NCAC-SOT WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS IN MAY 2023

VICE PRESIDENT
Melissa Badding, PhD, DABT

Dr. Badding is a Senior Managing Scientist at Exponent, Inc. where she consults on a variety of toxicological matters related to human health. She is a board-certified toxicologist and specializes in toxicological risk assessments for a variety of exposure scenarios and substances, including medical devices, consumer products, personal care products, metals, and particulates. Dr. Badding received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Toxicology from the University of Rochester and her B.S. in Biotechnology from Rochester Institute of Technology. She has been an active member of the Society of Toxicology since 2010.

SECRETARY
Leslie E. Patton, PhD

Dr. Patton is a principal consultant at ChemReg Compliance Solutions LLC, where she specializes in human health risk assessment and regulatory toxicology. She has extensive experience developing food contact notifications, GRAS notices and registering pesticides. Dr. Patton performs risk assessments for new chemicals as part of the preparation of Pre-Manufacture Notices (PMNs) and provides toxicological and regulatory expertise on pesticides and consumer products including cosmetics, personal care products, household cleaners and dietary supplements. She received a doctorate in environmental toxicology from Cornell University in 2007. Dr. Patton has given many talks and produced white papers on safety aspects of food contact substances and pesticides and has most recently authored articles for the popular press on the safety of cosmetics and GRAS substances. She became a member of SOT in 2007 and has volunteered with SOT RASS as a mentor and session chair.

TREASURER
Jorge G. Muñiz Ortiz, PhD, DABT

Dr. Muñiz Ortiz is an Investment Oversight Advisor at the Health Resources and Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services. He reviews fund expenditures from grant funds provided by the Agency. He received his doctorate in Molecular Toxicogenetics from the University of Cincinnati in 2009. His dissertation focused on identifying genes that are essential in protecting the organism against the toxic effects of arsenic using various genetically modified strains of the fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster as a model system. After finishing his doctoral degree, Dr. Muñiz Ortiz became a postdoctoral fellow at the US EPA and a postdoctoral scholar at the North Carolina State University. He became a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology in 2015.
COUNCILOR – WEBSITE COORDINATOR  
Jessica Camacho, PhD

Dr. Camacho is a Staff Fellow Toxicologist in the Office of Applied Research and Safety Assessment (OARSA) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Her work seeks to identify, develop, and validate promising alternative predictive toxicology methods so that they can be integrated into regulatory safety and risk assessments to help ensure the safety of the U.S. food supply. Her research utilizes the genetic model organism and a promising alternative predictive toxicity model, Caenorhabditis elegans, to assess reproductive, developmental, and epigenetic toxicity.

Graduate Student Vice-Representative  
Blake Cooper

Ms. Cooper is a fifth-year PhD candidate at The George Washington University Institute for Biomedical Sciences, focused on Pharmacology & Physiology. Her lab is located in Children’s National Hospital in Washington, DC. She received an NIH NRSA predoctoral fellowship to study the impact of environmental plastic chemicals on cardiac electrophysiology, and the influence of intrinsic sex-differences on cardiac outcomes. Blake previously worked at a preclinical CRO and a wearable device start-up in Austin, TX, and hopes to join a Medical Affairs team upon graduation. She looks forward to participating in the NCA chapter and expanding opportunities for graduate student members.