



July 28, 2020

**ANNUAL REPORT: May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020**

**I. OFFICERS/COMMITTEES**

**OFFICERS**

	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
<b>President</b>	Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde	Enrique Fuentes-Mattei
<b>Vice President</b>	Enrique Fuentes-Mattei	Aline de Conti
<b>Vice President-Elect</b>	Aline de Conti	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez
<b>Secretary</b>	Julieta Martino	Julieta Martino
<b>Treasurer</b>	Vinicius de Paula Venancio	Vinicius de Paula Venancio
<b>Past President</b>	Silvia Barros	Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde
<b>Councilors</b>	Dania Bacardi Fernandez	Mercedes Salvador-Silva
	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez	Patricia Ruiz
	Michelle Hernandez	Michelle Hernandez
	Carmen Rubio Armendariz	Carmen Rubio Armendariz
<b>PDA Representative</b>	Maria Beatriz Monteiro	(Vacant)
<b>GSLC Representative</b>	Yanelli Nuñez	Henry Lujan

**COMMITTEES**

**Awards Committee**

The main task for the Awards committee is to nominate, select and announce candidates for HOT Awards. Historically, HOT has awarded Travel Awards to Hispanic 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. Additionally, 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:** Carmen Rubio Armendariz (Chair); Teresa Palacios-Hernandez (Co-Chair); Enrique Fuentes-Mattei (Volunteer).

## 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:** Enrique Fuentes-Mattei (Chair); Aline de Conti (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. **Members:** Julieta Martino (Chair); Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde (Co-Chair).

- **Website Subcommittee:** The Chair of this subcommittee acts as Website Coordinator and interacts with SOT Headquarters staff to maintain the HOT/SOT website information (including ToXchange) current and useful for our members and as a repository of information for future Executive Committees. **Members:** Julieta Martino (Chair).
- **Toxenlaces Editorial Subcommittee:** This subcommittee of the Communications Committee is responsible for the trimonthly electronic publication of the HOT newsletter Toxenlaces by the end of the month in which is due for publication. Issues for electronic publication are March-April-May (Spring issue), June-July-August (Summer issue), September-October-November (Fall issue), and December-January-February (Winter issue). 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:** Alejandro Ramírez Lee (Chair); Julieta Martino (Co-Chair).
- **Social Media Subcommittee:** This subcommittee of the Communications Committee is responsible for the maintenance and updating of social media accounts held by the organization, including Facebook and LinkedIn. **Members:** Teresa Palacios-Hernandez (Chair).

## Education Committee

The Education Committee proposes various means to make education materials accessible 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 recruits talented HOT members (often not Executive Members) to lead key initiatives. **Members:** Teresa Palacios-Hernández (Chair); Carmen Rubio Armendariz (Co-Chair); Yanelli Nunez (Volunteer).

### **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:** Vinicius de Paula Venancio (Chair), Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde (Co-Chair).

- **Sponsorship Subcommittee. Members:** Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde (Chair), Vinicius de Paula Venancio (Co-Chair), Linval DePass, Aline de Conti and Enrique Fuentes-Mattei (Volunteers).

### **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 Hispanic/Latino countries (Latin-America, Brazil, Spain, and Portugal). Historically, the immediate Past-President chairs this committee working closely with the Councilor of Sister Organizations. **Members:** Carmen Rubio-Armendariz (Chair); Silvia Barros (Co-Chair), Dania Bacardi (Volunteer).

### **Graduate Student Committee**

This committee encourages involvement of Hispanic/Latino graduate students in the HOT and SOT, as well as 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 e-mail 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:** Yanelli Nuñez (Chair), Maria Beatriz Monteiro (Co-Chair), Julieta Martino (Volunteer).

## 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 in HOT Committee communications. Historically, a Councilor chairs this committee and recruits other talented HOT members for key initiatives. **Members:** Michelle Hernandez (Chair), Julieta Martino (Co-Chair), Silvia Barros (Volunteer).

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for annual elections. According to the by-laws, a Nominating Committee consisting of no 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:** Silvia Barros (Chair), Aline de Conti, Betina Lew, Braulio Jiménez, Enrique Fuentes-Mattei (Assistants).

## Postdoctoral Committee

This committee encourages involvement of Hispanic/Latino 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 e-mail 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:** Maria Beatriz Monteiro (Chair), Yanelli Nuñez (Co-Chair), Julieta Martino (Volunteer).

## 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. The Program committee focuses on service to the HOT members. Historically, the Vice-President is the chair of this committee. **Members:** Ranulfo Lemus Olalde (Chair); Silvia Barros (Volunteer). The activities and responsibilities include among others:

- ✓ Assisting the preparation of the Annual SOT/HOT 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

## 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:** Enrique Fuentes-Mattei (Chair), Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde (Co-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 regarding HOT issues and activities. Each past president serves in this committee for 5 years. **Members:** Robert Casillas (Chair) Elena Hernández-Ramón, Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Linval DePass, Betina Lew.

## **II. ACTIVITIES**

### **a) 2020 HOT Annual Meeting Reception**

The 2020 HOT Annual Meeting and Reception were scheduled for Tuesday March 17, 2020 at the Anaheim Marriott Platinum Room but it was cancelled due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our sponsors for this year were: Alturas Analytics, Inc., Charles River, Krishan and Vicky Joshi Foundation, Dr. Michelle Hernandez, Dr. Ofelia Olivero, UES Inc, LeTox World LLC, and HOT.

### **b) 2020 HOT Annual Meeting Awards**

For the 2019 SOT 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, HOT awarded two Graduate Student Travel Awards, one Postdoctoral Travel Award, one Graduate Student Travel Award (Special Category: Members living outside the USA), two Outstanding HOT Awards and one Distinguished Toxicologist Award. The travel awards were for a sum of \$750 each. Traditionally, the awards are given at the annual reception but due to the cancellation of the Annual SOT meeting the plaques and checks were sent to each awardee by mail.

#### **Graduate Student Travel Awards**

- **Daysi Diaz-Diestra**, University of Puerto Rico/US FDA. “Assessing the Biological Impact of Pegylated Graphene Quantum Dots in THP-1 Human Macrophages”. Sponsored by HOT.
- **Angela Cruz Hernandez**, University of Colorado. “Investigating the Role of Mast Cell Activation by Nitrogen Mustard in Lung Toxicity”. Sponsored by UES Inc.

#### **Postdoctoral Travel Award**

- **Marco Clementino, PhD**, University of Kentucky. “Metabolism Shift in Cr(VI)-Transformed Cells Causes Epigenetic Changes and Promotes Tumorigenesis”. Sponsored by Charles River and HOT.

### **Travel Award Special Category: HOT members living outside US**

- **Ramsés Santacruz**, CINVESTAV-IPN, Mexico. “Cytoskeletal and Ultrastructural Alterations Induced by TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO Nanoparticles in Antral Follicular Cells”. Sponsored by LeTox World LLC.

**HOT Outstanding Award** – Carmen Rubio Armendariz, PhD (Councilor) and Yanelli Nunez (Graduate Student Representative) for their work on the Education Committee.

**HOT Distinguished Toxicologist Award** – Jesus Olivero-Verbel, PhD, University of Cartagena.

### **c) 2020 HOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions**

#### **HOT Annual Mentoring Activity**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual mentoring activity was offered in an online webinar format. The one hour webinar “**A Path to Success: Leadership in Toxicology**” took place on June 5, 2020 via the WebeEx platform. The webinar had four panelists which are past HOT presidents and currently serve in leadership positions in academia, industry and government:

- Dr. Silvia Barros, Senior Professor of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of São Paulo.
- Dr. Pedro Del Valle, Senior Pharmacologist and Toxicologist at the US FDA and recipient of the 2019 HOT Distinguished Toxicologist Award.
- Dr. Ofelia Olivero, Chief of the Intramural Diversity Workforce Branch in NCI and recipient of the SOT 2020 Mentoring Award.
- Dr. Linval DePass, Executive Director of Nonclinical Safety and Principal Scientist at Durect Corporation.

HOT Secretary Dr. Julieta Martino opened the session by welcoming everyone, and explaining the importance of mentoring in career development. During the next 40 minutes, the panelists discussed the importance of taking on leadership roles throughout our training and careers as toxicologists. Panelists shared personal leadership anecdotes and discussed core leadership skills essential for a successful career in any toxicology sector. Attendees were able to interact with the panelists through a Q&A session at the end. HOT 2020-2021 President Dr. Enrique Fuentes-Mattei closed the session by providing a short description of HOT, its goals and resources. The webinar had a total of 31 attendees from USA, Brazil, Cuba, Panama, Czech Republic, Mexico and Argentina.

#### **d) Endowment Fund Details**

On August 5, 2019, the SOT Endowment Fund Board approved the creation of the HOT's endowment fund. The fund was ratified by SOT Council on September 5, 2019. The goal of the “**HOT Award Fund**” is to encourage students of Ibero-American heritage to start a career in toxicology. The fund will be used to provide awards based on scientific excellence and/or scientific progress to domestic or international Ibero-American students (undergraduate and/or graduate students) and/or postdoctoral fellows whose studies and/or research interests are in

the toxicological sciences, or to those individuals with the objective of promoting global outreach by increasing research/academic excellence, or leadership. These awards will be given to support the development of students and postdoctoral fellows through various educational and scientific activities, including, but not limited to: attendance at international scientific meetings to support presenters at scientific programs, symposiums, workshops, courses, and internships, among others. As of the latest Financials and General Ledger (April 2020), the HOT Award Fund has a total of \$27315.

#### **e) Newsletters**

Our newsletter Toxenlaces got a fresh look this year thanks to the work of our new Toxenlaces Editor Dr. Alejandro Ramirez-Lee. By July 1st 2020, 4 Toxenlaces have been published (Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring Issues). The newsletter includes information on opportunities regarding funding, awards, meetings, training and mentoring, as well as achievements from our members. Particular sections include the Trainee Wall with 1 contribution, 3 short Scientific Articles by invited HOT members, 2 Special Articles by HOT Officers, and 3 HOT Professional Tips by HOT Councilor Teresa Palacios Hernandez and Volunteer Jose F. Delgado. Our tri-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) Webinars**

In collaboration with Clubes de Ciencia de Mexico, on April 22, 2020 HOT held the webinar series "Updates in Toxicology". The webinar speaker was Dr. Gladys Erives from the FDA who presented her work titled: "From Science to Regulation: How Research Priorities Are Used to Inform the Center for Tobacco Products Regulatory Activities at the FDA". The webinar was organized and moderated by Dr. Maria Beatriz Monteiro (HOT Postdoctoral Representative). This webinar had a total of 46 attendees from 5 countries (United States, Guatemala, Brazil, Switzerland and Spain).

#### **g) White Papers**

None.

#### **h) Contributions to the HOT-SOT website**

The HOT Communications Committee successfully maintained updates on the HOT website and increased social media outreach to 1120 followers. Regular updates on information are performed as needed in order to reflect initiatives from SOT, our Sister Organizations, and from other organizations that regularly share information with HOT.

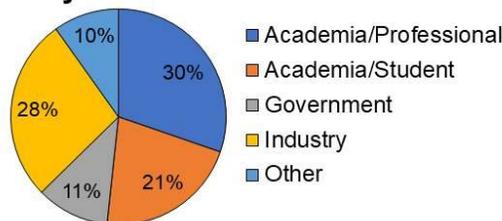
#### **i) Other Special Interest Group 2019-2020 Activities**

- Our Vice-President Elect Dr. Aline de Conti was awarded a ToxScholar Outreach Grant. With this grant Dr. de Conti visited the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil during December 2019 to lead a 15 hour course for the students in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. During this course, she addressed professional opportunities and challenges and discussed the role that SOT and HOT can play in helping their careers, as well as talked about the work that she conducts at the FDA.
- There was active participation of HOT Executive Committee members at the IUTOX15th International Congress of Toxicology (Honolulu, HI).
- Our Vice-President Dr. Enrique Fuentes-Mattei represented the SOT CDI as well as HOT during the 2019 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference (Honolulu, HI).
- HOT collaborated with the SOT GSLC, CDI and WIT and TAO Special Interest Groups to provide a webinar series that discussed the topic of diversity in toxicology. Our Vice-President Dr. Enrique Fuentes-Mattei and Past President Dr. Pedro del Valle served as panelists during these important sessions.

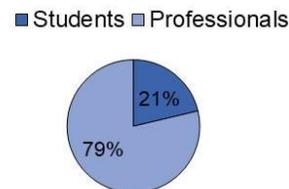
## j) HOT Members

HOT has 207 members, both students and professionals representing academia, industry, government and other sectors that employ toxicologists. Our membership is distributed among multiple countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, UK, Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela. The below graphs are a visual summary of our current membership. The data was pooled and summarized by Dr. Michelle Hernandez (Councilor and Chair of the Membership Committee).

**HOT Membership by Sector**



**HOT Membership Demographic**



**HOT Membership by Location**

