

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

ANNUAL REPORT: 2016-2017

May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017

I. OFFICERS/COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

	2016-2017	2017-2018
President	Elena Hernandez-Ramon	Robert P. Casillas
Vice President	Robert P. Casillas	Silvia Barros
Vice President-Elect	Silvia Barros	Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde
Secretary	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez
Treasurer	Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde	Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde (Interim)
Past President	Minerva Mercado-Feliciano	Elena Hernandez-Ramon
Councilors	Veronica Ramirez Alcantara	Veronica Ramirez Alcantara
	Rene Viñas	Rene Viñas
	Enrique Fuentes-Mattei	Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez
	Marcelo Wolansky	Aline DeConti
PDA Representative	Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez	Julieta Martino
GSLC Representative	Pamella Tijerina	Teresa Anguiano

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 students and postdoctoral 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” is given each year to a toxicologist of Hispanic origin whose work exemplifies the mission of the HOT-SIG by contributing to the advancement of the field of toxicology. 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; Rene Vinas, 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: Robert P. Casillas, Chair; Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Co-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: Teresa Palacios, Chair; Elena Hernandez-Ramon, 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: Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez, Chair; Pamella Tijerina, Co-Chair.
- **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: Teresa Palacios, Chair; Aline DeConti, Co-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; 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: Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Chair; Marcelo Wolansky, Co-chair and 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: Pamela Tijerina, 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: Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Chair; Linval DePass, Betina Lew, 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: Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez, 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: Robert P. Casillas, 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: Elena Hernandez-Ramon, 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: Linval Depass, Betina Lew, Leslie Recio, Ofelia Olivero, Pedro Del Valle, Braulio Jimenez, Mari Stavanja.

II. ACTIVITIES

a) 2017 HOT Annual Meeting Reception

The 2017 HOT Annual Meeting and Reception was held in Baltimore, MD at the Maryland Art Place on March 14th, 2017, with approximately 120 attendees.

Dr. Robert Casillas called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

HOT reception Keynote speaker was Dr. Jose Manautou, winner of the 2017 HOT Distinguished Toxicologist Award.

Travel Awards were presented by the Vice President, Dr. Robert Casillas.

Distinguished Toxicologist Award was presented by Elena Hernandez-Ramon, HOT President

b) 2017 HOT Annual Meeting Awards

- **Postdoctoral Travel Award:**

- **Jose Zavala, PhD**, Postdoctoral fellow, U. S. Environmental protection Agency, USA. "*Gas-Phase Mutagenicity in Salmonella of 12 Distinct Simulated Smog Atmospheres Generated Using Environmental Irradiation Chambers*". Sponsored by MRI Global (Presented by Robert P. Casillas).

- **Graduate Student Travel Awards:**
 - **Michelle Hernandez, PhD student**, New York University, USA. “*World Trade Center Dust Induces Nasal and Neurologic Tissue Injury, Impairs Olfaction Capabilities, and Increases Anxiety Behaviors*”. Sponsored by Grocery Manufacturers Association (Presented by Rene Vinas).
 - **John Szilagyi, PhD student**, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Rutgers State University, USA. “The Endocannabinoid Anandamide Disrupts the Syncytialization of Human Placental Trophoblasts and Expression of Uptake and Efflux Transporters”. Sponsored by Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (Presented by Elena Hernandez-Ramon).
 - **Lina Maria Pena Acevedo, MSc student**, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia. “Artisanal Mining Risks”. Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus de México (Presented by Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde).
- **Undergraduate Student Travel Awards:**
 - **Lis Rueda**, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. “Postnatal Development of Rat Pups after Maternal Low-Dose Exposure to the Carbamate Insecticide Carbaryl during Gestation”. Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus de México (Presented by Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde).
- **Outstanding HOT Officer Award:**
 - **Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez, Ph.D.** Postdoctoral fellow, Laboratory of Kidney Toxicology and Regeneration, Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. Achievement: In recognition to her dedication and efforts towards the success of our Organization.
 - **Enrique Fuentes-Mattei**, Instructor, Department of Experimental Therapeutics, Division of Cancer Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. Achievement: In recognition to her dedication and efforts towards the success of our Organization.
- **Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Award:**
 - **Jose Manautou, Ph.D.**, Assistant Dean for Graduate Education and Research at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Achievement: Dr. Manautou 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 4th Annual Mentoring Activity

It was developed the Annual Mentoring Activity “A path of success: How to make a great Curriculum Vitae?” on March 15th, from 12:15 to 1:15 pm, room 341 in the Baltimore Convention Center. We had 35 participants, divided as students, postdoctoral fellows and scientists as mentors. The speakers during this activity were Dr. Peter Goering and Dr. Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez.

Following the presentations trainees and students went to round tables where selected established professionals were available to answer questions and to help the trainees/students build their CVs. Participants also 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. The chairs of the event were Dr. Aline DeConti and Dr. Teresa Palacios, Chairs from the HOT Education Committee.

d) Endowment Fund Details

None.

e) Newsletters

By May 2017, **6 Toxenlaces** have been published. Particular sections include the Trainee Section with 5 contributions, 3 invited HOT members published short scientific articles, 5 *HOT Professional tips* by Jose Francisco Delgado Jimenez, and Azita Cuevas continued her contribution with the section *When I grow up*. 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

On November 18th, 2016, the first webinar of the series “Updates in Toxicology”, developed by HOT with **Clubes de Ciencia México** (CdeCMx) was released. The first webinar from this series was entitled “Experimental and Biological Factors Influencing our Observations in Toxicological Assays”. Our speaker was Dr. Marcelo Wolansky, Adjunct Professor (Toxicology) at University of Buenos Aires and HOT Councilor for Sister Organizations.

The webinars “Updates in Toxicology” are primarily designed to disseminate high quality toxicology research among the scientific community affiliated to HOT and CdeCMX, in order to provide scientific tools that can be used by the new generation of toxicologists in Latin America. These webinars have the support from Society of Toxicology (SOT) in collaboration with the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologist (HOT) and “Clubes de Ciencias de Mexico (CdeCMex)”.

The chairs of the event were Dr. Teresa Palacios, Dr. Aline DeConti and Federico L. Sinche, with chairs and assistants from the HOT Education Committee. There were 21 participants, including students from Mexico (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Irapuato, Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit), Chile (Servicio Médico Legal de Copiapo), Colombia (Universidad de Cartagena), Peru (Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos) and United States (US Marine Corps, University of Colorado, US FDA).

On January 26th, HOT received the approval from SOT to perform two more webinars from this series, expected to be released in August 2017.

g) White Papers

None.

h) Contributions to SOT website

The HOT Communications Committee successfully renewed the HOT website and increased social media outreach to 998 followers. Regular updates on information are performed as needed in order 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 2016-2017 Activities

HOT participated in the XIV International Congress of Toxicology, organized by the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) and the Mexican Society of Toxicology (SOMTOX), in October 2-6, 2016. SOT funded Dr. Elena Hernandez-Ramon and Dr. Pedro L. Del Valle as

HOT delegates through the Global Initiatives Program to conduct outreach and mentoring activities during the XIV ICT in Merida Mexico, in October 2016. Dr. Del Valle was a member of the ICT Organizing Committee and acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Our Sister Organization SOMTOX assigned a booth for HOT at the exhibit area of the Convention Center in Merida, Mexico. HOT members and past presidents (Dr. Del Valle and Dr. Hernandez Ramon, Dr. Ranulfo Lemus, Dr. Marcelo Wolansky, Dr. Mariana Cardenas, Dr. Ofelia Olivero, Dr. Linval de Pass and Dr. Mari Stavanja) were available to answer questions and disseminate information and goals of our organization. HOT also supported two Latin American students to attend this congress, and two travel awards were provided. Dr. Hernandez Ramon, Dr. Lemus and Dr. Wolansky, together with one of our sponsors, Dr. Stavanja, presented the travel awards to the following awardees:

- Graduate Student Award - Carlos Falcon, Ph.D., Instituto de Enfermedades Respiratorias Ismael Cosío Villegas, Secretaría de Salud, Mexico DF.
- Undergraduate Student Award - Jorge Arturo Soriano-Campos, Biotechnology Engineering at Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP).

The HOT Executive Committee together with Dr. Del Valle and Dr. Olivero organized the HOT Sister Organization Summit during this conference. During this meeting, we explained the benefits and responsibilities of the Sister Organizations and opened the forum for initiatives. Several representatives expressed their proposals and we agreed to continue working together and to meet regularly.

Dr. Hernandez Ramon was one of the speakers in the Mentoring Forum organized by Dr. Ofelia Olivero. The Forum provided participants with tools and concepts to understand the multiplicity of opportunities available for their careers. After three talks, the 35-40 participants gathered in three different groups, and met with professionals, including Dr. Del Valle and other HOT members, working in different settings: US Government, Academia and Industry. The professionals rotated among the three groups, so all participants had opportunities to inquiry about a variety of expertise.

HOT members participated in the Global Collaboration Event, where Dr. Hernandez Ramon gave a presentation about HOT and also showed the video produced by our organization with information about the Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program. Also they attended an informative session about the current status of ALATOX and plans for a future meeting in Peru.

Several HOT members from the US participated in the ICT meeting, outreach activities, networking events, mentoring workshop, Sister Organizations summit, CEC and/or symposia, including Elena Hernandez-Ramon, Pedro L. Del Valle, Ofelia Olivero, Ranulfo Lemus, Marcelo Wolansky, Mariana Cardenas, Linval De Pass, Mari Stavanja, Ken Ramos, Peter Goering, and William Slikker.

j) New HOT members

During the XIV International Congress of Toxicology in 2016, HOT recruited 139 new members from 12 different Latin American countries. During the 56th SOT Annual Meeting in 2017, HOT recruited 65 new members. HOT has a total number of 369 members.