

## MOUNTAIN WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2019 - 2020

Sep 02, 2020

#### I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
President:	Ting Wang	Ronald Tjalkens
Vice President:	Ronald Tjalkens	Mirella Meyer-Ficca
Vice President Elect:	Mirella Meyer-Ficca	Alicia Bolt
Secretary/Treasurer:	Karen Cooper	Karen Cooper
Past President	Debra MacKenzie	Ting Wang
Councilors:	Alicia Bolt	Kristofer Fritz
	Melanie Doyle-Eisele	Melanie Doyle-Eisele
PDA Representative:	Tosifa Memon	Sebastian Medina
GSLC Representative:	Katherine Burrell	Sumira Phatak
Junior Student Representative	Sumira Phatak	Angela Cruz-Hernandez

#### II. Activities:

**37th Annual MWSOT Regional Chapter Meeting** was held in Fort Collins, Colorado, at the Lory Student Center Theater on the main campus of Colorado State University from September 19-21, 2019. The Regional meeting this year was hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at CSU and organized through the Toxicology graduate program. The theme for the conference was “Integrative Toxicology - Exposures, Mechanisms and Clinical Outcomes”. The agenda for this conference is included as Appendix I. This conference started with a joint reception and networking event at the Hilton, Fort Collins on September 19. On the following day, the meeting began with a keynote lecture given by David Schwartz - Professor of Medicine and Immunology and Robert W. Schrier Chair of Medicine, University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus. Following the Keynote lecture, the meeting broke into separate thematic sessions, including Integrative Toxicology Session I – Pulmonary Toxicology, Undergraduate/Graduate Toxicology outreach program, Integrative Toxicology Session II – Cancer and Toxicogenomics, Student Platform Session I, and a Reception/Poster Session. On September 21, the meeting started with the second keynote lecture by Brad Racette - Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine, entitled, “Environmental Mn Exposure and Neurodegeneration”. Following this keynote lecture, Student Platform Session II and Integrative



**Figure 1. MWSOT Keynote Speakers.** David Schwartz, MD (left) and Brad Racette, MD (right).

Toxicology Session III were held. The meeting was ended with the Trainee Awards Presentation. There were a total of 6 oral student/postdoc presenters and 20 total posters presented.

#### Awardees:

- The Yost Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Colin Anderson
- Outstanding Poster Presentation Award: Savannah Rocha
- Outstanding Oral Presentation Award: Tosifa Memon

#### Selected Key Translational Toxicology Lectures

- Sheryl Magzamen, Colorado State University - “Ambient pollutants in Agricultural Settings: The role of environmental chemical mixtures in respiratory disease”
- Allison Bauer, UC Denver – “Environmentally prevalent polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons elicit early signaling events that link to co-carcinogenic properties in human and mouse lung cells”
- Cassandra Rice, University of Utah - “TRPs, CYPs, SNPs, Air Pollution, and Asthma Control”
- Dan Gustafson, Colorado State University - “Cancer Therapeutics: Integrating Drug Exposure, Toxicity and Response for Optimal Outcomes”
- Dan Labarbera, UC Denver - “Drug discovery and Development Targeting Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition in Cancer”
- Scott Burchiel, University of New Mexico - “Translating Mouse Immunotoxicology Studies to Human Cohorts”
- Georg Wondrak, University of Arizona - “The Redox Exposome in Skin Photodamage: Molecular Mechanisms and Interventions”



**Figure 2. MWSOT Annual Conference Awardees.** Savannah Rocha, Colin Anderson, Tosifa Memon, Brian Tooker, Katherine Burrell, Russel Hunter, Marysol Almestica, Valerie Minarchick



**Figure 3. Student platform presentations at the meeting.**

### **Undergraduate/Graduate Toxicology Outreach Program**

This special program sponsored by SOT and Thermo Scientific intended to give career development guide to undergraduate and graduate students in Toxicology. Four lectures were selected to represent four different career paths of Toxicology:

- Introduction: Ron Tjalkens
- Environmental Consulting: Tami McMullin, CTEH
- Pharmaceutical Toxicology: Maralee McVean, Preclinical Research Services, Inc
- Medical Toxicology: Brad Racette, Washington University at St. Louis
- Scientist Career Paths in Biotech: Dylan Hartley, Array Biopharma

### **Funding support**

The meeting was supported by funds from the SOT as well as support from the Center for Environmental Medicine at Colorado State University, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and CTEH Environmental Consulting.

**The 2020 Mountain West SOT Annual Meeting Reception** was canceled due to CoVID19.



**Figure 4. MWSOT officers.**

### **Plans for the upcoming year:**

The 38th annual meeting of the MWSOT regional chapter will be held September 18th, 2020 online, hosted by Utah State University. at the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins, CO. The theme of the meeting is “Epigenetics & Toxicology: The Organism-Environment Interface and Its Role in Health”.

### **Keynote Speakers:**

Randy Jirtle, PhD, North Carolina State University  
Bruce Blumberg, PhD, University of California Irvine  
Michael Skinner, PhD, Washington State University