

ANNUAL REPORT: 2019-2020

May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020

I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
President:	Tao Wang	Yongbin Zhang
President-Elect:	Yongbin Zhang	Nan Mei
Secretary:	Li Zhang	Weimin Chen
Treasurer:	Sophie Jia	Cleo Leung
Past President:	X Sherwin Yan	Tao Wang
Councilors:	Weimin Chen Cleo Leung	Quanshun Zhang Xiaoqing Guo
Postdoctoral Representative:	Zhen Ren	Hao Chen
Graduate Student Representative:	Yuwei Chang	Zunwei Chen

Committees: If applicable.

II. 2019 Membership total: 237

III. Key Outcomes in 2019-2020:

IV. Activities:

A. 2020 SOT Annual Meeting Virtual Activities (e.g. courses, scientific sessions, or virtual receptions):

AACT did not conduct AM virtual activities. However, AACT has conducted multiple key activities through the year as the followings:

- **Enhancing recognition of toxicologists of Chinese origin within SOT:** One key initiative that AACT Board undertook this year was to nominate outstanding toxicologists of Chinese origin for the major SOT Awards. This initiative was enthusiastically supported by our members. This year AACT nominated three strong candidates for the *Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award*, the *Achievement Award*, and the *Leading Edge in Basic Science Award*. One of our candidates, **Dr. Shuk-Mei Ho**, Vice Chancellor for Research at University of Arkansas for Medical Science (UAMS) won the *Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award*! Many thanks to the committee members: Drs. **Xuefei Cao, Zhenquan Jia, Xiaoqing Guo, Wei Wu, Xuegeng Wang, Yongbin Zhang and Sophie Jia**. Moving forward, the Board would like to encourage all toxicologists of Chinese origin to be more diligent and proactive in recognizing your or your colleagues' excellent accomplishments!
- **Enhancing career development opportunities:** Based on the AACT survey and job-seeking experiences shared by our Student Representative, the Board examined how to strengthen network opportunities and promote career development beyond our once a year career workshop during the SOT meeting. The Board decided to facilitate a long-term mentor-mentee relationship within AACT. The first step is to create a "mentor pool". The second step is to facilitate mentee matches. Once a mentor and a mentee are matched, it will be up to the mentors and mentees to maintain communications and mentoring relationships. We hope this activity will help AACT students, postdocs and junior scientists with their professional growth. After a "call for AACT mentors" was distributed, thirteen AACT members from academia, industry and

government have signed up as mentors. Mentors and mentees have been matched, and mentoring activities are ongoing.

- **Increasing networking opportunities among AACT members:** The AACT membership survey indicated that our members most value the networking opportunities provided by our special interest group. The Board considered several approaches to enhance the member networking activities outside the SOT annual meeting, and one of the networking approaches we developed was to facilitate regional get-together events with the goal to expand opportunities for increased local contacts among AACT members. SOT headquarters created Regional Membership Forums in ToXchange for AACT members in the following areas based on the number of AACT members in the regions:
 - AACT Members - Shanghai, China
 - AACT Members - Jefferson, AR
 - AACT Members - San Francisco, CA Bay Area
 - AACT Members - DC Metro Area
 - AACT Members - Research Triangle Park, NC
 - AACT Members – New York City
 - AACT Members – New Jersey
- **Conducting scientific webinars:** The Board hosted two webinars this year. The first webinar was entitled “Immunotoxicology: History and Current Advancements”. We were lucky to have Dr. **Kenneth L. Hastings**, PhD, DABT, ATS as our guest speaker. The webinar was well received by AACT members and other SOT members with 329 attendees. This webinar was recorded and posted on AACT website. Our second webinar focused on safety of food from genetically modified plants. This webinar was held in April 2020, and our guest speaker is Dr. **Jian-Mei Zhu** from the US FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Again, we were lucky to have identified a great speaker for this webinar, and the webinar was very well attended and received.
- **Conducting outreach activities in China:** AACT was awarded \$4000 by SOT and supported by additional corporate funding to conduct our outreach activities in China.
 - A five-member AACT delegation (**Sophie Jia**, delegation leader, **Ed Chow**, **Hua Shen**, **Shuyan Lu**, and **Jiongjie Jing**) attended the 9th National Toxicology Congress of the Chinese Society of Toxicology in Shanxi province this September. Their presentations covering basic toxicology research, safety evaluation in drug development, and safety of occupational exposure were well received by meeting attendees.
 - Sophie Jia and AACT Past President, **Ed Chow**, also met with CSOT President, **Pingkun Zhou**, General Secretary, **Chao Liu**, and others to exchange information and discuss future collaborations.
 - The delegation also organized a workshop with ShanXi Medical University. This workshop, held on the campus, provided overviews of the advancements in the field of toxicology. The delegation also shared their overseas PhD and postdoc experiences with students in China.
 - Delegation leader and AACT treasurer Sophie Jia also gave a toxicology education seminar at Shandong University Medical School.

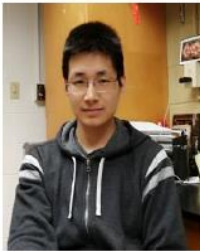
B. 2020 Awards Information:



Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist

Lu Cai, MD, PhD

*Professor, Director of Pediatric Research Institute,
University of Louisville School of Medicine*

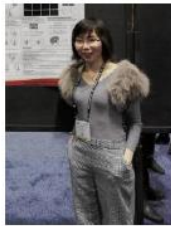


Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award

Liang Chi

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

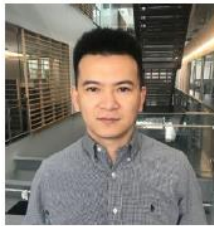
AACT-InnoStar Best Abstracts Award Winners



1st Place

Minhong Huang

Iowa State University



2nd Place

Yong Pu, PhD

Michigan State University



3rd Place

Zunwei Chen

Texas A&M University

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g. webinars, in person meetings, etc.):

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: twice a year
2. Key Announcements/blogs: Multiple announcements on key activities at AACT (listed above) through the year.

E. Mentoring activities: see the above

V. **Feedback and Ideas:**

- A. How might SOT better support your group's activities (perhaps something 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?):

Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.

SOT has supported AACT activities in many ways. Many thanks to SOT. With regard to funding application process, it seems that the funding criteria changes time to time when the non-SOT funding committee

membership changes. We had situation that in one year our funding application was awarded, but in another year, a similar funding application was rejected. It would be helpful if the Society can have a consistent criteria, so we will know how to better prepare funding applications.

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

Within in AACT, we have many members who have been enthusiastically involved in SOT activities, and we also have members who have been making major contributions to the toxicology field. So, do other SIG groups, Korean, Indian, African, etc. While the Society has been doing a superb job in promoting women in toxicology in recent years, it would be great for the Society to promote members with diverse background and origin on leadership roles, awards, speaker opportunities, etc.

C. What changes does your component group anticipate making in the way in which it operates in the coming year?