

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

ANNUAL REPORT: 2015-2016

May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016

I. OFFICERS/COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
President:	Linval Depass	Minerva Mercado Feliciano
Vice President:	Minerva Mercado Feliciano	Elena Hernandez Ramon
Vice President-Elect	Elena Hernandez Ramon	Robert Casillas
Secretary:	Veronica Ramirez Alcantara	Veronica Ramirez Alcantara
Treasurer:	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde
Past President	Betina Lew	Linval Depass
Councilors:	Maria E Gonsebatt Bonaparte	Silvia B M Barros
	Betzabet Quintanilla-Vega	Marcelo Wolansky
	Azita Cuevas	Enrique Fuentes-Mattei
	Silvia B M Barros	Azita Cuevas
PDA Representative:	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez
GSLC Representative:	Federico Leonardo Sinche	Federico Leonardo Sinche

COMMITTEES

Awards 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 as 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: Enrique Fuentes-Mattei, Chair; Azita Cuevas, Co-Chair

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: Verónica Ramírez-Alcántara, Minerva Mercado 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: Aline de Conti, Chair and Toxenlaces Editor.
- **Social Media Subcommittee**: Members: Aline de Conti, Chair

Education Committee

This committee will propose the different means to make accessible education materials to HOT members and the Ibero-American community. 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: Elena Hernandez Ramon, 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. 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.

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: Linval DePass, Chair; Marcelo Wolansky, Councilor to Sister Organizations.

Graduate Committee

This committee encourages involvement of Hispanic and Ibero-American graduate students in the HOT and the SOT, facilitates 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 in charge of 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: Veronica Ramirez Alcantara, 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: Linval DePass, Betina Lew, Chair; Les Recio, Ofelia Olivero, 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: Elena Hernandez Ramon, 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: Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, 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 at least for 5 years. Members: Betina Lew, Leslie Recio, Ofelia Olivero, Pedro Del Valle, Braulio Jimenez, Mari Stavanja.

II. ACTIVITIES

a) 2016 HOT Annual Meeting Reception

It was held in New Orleans, LA at Jonathan Ferrara Gallery on March 15th, 2016. Approximately 130 people were in attendance.

Dr. Elena Hernandez Ramon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

HOT reception Keynote speaker was Dr. Kenneth Ramos, winner of the 2016 Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Award.

Travel Awards were presented by the Award Committee Chair Dr. Enrique Fuentes-Mattei

Distinguished Toxicologists Awards was presented by Elena Hernandez Ramon, HOT Vice-President

b) 2016 HOT Annual Meeting Awards

- **Postdoctoral Travel Award:**

- **Kalynda Gonzales, PhD**, Postdoc, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University NY, USA. "*Loss of Striatal Cholinergic Interneurons in the Presence of Intact Nigral Dopaminergic Neurons in Early Manganese-Induced Parkinsonism*".

- **Graduate Student Travel Awards:**
 - **Mei-Ling Bermudez, PhD Candidate**, Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati, USA. “*Intranasal Delivery of the Antioxidant Carnosine to the Thy1-aSyn Mouse Model of Parkinson’s Disease Reduces its Progression*”. Sponsored by MRI Global.
 - **Sebastian Medina, PhD Candidate**, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy, USA. “*Developmental Arsenate Exposures Suppress Murine Splenocyte Mitogenesis, without Altering Spleen and Thymus Lymphocyte Population Subsets or Bone Marrow Lymphoid Progenitors*”. Sponsored by PepsiCo Global RD (presented by Robert P. Casillas).
 - **Manuel Alejandro Ramirez-Lee, PhD Candidate**, Facultad de Ciencias Quimicas, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, México. “*Evaluation of Vascular Tone and Cardiac Contractility in Response to Silver Nanoparticles, Using Langendorff Rat Heart Preparation*”. Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus de México (presented by Ranulfo Lemus Olalde, ScD, DABT).
 - **Antonio Joel Ruiz Uribe, PhD Candidate**, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, México. “*General Composition and Antifungal Effect of Commercial Ethanolic Mexican Propolis on Aspergillus flavus*”. Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus de México.

- **Outstanding HOT Officer Award:**
 - **Aline de Conti, PhD Postdoc**, National Center for Toxicological Research, Little Rock, Arkansas. Achievement: In recognition to her dedication and efforts towards the success of our Organization.

- **Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Award:**
 - **Kenneth Ramos, PhD**, Associate Vice President for Precision Health Sciences, University of Arizona Health Sciences Center. Achievement: Dr. Ramos was selected based on his scientific trajectory, the impact of her work in the regulatory field and her involvement in the SOT and HOT leadership and mentoring programs.

c) 2016 HOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions

HOT 3rd Annual Mentoring Breakfast

It was developed the 3rd Annual Mentoring Breakfast “A path of success: opportunities and challenges to face in your career development”, on March 16th, from 7:00 to 8:00 am. We had 35 participants, divided as students, postdoctoral fellows and scientists as mentors. The speakers during this breakfast were M. Sc. Federico L. Sinche, Dr. Aline DeConti and Dr. Elena Hernandez-Ramon. Participants received two books entitled “- “Communicating science: giving talks” Second Edition, and “Advancing careers: articles from the focus newsletter”, kindly donated by Burroughs Wellcome Fund. The arrangements for this donation were made by Dr. Ofelia A. Olivero.

d) Endowment Fund Details

None.

e) 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>

f) Teleseminars

Informational seminar about HOT and SOT to the Escuela Académico Profesional de Toxicología (EAPT) students, from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, Perú.

On July 24th, 2015, the HOT Education Committee organized this seminar starting with the presentation of the HOT mission and introducing the executive board (EB) members by the HOT president, Dr. Minerva Mercado. She then gave a general description of our committees.

The Vice President, Dr. Elena Hernandez Ramon, talked specifically about the Education Committee and the initiatives proposed by this committee, including HOT Educational and Informational webinars. She also talked about the efforts HOT has made together with its sponsors to offer an increasing number of travel awards for our members to attend the SOT annual meeting. Furthermore, she described our activities during the annual meeting: from the success of the HOT meet and greet spot at the pavilion, the HOT reception and awards ceremony, to the mentoring breakfast that we have been able to offer for two years.

Our Postdoctoral representative Dr. Teresa Palacios also participated describing the benefits of both graduate and post-doctoral students as members of our organization.

We also invited our former president, Dr. Pedro Del Valle, who explained how the initiative of the Sister Organizations emerged several years ago, how this network has grown, and current and future benefits of this Sisterhood. As an example, Dr. Silvia Barros shared the experience of the Brazilian Society of Toxicology as an HOT Sister Organization.

Finally, we had the participation of Dr. Ofelia Olivero, who talked about the SOT perspectives and the Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) US-Mexico Drug Abuse Prevention Research Fellowship Webinar.

On November 5th, 2015, The HOT Education Committee organized a webinar about this fellowship, which provides a unique opportunity for Mexican researchers to obtain postdoctoral training with a NIDA-supported U.S. mentor. Prevention Research Fellows benefit from an intensive research training experience designed to enhance the fellows' ability to conduct independent research upon return to Mexico. Applicants and their U.S. mentor may propose to conduct their research in any area of drug abuse prevention research, such as prevention intervention research, prevention services research, prevention methodology, or drug abuse prevention as HIV/AIDS prevention.

Dr. Jacqueline Lloyd, Deputy Branch Chief of the Prevention Research Branch, and MS Dale Weiss, Associate Director of the International Program from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, talked about the research opportunities and the administrative aspects of the application, including the review process.

g) White Papers

None.

h) 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.

i) Other Special Interest Group 2015-2016 Activities

1. The Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists jointed a session with **IUTOX and BSTox during the 9th Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries held in Natal, Brazil**, November 7-10, 2015. Chaired by Ofelia Olivero, an SOT Councilor, founding member and past-president of HOT; Silvia Barros, HOT Councilor; and by Elaine Faustman and Emanuela Corsini from the IUTOX Executive Committee, the meeting was designed to understand how the international toxicology community can gather, promote and share toxicological resources throughout Latin America and with developing countries worldwide. About 50 people were present, including Braulio Jimenez, past-president of HOT, and Peter Goering, SOT President. Drs. Olivero and Jimenez traveled to the Congress under the auspices of HOT and the SOT Global Initiatives Fund.

2. **HOT presence at the IV Congreso Internacional y V Congreso Peruano de Toxicología, Escuela Académico Profesional de Toxicología (EAPT), Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos** in Lima, Peru.

The Society of Toxicology and HOT sent two representatives to this important event: **Dr. Sergio Alex Villalobos -HOT member** and **Dr. Elena Hernández Ramón -HOT Vice-President**. The conference had other speakers of high caliber both international and national. Dr. Hernández Ramón gave the first talk of the conference, entitled “Efectos Genotóxicos, Epigenéticos y Transcripcionales por Exposición a Tamoxifén”. During this talk, she showed the formation of DNA-tamoxifen adducts in uterine tissue from monkeys and humans, as well as gene expression alteration after TAM exposure and their role in the development of endometrial cancer.

Dr. Villalobos provided a talk entitled “Nuevas Estrategias en Ecotoxicología: Uso Integrado de Simulaciones in-silico y Pruebas Toxicológicas en Organismos”, where he gave an overview of state of the art techniques to generate information on environmental fate and effects, and explained in a practical way some main course methods.

This event opened new perspectives and applications of toxicology, and increased the visibility of SOT and HOT.