

# HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF TOXICOLOGISTS

## ANNUAL REPORT: 2013-2014

May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014

### I. Officers:

Officers	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
President	Betina Lew	Linval DePass
Vice President	Linval DePass	Minerva Mercado Feliciano
Vice President-Elect	Minerva Mercado Feliciano	Elena Hernández Ramón
Secretary	Elena Hernández Ramón	Verónica Ramírez-Alcántara
Treasurer	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde
Past President	Leslie Recio	Betina Lew
Councilors	Jorge Muñiz-Ortiz	Silvia Moraes Barros
	Betzabet Quintanilla	Betzabet Quintanilla
	Azita Cuevas	Azita Cuevas
	María Gonsebatt	María Gonsebatt
PDA Representative	René Viñas	Teresa de Jesús Palacios Hernández
GSLC Representative	Catherine Rondelli	Federico Sinche

### Committees:

1. **Awards** – Selects candidates for HOT Awards (Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Lectureship Award), HOT Best Abstract & Travel Awards, and Recognition Awards. Nominate HOT members for SOT awards. Jorge Muñiz, Chair; Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Co-Chair; Linval DePass.
2. **Bylaws** – Review by-laws and propose changes according to the needs and evolution of the SIG-HOT. Linval DePass, Chair.
3. **Communications** – Responsible for all communications issued by the HOT Executive Committee to the HOT membership, advertisements, e-mail alerts of deadlines, etc. Betina Lew, Co-chair; Elena Hernández-Ramón, Co-chair
  - a) **Website subcommittee** – Keeps the HOT Web page updated. The chair will interact with SOT staff requesting the Web page updates. Minerva Mercado Feliciano, Chair.
  - b) **Toxenlaces subcommittee** – Responsible for bimonthly electronic publication of the HOT newsletter *Toxenlaces* by the third week of the second month. Issues for electronic publication are April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November, and December-January. Verónica Ramírez Alcántara, Editor-in-Chief.
  - c) **Social Media subcommittee** – René Viñas, Facebook coordinator

4. **Education** – Proposes means to make accessible education materials to HOT members and the Ibero-American community. Coordinates efforts with the Website subcommittee to post these education materials in the HOT Web page and with the *Toxenlaces* subcommittee to notify the membership of events in the newsletter. Azita Cuevas, Chair.
5. **Finance** – Ensures the long-term financial stability of the HOT through organizing fund-raising activities based on the HOT Executive Committee's directions. Responsible for fund-raising of special programs, awards for annual distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist lectureship (tentative), travel awards and annual meeting. Will identify and seek sponsorship from individuals and corporations to support the annual meeting of the HOT. Serves as a task force to study the issues of corporation membership of HOT, to establish rules and procedures with a goal to increase corporation membership, and to establish an Endowment fund for the HOT. Ranulfo Lemus Olalde, Chair.
6. **Global Outreach** – Searches, identifies, and establishes collaborations with other societies, organizations, and universities involved in all areas of toxicology in Ibero-American countries (Latin-America, Spain, and Portugal). Les Recio, Chair.
7. **Graduate** – Encourages involvement of Ibero-American graduate students in the HOT and facilitates the scientific and professional development of graduate students of Latino origin through networking, scientific programs, and other SOT activities. Communicates via email or other formats with the student base so they can be informed about HOT activities and events. The student leadership provides important direction through representation on SOT committees and alignment of their programs with SOT national strategic objectives. Catherine Rondelli, Chair
8. **Membership** – Proposes membership eligibility and benefits and promotes membership level, coordinating closely with the HOT Executive Committee. Supplies the updated HOT membership list to the Secretary and the Communications committee for distribution of HOT communications. Betzabeth Quintanilla-Vega, Chair
9. **Nominating** – Responsible for annual elections. Consists of not less than five members who are not seeking re-election or election for any positions in the HOT Executive Committee, including the last two Past Presidents, and shall be appointed by the HOT Executive Committee within two months following installation of officers. Shall provide a slate of candidates for each election. Les Recio, Chair; Ofelia Olivero; Betina Lew; Linval DePass; Pedro Del Valle
10. **Postdoctoral** – Encourages involvement of Ibero-American Postdoctoral Fellows in the HOT and facilitates their scientific and professional development through networking, scientific programs, and other SOT activities. Develops e-mail and other communications to serve as a great resource for SOT Ibero-American Postdoctoral Fellows for scientific growth, networking, and career advancement. René Viñas, Chair; Priscilla Encarnacao.

**11. Programs** – Serves as liaison between the HOT’s Executive Committee, members, and other program committees within the SOT. Focuses on service to the HOT members. Linval DePass, Chair; Felix Ayala-Fierro. Activities and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a) Assisting in the preparation of the annual SOT/HOT meeting.
- b) Mentorship programs.
- c) Assisting HOT members to develop SOT annual meeting program proposals.
- d) HOT endorsement procedures.
- e) SOT program endorsement.
- f) International meetings in toxicology and related fields.

**12. Strategic Planning** – Provides advice to the HOT board for developing the organizational plan and long-term financial plan. Members of the Advisory Committee will actively participate in this committee. Betina Lew, Chair.

**13. Advisory** – Made of all past presidents of HOT with the exception of the immediate past president. They attend HOT Executive Committee meetings to provide relevant information, guidance and perspective in regards to HOT issues and activities. Each past president serve in this committee for 5 years. Leslie Recio, Ofelia Olivero, Pedro Del Valle, Braulio Jimenez, Mari Stavanja.

## **II. Activities**

### **Monthly Teleconferences**

Usually held the third Friday of the month at 1 pm EST. All of the board and other invited HOT members connect for each teleconference. Meeting minutes are recorded and maintained by the secretary of HOT.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Available in ToXchange.

### **Sister Organizations Outreach**

Maintained outreach activities with eleven Sister Organizations and reached out to several others that will join the HOT network of Sister Organizations in the near future. Distributed *Toxenlaces* to those Sister Organizations and their representatives distributed among the Sister Organizations’ membership. It is estimated that *Toxenlaces* reaches more than one thousand professionals in twelve different countries with professional and scientific information about SOT and HOT activities, awards, opportunities, deadlines, etc. HOT served as liaison among the Sister Organizations providing information about the SOT Annual Meeting, membership benefits etc. HOT members sponsored several Sister Organizations’ members to join the SOT and attend the Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

This year, HOT continued working with the Sister Organizations:

- Keeping in contact with our former Sister organizations by regular emails and *Toxenlaces*.
- Pioneering efforts to consolidate a Society of Toxicology in Colombia.
- Making contacts to incorporate the newly formed Chilean Toxicology Association.

### **2014 SOT Annual Meeting Reception**

The reception was held at the Arizona Latino Arts and Cultural Center in Phoenix, Arizona on (March 25, 2014). Approximately 100 people were in attendance. Dr. Betina Lew called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Gonzalo Diaz, Global, Senior Scholar from the College of Veterinary Medicine, National University of Colombia. Afterwards, we held the HOT Award Ceremony.

### **Awards**

For the past nine years, HOT has provided travel awards to Hispanic graduate and post-graduate students working in the area of Toxicology. The purpose of this activity is to support young scientists of Hispanic origin to present and attend the annual SOT meeting. The organization places particular emphasis on research related to toxicological issues in Hispanic communities in the USA and Hispanic countries. Fund raising activities by HOT members generated sufficient funds to award 5 travel awards.

The best abstracts are selected from student and postdoctoral submissions by a panel of HOT members. Each year the number of awards depends on the availability of funds and the generosity of the sponsors. This year, 5 trainees were awarded travel funds to attend the annual meeting. The winners of the 2014 HOT Travel Awards were presented at the HOT Reception. They were presented with a plaque, and a check for \$750.

The following travel awards were provided by the companies indicated to the named recipients:

#### Postdoctoral Travel Award

- Aline De Conti, PhD. US Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring MD, USA). Title: Mechanistic evaluation of the chemopreventive effects of folic acid and Trybutyrin in a rat liver carcinogenesis model. Sponsored by Battelle.

#### Student Travel Awards

- Rosa I. Rodríguez Cotto, PhD Candidate. University of Puerto Rico (San Juan, Puerto Rico). Title: NRF2 but not NF-KB is activated by African dust organic extract in BEAS-2B. Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus de Mexico.
- Alexandra Colón Rodríguez, Ph.D. Student. Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI, USA). Title: Brain region-dependent effects of methylmercury on expression of ligand and voltage-gated calcium channels in rat. Sponsored by PepsiCo.
- Vinicius Carreira, PhD Candidate. University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH, USA). Title: In vivo aryl hydrocarbon receptor-mediated developmental toxicity impairs the adult cardiovascular system. Sponsored by Celanese.

- Vanessa Nuñez, Undergraduate student. University of California (Los Angeles CA, USA). Title: Exploring gene-environment interactions implicated in Parkinson's disease using a Paraquat and Maneb model in *Drosophila*. Sponsored by MRI Global.

#### **2014 HOT Executive Board Breakfast at SOT**

Held in Phoenix on March 25, 2014.

Meeting Minutes: Available in ToXchange.

#### **2014 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions**

HOT Career Development Workshop, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2014, 7:00 to 8:30 am.

Betina Lew gave an introduction about helping the trainee in leveraging skills that are specific Latino origin in their CVs and during an interview: strengths and weaknesses were discussed.

Elena Hernandez Ramón provided information about training opportunities available at the National Institutes of Health for trainees of minority origin.

These short talks were followed by round table discussions with an expert in the industry, academia and government sectors. Experts included Pedro del Valle, Mary Stavanja, Azita Cuevas, Betina Lew and Elena Hernandez Ramón. Participants were able to ask questions about their CVs, interview, etc., to increase their chances of landing that unique job opportunity.

#### **HOT Newsletter**

The HOT newsletter, *Toxenlaces*, has been published bimonthly since July 2009. It is distributed by email to all HOT members and our sister organizations outside the United States. The Special Annual Meeting issue is printed and distributed during the SOT Annual meeting. *Toxenlaces* usually includes an article on issues of toxicological importance from Ibero-American countries. Current and past issues are available in the SOT/HOT website at: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot/newsLetter.asp>

#### **Contributions to SOT website**

The HOT website through the SOT website was expanded for inclusion of our partner organizations and links. In reciprocity, HOT partner organizations now include HOT and SOT websites and links on their web pages.

#### **Other Special Interest Group 2013-2014 Activities**

HOT Board members (Betina Lew and Linval DePass) participated in the Special Interest Group-Collaboration Group (SIG-CG). Linval was elected as Co-Chair of the SIG-CG.

Betina was one of the organizers of the first Global Hot Topic event, which took place on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6:30 PM.

Ofelia Olivero was the Chair of the SOT 2014 Undergraduate Education Program that took place from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Elena Hernández Ramón participated in the event “Academic Toxicology and Internship Information & Recruitment Session” from the Society of Toxicology’s Committee on Diversity Initiatives.

The HOT Board decided to endorse the roundtable informational session “Identifying Chemical Hazards, Assessing Exposure and Modeling at USDA/FSIS”, Chair Name: Jorge G. Muñiz Ortiz.