



President's Message

Dear AACT members:

Fall greetings fellow AACT members! Over the summer, the AACT Executive Board had extensive discussions about what we could do to serve the needs of membership at large and support the community of Chinese toxicologists. Our discussions were guided by the results from the AACT membership survey conducted late last year, as well as the new SOT Strategic Plan for 2019-2023.

Several years ago, when I ran for SOT Councilor I promised to “promote the participation of women and minorities, not only as a member, but also as active participants in the Society...”. Since then I had the opportunity to lead the Women in Toxicology (WIT) group, and worked successfully on promoting the recognition of outstanding women toxicologist and other initiatives. Now as the President for AACT, I am in a position to use this previous leadership experience to serve AACT members. One of the initiatives AACT Board is taking this year is to promote the recognition of accomplished toxicologists in Chinese origin by nominating them for awards. After this initiative was announced to our members, we received multiple emails nominating some truly outstanding individuals for various SOT awards. We established an AACT committee to help nominate toxicologists in Chinese origin for SOT awards. The committee includes **Xuefei Cao, Zhenquan Jia, Xiaoqing Guo, Wei Wu, Xuegeng Wang, Yongbin Zhang, and Sophie Jia**. Committee members are currently working with three candidates and multiple nominators to prepare nomination packages for each candidate. We are confident that the committee members will be able to submit all nomination package in early October! Moving forward, the AACT Board would like to encourage all toxicologists in Chinese origin to be more forthright and proactive in recognizing your own accomplishment or contributions, and those of your colleagues.



The Board has also been working on several other initiatives:

- **Networking opportunity**: The AACT membership survey indicated that our members most value the networking opportunities provided by our special interest group. Networking is vital aspect of career development that builds long-term interpersonal relationships, establishes trust and connects members to job opportunities. This year, the AACT Executive Board considered several approaches to enhance the member networking activities outside the annual AACT business meeting and our reception at SOT. One of the networking approaches we took was to facilitate regional get-together events to expand

opportunities for increased local contacts that open doors to new opportunities for business collaborations, career advancement and personal professional growth. We are currently working with the SOT headquarters and looking at ways to facilitate local activities through ToXchange. Some ideas include developing different forums based on geographic locations of member. Messages could be posted within these different forums for local meet ups. We are thankful for any help provided by experts within the SOT headquarters!

- **Career development**: Based on the AACT survey, another main reasons for toxicologists to join AACT is to “enhance career development opportunities”. Our Student Representative, Yuwei Chang, shared her job-seeking experience as a new graduate and suggested that more networking and knowing what job opportunities are available is very important for students. Board members discussed how to strengthen network opportunities and promote career development for students, postdocs and junior scientists. We decided to work on facilitating a long-term AACT mentor-mentee relationships, and the first step is to create a mentor pool and a mentee pool. Our Councilor **Suk (Cleo) Leung** and Student Representative **Yuwei Chang** are leading this effort. More information will be provided as this initiative evolves.
- The AACT Membership survey also revealed that the most requested seminar theme was “latest trends in toxicology”. We are planning two webinars between this fall and next spring around this theme, that will address timely topics such as genetically modified food, immunotherapy, marijuana, opioids, etc. Stay tuned for further announcements. Our Councilor **Weimin Chen** and Treasurer **Sophie Jia** are taking the lead on organizing the webinars on these emerging topics.
- **Outreach activities in China**: AACT was awarded \$4000 by SOT to support 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. One proposal is that CSOT and AACT exchange important and interesting news to help strengthen our network and enhance global outreach and engagement activities. In addition, 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. More details will be provided by the delegation in this newsletter. Many thanks to Sophie Jia, Yongbin, and all delegation members for their leadership and contributions to organizing these activities! Many thanks to Lijie Fu from CSOT who helped to facilitate our activities in China.

The above initiatives and activities are aligned with the new three-year SOT strategic plan that includes goals such as facilitating career development using mentoring and other approaches, expanding global outreach, engagement and collaboration. The AACT Board will be preparing our agenda for the next annual AACT business meeting soon. Our Secretary, **Li Zhan**, has already started work on booking the venue for both annual business meeting/reception, career workshop and award lectures. Li Zhan will also lead the AACT Award Committee. There are many more routine tasks that the Board is undertaking to ensure success of the AACT. As always, these activities are the result of collaborative efforts from all Board officers, and support from volunteers is also the key! Volunteering is a great way to build networks and forge lasting relationships, so get involved early and often.

Tao Wang, MD, PhD, DABT

AACT President, 2019-2020

AACT Officers (2019-2020)

President	<u>Tao Wang</u>	Councilors	Weimin Chen
President-Elect	<u>Yongbin Zhang</u>		Suk (Cleo) Leung
Secretary	<u>Li Zhan</u>	Postdoc Representative	Zhen Ren
Treasurer	<u>Sophie Jia</u>	Student Representative	Yuwei Chang
Immediate Past President	X. Sherwin Yan		

AACT Activities in China

Dr. Sophie Jia

Earlier this summer, AACT Executive Board announced forming an AACT delegation to attend 9th National Toxicology Congress of the Chinese Society of Toxicology in Taiyuan, Shanxi, and welcomed our members to join the delegation. After much organization, a five-member AACT delegation attended the meeting in September. During the conference, we networked with the toxicologists in China, and exchanged scientific advancement in the toxicology field. AACT delegation presented on the following topics and received great feedback from the audiences.

- WEEL (Workplace Environment Exposure Level) Committee and OEL (Occupational Exposure Limits) setting process in the USA (by **Dr. Sophie Jia**, Senior Toxicologist, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company)
- Application of nonclinical assays in screening drug candidates for hepatotoxicity (by **Dr. Edward Chow**, Director, Toxicology, Allergan)
- Exposure of sheep to bisphenol A and bisphenol S during pregnancy can cause fetal skeletal muscle hypertrophy (by **Jiongjie Jing**, PhD Candidate, Michigan State University)
- Early screening for nephrotoxicity employing transporter over expression cell lines (by **Dr. Shuyan Lu**, Principal Scientist, Pfizer)



Besides attending the CSOT conference, we also hosted an outreach event for potential future toxicologists by providing a half-day workshop at School of Pharmacy and School of Public Health in Shanxi Medical University on Sept. 17. Both graduate students and faculty members from these two institutes attended the workshop. We presented topics on an overview of toxicology and career perspectives; pharmaceutical development and its future; as well as chemical risk control and safety evaluation. Besides scientific presentations, the delegation members also shared their experiences on how to apply for China national funding to study abroad and resources of graduate schools with toxicology programs in the US, etc. Students and faculty showed great interest and sincerely appreciated the outreach effort from our delegation.

In addition, I also visited School of Public Health in Shandong Medical University on Sept. 6 and presented a seminar on toxicology general overviews and career

perspectives.

As AACT treasurer, I am happy to report that we successfully secured SOT Global Initiatives Funding this year. Our funding application was fully funded to the maximum allowed amount of \$4000, which supported delegation members to offset part of their expenses for the trip. Our delegation members are grateful to AACT and SOT for this great opportunity to give back and to outreach potential next generation of toxicologists in China.

Here are some words from delegation members:

Dr. Shuyan Lu: *It was my first-time being part of the AACT delegation attending Chinese SOT. It was a great experience representing AACT and working with the follow colleagues with different toxicology background. I especially enjoy talking to the Medical school students. Great job organizing such an event and I hope to join in the future outreach activity.*

Dr. Edward Chow: *It was very nice to see some old friends and make some new ones as a part of the AACT delegation to make presentations on toxicology trends and hepatotoxicity at ShanXi University Medical School and CSOT, respectively.*



Based on the number of CSOT sessions devoted to drug development in general and to hepatotoxicity in particular, and the level of attendance, pharmaceutical development is now clearly a great area of interest in China, which has become the second largest country in terms of pharmaceutical revenue. With government support focusing on oncology and gene therapy, China will likely bring about some important breakthroughs in these therapeutic areas in the near future.

Dr. Hua Shen: *The trip was very successful! The Chinese SOT and its annual meeting is a great platform to exchange the reach and development experience from around the world. It can help understand what China toxicological experts are doing and what the gaps are. It can be a long-term opportunity for AACT scientists to collaborate with the in-country scientists and bridge the gaps in fields such as alternative non-animal testing including these in vitro methods developments to further implement the 3R and increase using the existing resources to address the health and safety risk.*

Jiongjie Jing: *I appreciated having this chance to attend the CSOT in my hometown. This trip broadens and deepens my knowledge in the toxicological, especially the other applications, like the pharmaceutical industry and cosmetics industry. It was a wonderful trip and very useful for me.*

SOT and AACT Award Information

Dr. Li Zhan

Dear AACT members,

AACT will offer members five awards at the upcoming 2020 SOT Annual Meeting including **Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Award** (one winner), **AACT and InnoStar Best Abstract Award** (three winners), and **Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award*** (one winner).

- Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Award is to honor an established toxicologist of Chinese ethnic origin who is preferably a member of the AACT.
- AACT and InnoStar Best Abstract Awards will be given to three graduate students or postdoctoral fellows of Chinese descent for their outstanding abstract presentations to be made at the upcoming SOT annual meeting.
- Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award* will be given to a SOT graduate student member (current or pending) engaged in full-time graduate study towards a PhD in toxicology.

All awardees will be selected by the AACT Award Committee. The deadline for submitting award application is **Nov. 29, 2019**.

The requirement /Criteria for these awards can be found on the AACT website. Please feel free to contact **Li Zhan** (lzhan@altasciences.com) if you have any questions.

*Sponsored by the Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award Endowment Fund

AACT Mentor-Mentee Program

Dr. Suk (Cleo) Leung

Dear AACT members,

We are excited to announce our initiative to build a mentorship program for our members. The objective of this program is to establish a long-term trusting relationship between mentors and mentees that will mutually benefit the participants' personal and/or professional goals. This program will be an excellent platform for graduate students, postdocs, and junior scientists to find the mentors who will help identifying career paths, enhancing career potential, and/or transitioning into new jobs. Our mentors will also have the opportunity to give back to the professional community, become a great leader, develop new skills, and expand the networks. Since this is the first time AACT is building the program, we are in the process of working out the details and format. Once we have the details laid out, we will notify our members by email. In the meantime, if you are interested to be a mentee or mentor, please feel free to contact **Cleo Leung** by email (AACTMentorship@gmail.com). Your support of the program is greatly appreciated.

SOT Awards information for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr. Zhen Ren

Each year SOT and its component groups offer various awards for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. This year, to encourage our students and postdoctoral fellows to apply for these awards, we created this comprehensive award list, application deadline and website address. Please refer to the webpage listed under each award for details. Please check the list and apply for the awards!!! It is a terrific way to recognize your accomplishments!

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology SIG AACT and InnoStar Best Abstract Awards
Application Deadline: November 29
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=98>

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology SIG Jean Lu Student Scholarship Award
Application Deadline: November 29
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=126>

Biological Modeling SS Andersen-Clewell Trainee Award
Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=256>

Mechanisms SS Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award
Application Deadline: October 18
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=66>

Mechanisms SS Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award
Application Deadline: December 1
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=163>

Mechanisms SS Postdoctoral Student Travel Award
Application Deadline: October 18
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=67>

Ocular Toxicology SS Annual "Paper of the Year" Award
Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=190>

Ocular Toxicology SS Covance-OSOD Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award
Application Deadline: December 15
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=215>

Ocular Toxicology SS Trainee Travel Award
Application Deadline: December 15
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=233>

Biological Modeling SS Best Paper Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=189>

Biological Modeling SS Best Trainee Abstract Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=270>

Biological Modeling SS Perry J. Gehring Biological Modeling Endowment Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=55>

Carcinogenesis SS Postdoctoral Fellowship and Young Investigator Award

Application Deadline: November 17
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=149>

Carcinogenesis SS Dharm V. Singh Carcinogenesis Graduate Student Award Endowment Award

Application Deadline: November 17
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=56>

Clinical and Translational Toxicology SS Graduate Students Travel Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=203>

Clinical and Translational Toxicology SS Postdoctoral Fellows Travel Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=204>

Colgate-Palmolive Award for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods

Application Deadline: October 9
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=4>

Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in In Vitro Toxicology

Application Deadline: October 9
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=3>

Mechanisms SS Renal Toxicology Award

Application Deadline: October 18
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=146>

Mechanisms SS Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award

Application Deadline: December 30
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=139>

Mechanisms SS Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award

Application Deadline: October 18
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=213>

Mechanisms SS Sheldon D. Murphy Student Travel Endowment Award

Application Deadline: October 18
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=223>

Mixtures SS Best Abstract Award

Application Deadline: October 7
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=115>

Mixtures SS Best Student/Postdoc Abstract Awards

Application Deadline: January 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=104>

Molecular and Systems Biology SS Molecular and Systems Biology SS Graduate Student Research Award

Application Deadline: December 1
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=269>

Molecular and Systems Biology SS Molecular and Systems Biology SS Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award

Application Deadline: December 1
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=70>

Molecular and Systems Biology SS Paper of the Year Award

Application Deadline: December 1
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=209>

Perry J. Gehring Diversity Student Travel Award

Application Deadline: October 18
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=114>

Regulatory and Safety Evaluation SS Graduate Student Excellence Award

Application Deadline: December 1
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=74>

Regulatory and Safety Evaluation SS Postdoc Excellence Award

Application Deadline: December 1
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=251>

Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology SS Edward W. Carney Trainee Award

Application Deadline: November 15
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=230>

Risk Assessment SS John Doull Risk Assessment Endowment Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=176>

Risk Assessment SS Perry J. Gehring Best Graduate Student Abstract Risk Assessment Endowment Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=76>

Risk Assessment SS Robert J.

Rubin Student Risk Assessment SS Travel Award

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=140>

Stem Cells SS Excellence in Research Awards

Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=192>

Supplemental Training for Education Program

Application Deadline: October 28
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=219>

Comparative & Veterinary SS
Student Travel Award
Application Deadline: December 30
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=57>

Computational Toxicology SS
AstraZeneca Student &
Postdoctoral Travel Award
Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=274>

Graduate Student Travel Support
Application Deadline: October 9
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=7>

In Vitro and Alternative Methods SS
Graduate Student and Postdoctoral
Awards
Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=63>

Nanotoxicology SS Outstanding
Graduate Student Award
Application Deadline: To Be
Determined
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=173>

Neurotoxicology SS Toshio
Narahashi Graduate Student Poster
Competition Award 1st Prize
Sponsored by Battelle
Application Deadline: February 13
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=71>

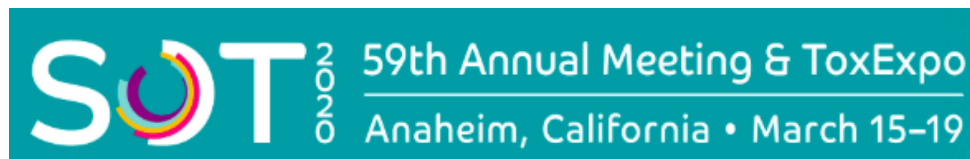
Neurotoxicology SS Toshio
Narahashi Neurotoxicology SS
Trainee Conference Endowment
Award
Application Deadline: December 15
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=234>

Occupational and Public Health SS
Best Abstract Award
Application Deadline: December 31
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=72>

Syngenta Fellowship Award in
Human Health Applications of New
Technologies
Application Deadline: October 9
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=135>
Women in Toxicology SIG
Celebrating Women in Toxicology
Award
Application Deadline: November 8
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=232>

Women in Toxicology SIG Vera W.
Hudson and Elizabeth K.
Weisburger Scholarship Fund
Student Award
Application Deadline: November 8
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=242>
Women in Toxicology SIG
Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement
Award
Application Deadline: November 8
<https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx?AwardID=148>

Upcoming Events:



Additionally, there will be upcoming webinars focused on up-to-date knowledge in Toxicology. More detailed information will be announced in the future.

The AACT newsletter is currently maintained by Dr. Zhen Ren and Dr. Yu-Wei Chang. If you have materials or information to share with us, please connect with us via, zhen929@gmail.com and yuweiywc@gmail.com.