

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

ANNUAL REPORT: 2014-2015

May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015

I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
President:	Betina Lew	Linval DePass
Vice President:	Linval DePass	Minerva Mercado Feliciano
Vice President-Elect	Minerva Mercado Feliciano	Elena Hernandez Ramon
Secretary:	Elena Hernandez Ramon	Veronica Ramirez Alcantara
Treasurer:	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde
Past President	Leslie Recio	Betina Lew
Councilors:	Jorge Muñiz Ortiz	Maria E Gonsebatt Bonaparte
	Betzabet Quintanilla	Betzabet Quintanilla-Vega
	Azita Cuevas	Azita K Cuevas
	Maria Gonsebatt	Silvia B M Barros
PDA Representative:	Rene Vinas	Teresa De Jesus Palacios-Hernandez
GSLC Representative:	Catherine Rondelli	Federico Leonardo Sinche

Award Committee

The main task for the Awards committee is to nominate, select and announce candidates for HOT Awards. Historically, HOT has awarded Hispanic Travel Awards to trainees based on the scientific merits of the abstracts they will present at the SOT meeting, as well and Recognition Awards for service to the HOT and SOT. A “Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Award” recognizes the scientific achievements of our more senior members. Historically, a Councilor chairs the committee and the Vice-president serves as co-chair. Other HOT members are recruited to serve as judges for the awards. Members: Azita Cuevas, Chair; Elena Hernandez-Ramon, Co-Chair

- Distinguish Toxicologists Award Subcommittee. Members: Elena Hernandez-Ramon, Chair; Betina Lew, Linval DePass, Peter Goering and, Kenneth Ramos.

Bylaws Committee

This committee reviews the bylaws every year and proposes changes according to the needs and evolution of the HOT. Historically, a Counselor, Vice-president or Vice-president Elect chairs the committee and recruits other HOT members to advise the Executive Committee as needed.

Members: Elena Hernandez-Ramon, Chair

Communications Committee

This committee is responsible for coordinating all communications issued by the Executive Committee to the HOT membership, including email alerts, publications and posting to ToXchange and Facebook. Historically, the President and Secretary co-chair this committee and recruit talented

HOT members (often not Executive Members) to lead key initiatives. The Website Coordinator will interact with SOT Headquarters staff to maintain the HOT/SOT website information (including ToXchange) current and useful as a repository of information for future Executive Committees. Members: Linval DePass, Chair; Veronica Ramírez-Alcántara, Co-Chair

- **Website Subcommittee:** The chair acts as Website Coordinator and interact with SOT Headquarters staff to maintain the HOT/SOT website information current and useful as a repository of information for future Executive Committees. Members: Teresa de Jesús Palacios-Hernández, Chair; Federico Sinche, Co-Chair; Minerva Mercado-Feliciano
- **Toxenlaces Editorial Subcommittee:** This subcommittee of the Communications Committee is responsible for the bimonthly electronic publication of the HOT newsletter Toxenlaces by the third week of the second month in which is due for publication. Issues for electronic publication are April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November, and December-January. Historically, the Toxenlaces Editor works with HOT members to create content and produce the publication, and the Secretary facilitates publication by interacting with HOT Headquarters staff. Members: Rene Viñas, Chair and Toxenlaces Editor; Aline de Conti.
- **Social Media Subcommittee:** Members: Rene Viñas, Chair

Education Committee

This committee will propose the different means to make accessible education materials to HOT members and the Ibero-American community. Education materials should be presented in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The committee will coordinate efforts with the Communications Committee for posting these education materials in the HOT web page and with the Toxenlaces Editor for announcing events in the newsletter. Historically, a Councilor chairs the committee and recruit talented HOT members (often not Executive Members) to lead key initiatives. Members: Silvia Barros, Chair

Finance Committee

The main function of the Finance Committee is to ensure the long-term financial stability of the HOT through organizing fund-raising activities based on the Executive Committee's directions. This committee will be responsible for fund-raising for special programs, awards, and the annual HOT meeting/reception. The committee will identify and seek sponsorship from individuals and business to support the annual HOT meeting and travel awards. In addition, this committee will serve as a task force to study the issues of business membership of HOT, to establish rules and procedures with a goal to increase business membership, and to establish an Endowment fund for the HOT. Historically, the Treasurer or immediate Past President chairs this committee and recruits additional Past Presidents and other talented HOT members to lead key initiatives. Members: Ranulfo Lemus Olalde, Chair; Rene Vinas, Co-Chair

Global Outreach Committee

The Global Outreach committee will search, identify, and establish collaborations with other societies, organizations, and universities involved in all areas of toxicology in Ibero-American countries (Latin-America, Brazil, Spain, and Portugal). Historically, the immediate Past President

chairs this committee working closely with the Councilor to Sister Organizations. Members: Betina Lew, Chair; Maria E. Gonsebatt, Councilor to Sister Organizations

Graduate Committee

This committee encourages involvement of Hispanic and Ibero-American graduate students in the HOT and the SOT, facilitate the scientific and professional development of Hispanic and Ibero-American graduate students through networking, scientific programs, and other SOT activities. The task of this committee includes the development of email and other communications directed toward informing and increasing the student base at the HOT-SIG and SOT. The student leadership provides important direction through representation on SOT committees and alignment of their programs with SOT national strategic objectives. Historically, the Student Representative chairs this committee and recruits other talented HOT student members for key initiatives. This committee works very closely with the Postdoctoral Committee. Members: Federico Sinche, Chair

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is charged with proposing membership eligibility criteria, benefits and other strategies to the Executive Committee with the goal of increasing membership level. This committee will supply the updated HOT membership list to the Communications Committee for distribution of HOT Committee communications. Historically, a Councilor chairs this committee and recruits other talented HOT members for key initiatives. Members: Betzabet Quintanilla-Vega, Chair

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for annual elections. According to the by-laws, a Nominating Committee consisting of not less than five members who are not seeking re-election or election for any positions in the Executive Committee, including the last two Past Presidents, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Special Interest Group within two months following installation of officers. The Committee shall provide a slate of candidates for each election. Historically, the immediate Past President chairs this committee. Members: Betina Lew, Chair; Les Recio, Ofelia Olivero, Linval DePass, Pedro Del Valle

Postdoctoral Committee

This committee encourages involvement of Hispanic and Ibero-American postdoctoral fellows in the HOT and the SOT and facilitates the scientific and professional development of Hispanic postdoctoral fellows through networking, scientific programs, and other SOT activities. The task of this committee includes the development of email and other communications to serve as a great resource for HOT postdoctoral members. Historically, the Postdoctoral Representative chairs this committee and recruits other talented HOT postdoctoral members for key initiatives. This committee works very closely with the Graduate Committee. Members: Teresa de Jesús Palacios-Hernández, Chair

Program Committee

The Program Committee consists of several HOT members who are willing to serve as liaison between the Executive Committee, members, and other program committees within the SOT. Program committee focuses on service to the HOT members. Historically, the Vice President is the chair of this committee. The activities and responsibilities include among others: Assisting the

preparation of the HOT/SOT Annual Meeting; Mentorship program; Assisting HOT members to develop SOT Annual Meeting program proposals; HOT endorsement procedures and SOT program endorsement; International meetings in toxicology and related fields. Members: Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Chair

Strategic Planning Committee

The strategic planning committee will provide advice to the Executive Committee for developing the organizational plan and long-term financial plan. Members of the Advisory Committee will actively participate in this committee. Historically, the President is the committee chair. Members: Linval DePass, Chair

Advisory Committee

Per HOT by-laws, this committee is 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. Members: Leslie Recio, Ofelia Olivero, Pedro Del Valle, Braulio Jimenez, Mari Stavanja

II. Activities:

2015 SOT Annual Meeting Reception was held in San Diego, California on March 24th, 2015. Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

Dr. Linval DePass called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on March 24th, 2015.

Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Award recipient and Keynote Speaker: Ofelia Olivero, Ph.D., ATS

Meeting Minutes: (see Attachment I)

2015 SOT Annual Meeting Awards:

Outstanding Postdoctoral Award:

- **Daniela Morais Leme, Ph.D.** Universidade Federal do Paraná and Universidade de São Paulo. Mentor: Daniella Palma de Oliveira, Pharmaceutical Sciences. Research: VEGF expression on 3D skin equivalent plays an active role in maintaining epithelial integrity by inducing capillary-like structure and keratinocyte proliferation. (While Ms. Morais Leme was the highest-scoring, SOT-accepted presentation, at the last moment she could not travel to the SOT meeting, therefore a monetary award was not provided.)

Postdoctoral Travel Award:

- **David Pamies, Ph.D.** Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health. Mentors: Helena Hogberg and Thomas Hartung, Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing. Presentation: Predicting Neurotoxicity in Human-Derived iPSC 3D Mini-Brains. (Sponsored by MRIGlobal)

Graduate Student Travel Awards:

- **Pamella Tijerina, Ph.D. Candidate.** New York University School of Medicine. Mentor: Judith Zelikoff, Dept. of Environmental Medicine. Presentation: Prenatal and

postnatal exposure to concentrated ambient particulate matter alters the developing immune system of mice. (Sponsored by Celanese)

- **Tania L. Jacobo Estrada, M.Sc.** Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Mexico. Mentor: Olivier Christopher Barbier, Dept. Toxicología. Presentation: Effect of Cadmium Exposure during Gestation over HIF-1 in Rat Fetal Kidney. (Sponsored by PepsiCo)
- **Daniel Hernández Cortés, B.Sc.** Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Mexico. Mentor: Betzabet Quintanilla-Vega, Dept. Toxicología. Presentation: Modulation of Nrf2 and OGG1 expression in germ testicular cells by Me-Pa exposure: an epigenetic mechanism (Sponsored by Battelle)

Undergraduate Student Travel Award:

- **Andrea Anaya Sánchez and Abel Aburto Platas.** Fundación Universidad de las Américas, Puebla. Mentor: Teresa de Jesús Palacios Hernández, Dept. Ciencias Químico-Biológicas. Presentation: Synthesis, Characterization, and Antimicrobial Activity of Drug-Loaded Calcium Alginate Nanocapsules: Perspectives on Their Potential Biomedical Use. (Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus de México)

Outstanding HOT Officer Award:

- **Teresa Palacios Hernández, Ph.D.** Johns Hopkins University, Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Achievement: In recognition to her dedication and efforts towards the success of our Organization.

Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Award:

- **Ofelia Olivero, Ph.D., ATS.** Associate Director for Scientific Diversity, Center for Cancer Training National Cancer Institute, NIH. Achievement: Dr. Olivero was selected based on her scientific trajectory, the impact of her work in the regulatory field and her involvement in the SOT and HOT leadership and mentoring programs.

2015 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions:

HOT 2nd Annual Mentoring Breakfast "A Path to Success: Make the Best from your fellowship"

HOT organized its annual breakfast event on Tuesday, March 24 from 7:00-8:00am. The speakers, Drs. Elena Hernandez-Ramon and Ofelia Olivero, focused on understanding the art of networking in a professional environment, the culture of the lab, and how to establish expectations in a new setting. They also discussed approaches that can be used to help trainees of underrepresented backgrounds succeed in their next steps in their careers.. Those presentations were followed by roundtable discussions organized by Dr. Betina Lew, where mentees had the opportunity to directly interact with mentors of Latino origin from a variety of sectors including industry, government, and academia. 29 students participated at this event. Mentors included Drs. Braulio Jimenez, Jorge Naciff, Linval DePass, Elena Hernandez-Ramon, Veronica Ramirez Alcantara, Teresa Palacios, Kenneth Ramos, Pedro Del Valle, Jorge Muniz Ortiz, Xabier Arzuaga. Ofelia Olivero and Betina Lew.

This event was organized by Dr. Elena Hernandez-Ramon, HOT Vice-President elect. .

Global Hot Topics Event

Dr. Linval DePass organized the Global Hot Topics Event at the SOT meeting in which two distinguished speakers discussed various aspects of natural product drugs and their continuing role in human health.

Endowment Fund Details: None

Newsletters: Our bi-monthly newsletter Toxenlaces was distributed to members and Sister Organizations through email and is available in our website <http://www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/hot/newsLetter.asp>

Teleseminars: None

White Papers: None

Contributions to SOT website: Regular updates to the HOT website as needed to reflect initiatives from SOT, our Sister Organizations, and a variety of academic and other organizations that regularly share information with HOT.

Other Special Interest Group 2014-2015 Activities:

- Drs. Minerva Mercado and Elena Hernandez Ramón participated as host mentors in the 2015 SOT Undergraduate Education Program, part of the Society of Toxicology's Committee on Diversity Initiatives.
- Dr. Betina Lew along with other HOT members developed and co-chaired the "Careers in Risk Assessment Webinar Series" sponsored by CRAD/RASS and HOT. Minerva Mercado Feliciano was a speaker in this event.
- HOT added two new Sister Organizations: Academic and Professional School of Toxicology of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Lima, Peru) and the Sociedad Venezolana de Toxicología Médica. The Sister Organization program promotes the exchange of scientific information with our international toxicology colleagues.
- Dr. Silvia Barros was elected to the SOT membership Committee. Dr. Barros is a very active member of the Sociedade Brasileira de Toxicologia and the IUTOX.
- HOT recommended speakers to represent HOT/SOT at the Toxicology Congress in Lima, Peru in August 2015. The HOT EC also provided letters to support the request for funding of this event by the SOT Council as well as for the Ninth Congress of Toxicology in developing countries in Natal, Brasil in November 2015.

2014 Annual HOT Reception Agenda

- 1) Welcome President: Dr. Betina Lew
 - a) Thank you to the current executive committee
 - b) Present newly elected executive committee
- 2) Incoming President's report: Dr. Linval DePass
 - a) Goals for 2014-2015
 - b) Increase the recognition and visibility of Hispanics/Latinos in SOT
 - c) Increase the recognition and visibility of HOT and SOT throughout Latin America, Spain, and Portugal
 - d) Increase the interactions between HOT/SOT and the sister organizations in Latin America, Spain and Portugal
 - e) Reaffirm HOT as the "face" of SOT in Latin America, Spain and Portugal
- 3) Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gonzalo Diaz, Global Senior Scholar
- 4) Sister Organizations Recognition
- 5) Brief presentation by two of SOT major partners in Latin America
 - a) Silvia Barros, Sociedade Brasileira de Toxicologia, "Advancing Toxicology Science in Developing Countries"
 - b) Liliana Saldivar, Sociedad Mexicana de Toxicologia, International Congress of Toxicology (IUTox)
- 6) Sponsor Recognition
- 7) Travel Award Presentation
 - a) Aline de Conti, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow
 - b) Vinicius Carreira, Ph.D. Student
 - c) Alexandra Colón Rodríguez, Ph.D. Student
 - d) Rosa I. Rodríguez, Ph.D. Student
 - e) Vanessa Nuñez, Undergraduate Student
 - f) Honorable Mention: Caroline Pinto, Ph.D. Student, University of Houston
- 8) Special Awards Presentation
 - a) Veronica Ramirez, PhD
 - b) President's Award
- 9) Networking and Social