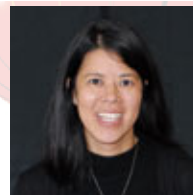




Letter from the President

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Wishing you all the prosperous Year of The Dragon.

The SOT annual meeting is just around the corner and AACT is excited to Sponsor numerous events (see page 3). As enticing it may be to explore San Francisco, we hope that you will make the time to attend our events, especially our reception. This year, we will return the format to the good old days of ACTS/ACSOT (predecessor organizations of AACT) and host the reception at a Chinese restaurant. I remember when I attended my first SOT meeting in Philadelphia, PA (2000) and attended the ACTS meeting. I was a student and did not know a soul at SOT (as my advisor didn't arrive until later in the week), but the Chinese toxicologists that I sat with at the ACTS reception helped guide me through the rest of the SOT meeting so I wasn't alone. It was very nice to bond over a 10-course meal.



We also will be hosting the Distinguished Chinese Toxicology Lectureship, and for the first time, sponsoring one and endorsing two informational sessions (see page 3). Additionally, in conjunction with the Korean Toxicologists Association of America (KTAA), we will be providing a Career Development Workshop for our students, post-docs and junior scientists.

AACT has been actively involved in SOT Special Interest Group-Collaboration Group (SIG-CG), with Tao and I representing AACT. The SIG-CG worked together to determine how the SIGs will help SOT achieve its strategic plan, specifically focusing on Build for the Future of Toxicology (Strengthen Global Participation and Outreach) and Enhance Member Engagement (Provide Quality Member Services Based on Assessed Needs, Promote Mechanisms for Small Group Collaboration and Cooperation, Celebrate Member Accomplishments, and Build Bridges to Connect Diverse Member Groups). Through the discussions, I was very proud that most of the tactics identified for each SIG have already been in place for AACT (update by-laws so AACT members do not necessarily need to be SOT member, awards, and distribution of newsletters) and the ones not yet in place we already had in the works (Career Development Workshop and collaborations with other SIGs).

If you have any suggestions or ideas to improve or expand AACT, please let me know. Also, please consider becoming an active committee member by contacting one of the chairs listed on page 7. We also highly encourage you to start thinking of sessions for the 2013 annual meeting and use the AACT ToXchange site to collaborate and work on proposals together.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered time and resources for AACT and made the first year of my presidency go smoothly. I look forward to another successful year leading AACT.

See you in San Francisco!

All the Best,

Diana J. Auyeung-Kim
AACT President

AACT Congratulation Letter

The first Annual Conference of China Drug Toxicity and International Forum of Non-clinical Safety Evaluation of Drugs, which was organized by Chinese SOT, Chinese Pharmaceuticals, and Chinese Pharmacology Society, was held in Shanghai, China on October 24 -25, 2011. AACT sent a congratulation letter to the organizing committee. The letter was read by Dr. Ma at the opening ceremony and was met with a round of applause.



October 19, 2011

Dear Organizing Committee of The First Annual Conference of China Drug Toxicity and International Forum of Non-clinical Safety Evaluation of Drugs:

The American Association for Chinese in Toxicology (AACT) would like to congratulate the opening of The First Annual Conference of China Drug Toxicity and International Forum of Non-clinical Safety Evaluation of Drugs. We applaud your group in putting together a fascinating program focusing on Drug Safety Evaluation and your efforts in advancing this field in China. We hope to have future collaborations with colleagues in China and make contribution for the drug development in the U.S. and China.

Best wishes for the success of conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Diana Auyeung-Kim, PhD, MBA, DABT

AACT President, 2011-2013

<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/aact/index.asp>

The American Association for Chinese in Toxicology (AACT) is a Special Interest Group of the U.S.-based Society of Toxicology. We meet annually in conjunction with the Society of Toxicology Meeting. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, March 12, 2012 in San Francisco, California. We welcome the colleagues from China to attend our gathering in San Francisco.



AACT Events at 2012 SOT Annual Meeting

Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Lectureship

“Strategies for the Selection of Biomarkers for Cardiotoxicity in Drug Development”

Monday, March 12, 2012, 5:00 - 6:00 pm
San Francisco, Marriott Marquis, Pacific Suites I

Dr. James Kang, DVM, PhD, FATS
Professor and Distinguished University Scholar
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School Of Medicine
University of Louisville

AACT Annual Meeting and Reception

Monday, March 12, 2012, 6:30 pm
Canton Restaurant, 655 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA

AACT/KTAA SOT SIG Student/Postdoc Career Workshop

“How to Prepare for a Successful Career”

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
San Francisco, Marriott Marquis, Pacific Suites J

Instructors:

Tao Wang, MD, PhD, DABT, Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Christopher Choi, PhD, DABT, Colgate-Palmolive

AACT Sponsored/Endorsed Scientific Sessions at 2012 SOT Annual Meeting

Informational Session: Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) in China. 7:30 - 8:50 am, Wednesday, March 14, Room 305 (Convention Center)

Roundtable: Improving Chemical Safety Assessment through Harmonization: Why, How and When? 12:00 - 1:20 pm, Tuesday, March 13, Room 307 (Convention Center)

Workshop: Chemical Standardization of Botanical Medicines for Safe and Effective Use as Therapeutic Agents. 9:00 - 11:45 am, Thursday, March 15, Room 307 (Convention Center)

Please consider submitting proposals for AACT to endorse or sponsor in the 2013 SOT Annual Meeting!

Tips for Submitting More Competitive Session Proposals
(copy permission from Women in Toxicology Newsletter, Feb 2012 edition)

1) Review the requirements on the SOT website: Review the meeting themes, types of proposals, number of speakers/session, duration/talk and the focus of each type of session. Pick the right theme and session for your topic. Additional information can be found at the SOT Forms and Applications page.

2) Proposal Quality: Submit well-developed proposals that clearly state the importance/relevance of the topic, the relevance of the speakers to the topics, and how the speaker talks fit into the overall proposal as well as how they complement each other. Develop a proposal to help each Scientific Program Committee (SCP) member understand the relevance regardless of their background and expertise.

3) Breadth of Topic and Speakers: The program is developed by the SCP to have the broadest appeal to all members of the SOT. Do not select speakers from the same institution to prevent a “single school of thought” or “opinion”. The primary focus is on the highest quality science and proposals. Make sure the scope of your topic isn't too narrow or too broad.

4) Minimize Non-Member Speakers to Experts in the Topic: SOT members participate at their own expense. Non-members receive complimentary registration, and SOT will provide limited travel support for 1–2 non-members for the scientific sessions. If your session topic is really novel or toxicology is beginning to move into a novel field where most of the key players are not necessarily toxicologists, you can apply for “Innovations in Toxicological Sciences (ITS)” or “Innovations in Applied Toxicology (IAT)” designation. A short single-page rationale is needed to justify this category designation. If accepted, more than 1–2 non-members can get travel support. But remember: the proposal must be accepted by the SPC before the designation can be considered.

5) Sponsorships and Endorsements: Your Sponsor is the Specialty Section (SS), Special Interest Group (SIG), etc. which is the primary group supporting the proposal. Your Endorsers are the other groups (SS, SIGs etc.) who think your proposal is important and will add their support (endorsement) to having it presented. Sponsors have a key role in helping the SPC with their review and selection of proposals.

a) Ask endorsers and sponsors early for their support (e.g. ideally within the first 2 weeks of April or earlier, well ahead of the submission deadline) but providing your proposal and a rationale for why you think their SS, SIG, etc. would be interested in Sponsoring or Endorsing the proposal.

b) Focus on quality assuring that they understand the significance of your proposal to both SOT and their members in particular.

Taking some of these tips into account won't guarantee acceptance of your proposal but will increase the chances of acceptance. For example, sometimes the SPC receives multiple competitive proposals for the same or a similar topic and then it becomes a selection between those proposals. In addition, if the topic was presented the previous year, it is less likely to be competitive. However, embracing these tips can improve your chances. The submission site will be open soon (before the Annual Meeting) so there's no time like the present to get started!

2013 SOT Annual Meeting Themes and CE Target Areas (Summarized from SOT HQ descriptions)

THEMES

- **Application of Systems Biology to Toxicology** - The integration of genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, computational modeling and bioinformatics to cell- and organ-specific toxicity promises to improve predictive toxicity by enabling greater and more detailed mechanistic understanding of organismal biology and responses to toxic insult.
- **Biomarkers for Exposure Assessment, Safety Evaluation, and Translational Medicine** - Biomarkers can be early indicators of exposure as well as surrogate research endpoints for otherwise inaccessible target organs. Continued development of biological and analytical tools to support biomarker identification, development and validation is critical to the successful incorporation of biomarkers in all areas of toxicology research and public health.
- **Effects of Nanomaterials on Biological Systems** - Basic, applied and regulatory science must once again converge in order to understand the nature this novel class of materials and their potential impacts on human and environmental health.
- **Molecular Basis of Genetic Variability and Susceptibility to Toxicants** - Many toxicants alter gene expression. Conversely, both genetic and epigenetic variations can influence the individual's response to therapeutic and environmental chemicals. Linking genetic, epigenetic and environmental variables with exposure data is essential to accurately define exposure response, assess disease susceptibility and formulate protective measures.
- **Regulatory Science: Advancing New Approaches for Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment** - Advancements in regulatory science, which assesses the safety, efficacy, quality and performance of any product, will facilitate the development of innovative risk assessment methodologies and drive better and more cost-effective risk management strategies.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) TARGET AREAS

- **Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD)** - There is a large and growing area of research demonstrating that *in utero* and early life exposures play a major role in defining the risk of later disease. This has profound and far-reaching implications for both disease prevention and health promotion.
- **Molecular Imaging** - Molecular imaging technologies, as applied to the study of mechanistic toxicity, are used to visualize detailed changes at the microscopic level. Increasingly, molecular imaging is being used to assess changes in living organisms in real time, including the development and progression of toxicant-induced tissue damage and apical toxicities.
- **Personalized Toxicology** - The emerging science of "personalized medicine" rests on the premise that investigation of an individual's genome can not only enable highly efficacious, targeted therapeutics but that it will also facilitate predictive translational toxicity screening. Personalized toxicology therefore represents a shift to a more proactive, preventive and predictive strategy in terms of risk assessment and identification of susceptible individuals as opposed to reliance on symptom manifestation, diagnosis and treatment.

Career Center

What it is like in regulatory toxicology and what may help to get in

Among the different career paths after doctoral or postdoctoral training in toxicology, regulatory toxicology is one that a lot of trainees are not familiar with, for two obvious reasons: first, students and postdocs typically don't learn about regulatory requirements and guidelines as part of their training; second, regulatory toxicology typically does not have a research focus or involve bench work, making it difficult for trainees to extrapolate from activities they are familiar with. This article intends to provide some information for this career path and includes perspective from two scientists who recently transitioned from PhD/postdoc to regulatory toxicology careers in different industries.

A snapshot in drug safety evaluation

By: Robert Li, Ph.D. (Bristol-Myers Squibb)

Drug safety evaluation is one of major investigations prior to clinical trials of drug candidates, with an intention to identify and understand the potential toxicity of new drugs and to define safe human doses for both small molecules and biological therapeutics. This is accomplished by conducting in vitro and in vivo preclinical safety studies with a focus on organ system toxicity, genetic toxicity, immunotoxicity, reproductive toxicity, and carcinogenicity. At the stage of drug discovery where toxicologist is generally defined as discovery toxicologist, toxicity studies aim to have a preliminary toxicological assessment mostly in vitro and ex vivo. Moving forward in development, a comprehensive toxicological evaluation of selected drug candidates will be performed in large by using experimental animals in compliance with guidelines of regulatory agencies (ie. FDA, EMA) to establish a safety profile, and also to understand whether toxicities identified in preclinical studies are relevant in humans. As a toxicologist at this stage, we mainly function as a Study Director to conduct either non-GLP or GLP toxicity studies (majority are in vivo studies), and as a Toxicology Project Lead/Representative to oversee the evaluation for a specific drug candidate program to help enable the initiation of clinical trials.



To kick off a toxicity study (single-dose, or repeat dose), Study Director needs to organize a study design meeting to include a panel of experts (PK/TK scientist, veterinarian, pathologist, toxicology project representative etc.) to discuss experimental design, write up the study protocol thereafter, and direct the conduct of study. A scientific finding meeting will be followed post study if there is any significant drug-related finding. To complete, Study Director needs to write up a toxicology report and overall study summary for internal publish. Despite being operated in a well established study metric standard, this can still be challenging due to the overlap of several studies at a time for a Study Director and thus good multi-task management skills would be a plus for this kind of position. In comparison to conducting toxicity studies to support different drug projects, a Toxicology Project Lead/Representative provides scientific support to a specific drug program throughout the pipeline with a focus on planning, designing, and coordinating safety evaluation-related toxicity studies with a particular intention to assess whether the drug candidate is safe to enter the clinical trials. In addition, a Toxicology Project Lead can also be a Study Director of toxicity studies if needed. In general, having a couple of years of experience in study directing is a necessity for progressing to a Toxicology Project Lead. In contrast to discovery toxicologist, these two functionalities are most likely bench free.

Overall, safety evaluation of new drugs at development stage has been evolving to an assessment spanning multiple disciplines given the complexity of the observed toxicities, and thus is very demanding for a combinational Scientific Skills and Regulatory Awareness. The essential responsibilities of toxicologist outlined above aims to provide a realistic understanding of how a candidate of suitable background could fit in this challenge and opportunities for continuous growth.

Regulatory toxicology in the plant protection industry

By: Haitian Lu, Ph.D. (Dow AgroSciences)

I hugely benefited from those who were willing to share their experiences, perspectives, and advices with me when I was looking to know more about careers in industry. Therefore, I humbly agreed to write a few words to those in graduate school about how to get into regulatory toxicology in the plant protection industry, and what it is like. A bit about me that is related to this topic: I graduated with a PhD in pharmacology and toxicology from Michigan State University in 2010, and since then worked at Dow AgroSciences (DAS) as a Senior Toxicologist based in Indianapolis, Indiana.



By describing my own experience are at my current position, I hope to at least give you a flavor of “what it is like”. As the lead toxicologist on several existing agrochemicals and a new active ingredient, I design and monitor toxicology studies, either as guideline studies to support registration of a product or to further understand mechanisms for certain toxicities. I no longer work on the bench; instead, I review and approve protocols and reports for a large variety of studies, and develop a deep understanding of all the data in order to accurately explain them to the regulatory authorities all over the world, or my business colleagues on a project team. I am also able to grow my own niches: for example, I am the focal point for immunotoxicology, representing DAS in this area internally and externally, and the liaison to support project development in China. I even keep a small “non-regulatory” piece by serving as a co-investigator on some research projects. Some of my fellow toxicologists, especially those who are further along in their careers, lead or participate in scientific teams or committees on various topics organized by trade associations (Crop Life America), or scientific organizations (ILSI HESI, SOT), collaborating with scientists from regulatory agencies or academia. These, in a nutshell, represent the various activities we take on as regulatory toxicologists in our industry.

It remains a mystery to me as to why I was hired; but I can at least speculate on a few things that might have helped, and share them with you. First, seek every opportunity to demonstrate your willingness go the extra mile. In graduate school we all work hard in the lab. However, a lot of times what differentiate you is your behavior that goes above and beyond what you are “required” to do. Apply for every award that you believe you are qualified for; seek every opportunity to serve on student committees within scientific organizations (SOT, especially AACT, is the best place to start); and ask if you can volunteer to help organize any events (SOT CE courses and undergraduate education sessions). Never underestimate your chance to stand out in these seemingly “extracurricular” activities; at the very least, they would make good stories during your job interview. Second, seek every opportunity to get access to more information. How do we get information? We ask– this is what I found the most effective and welcomed way. Take advantage of mentoring programs (SOT has one), career seminars (AACT and KTAA are co-hosting one this year), alumni networks, or simply engage yourself into a hallway conversation started by introducing yourself to others at a scientific meeting or at the AACT reception. Express your interest in knowing more about their careers,

industry, and ask for their advice on how you might get in; you will be surprised by how those well-known scientists and thought leaders in the area are willing to help and chat with you. After you have correctly done these two things, you probably have prepared yourself a lot for regulatory toxicology, which requires excellent communication and presentation skills, abilities to manage and coordinate various aspects of a complex task, and perseverance under tight timelines. A successful regulatory toxicologist in our industry must have technical expertise in different specialties of toxicology, and be able to combine it with extensive knowledge of regulatory trends and requirements, as well as a sense of business processes.

Welcome to Join AACT

- Go to SOT Website: <http://www.toxicology.org>
- \$15 per annum add-on to your SOT dues (if you've already paid your SOT dues, you can still add AACT membership!)
- Free for Postdoctoral and Student SOT members (first SIG only) or \$15 for each additional

For Non-SOT members:

Alternatively, a new option is being an AACT member (without being an SOT member). These members would receive limited membership privileges (see below). The application form is on last page of the newsletter, please forward to your friends and colleagues that may be interested in becoming AACT members.

Proposed limited membership privileges

- Access to SIG membership list (not full SOT member list)
- Access to SIG website (not the password protected part of SOT website)
- SIG newsletter (either by email, on website, or ToXchange)
- Access to their SIGs ToXchange community
- Eligibility for SIG awards (SIG dependent, not eligible for SOT or SIG awards that require SOT membership)
- Eligible to serve on SIG committees
- Not eligible to be a SIG officer
- No member discount to Annual Meeting, but may be eligible for developing countries discount, depending on country of origin
- No member discount to Toxicological Sciences, but may be eligible for developing countries discount, depending on country of origin
- Any other benefits as discussed by the Collaboration Group

AACT SIG Officer Election

Board officer positions, including 2 councilors and 1 postdoc representative, have been opened for the 2012-2014 term.

The link below will direct you to the AACT SIG Officer Ballot. Please be sure to cast your vote by Friday, **March 2, 2012**.

Link to the ballot:

<http://toxchange.toxicology.org/p/su/rd/sid=165>

You will need to log in to ToXchange with your email and SOT password in order to access the ballot.

AACT Revised By-laws

The by-law revisions proposed in 2011 are now in effect. The current version can be found at:

<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/aact/bylaws.asp>

To account for the change in the board terms in 2013, the by-laws effective in 2013 can be found at

http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/aact/docs/AACT_BylawsRevisions2013.pdf

AACT Committees

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or joining any of the committees and working for AACT, please contact the chairs:

Award Committee: Edward Chow (Chow_Edward@allergan.com)

Finance Committee: Lu Cai (l0cai001@louisville.edu)

Membership Committee: Tim Lam (tim.lam@covance.com)

Program Committee: Tao Wang (tao.wang@novartis.com)

Nominating/Election Committee: Jiasheng Wang (jswang@uga.edu)

Strategic Planning Committee: Jiasheng Wang (jswang@uga.edu)

Thanks to 2012 AACT Sponsors



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NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (Non-SOT Members)

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership: \$15 for all members (full, student or post-doc)

Non-SOT Members:

- Please complete the information above and send with payment information to:
 Lu Cai, AACT Treasurer, University of Louisville, 570 S Preston Street, Baxter I, Suite 304F,
 Louisville, KY 40202 (Email: 10cai001@louisville.edu; Phone: (502) 852-2214).
- AACT will review your application, and you will be notified within 30 days. Those not accepted will receive a full refund.

SOT Members

- *Full and Associate Members:* Add AACT to your existing membership via SOT Website (<http://www.toxicology.org/ms/renew.asp>)
- *Student/Postdocs Members:* First Specialty Section/Special Interest group membership free

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- Chemical/Petroleum
	_____ M.D.	_____ V.M.D.	_____ Industry- Pharmaceutical
	_____ M.D./Ph.D.	_____ Other	_____ Industry- Other
	_____ Other-	_____	_____ Other- _____

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