



National Capital Area Chapter
Society of Toxicology Newsletter
- Electronic Edition -

December 2009

Issue No. 27

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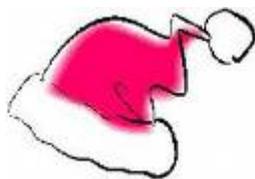
MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Welcome to another issue of the NCAC-SOT Newsletter! By all accounts, this is the 27th issue for our chapter, which has been serving toxicologists in our nation's capital for over 25 years! In this issue, learn about the K-12 outreach activities that you help support with your membership dollars. And be sure to find out about two interesting upcoming courses at IIVS in 2010. Any and all news, job postings, or meeting announcements related to toxicology or toxicologists in the MD/DC/VA region are welcome in the newsletter, so don't be shy and email them to me at Mitkus.Robert@epa.gov for inclusion in a future publication.

Did you notice your chapter newsletter's "new face"? Our chic, new chapter banner located at the top of this page is the result of the creative efforts of NCAC councilor, Syril Petit, and staff at SOT. It colorfully incorporates the traditional crest of our chapter, as well as other icons from the capital region. We hope to feature it shortly on the chapter's website located at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/ncac/default.htm>. If you like it, feel free to distribute this edition of the newsletter to colleagues who may be interested in joining our local chapter. The cost of membership is nominal, and it's an excellent introduction to local activities in the field of toxicology.

Happy holidays!

Robert Mitkus, PhD, DABT



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Postdoctoral
Representative: **Vacant**

Graduate Student
Representative: **Vacant**

Travel Awards to Attend SOT Meeting in Salt Lake City

The NCAC-SOT offers full-time graduate students and post-doctoral fellows an opportunity to compete for the Bern Schwetz Student Travel Award (a cash award for the support of student travel to the annual SOT meeting). NCAC-SOT student members who are interested in submitting an application, please consult the NCAC-SOT website (<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/ncac/Awards.asp>) and/or contact Dr. Katherine Squibb at ksquibb@medicine.umaryland.edu for more information. The deadline is **January 12, 2010!**

NCAC-SOT Membership

Did you remember to renew both your SOT and NCAC memberships this year?? Annual membership fees for NCAC-SOT are only \$20 for regular memberships and \$10 for full-time students. These negligible fees (which may be less than your daily Starbucks budget!) are used to fund our fantastic symposium each year, and to support a myriad of student activities, including student awards, travel supplements, and K-12 outreach. If you have not yet renewed your regional chapter membership, please do so today! You can do so online at <http://www.toxicology.org/script/loginredirect2.asp?page=dues>, or just fill out and mail in the membership application found at the end of this newsletter. It's never too late to renew your NCAC-SOT membership for 2010!

2010 NCAC-SOT Symposium Schedule

Keep a look out for the next NCAC Symposium. Details coming soon!

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER EARLY FOR THE SOT ANNUAL MEETING!!!

You can register online and receive the "early bird" rate at:
<http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2010/registration.asp>

K-12 Outreach Activities

School district science fair season is rapidly approaching. For the past several years, NCAC-SOT has supported local science fairs by sending members to judge science projects and award prizes for excellence in toxicological/environmental-related sciences. Supported school districts have included: in Maryland, Howard, Prince Georges, and Ann Arundel counties; in Virginia, Fairfax County. Individuals or groups volunteering to judge on behalf of NCAC-SOT are asked to procure gift cards to Borders, Barnes & Noble or other local bookstore as prizes for best projects. Judges will be reimbursed by NCAC-SOT for the cost of the gift cards. NCAC-SOT will also provide printed certificates to judges to accompany the cash awards. The future of toxicology depends on the efforts made by current toxicologists to encourage and inspire youth into careers in science, so please volunteer a few hours to support NCAC-SOT's K-12 outreach activities. For more information on science fair judging or to recommend or to volunteer for other K-12 outreach activities, contact NCAC-SOT K-12 Coordinator, Tom Flynn, at 301-210-6377 or by email at thomas.flynn@fda.hhs.gov.

NCAC-SOT Sponsors Girl Scout Science Day

by NCAC member, Maureen Gwinn

For the past two years, the National Capital Area Chapter of SOT has sponsored the Annual Girl Scout Nation's Capital Science Day organized by the Girl Scouts Council Nation's Capital Service Unit 37-7. This event introduces scientific terms and ideas to Brownies (grades 2 – 3) and Juniors (grades 4 – 5) with hands-on experimental protocols. Experimental protocols are designed to be

performed by a group of 10 - 12 girls in 30 minutes. As in past years, experiments are led by Cadet Girl Scouts (grades 6 – 8) with the assistance of volunteers, including troop 'moms' and 'dads' and area scientists. All participating Girl Scouts rotate through 4 to 6 experiments depending on their age group and the theme selected. This year, in an effort to reach out to even more Girl Scouts, the Girl Scouts Council Nation's Capital Service Unit 37 – 7 performed an additional Science Day on November 7, 2009. This event was available to all girl scouts in Frederick County up to 200 girls due to space constraints. By using the equipment previously purchased through NCAC SOT funding, and some of the leftover supplies from the SOT K-12 event in Baltimore, MD in March 2009, this event was able to be held with a limited increase in costs.

Ninety Brownies earned either a Science in Action Try-It or a Chemistry Try-It while the one hundred Juniors earned either a Science Sleuth badge or a Science Discovery badge. Brownies earning the Science in Action Try-It were exposed to different phases of matter (Weird Glop); the idea of germs and how they spread (Germ Spread/Making Soap); what is carbon dioxide (Balloon Blow-Up/Dancing Raisins) as well as why some things dissolve and others do not (Dissolving). For the Chemistry Try-It, Brownies learned about polymers (Meg A. Mole Bouncing Ball), density (Lava lamp), chromatography (Chromatography) and how chemistry helps to make ice cream (Making Ice Cream).

The afternoon session with the Junior Girl Scouts for the Science Discovery badge involved experiments on pH (Acidity), scientific hypothesis (What Makes Gum Gummy?, Searching for Starch), how to design experiments using fungus (Friendly Fungus), what things impact surface tension (Surface Tension) and what is static electricity (Static Electricity). The Science Sleuth badge focused on where DNA comes from (Make Your Own DNA), and how genetics can determine different traits (Which Gene Do I Have?). Juniors also learned how different materials added to a mixture can have a different chemical effect (Baggie Science). Juniors also learned about polymers and emulsions (Making Lotion), as well as density (Density) and how temperature can affect the rate of a reaction (Seltzer Reactions). Throughout all the experiments, Girl Scouts were encouraged to think scientifically about what reactions are occurring and why, and to write their hypotheses and results in the supplied lab notebooks. All experiments had questions at the end for the students to answer before leaving the 'bench'. Students were encouraged to work together and discuss as a group the results of each experiment.

For the girls in attendance, this was their first exposure to a Science Day in this format. Based on the evaluation responses from the troops attending and their leaders, Science Day was a great success, with requests to hold future events like this for them. The Brownies and Juniors had fun while learning a variety of scientific facts. This was also the first time for many of the Cadets as teachers and not participants, and it was educational for them to see the differences between teaching the experiments as opposed to performing them. The Girl Scouts were able to take copies of experimental protocols home to share with their family. These lab notebooks not only included the experimental set-ups, but also the Instructor's Notes to help explain the protocols to their families. In some cases, the Girl Scouts were also able to bring home the results of their experiments, including DNA necklaces, vials of lotion that they made and personalized weird glop. **As always, many of**

these experiments would not have been possible without the financial support of the NCAC SOT Regional Chapter, and through them, the SOT Education Committee.

Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Representatives Needed!!

Do you mentor or work with any outstanding graduate students or postdoctoral fellows? Please encourage them today to serve on the NCAC Executive Board as our graduate student or postdoctoral representative. Did you know that SOT provides \$350 in support for the graduate student representative, while NCAC provides a matching amount for travel expenses to the Annual Meeting? That's \$700 in travel costs completely funded! Please encourage your graduate students to serve on your Board!!

NCAC-SOT Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report - November 30, 2009
Account activity since last newsletter

Opening balance on 6/01/09				\$21,213.71
Debits	None			
	Total		\$0.00	\$21,213.71
Credits				
	New members/ membership renewals		\$425.00	
	Total		\$425.00	
Balance on 10/30/09				\$21,638.71

- Submitted by Thomas J. Flynn, Treasurer

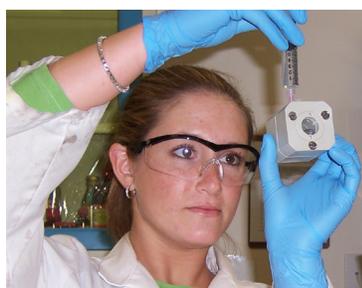




Practical Methods for In Vitro Toxicology Workshop 2010

June 15-17, Gaithersburg, Maryland

Attend highly informative lectures given by experts in the field.



Topics include:

- Predicting organ specific toxicity (e.g. ocular, dermal and hepatic)
- Using cell and organ culture models with histological, biochemical and molecular endpoints



Gain hands-on laboratory experience and instruction in the practical application of the lecture topics. This training is applicable to the following disciplines:

- Product Safety
- Product Development
- Industrial Hygiene
- Mechanistic Studies

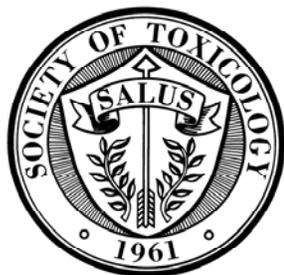


Register Now!

Class size is limited to provide the best quality of instruction.

Visit www.iivs.org to complete the online registration.

Sponsored by Institute for In Vitro Sciences



National Capital Area

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
 Affiliation: _____
 Address _____

 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Area Code: _____ Phone: _____ FAX: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Membership Type _____ Full Member (\$20) _____ Student (\$10)

Please check the most appropriate responses:

SOT Member	Highest Degree Attained		Type of Affiliation
_____ Yes	_____ A.S.	_____ M.P.H.	_____ Academia
_____ No	_____ B.A.	_____ M.S.	_____ Consulting
	_____ B.S.	_____ M.A.	_____ Contract Lab
	_____ D.V.M.	_____ Ph.D.	_____ Government
	_____ D.V.M./Ph.D.	_____ Sc.D.	_____ Industry
	_____ M.D.	_____ V.M.D.	Chemical/Petroleum
	_____ M.D./Ph.D.	_____ V.M.D./Ph.D.	_____ Industry- Pharmaceutical
			_____ Industry- Other
			_____ Other- _____

Please complete the information above and send with a check, money order or credit card (payable to NCAC-SOT) to the address below. The NCAC will review your application and you will be notified within 30 days. Those not accepted will receive a full refund. *Current RC members: please do not use this form since your renewal dues are billed annually through SOT.*

Payment Type: Money Order _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____
 Credit Card # _____ Exp date _____
 Name on Card _____

Send to:

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