

committees, together with our previously established Nominating Committee and Award Committee, completed the organization of our operation charters. The chair and composition of each committee will be posted on our website soon, along with the description of duties and rules of each committee.

In this newsletter communication, some committees will provide reports on their activities, but I would like to point out that each committee has been very actively involved in organization and planning. I am very proudly to inform you that our organization is now well organized and high quality service to our members is now available.

Our goals in year 2008-2009 are: to achieve a total number of the AACT-SOT-SIG membership more than 200, to reach our fundraising above \$6,000, to sponsor or co-sponsor more than two scientific conference or training programs, and to complete the building of our AACT-SOT-SIG web page, in addition to our established annual meeting programs. Each committee has been devoted to the respective programs. I would like to strongly encourage every AACT member be actively involved in these programs. We have already observed excellent progress made by the participation of our members and expect new horizon from the collective effort of our members.

On behave of the AACT-SOT-SIG board, I would like to thank you all for high level of enthusiasm about our organization and continuing engagement in our activities.

Y. James Kang, Ph.D.
AACT-SOT-SIG President

Updates on AACT Website

AACT (SOT SIG) website development work is near completion. Stay tuned for the upcoming announcement of “AACT Website Go Live”!

The website will be at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/aact/index.asp>. For comments and suggestions on website improvement, please contact Dr. Jean Yang at jeanzjyang@yahoo.com, or Dr. Diana Auyeung-Kim at taedi0611@gmail.com.

Call for Nomination of 2009 Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Lectureship Award

It is the time to call for nominating candidates for 2009 AACT Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Lectureship Award. The criteria for the nominee are: the Chinese origin, an active full member of SOT, outstanding performance at toxicological field, academic rank at full professor or equivalent level, willing to attend the Annual Meeting in Baltimore, and present a lecture. Please send nomination or self nomination with a cover letter and the updated CV to Dr. Jia-Sheng Wang's e-mail address at jswang@uga.edu. The deadline for the nomination is January 15, 2009.

Call for Competing 2009 AACT Best Abstract Awards

It is time to call for the abstracts for competing 2009 AACT Best Abstract Award. AACT will sponsor two best abstract awards for graduate students and postdoctoral associates in the upcoming annual meeting in Baltimore. Awardees should be a SOT/AACT member or a pending member (with document proof) and are willing to attend the annual meeting. Please send a copy of abstract submitted to SOT to Dr. Jia-Sheng Wang's e-mail address at jswang@uga.edu. The deadline for the submission is January 15, 2009.

Call for Sponsorship for AACT 2009 Annual Meeting and Reception

SOT/AACT seeks sponsorship for its upcoming annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, in March 2009. Interested sponsors shall contact Dr. Yun Zhang, Treasure of AACT, at yun_zhang6@merck.com. Representative of sponsors will have opportunity to meet a large group of SOT/AACT members and will give a brief introduction of sponsor's organization in the annual meeting.

Call for Nomination for AACT Student and Postdoctoral Representatives

As required by the Society of Toxicology, it is time to call for nomination of candidates to run for AACT student representative and postdoctoral representative. Qualified students or postdoctorals should be SOT/AACT members within organizations in North America. Please send the nomination and self-nomination with a short biosketch to Dr. John Zhang at zzhang@pcop.com. The deadline for the nomination is December 31, 2008.

Call for Nomination for AACT President-elect and Board Members

It is the time to call for nominating candidates to run for the election of the President-elect and two board members of AACT according to the SOT/AACT By-Laws. Active SOT/AACT members who pay the membership dues by January 15, 2009 are eligible to be nominated or self-nominated for Board member and President-elect. Please submit your nomination (concurring by the nominee) or self-nomination for the Board member or President-elect with a short biosketch (no longer than 250 words) through E-mail to Dr. John (Zhihua) Zhang at zzhang@pcop.com by January 15, 2009. In addition, if you are interested in serving in the nomination committee, please contact Dr. John (Zhihua) Zhang.

Call for Assisting in AACT Membership Recruitment

The AACT Board and the Membership Committee ask every AACT member to assist for recruiting more AACT members and/or to invite your SOT friends to join AACT, as our organization can only be as strong as its membership. Recognition in the form of a pin/ribbon will be given at the annual meeting to anyone who has successfully invited a new person personally. Furthermore, the highest recruiter will be given a special award at the annual meeting.

Current AACT Officers and Their affiliation

Name	Position	E-Mail	Affiliation
Kang, Y. James*	President	Yjkang01@louisville.edu	Univ. of Louisville
Wang, Jia-Sheng*	President-elect	jswang@uga.edu	The University of Georgia
Yang, Jean Zhijie*	Secretary	jeanzjyang@yahoo.com	TBD
Zhang, Yun*	Treasurer	yun_zhang6@merck.com	Merck & Co Inc
Ng, Hanna Hongchin**	Board Member	Hana.ng@sri.com	SRI International
Chow, Edward**	Board Member	Chow_edward@allergan.com	Allergan Inc.
Jin, Yi**	Board Member	dryi.jin@novartis.com	Novartis Pharmaceutical Co.
Zhang, John Zhihua*	Immediate Past-President	zzhang@pcop.com	Pharmacopeia Inc

* Term ends in April 2009

** Term ends in April 2010

AACT Committees and Committee Chair

Award Committee: Jia-Sheng Wang

The main task for award committee is to announce, select, and nominate candidates for AACT Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Lectureship Award and AACT Best Abstract Awards. The award committee will nominate AACT members for SOT awards.

Finance Committee: Yun Zhang

The main function of the Finance Committee is to ensure the long-term financial stability of the AACT through organizing fund-raising activities based on the AACT Board's directions. This committee will be responsible for fund-raising for special programs, awards for annual distinguished Chinese Toxicologist lectureship, awards for student presentations and annual meeting receptions. The committee will identify and seek sponsorship from individuals and corporations to support the annual meeting of AACT. Also, this committee will serve as a task force to study the issues of corporation membership of AACT and to establish rules and procedures with a goal to increase corporation membership.

Membership Committee: Edward Chow

The Membership Committee is charged with the responsibilities of proposing membership eligibility and benefits and promoting membership level. Coordinating closely with the AACT Board, it will execute plans to achieve these objectives. The committee is made up of volunteers

from AACT and should consist of at least 3 members. One AACT board officer should be designated as the chairperson of this committee.

Nominating/Election Committee: John Zhang

The Nominating/Election Committee is responsible for annual election. According to the by-laws, its committee members shall consist of three current board members and two general members, who are not seeking re-election or election for any positions in the board.

Program Committee: Hanna Ng

The Program Committee is consisted of several AACT members who are willing to serve as liaison between the AACT's board, members, and other program committees within the AACT. Program committee focuses on service to the AACT members. The activities and responsibilities are below:

- Assisting the preparation of the Annual SOT/SIG meeting
- Newsletter (tentatively schedule to be twice/year)
- Website development
- Mentorship program
- Assisting AACT members to develop SOT annual meeting program proposals.
- AACT endorsement procedures
- SOT program endorsement
- International meetings in toxicology and related fields.

Strategic Planning Committee: Y. James Kang

The strategic planning committee will provide advice to AACT board for developing the organizational strategic plan and long-term financial plan.