

FALL ISSUE | NOVEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024



# TOXENLACES

**ISSUE 76**

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH TOXICOLOGY



## CULTURE CONNECTS US

**HOT CULTURAL CANVAS**

**SOT ANNUAL MEETING**

**HOT PROFESSIONAL TIP**

Carlos Cruz-Díez (Venezuelan, 1923-2019)  
Cromointerferencia de color aditivo, 1974-1978

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# TOXENLACES

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Greetings, HOT readers!

It may be a little late, but since this is our first issue of the year, I want to wish all of you a very healthy, happy, and successful 2024!!

This issue also comes just before the 63rd SOT Annual Meeting celebration. I hope you will have the opportunity to attend! The SOT Annual Meetings are great opportunities to not only get the freshest information on research, policies, and innovations in Toxicology, but also to present your research to an international audience, receive constructive feedback, and put your name as one of the valuable scientists in the field of Toxicology. Graduate students and postdocs can meet colleagues, potential mentors, old friends, new friends, and maybe even find a job. Therefore, I encourage the HOT graduate students and postdocs attending this year's Annual Meeting to get involved in all the activities that SOT has available for you, and of course, networking, networking, networking! You can read about those activities on page 11.

Talking about networking for our graduate students and postdocs, the HOT is collaborating this year with the Biotechnology Specialty Section and Food Safety Specialty Section on a mentoring session for the Annual Meeting, entitled "Leveraging Networking for Career Advancement". This is an excellent session to attend; do not miss this opportunity. Check the details on page 13.

During the SOT Annual Meeting, HOT will celebrate its Annual Reception and Award Ceremony. Please join us for this celebration that has been prepared specially for you, our members! We will present our organization's current achievements and initiatives and recognize the outstanding research projects of our members by presenting the awardees of the HOT Travel Awards. We also will celebrate the scientific career of one of our toxicologists by presenting the HOT Distinguished Toxicologist Award. As you can see, we have a lot to commemorate, so come to enjoy this together! Save the date. Your invitation is on page 12.

In this *Toxenlaces* issue, you will also find important information for your professional development. Are you a student or postdoc doing, or planning to do, studies in a foreign country? If so, read the interesting and valuable article from our Graduate Student Representative, Julia Rezende da Silva, on page 8. Also, do you know that the zebrafish is getting attention as a biomodel for behavioral phenotyping in toxicology research? Read more about this on page 6. There are so many more interesting pieces you will find in this issue!

I want to finish my message by reminding you that your participation in all the HOT activities is paramount to making our organization stronger. Thanks to all of you who cast your vote in our ballot to select officers for the next Executive Committee. The results will be announced soon, but I want to thank all the candidates for their participation.

To all of you attending the 63rd SOT Annual Meeting, safe travels, and come to meet the current HOT Executive Committee on the Pavilion and at the reception. And, for those not attending, do not worry; we will be posting news on our FB and will report all our events in the next *Toxenlaces* issue.

Until next time!



**Veronica Ramirez Alcantara, PhD**  
2023-2024 HOT President  
Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists



# Contents

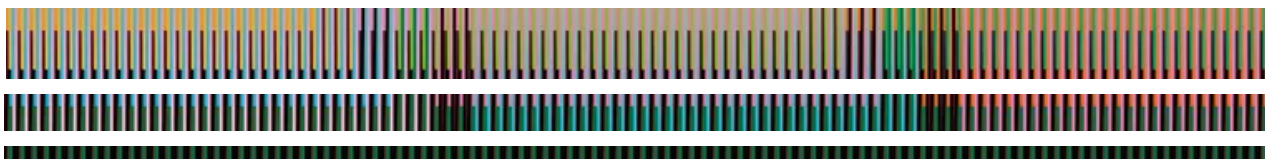


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**#WE  
ARE  
HOT**

BUILDING  
BRIDGES  
THROUGH  
TOXICOLOGY



4

HOT  
Cultural Canvas

6

HOT  
Professional Wall

8

HOT  
Professional Tip

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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Julia Rezende da Silva  
Kelly Salinas  
Alejandro Ramirez-Lee  
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- 11 SOT Annual Meeting
- 12 HOT Annual Meeting
- 13 HOT Mentoring Activity
- 14 XII Congress of Toxicology  
in Developing Countries



<https://cruz-diez.com/es/>

# CULTURAL **HOT** CANVAS

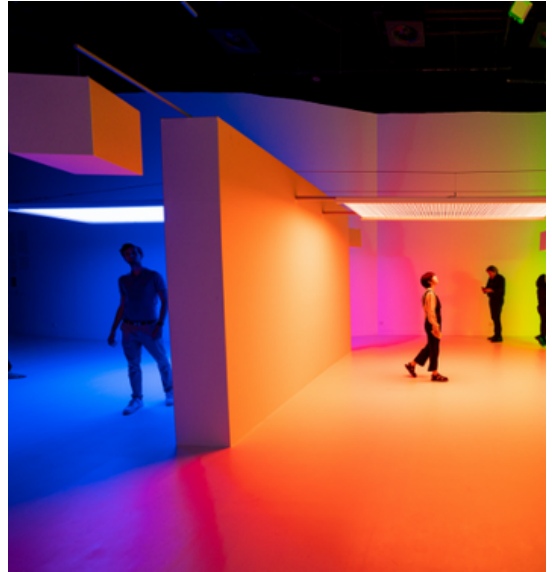


In our ongoing commitment to celebrate the **rich culture of Latin America**, the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists proudly features the works of distinguished artists on the covers and illustrations of our online newsletter *Toxenlaces*. Since issue 74, we have sought to showcase the diverse talents that reflect our heritage and contribute to a deeper understanding of our culture.

In this special edition, we shine a spotlight on Venezuelan artist **Carlos Cruz-Díez**, whose unique journey in both art and pharmacy provides a fascinating connection to this special **HOT Cultural Canvas**. While not directly involved in pharmacy practice, Cruz-Díez's background in this crucial health field adds a distinctive layer to his artistic endeavors.

Carlos  
Cruz-Díez

A prominent figure in the Kinetic Art movement, Cruz-Díez's primary exploration revolves around the **interplay of color and the viewer's visual perception**, with a particular emphasis on the line as an essential compositional element. His notable series, including Additive Color, Physichromie, Chromatic Induction, Chromointerference, Transchromie, Chromosaturation, Chromoscope, and Color in Space, demonstrate his mastery in manipulating color to create optical illusions and dynamic movement.



Carlos Cruz-Díez. Chromosaturation. París, 1965/2013  
France Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai 2021-2022.



Carlos Cruz-Díez. Couleur Additive 76. París, 1974, 66 x 66 cm

Using materials such as acrylic, PVC, and serigraphy, Cruz-Díez's works have become iconic in both his artistic repertoire and the broader history of art. These pieces not only captivate the viewer with their visual impact, but also reflect the artist's deep understanding of the science behind color and perception.

While Cruz-Díez established himself as an artist in Venezuela, a significant portion of his life was spent in Paris, a city that attracted many artists of his time. This international exposure undoubtedly influenced his artistic evolution and contributed to the global recognition of his innovative approach.

# A SMALL AND VALUABLE FISH

Zebrafish as a biomodel for behavioral phenotyping in toxicology research.

BY DENNIS COSTA SILVA

In the contemporary scenario, there are pressing demands for fast and effective toxicological assessments concerning risk evaluations associated with numerous new drugs and potential environmental pollutants. In the midst of this demand, phenotypic screening emerges as a practical approach for toxicology, with behavioral phenotyping serving a pivotal tool to elucidate the potential toxic effects of various compounds. This approach entails the systematic and automated analysis of behavioral responses in large-scale screening experiments of a substantial number of compounds. Specialized platforms and software are employed to record and analyze behavioral data, as highlighted by recent studies (Ford et al., 2021; Popke, 2023; Wlodkowic, 2022).

In this context, these platforms are specifically designed to access locomotor responses using small animals with emphasis on zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) at larval stage. Zebrafish larvae during the early larval development stage (4-7 days post-fertilization) represent a promising biomodel for toxicity studies. The small size of larvae (~4 mm) present a notable advantage in large-scale screening experiments, where the larvae can be accommodated in multi-well plates.

This not only facilitates relevant insights into absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of compounds, but also provides a robust behavior repertoire offering valuable information for toxicology research (Dash & Patnaik, 2023; Madariaga-Mazón et al., 2019). Furthermore, databases like Zebrafish Network Information (ZFIN The Zebrafish Information Network) and Max Planck atlas of the larval zebrafish brain (MapZebbrain) supply pertinent useful information for toxicology researchers concerning information about developmental process, neuroanatomy, neurocircuits, transgenic lines and target genes.

***“Accessing High-throughput Behavioral Phenotyping of Zebrafish Larvae in Toxicology Research”*** Dedicated behavioral analysis of zebrafish larvae can be accomplished using automated platforms such as DanioVision™ (Noldus©, Wageningen, The Netherlands) and ZebraBox™ (Viewpoint Life Sciences, Lyon, France). These platforms capture digital video sequences of animal behavior and track their movements, capable of imaging multiple subjects on an entire multi-well plate. The primary objective of these platforms is to identify changes in behavioral phenotypes, which can be indicative of toxicity and neuroactive effects of compounds.

Additionally, these platforms measure parameters, including total distance moved and mean velocity, providing a comprehensive understanding of exploratory activity (Basnet et al., 2019; Wlodkowic, 2022). This data provides valuable information for toxicology safety assessments, drug screenings, and evaluating potential neurotoxic compounds in the environment. However, challenges exist regarding the standardization of different behavioral protocol settings. In this context, efforts should be directed towards optimizing data obtained from behavioral phenotyping of zebrafish larvae and compiling it into a behavior-phenotypic database. Thus, this approach enhances the reproducibility of results and reduces the variability in behavioral assays, making them more robust for toxicological investigations.



**Dennis Costa Silva, PhD**  
Postdoc Researcher  
University of Rio Grande - FURG, Brazil



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## WHY GO GLOBAL?

*Tips and the impact of internationalization on your toxicological career.*

BY JULIA REZENDE DA SILVA

In today's fast-paced and interconnected world, the value of internationalization extends beyond mere advantages; it stands as a fundamental driver for professional and personal growth and success. The ability to think globally has evolved from being a supplemental skill to an essential one. In the specialized area of toxicology, where challenges are as diverse as the environments under study, adopting an international perspective is not merely a preference; it's a strategic necessity. This shift in perspective unlocks doors to a multitude of opportunities, providing access to varied insights and fostering global collaborations. In this edition of HOT Professional Tip, let's explore the keys to unlocking a world of possibilities and propelling your career into uncharted territories.

- **GLOBAL CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**

Internationalization equips you with the essential global critical thinking skills needed to navigate complex issues and contribute as a citizen of the world. It's not just about knowing your field; it's about understanding it within the broader context of a diverse and interconnected planet.

- **EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Internationalization isn't just about jet-setting to new locations (although that's a nice perk). It's about linking toxicology communities to the world. By doing so, you're not only expanding opportunities for university service and engagement but also enhancing your global competitiveness.

- **FACULTY ENRICHMENT**

For educators and researchers in toxicology, internationalization is like a breath of fresh air for scholarship and teaching.

It enlivens faculty endeavors, expands research opportunities, and provides a pathway to national and international distinction. Your expertise isn't limited to a local audience – it reaches across borders, amplifying your impact.



# TOP TIPS

## FOR NAVIGATING THE GLOBAL WATERS

### • EMBRACE CULTURAL COMPETENCE

To truly thrive in the global arena, cultivate cultural competence. Understand the nuances of different cultures, communication styles, and ethical considerations. This will not only enrich your professional interactions but also bolster your adaptability – a key trait in the evolving landscape of toxicology.

### • NETWORK ACROSS BORDERS

Networking isn't confined to your city or country. Attend international conferences, join online forums, and connect with professionals from diverse backgrounds. Building a global network opens doors to collaborations, research opportunities, and a broader perspective on the field.

### • PURSUE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration is the secret sauce of innovation. Seek out international research collaborations, joint projects, and partnerships with institutions abroad. This not only enhances your research portfolio but also fosters a collaborative spirit that transcends geographical boundaries.

### • STAY INFORMED ON GLOBAL TRENDS

To be at the forefront of your field, stay informed about global trends in toxicology. Follow international journals, participate in cross-cultural discussions, and keep a finger on the pulse of advancements worldwide. This knowledge will give you a competitive edge and elevate your contributions to the field.



**Julia Rezende da Silva, PhD candidate**  
University of São Paulo



#### Links of interest

1. [UGlobally - The Benefits of Internationalization](#)
2. [Singapore Management University - The Benefits of Internationalisation](#)
3. [National Communication Association - Internationalization](#)

# SOT SALT LAKE CITY MARCH 10-14

SOT is returning to Salt Lake City for the first time in more than a decade for its 63rd Annual Meeting and ToxExpo.

[Register](#)



## **Continuing Education Courses**

All Continuing Education courses are held on Sunday, March 10. They are open to all registrants for an additional fee.



## **Career Exploration through Speed Informational Interviews**

Taking place on Tuesday, March 12, this event is open to graduate student and postdoc attendees only and is complimentary, but seating is limited.



## **Student/Postdoctoral Scholar Mixer**

Held the evening of Sunday, March 10, this event is complimentary and open to all student and postdoc attendees.



## **Trainee Discussion with Opening Plenary Speaker**

This event on Monday, March 11, is a free event, but tickets are limited to students and postdocs.





# HOT

## ANNUAL RECEPTION AND AWARD CEREMONY



**TUESDAY  
12 MAR, 2024**



**06:30 PM TO  
10:00 PM**

**PIERPONT PLACE  
163 WEST PIERPONT AVE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



# MENTORING EVENT

LEVERAGING NETWORKING  
FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT



MARCH 12, 2024



1-2PM (ROOM 355 C-  
CONVENTION CENTER)

ORGANIZED BY:

Biotechnology  
Specialty Section

Food Safety  
Specialty Section

Hispanic Organization  
of Toxicologists





# Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries

Santiago, Chile, 2024

# SoTox

Sociedad de Toxicología de Chile

Toxicology for a harmonious  
and sustainable growth in  
developing countries



**SAVE THE DATE**  
for the 12th Congress of  
Toxicology in Developing  
Countries (CTDCXII)

**April 15-18 2024 Santiago, Chile**





# P&G IS HIRING!

## OPEN POSITION

- Personal Health Care Regulatory  
Toxicologist

We are looking for an experienced Scientist to provide global Product Safety leadership for our Latin America (LA) and global health care business.

[APPLY NOW](#)

JOB ID: 72006511



# Join our **HOT** MEMBERSHIP

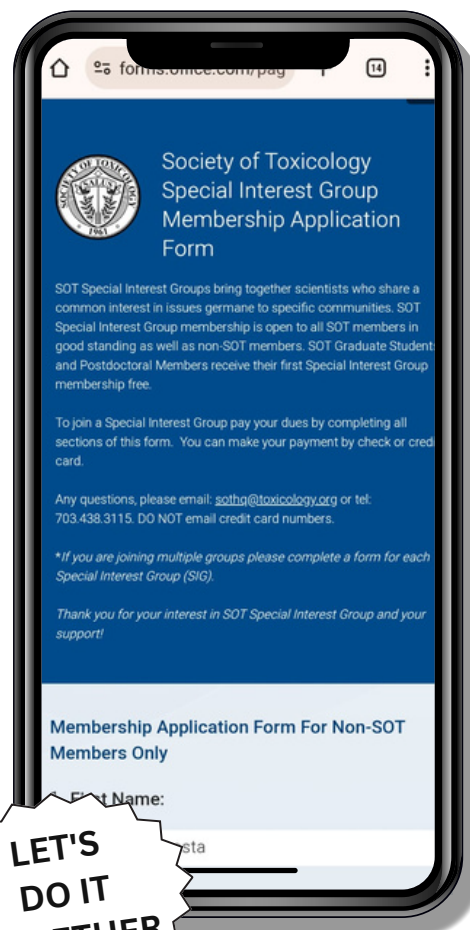


**The HOT Membership Committee wants to encourage you to renew or join our HOT membership.**

If you are an SOT member, you can join HOT when you pay for your annual SOT dues by selecting HOT membership under the Special Interest Groups section. If you are a HOT-only member, renew or apply by resubmitting a membership application.

**Invite friends to join our organization!**

**APPLY NOW**



**LET'S  
DO IT  
TOGETHER**

**OUR MEMBERSHIP RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**APPLY NOW APPLY NOW APPLY NOW APPLY NOW**

# SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

<b>Asociación Española de Toxicología</b>	<a href="http://www.aetox.es/">http://www.aetox.es/</a>
<b>Asociación Latinoamericana de Toxicología</b>	<a href="http://www.alatox.org">http://www.alatox.org</a>
<b>Associação Latino Americana de Patologia Toxicológica e Experimental</b>	<a href="http://www.alapte.com/">http://www.alapte.com/</a>
<b>Asociación Toxicológica Argentina</b>	<a href="https://toxicologia.org.ar/">https://toxicologia.org.ar/</a>
<b>Asociación Venezolana de Toxicología Médica</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/176740585757320/?ref=br">https://www.facebook.com/groups/176740585757320/?ref=br</a>
<b>Center of Environmental and Toxicological Research – University of Puerto Rico</b>	<a href="https://rcm1.rcm.upr.edu/centerenvironmental/">https://rcm1.rcm.upr.edu/centerenvironmental/</a>
<b>Escuela Académico-Profesional de Toxicología de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima</b>	<a href="https://farmacia.unmsm.edu.pe/">https://farmacia.unmsm.edu.pe/</a>
<b>PLAGBOL – Salud, Agricultura y Medio Ambiente</b>	<a href="http://plagbol.org.bo/">http://plagbol.org.bo/</a>
<b>Red Iberoamericana de Toxicología y Seguridad Química</b>	<a href="http://www.ritsq.org/">http://www.ritsq.org/</a>
<b>Sociedade Brasileira de Toxicologia</b>	<a href="http://www.sbtox.org">http://www.sbtox.org</a>
<b>Sociedade Brasileira de Ecotoxicologia</b>	<a href="https://ecotoxbrasil.org.br/">https://ecotoxbrasil.org.br/</a>
<b>Sociedad Cubana de Toxicología</b>	<a href="http://www.sld.cu/sitios/toxicologia/">http://www.sld.cu/sitios/toxicologia/</a>
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<b>Sociedad de Toxicología de Chile</b>	<a href="http://sotox.cl/">http://sotox.cl/</a>
<b>Society for Risk Analysis Latin America</b>	<a href="http://www.srala.org/">http://www.srala.org/</a>
<b>Toxicología Acuática Ambiental, Medicina Veterinaria- Universidad Nacional de Colombia</b>	<a href="http://www.hermes.unal.edu.co/pages/Consultas/Grupo.xhtml?idGrupo=451&amp;opcion=1">http://www.hermes.unal.edu.co/pages/Consultas/Grupo.xhtml?idGrupo=451&amp;opcion=1</a>
<b>Universidad de Cartagena</b>	<a href="https://www.unicartagena.edu.co/">https://www.unicartagena.edu.co/</a>

If your Hispanic Organization is planning a Toxicology meeting or if you are organizing a Toxicology event intended for a primarily Hispanic audience and want to promote it in the upcoming *Toxenlaces* issues, send an email to Julieta Martino, PhD (Councilor for Sister Organizations) at [julieta.martino.pitt@gmail.com](mailto:julieta.martino.pitt@gmail.com).

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## HOT AWARD FUND

Established in September 2019, **the purpose of this fund is to encourage students of Iberoamerican** (Latin-American countries, Spain, and Portugal) **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 Iberoamerican 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.

The fund was established with a generous gift from Ranulfo Lemus Olalde, 2019–2020 President of the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (HOT) Special Interest Group. HOT is an organization comprised of professionals of Iberoamerican origin with expertise in scientific areas associated with Toxicology. It serves as a focal point for interaction among Iberoamerican Toxicologists in the United States and the international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking scientific communities with emphasis in outreach to the Iberoamerican population. Its main goal is to provide a forum for the awareness and dissemination of toxicological information and issues as they relate to the Iberoamerican community.

Awards from the HOT Award Fund 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, internships, etc.

Use the [online giving system](#) or download the Donation form to make a gift to the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists Award Fund.



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# ANNOUNCEMENT



HOT wants you to be part of the organization! To make it available to everyone, HOT accepts applications from **non-SOT members** to **become HOT members**. Yes, that is right! You only have to have the desire to collaborate with and be part of our great organization.

Your HOT membership provides you with valuable resources throughout your scientific career, such as networking through the largest Hispanic toxicologist community, giving you opportunity for Travel Awards, or serving as a mentor to the young Hispanic toxicologists; besides, you receive the *Toxenlaces* newsletter!

Download the application by clicking on the following link: [Non-SOT Member Application](#).

So what are you waiting for? We are looking forward to receiving your application today!

Follow us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/hispanicorganizationoftoxicologists>

Don't forget to visit also the SOT Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-of-Toxicology-SOT/163627880427831?fref=ts>

*Toxenlaces* is the newsletter that informs Hispanic toxicologists in the United States and the international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking scientific communities about important toxicological events and issues occurring in our countries. It is electronically published and distributed to our membership and Sister Organizations in Ibero-America. *Toxenlaces* disseminates critical dates for events, health perspectives and funding, and training opportunities. It serves as a toxicology forum for our members and other partner organizations, engages in educational outreach to the Hispanic communities, and provides the essential elements to support networking among Hispanic toxicologists. *Toxenlaces* is open to receive collaborations from HOT members, SOT members, and Sister Organizations. You can collaborate with short scientific articles, news, or notes related to toxicology. Other ways to collaborate is by nominating your peers or yourself for the HOT Trainee Wall. For more information about collaborating with *Toxenlaces*, send an email to Rodrigo Gonçalves Queijo (*Toxenlaces* Editor) at [rodrigogoncalvesqueijo@usp.br](mailto:rodrigogoncalvesqueijo@usp.br) or Andy Joel Taipe Huisa (*Toxenlaces* Editor Assistant) at [andyjth1792@gmail.com](mailto:andyjth1792@gmail.com).

The views expressed in this *Toxenlaces* issue do not necessarily represent those of the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (HOT) or Society of Toxicology (SOT).