



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

ANNUAL REPORT: 2015-2016
May 1, 2015-April 30, 2016

I. Officers:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
President:	Patti Zeidler-Erdely	Phoebe Stapleton
President-Elect:	Phoebe Stapleton	James Antonini
Vice President:	Aaron Barchowsky	Vincent Castranova
Secretary:	Robin Gandley	Robin Gandley
Treasurer:	William James Mackay	William James Mackay
Past President	Aaron Erdely	Patti Zeidler-Erdely
Councilors:	Hollie Skaggs	Todd Stueckle
	Elaine Freeman	Tim Nurkiewicz
	Todd Stueckle	Jim Scabilloni
	Tim Nurkiewicz	James P Fabisiak
	Jim Scabilloni	Elaine Freeman
	James P Fabisiak	Mark Weisberg
PDA Representative:	Kevin Beezhold	Kevin Beezhold
GSLC Representative:	Cody Nichols	Cody Nichols

President's comment: The last year was again very successful for A-E SOT. This is directly attributable to the energy and commitment of the current officers. A primary goal of A-E SOT is to continue this momentum and provide the region with an annual high impact meeting that attracts experts from all disciplines within the toxicology field. We also plan to enhance our recruit of undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows from the areas.



II. Committees:

Awards:	Jim Fabisiak
Communications:	Mark Weisberg
Education:	Aaron Barchowsky
Finance:	Robin E. Gandley
Membership:	Tim Nurkiewicz
Nominating:	Aaron Erdely
Program:	Patti Erdely, Jim Antonini, Todd Stueckle
Web:	Jim Scabilloni
RC4 Representative:	Todd Stueckle

III. Activities:**a) 2016 A-E SOT Annual Meeting**

Location / Date: Erickson Alumni Center, Morgantown, West Virginia. May 18-19, 2016.

Pre-Registered Attendees: 54

Highlights:

- 1) The 3 symposia during the 2-day conference were headlined by the invited speakers: Drs. David Peden, M. Ian Gilmour, and Dan Conklin who each presented in one of the scientific sessions.



2) West Virginia University Health Science Center Assistant Vice President for Research, Dr. Albert Berrebi, generously provided attendees with a welcome address, highlighting the excitement of WVU for hosting the A-E SOT conference for the past few years and indicated the ongoing support from WVU for A-E SOT endeavors.



3) In addition to our keynote speakers, the symposia had a focus on education and scientific access. As such, many of our postdoctoral fellow and graduate student trainees were able to present platform presentations in this year's symposia. We were also able to invite and host area HS and undergraduate students to participate in the conference and our Lunch with an Expert program (please see below)



4) Following our first day and two scientific sessions we held a poster session over refreshments. Overall, there were more than 20 poster presentations. Please see the supplemental program for the scientific abstracts. Posters and presentations were judged by Dr. Dan Conklin (invited speaker) and Dr. Daniel V. Widzoxski (Indiana University of Pennsylvania; A-E SOT attendee).



5) "Lunch with an Expert" was an incredible success. This year we had two versions. We invited our HS and undergraduate students to participate with our graduate and postdoctoral trainees acting as experts for lunch in a separate space on Wednesday. We had 12 student participants and 4 trainee experts and a great deal of acclaim from both sides of the table. Participation in the "Lunch with an Expert" session on Thursday was maintained from the previous years with a total of 13 trainees and 7 professional mentors. We consider this to be one of our most successful endeavors. The informal evening networking session during the poster session with refreshments was also well received. We were grateful for the generous support from SOT to make this luncheon for our trainees possible.



6) 2015-16 A-E SOT Awards:

2015 Maryanne Stock Student Research Award

None

2016 Graduate Student Travel Award

Alice A. Han

West Virginia University Department of Chemistry

2016 Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award

None

2016 Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation

Lauren Falcone

West Virginia University – CDC-NIOSH

Mentor: Dr. Patti Zeidler-Erdely

2016 Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation

Katie Roach

West Virginia University – CDC-NIOSH

Mentor: Dr. Jenny Roberts

2016 Best Postdoctoral Fellow Poster Presentation

Dr. Vamsi Kodali

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Mentor: Dr. Aaron Erdely

2016 Best Postdoctoral Fellow Oral Presentation

Dr. Cody Nichols

West Virginia University and NIEHS

2016 Best Methodology

Lindsey Bishop

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Mentor: Dr. Aaron Erdely

2016 Best Overall Presentation

Dr. Todd Stueckle

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



- 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 beneficial and provided financial assistance to several students from area universities (University of Pittsburgh, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania) to attend both days of the annual meeting. In the past these students were unable to attend both days due to lack of funds for overnight lodging.
- 8) Following our poster session on Day 1, our Chapter was able to host a small informal reception for all attendees. This was held to further increase interaction between our invited speakers and meeting attendees.
- 9) Lastly, the 2016 Mary Anne Stock Student Research Award is being determined, but not yet officially announced. Traditionally, this occurs after the deadline for our annual report.

*** **For complete 2016 meeting details: see Attachment- AESOT 2016 Meeting Program. Additional photographs are available. We are happy to provide a CD with all photographs from our annual activities if Council is interested.**

IV. 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.

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

VI. 2017 Annual Meeting: We have tentatively selected May 2017 for next year's meeting. This meeting is currently reserved at the WVU Erikson Alumni Center (<http://alumni.wvu.edu/eac>); however given the costs we are investigating alternative locations. Given the welcome from Dr. Berrebi this past year, in addition to the financial and administrative support already committed by WVU Department of Physiology & Pharmacology and the WVU Center for Cardiovascular & Respiratory Center for 2017. Similar to our well-sponsored meetings in 2014, 2015, and 2016, we plan to secure necessary 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:

- At the 2016 National SOT meeting in New Orleans, A-E SOT again combined with the Michigan chapter to host a joint reception. This year we were also able to combine with the Lake Ontario Regional Chapter. Virtually all A-E SOT members in attendance at SOT attended the joint reception and the event was considered a success by all chapters. This is the 4th joint meeting for the A-E and MI chapters. Despite ordering extra food ahead of time, we ran out of food again so quickly we had to order another round to keep up with demand! We'd like to think this was due to the number of participants, however it may also be attributed to the delicious food of New Orleans! This unanticipated expense again pushed our chapters over our budget, but given the significant turn out from all chapters, it was the best decision for the reception attendees. A few images from the reception are below with all EC attendees from both chapters on the next page.

Photos from the Allegheny-Erie, Lake Ontario - Michigan Chapter Joint Reception



VII. Budget/Bank Statement: Generous donations from sponsors (The WVU Department of Physiology & Pharmacology, the WVU Center for Cardiovascular & Respiratory Center, WV NanoSAFE, Myriad/RBM) and an increase in meeting attendance resulted in ~\$31,058 (June financial statement) in the A-E SOT account at the time of this report, a nearly \$3,500 increase from last year at this time. When all sponsors are accounted for and balances have been paid, the chapter will have increased their account by ~\$8,000 compared to 2013. Furthermore, we are now operating in the black for four 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, 3) continue our joint reception with the Michigan and Lake Erie Regional Chapters at the Annual meeting and 4) 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. For 2016-2017, William Mackay will lead our K-12 outreach. Several new avenues have been discussed. These ideas include involvement in an ongoing educational environmental sampling study in the region, connect with the past President of the West Virginia

statewide science teachers association to develop contacts for outreach in West Virginia, and pursue avenues to bring undergraduates to our meeting for exposure and to present. Outreach is a goal of our Chapter for the 2016-2017 year; we have had small successes in the past with laboratory shadowing (2 area HS students [Miss Sarah Jones and Miss Hannah Reed] and 1 HS teacher [Mr. Kurt. Jones] all from West Greene County HS, PA), classroom presentations (University HS, Morgantown, WV), and summer internship of a regional HS teacher (Miss Samantha Simon, University HS, Morgantown, WV). We are hoping that these initial contacts and additional support from SOT will enhance these activities at/with HS in our regional area and pave the way for future outreach.

VIV. Other: We are planning administrative changes in the 2016-2017 year to amend the bylaws to add an additional graduate student and postdoctoral representative. With the growth of the chapter and the growth of our Lunch with and Expert and Joint Regional Chapter (both organized in-part by these representatives) the burden and expectation on these individuals is great, largely due to the geographic make-up and unique professional opportunities in our Region. For example, during a recent A-E SOT meeting, the students were able to tour the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, an opportunity set up by a student primarily working in Morgantown. This was a greatly enjoyed tour for our Pittsburgh colleagues, who would not have been able to coordinate on their own, without the local contact. Therefore, we will be looking to add additional representation in these positions, one in Pittsburgh and one in Morgantown. With this addition will come an added cost of travel support for these trainees to attend the national meeting, increasing our financial need as we support travel for 4 representatives.