



President's Message



Dear all AACT members:

It has been a great honor for me to serve as the 2024–2025 AACT President, especially as we celebrate the 20th Year Anniversary of AACT.

This year, our major focus and efforts can be summarized by three pivotal themes: Excellence, Visibility, and Connection. We continued the excellent work established by previous AACT leadership; we enhanced the visibility of Chinese toxicologists through scientific webinars, forums, career workshops, and SOT/AACT award nominations; and we were committed to strengthen bonds between AACT members (trainees, academic professors, and government/industrial scientists) within the AACT ecosystem as well as between AACT and our industrial sponsors, other SOT Component Groups, and the overarching SOT leadership.

Over the past year, I have led the AACT fundraising and outreach initiatives, SOT proposal endorsement, and regular AACT meetings and general activities. We have five proposals accepted by SOT this year as the Workshop, Symposium, or CE Course, with 2 proposals with AACT as the primary endorser. Dr. Xuefei Cao as the President-Elect led the nomination of AACT members for major SOT awards. Dr. Lu Cai and myself were honored to receive the SOT Translational Impact Award and Achievement Award, respectively. Dr. Kan Shao, our Immediate Past President, led the nominations of new AACT Officers and support AACT fundraising activities and proposal endorsement. Dr. Lili Tang, our Secretary, helped organize AACT webinars and AACT Annual Reception. Dr. Miao Li, our Treasurer, was responsible for AACT award reviews, supporting AACT membership and fundraising efforts, and preparing AACT Annual Reception. Dr. Xiaoling Zhang, Councilor, organized the AACT Career Workshop. Dr. Si Chen, Councilor, was responsible for the joint activities between AACT and SOT Specialty Sections. Dr. Qiran Chen, our Postdoctoral Representative, and Zhenning Yang, our Student Representative, led the annual AACT newsletter, website update, trainee activities, and AACT Career Workshop.

In summary, 2024-2025 has been a productive and excellent year. The vigor and success of AACT relies on the participation and engagement of all AACT members. We thank the continuous supports of you all! We look forward to seeing you all in Orlando FL at the SOT Annual Meeting and AACT Annual Business Meeting and Reception.

Warm regards,

Shuo Xiao, MBBS, PhD
2024-2025 AACT President



SOT | Society of
Toxicology
ENDOWMENT
Investing in the Future ...

Give Now to Support the Future of Toxicology

AACT has one endowment fund, the Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award Fund, to support scholarship awards to students. The Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award Fund was created with an initial generous gift from Dr. Frank C. Lu in memory of his wife, Jean Lu. Since the establishment, the endowment fund has provided scholarship each year to at least one toxicology student born in China or of Chinese descent. About 20 students have been recognized and supported through the Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award Fund.



In Memory of Jean Lu and Dr. Frank Lu

We encourage our members to contribute directly to the Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award Fund. Our 2024 goal is to raise the balance of Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award Fund to \$50,000. Please help us meet this goal and continue to support the next generation of toxicologist. Contributing is easy:

<http://www.toxicology.org/endowment/contribute/donate.asp>.

Currently we have several awards without supports from endowment funds. To establish a permanent endowment fund, \$50,000 minimum contribution should be contributed by one or more donors within 3 years. For more details, please refer to the webpage for SOT endowment funds:

<https://www.toxicology.org/endowment/Eabout/fund.asp>. If you are interested to create new endowment funds to support AACT trainees and scholars, please feel free to reach out to AACT officers.

2025 AACT-SIG Career Development Workshop

At the 2025 SOT Annual Meeting, the AACT is hosting an engaging in-person career workshop in a roundtable discussion format. This workshop presents a great opportunity for individuals at various stages of their careers, including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early staged professionals, to delve into a wide range of topics, such as empathy and leadership, providing participants valuable insights and strategies to advance their career. In addition, by attending this workshop, you will have the chance to explore global career opportunities across different sectors (e.g., government, industry, and academia etc.), foster informal mentor-mentee relationships with experienced professionals, and broaden your horizon and career prospects. The AACT's mission is to support and empower the next generation of toxicologists in navigating their career paths. This career workshop is designed to provide a platform for individuals to learn, network, and explore as an approach to fulfill this mission. We are excited to welcome everyone and look forward to a successful and enriching event!

Time

5:00-5:50 PM, March 17th, 2025

Location

Windermere Ballroom X, Hyatt Regency

Roundtable Representatives



Li Yang
Regulatory Toxicologist
CA EPA



Si Chen
Research Biologist
NCTR, FDA



Miao Li
Visiting scientist
FDA



Hanna Ng
Exec. Director & Head
Everest Medicines



Shao Zhou
Vice President
Procter & Gamble



Xuefei Cao
Non-clinical Toxicologist
Altria Client Services



Yongbin Zhang
CTO & Vice President
Jonn Laboratories



Shuo Xiao
Associate Professor
Rutgers University



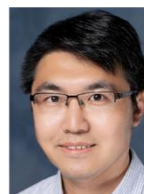
Kan Shao
Associate Professor
Indiana University



Lili Tang
Professor
University of Georgia



Yanhong Wei
Professor & Chair
Sun Yat-Sen University



Wei-Chun Chou
Assistant Professor
UC, Riverside



Yunqi An
Toxicologist
Victoria's Secret

Please use the following link to register by **March 12, 2025**.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YvBdM6GX8CRviQ6GNTYEoNo0tubZsV4Yw4BliPjgyaQ/edit>

Scan the QR code to see the introduction of each panelist.



2024-2025 AACT OFFICERS

President

Shuo Xiao, PhD,
Rutgers, The State
University of New
Jersey



Councilor

Si Chen, PhD,
FDA/NCTR



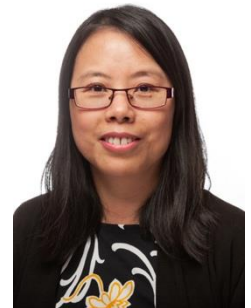
President-Elect

Xuefei Cao, PhD,
Altria Client
Services



Councilor

Xiaoling Zhang,
PhD, Procter &
Gamble
Company (P&G)



Secretary

Lili Tang, , PhD,
University of
Georgia



Postdoctoral Representative

Qiran Chen,
PhD, University
of Florida



Treasurer

Miao Li, PhD,
DABT, US FDA



Student Representative

Zhenning Yang,
MBBS, Rutgers,
The State
University of
New Jersey



Immediate Past President

Kan Shao, PhD,
DABT, ATS, Indiana
University School
of Public Health –
Bloomington



2025-2026 AACT OFFICERS

President

Xuefei Cao, PhD,
Altria Client
Services



Councilor

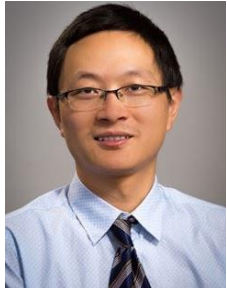
Feng Gao, PhD,
University of
California, Los
Angeles



Newly Elected

President-Elect

Xiang Xue, PhD,
University of New
Mexico



Newly Elected

Councilor

Chao Ji, PhD,
CDC/ATSDR



Newly Elected

Secretary

Si Chen, PhD,
FDA/NCTR



Postdoctoral Representative

Qiran Chen, PhD,
University of
Florida



Treasurer

Xiaoling Zhang,
PhD, P&G



Student Representative

Zimu Wei,
Michigan State
University



Newly Elected

Immediate Past President

Shuo Xiao, PhD,
Rutgers University



AACT Members Received SOT Awards



SOT Achievement Award

This award recognizes an SOT member who has made significant contributions to toxicology within 15 years of obtaining the highest earned degree.

Shuo Xiao, PhD, is awarded the 2025 SOT Achievement Award for his innovative and impactful research into how environmental chemicals and pharmaceuticals adversely impact women's reproductive health and fertility and its implications for public health.

SOT Translational Impact Award

This award recognizes a scientist who, based on research, has made a recent (within the last five years), seminal scientific contribution or advance to understanding fundamental mechanisms of toxicity. The recipient should be a respected basic scientist whose research findings are likely to have a pervasive impact on the field of toxicology.

Lu Cai, MD, PhD, is awarded the 2025 SOT Translational Impact Award for his groundbreaking research into understanding the mechanisms of diabetic cardiomyopathy, the role that environmental metals play in these toxicological processes, and the translational impact potential that these findings have for patients suffering from cardiovascular complications induced by diabetes and metabolic syndrome.



2025 AACT AWARDS

The AACT Awards Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 AACT Awards: Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Award, Outstanding Young Toxicologist Award, Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award, Best Paper Award, and Best Abstract Awards. All awards will be presented during the 64th SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

WestChina-Frontier PharmaTech Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Award

This Award is to honor an established toxicologist of Chinese ethnic origin who is preferably a member of the AACT. The awardee will be chosen by the AACT Award Committee as someone who is deemed to have contributed significantly to the science of toxicology and is exemplary in his/her professional life.



Hao Zhu, PhD

Professor, Tulane University

Dr. Hao Zhu is a Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Genomics at the Tulane University Medical School. His primary research focus is on utilizing cheminformatics tools to develop predictive models for chemical assessments. He is the Principal Investigator (PI) of several prestigious research grants (NIH R01, U01, R15, NSF, and etc). Dr. Zhu is author/co-author of over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters with over 8,000 citations (H-index as 47). His research has been recognized with multiple awards, including Rutgers Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity, National Institute of

Environmental Health Sciences Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Extramural Paper of the Month (three times, 2019, 2020 and 2022) and Drug Discovery Today top citation paper of the year (2018).

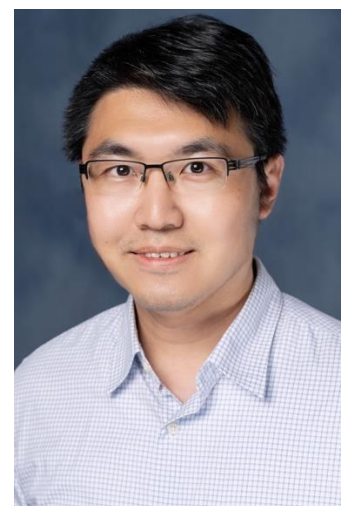
JOINN Biomere Outstanding Young Toxicologist Award

The Outstanding Young Toxicologist Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the toxicology field in the early stage of their career in academia, industry, or government.

Wei-Chun Chou, PhD

Assistant Professor, University of California, Riverside

Dr. Wei-Chun Chou is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. His research focuses on the integration of computational modeling, environmental health, and toxicology, with expertise in physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI). Dr. Chou's recent work leverages machine learning and AI models to predict ADME-Tox (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Elimination, and Toxicity) properties of environmental chemicals, providing critical insights for human health risk assessment.



Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award

The Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award Fund was established with an initial generous gift from Dr. Frank C. Lu in memory of his wife, Jean Lu. The fund was created to provide a scholarship each year to a Chinese student who is interested in graduate toxicology training. Criteria include scholastic achievement, demonstration of leadership, relevance of thesis to toxicology, and letters of recommendation. Two awards will be given each year. Each recipient will be awarded a plaque and cash stipend.

Xue Wu

University of Florida



Xue Wu is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Environmental and Global Health at the University of Florida at Dr. Zhoumeng Lin's lab. Xue's research focuses on Integrating Experimental, Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Modeling and Machine Learning Approaches to Evaluate Pharmacokinetics and Drug Residue Depletion in Animals. She has published multiple PK and PBPK-related papers in peer-reviewed journals, received an AI fellowship for her work on predicting drug half-lives using AI-QSAR models.

SAFE Best Publication Award

Shu Yang, PhD

NIH/NCATS

The SAFE Best Publication Award is awarded to Dr. Shu Yang in the Tox21 program at NCATS/NIH under Dr. Menghang Xia's leadership for the paper:

Yang, S., Zhang, L., Khan, K., ...& Xia, M. (2024). Identification of environmental compounds that may trigger early female puberty by activating human GnRHR and KISS1R. *Endocrinology*, 165(10), bqae103.



InnoStar Best Abstract Awards

First Place



Ziwei Wang

Stony Brook University

Abstract: Nrf2-Dependent Extracellular Vesicle Release Facilitates 1, 4-Dioxane-Induced Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition and Carcinogenesis

Second Place



Yunjia Lai, PhD

Columbia University

Abstract: Biotin rescues manganese-induced Parkinson's disease phenotypes and neurotoxicity

Third Place



Han-Hsuan Tsai, PhD

Texas A&M University

Abstract: A Workflow for Human Health Hazard Evaluation Using Transcriptomic Data and Key Characteristics-Based Gene Sets

Join Us

AACT Awards Ceremony & Reception

Time: Monday, March 17, 2025;
6:00 PM to 9:30 PM (Eastern Time)

Location: Windermere Ballroom X,
Hyatt Regency

