & Pharmacology and the WVU Center for Cardiovascular & Respiratory Center have already committed financial and administrative support. Similar to our well-sponsored meeting in 2013, we will secure ample funding to continue providing a high level meeting, and interactions with relevant sponsors. Furthermore, our goal is to increase both attendance and sponsorship funding with the ultimate goal of increasing the presence/impact of A-E SOT in our region, and adjacent regions.

VII. New Meetings/Activities:

- The Student Committee (Chaired by Hannah Pope-Varsalona) initiated a Student Interests Meeting. This new meeting will be held quarterly, and the location will alternate between sponsoring Institutions. To date, this meeting initiated a student membership drive and added a very successful "lunch with an expert" to our 2013 meeting program. The "lunch with an expert" paired interested student members one-on-one with a senior member of the chapter either from industry, government, or academia based on the student's request.
- Graduate student members of AE-SOT have organized site visits to business and government entities for career-based workshops and seminars. In November 2012, students visited the Pittsburgh branch of ChemRisk®, a toxicologically-based consulting firm. ChemRisk® hosted a seminar-style presentation to give students an overview of the type of toxicological work they contract. Students learned how the responsibility of a ChemRisk® employee may regard the fields of epidemiology, risk assessment, biology, and statistics (just to list a few) in order to thoroughly and successfully complete a job. In January 2013, Ms. Joan Anson, director of Career Services at the University of Pittsburgh held a workshop titled, "Seeking Career Opportunities in Toxicology." This workshop, specially designed for graduate students in toxicology, covered topics such as creating a competitive CV, how to use the internet for job searching, and gave inexhaustible resources to students to help get them prepared for job searching. Finally, in May 2013, NIOSH's Dr. Vincent Castranova and Dr. James M. Antonini hosted a site visit at the Morgantown, WV branch of NIOSH. The visit included a discussion with NIOSH employees and a tour of the facility. All of these events were beneficially to the graduate student members in building a network and in improving their understanding of the career opportunities in the field of toxicology.
- At the National SOT meeting in San Antonio, A-E SOT combined with the Michigan chapter to host a joint reception. Virtually all A-E SOT members in attendance at SOT attended the joint reception and the event was considered a success by both chapters. The picture below was attending officers from both chapters.





VII. Budget/Bank Statement: Generous donations from sponsors (The WVU Department of Physiology & Pharmacology, the WVU Center for Cardiovascular & Respiratory Center, Myriad / RBM, Ingenuity Systems, RJ Lee Group, DMT, TSI Inc., and Mylan) and a significant increase in meeting attendance (as well as an increased registration fee) resulted in ~\$18,000 dollars in the A-E SOT account at the time of this report. We still have the outstanding debt of roughly \$3800 to be paid for the venue of the 2013 meeting. When all sponsors are accounted for and balances have been paid, the chapter will have increased their account by ~\$3000 compared to 2012. Furthermore, we are now operating in the black for two consecutive years while simultaneously increasing the size and impact of our annual meeting, and introducing new Chapter activities and public outreach. Two sponsors have been secured and several others are already being pursued for the coming fiscal year. Also, we will pursue SOT support next year for our annual meeting as well. The purpose of this will be three-fold: 1) maintain our awards for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and young investigators, 2) continue to develop/increase our annual meeting towards a "Current Concepts in Toxicology" meeting, and 3) increase our outreach impacts.

VIII. Outreach: A-E SOT has long-standing support for the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) and will continue this support. Anne Simmons, our current K-12 outreach coordinator, gave several lectures and related laboratory units on environmental toxicology to 86 elementary education majors. The primary goal from this activity was to educate the elementary education majors to prepare them for teaching toxicology to elementary students. For 2013-2014, Anne Simmons will continue to lead our K-12 outreach. Several new avenues have been discussed since the 2013 annual meeting and will be pursued. These ideas include regional initiation of Tox-in-a-Box, involvement in an ongoing educational environmental sampling study in the region, and connect with the past President of the West Virginia statewide science teachers association to develop contacts for outreach in West Virginia.

VIV. Other: Administrative changes were developed by the officers and proposed to the greater membership. All proposals were approved by majority vote via ToXchange. The following changes to A-E SOT have been adopted:

- Full membership dues were raised to \$25.
- Annual meeting registration was raised (\$70-member; \$30-member post-doc or student; \$80-non-member; \$55-non-member post-doc or student; \$100-late, on site).
- The By-Laws have been amended. The newest version is available (http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/alleggheny/docs/AESOT_Bylaws.pdf). The most notable change is a doubling of Councilors from three to six. The purpose of this change was to increase diversity and representation among officers, and also to stagger the periods of service (two year period; three new Councilors will be elected each year).
- It was proposed (to Council via the Regional Chapter representative at that time, Raul Suarez) to add the Lake Ontario area to our Chapter. However, we have not received any decision/correspondence in regards to this proposal. We would still like very much so to explore this possibility and remain ready to work with Council to achieve this goal.