

## MOUNTAIN WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2017-2018

May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018

#### I. Officers/Committees:

##### Officers

President:

Vice President:

Vice President Elect:

Secretary/Treasurer:

Past President

Councilors:

PDA Representative:

GSLC Representative:

Junior Student Representative

##### 2016-2017

Jared Brown

Cassandra Rice

Debra MacKenzie

Karen Cooper

Yin Chen

Todd Thompson

Monica Sandoval-Johnson

Sebastian Medina

##### 2017-2018

Cassandra Rice

Debra MacKenzie

Ting Wang

Karen Cooper

Jared Brown

Todd Thompson

Yin Chen

Erica Dashner

Sebastian Medina

Erica Toth

#### II. Activities:

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual MWSOT Regional Chapter Meeting** was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Albuquerque Uptown Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center from September 20-22, 2017. The Regional meeting this year was held in tandem with the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Rocky Mountain Discussion Group (AAPS-RMDG). This joint conference provided a unique local forum for scientists from industry and academia to interact and promote pharmaceutical and toxicological sciences in the Rocky Mountain region.

The meeting opened with a networking reception for both MWSOT and AAPS-RMDG conferees held on the evening of September 20 from 6 to 9 PM. The theme for the joint conference was “Insights from the past....shaping the future: Research at the intersection of pharmaceuticals and toxicology”. The agenda for this conference is included as Appendix I. Following a networking breakfast, the meeting began with a joint plenary session and keynote speaker Dr. Anthony Hickey from Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina who gave a talk entitled “Therapeutic Aerosol Delivery and Disposition: the importance of local and systemic pharmacokinetics”. Following the plenary session the group broke into separate thematic sessions. The morning session for MWSOT was “Insights into cardio and pulmonary toxicology” and the afternoon session was “Neuro/Developmental Toxicology”.



Figure 2: MWSOT Officers (from left to right) Sebastian Medina, Erica Dashner-Titus, Debra MacKenzie, Cassandra Rice, Ting Wang, and Karen Cooper

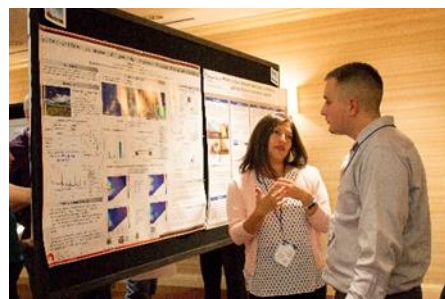


Figure 1: MWSOT Regional meeting poster session discussion

Each session had a mix of 30 minute presentations from invited speakers and 15 minute presentations from selected abstracts submitted from undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students. During the lunch hour a joint student and postdoctoral workshop lunch was held entitled “Project Management in the Sciences”. This was led by John Atkins, PMP, CSM, a certified project management executive. Following the afternoon breakout sessions a joint networking reception and poster session was held from 5-7 PM. There were 33 posters presented with 25 from MWSOT members and 8 from AAPS-RMDG. Posters were presented by a mix of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. On Friday, September 22, the meeting began with a networking breakfast and was followed by a second plenary session and keynote address from Dr. Lois Lehman-McKeeman (Bristol-Myers Squibb Company) entitled “Toxicology as a translational science: Methods, Models and Mechanisms”. The MWSOT breakout session for the morning was entitled “Metal Toxicity”. The meeting concluded with presentations of awards for best platform and poster sessions (winners listed below).

Awards:

**Best student Platform Presentation** – Nam Nguyen, Undergraduate student, University of Utah for “Activation of transient receptor potential vanilloid-3 (Trpv3) and the pneumotoxic effects of woodsmoke.”

**Best Post-Doctoral Poster Presentation** – Dr. Alicia Bolt, PostDoc, University of New Mexico for “Tungsten targets bone resorption by enhancing osteoclasts in the bone”

**Best Student Poster Presentations (2 awards)** - Graduate student Katriana Popichak, Colorado State University for “Glial-Neuronal signaling mechanisms underlying the neuroinflammatory effects of manganese” and; Graduate Student Lindsay Volk, University of New Mexico for “Requirement of NADPH oxidase activity on arsenic inhibition of PARP-1”.

The MWSOT regional meeting was attended by 73 members representing the University of New Mexico, University of Utah, Utah State University, University of Arizona, University of Colorado, Colorado State University, and the Lovelace Research Center.

We awarded 12 student travel awards to assist with costs of attending this meeting. The meeting was supported by funds from the SOT as well as support from the UNM College of Pharmacy and Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, AAPS, and sponsorship from Sympatec, Clariant, Solvo Biotechnology, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Olympus, Sekisui, Thermofisher Scientific and Trevigen.



*Figure 3: MWSOT President Cassandra Rice and Vice-President Debra MacKenzie present Best student platform award to undergraduate student and future toxicologist Nam*



*Figure 4: Group photo of 2017 MWSOT Conference Attendees*

**2018 Mountain West SOT Annual Meeting Reception** was held in San Antonio, TX on March 13, 2018, in partnership with colleagues from the Southern California and Northeast Regional Chapter. Approximately 220 people attended the networking reception (41 from MWSOT) which was held on the San Antonio Riverwalk at the Iron Cactus Restaurant from 6 PM until 9 PM.

We presented a poster at the SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio (shown below) to highlight the participating regions, activities and mission of the Mountain West regional chapter.

## Mountain West Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology

**CHAPTER OBJECTIVES**

- The Mountain West Society of Toxicology (MWSOT) has been in existence for over 30 years, since 1984!
- Primary focus of the chapter:
  - Foster regional collaboration, information exchange, & training in toxicology for scientists & trainees throughout the Southwest.
  - Provide a training recourse to our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.
  - Foster student and postdoctoral training through the Annual Regional Chapter Meeting.
- Any scientist or student with an interest in toxicology is encouraged to attend the MWSOT Annual Meeting!

**MEETING FACTS**

- Held annually in September or early October
- Regional, National and International toxicology topics of interest
- Nationally recognized and regional speakers
- Rotates yearly through beautiful southwest locations in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah / Southern Idaho
- Platform and presentation venues for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- To provide incentive for trainees, awards are given to top performers at the Annual Meeting.

**ANNUAL MEETING THEMES AND LOCATIONS**

2018 Theme: TBD — Phoenix, AZ

2017 Insights from the Past Shaping the Future: Research at the Intersection of Toxicology and Pharmaceuticals — Albuquerque, NM (joint meeting with AAPS)

2016 'Environmental Effects on Human Health: a Focus on Regional Issues' — Salt Lake City, UT

2015 'Systems Toxicology' — Breckenridge, CO

2014 'Microbiome and Gene-Environment Interactions' — Tucson, AZ

2013 'Nanotoxicology' — Albuquerque, NM

**SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Undergraduate Toxicology Outreach Program, developed to introduce undergraduates to the field of Toxicology
- Industry speakers discuss scientific areas of interest in industry and career potentials for toxicologists
- Increase Industrial and Consulting Participation
- Collaborative National Receptions with Southern California Chapter of SOT (primary industry membership)

**MWSOT FAST FACTS**

Established: 1984

**Membership**

Total Membership:	76
Full:	60
Postdoctoral:	3
Student:	12
Emeritus:	1
Undergraduate attendees:	16

**Diversified Membership**

61% Academic, 8% Research Institute, 11% Industry, 18% Consulting, 3% Government, 1% Other

**Geography:**

Largest Geographical Area of the Regional Chapters:  
Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, & Southern Idaho

**STUDENT AWARDS**

**Garold Yost Predoctoral Student Award**

Award recognizing a predoctoral toxicology student exhibiting exceptional interest and aptitude in toxicology through participation in regional chapter activities.

**Student Travel Awards**

Students from outside of the state holding the regional meeting are eligible with the submission of their Abstract for either a platform or poster presentation, a CV and a brief description of their research.

**Student Platform and Poster Presentation Awards**

Applicable to pre-doctoral or undergraduate students working in a research laboratory of a member of the Mountain West Regional Chapter.

**Postdoctoral Fellow Platform and Poster Presentation Awards**


Applicable to postdoctoral fellows working in a research laboratory of a member of the Mountain West Regional Chapter.

**2017 AWARD WINNERS**

- Yost Award:** Sebastian Medina
- Undergraduate and Graduate Student Poster/Platform:**
  - Poster: Katerina Popichak and Lindsay Volk
  - Platform: Nam Nguyen
- Postdoctoral Award:** Alicia Bolt, PhD


**CURRENT OFFICERS**


President: Cassandra Deering-Rice, PhD, Univ. of Utah  
 Vice President: Debra MacKenzie, PhD, Univ. of New Mexico  
 Vice President-Elect: Ting Wang, PhD, Univ. of Arizona  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Cooper, PhD, Univ. of New Mexico  
 Past President/Councilor: Jared Brown, PhD, Univ. of Colorado  
 Councilors: Todd Thompson, PhD, Univ. of New Mexico  
 Yin Chen, PhD, Univ. of Arizona  
 Postdoctoral Rep: Erica Dashner-Tilus, PhD, Univ. of New Mexico  
 Senior Student Rep: Sebastian Medina, Univ. of New Mexico  
 Junior Student Rep: Erica Toth, Univ. of Arizona



**MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO MWSOT REGIONAL CHAPTER**

Academic Institutions	Non-Academic Institutions and Industry
Colorado State University Fort Lewis College Idaho State University New Mexico State University Northern Arizona University University of Arizona University of Colorado University of Nevada - Reno University of New Mexico University of Northern Colorado University of Utah University of Wyoming Utah State University	Array BioPharma, Inc. (CO) Century Environmental Hygiene (CO) Charles River Laboratories (NV) Covance Laboratories (AZ) EP Hays Toxicology Services (CO) Flatirons Toxicology (CO) Front Range Environmental Toxicology Services (CO) Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM) Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (NM) National Jewish Research Institute (CO) Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory (UT) Rocky Mountain Poison Center (CO) Shopp Nonclinical Consulting (CO) Summit Toxicology (CO) Technikos Research Associates (AZ) Woven Egg Consulting (CO)





<http://www.toxicology.org/sot/mtwso/index.asp>

### Plans for the upcoming year:

The 36<sup>th</sup> MWSOT Annual Conference will be held in Phoenix AZ from September 19–21, 2018 at the College of Medicine Phoenix in Downtown Phoenix. The theme of the meeting is “Translational Toxicology—From Bench to Bedside”. We will have keynote talks, poster sessions, student career development lunch, and social hours.

The keynote speakers will be Hartmut Jaeschke, PhD, Professor and Chair, University of Kansas Medical Center, and Ana Navas-Acien, MD, PhD, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Columbia University.

**Strategic Planning Questions:**

**What is one thing 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?**

It would be helpful to have a Regional Chapter handbook or FAQ for regional chapter officers that combines information applicable to all regional chapters regarding the role that Presidents and other officers of the regional chapters play in the larger SOT organization. Listing past strategic initiatives applied for by other regional chapters could aid with idea generation across chapters.

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

Nothing noted at this time.