

## Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2012-2013

May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013

#### I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>
President:	Leslie Recio	Betina Lew
Vice President:	Betina Lew	Linval DePass
Vice President-Elect	Linval DePass	Minerva Mercado
Secretary:	Elena Hernandez Ramon	Elena Hernandez Ramon
Treasurer:	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde	Ranulfo Lemus Olalde
Past President	Ofelia Olivero	Leslie Recio
Councilors:	Jorge G. Muñiz Ortiz	Jorge G. Muñiz Ortiz
	Arturo Anadon	Azita Cuevas
	Minerva Mercado Feliciano	Betzabet Quintanilla Vega
	Maureen McConnell Diaz	Maria E. Gonsebatt
PDA Representative:	Azita Cuevas	Rene Viñas
GSLC Representative:	Rene Viñas	Catherine Rondelli

#### Committees:

HOT board members were involved in all the activities organized during the period. Each board member chairs one or more committees:

- **Awards Committee**  
The main task of the Award committee is to announce, select, and nominate candidates for HOT Awards (Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Lectureship Award—Tentative), HOT Best Abstract & Travel Awards, and Recognition Awards. The awards committee will nominate HOT members for SOT awards.  
**Members:** Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Chair
- **By-laws Committee**  
This committee will review the by-laws every year and propose changes according to the needs and evolution of the SIG-HOT.  
**Members:** Linval DePass, Chair
- **Communications Committee**  
This committee is responsible for all communications issued by the HOT Board to the HOT membership, advertisements, e-mail alerts of deadlines, etc.  
**Members:** Leslie Recio, Chair; Elena Hernandez Ramon, Member

- **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 Internet Page committee to post these education materials in the HOT Web page and with the *Toxenlaces* (HOT's newsletter, see below) Editorial committee to notify the membership of events in the newsletter.

*Members:* Betina Lew, 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 HOT Board's directions. This committee will be responsible for fund-raising of special programs, awards for annual distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist lectureship (tentative), awards for student presentations and annual meeting receptions. The committee will identify and seek sponsorship from individuals and corporations to support the annual meeting of the HOT. In addition, this committee will serve as a task force to study the issues of corporation membership of HOT, to establish rules and procedures with a goal to increase corporation membership, and to establish an Endowment fund for the HOT.

*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, Spain, and Portugal).

*Members:* Ofelia A. Olivero, Chair

- **Graduate Committee**

This committee encourages involvement of Ibero-American graduate students in the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists Special Interest Group (HOT-SIG), and facilitates the scientific and professional development of graduate students of Latino origin through networking, scientific programs, and other SOT activities. The task of this committee is to communicate via email or other formats with the student base at the HOT and SOT so they can be informed about HOT activities and events. The student leadership provides important direction through representation on SOT committees and alignment of their programs with SOT national strategic objectives.

*Members:* Rene Viñas, Chair

- **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is charged with the responsibilities of proposing membership eligibility and benefits and promoting membership level. By coordinating closely with the HOT Board, it will execute plans to achieve these objectives. This committee will supply the updated HOT membership list to the Secretary and the Communications committee for distribution of HOT Board communications.

*Members:* Maureen McConnell, Chair

- **Nomination/Election Committee**

The Nominating/Election Committee is responsible for annual elections. According to the

proposed by-laws, the Nominating Committee consisting of not less than five members who are not seeking re-election or election for any positions in the board, 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.

**Members:** Ofelia A. Olivero, Chair

- **Postdoctoral Committee**

This committee encourages involvement of Ibero-American Postdoctoral Fellows in the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists Special Interest Group (HOT-SIG) 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 SOT Ibero-American Postdoctoral Fellows for scientific growth, networking, and career advancement.

**Members:** Azita Cuevas, Chair

- **Program Committee**

The Program Committee consists of several HOT members who are willing to serve as liaisons between the HOT's board, members, and other program committees within the SOT. The Program Committee focuses on service to the HOT members. The activities and responsibilities of the Program Committee include, but are not limited to::

- Assisting in the preparation of the Annual SOT/HOT meeting
- Mentorship programs
- Assisting HOT members to develop SOT annual meeting program proposals
- HOT endorsement procedures
- SOT program endorsement
- International meetings in toxicology and related fields

**Members:** Betina J. Lew, Chair;

- **Strategic Planning Committee**

The strategic planning committee will provide advice to the HOT board for developing the organizational plan and long-term financial plan. Members of the Advisory Committee will actively participate in this committee.

**Members:** Leslie Recio, Chair

- **Toxenlaces Editorial Subcommittee**

This committee will be responsible for the bimonthly electronic publication of the HOT newsletter "Toxenlaces" by the third week of the second month,. Issues for electronic publication are April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November, and December-January.

**Members:** Veronica Ramirez Alcantara, Chair

- **Web Master Subcommittee**

This committee is in charge of keeping the HOT Web page updated. The chair will interact with SOT staff requesting the Web page updates.

*Members:* Maureen McConnell, Chair

## **II. Activities:**

### **Monthly Teleconferences:**

Usually held the third Friday of each month at 1 pm EST. The Executive Board and other invited HOT members connect for each teleconference. Meeting minutes are recorded and maintained by the secretary of the HOT

### **Meeting Minutes:**

Available on ToXchange

### **Sister Organizations Outreach:**

The HOT maintained outreach activities with eleven Sister Organizations and reached out to several others that might join the HOT network of Sister Organizations in the near future.

Also, distributed *Toxenlaces* to those Sister Organizations and their representatives distributed the newsletter among the Sister Organizations's membership. It is estimated that *Toxenlaces* reaches more than one thousand professionals in eleven different countries with professional and scientific information about SOT and HOT activities, awards, opportunities, deadlines, etc. HOT served as a liaison between the Sister Organizations by providing information about the SOT Annual Meeting, membership benefits, etc. HOT members sponsored several Sister Organizations's members to join the SOT and to attend the Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

This year, HOT continued working with the Sister Organizations by:

- Keeping in contact with our former Sister organizations by regular emails and *Toxenlaces*
- Pioneering efforts to consolidate a Society of Toxicology in Colombia
- Making contacts to incorporate the newly formed Chilean Toxicology Association

### **2013 SOT Annual Meeting Reception for HOT:**

Held on March 11th, 2013 in San Antonio, TX.

Around 80 people were in attendance.

Dr. Lew called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Business Meeting Speakers: Dr. Lew presented the HOT accomplishments for the past year and the HOT Executive Board vision for the next year. SOT members visiting from Sister Organizations were introduced. Sponsors presented travel awards to six trainees (see below). Dr. Olivero was the keynote speaker of the HOT reception, and gave a presentation about her contribution as a 2011 selected researcher by the U.S. State Department to participate on a Scientific Exchange with Brazil, to improve the participation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs; she also included her contribution as selected researcher by the State Department to participate in the Empowering of Women Project lead by the US Embassy in Colombia.

### **HOT Travel Awards:**

For the past eight years, HOT has provided travel awards to Hispanic graduate and post-graduate students working in the field of Toxicology. The purpose of these awards is to support young

scientists of Hispanic origin to present in and attend the annual SOT meeting. The organization places particular emphasis on research related to toxicological issues in Hispanic communities in the USA and Hispanic countries. Fundraising activities by HOT members generated sufficient funds to present 5 travel awards.

The best abstracts are selected from student and postdoctoral submissions by a panel of HOT members. Each year the number of awards depends on the availability of funds and the generosity of the sponsors. This year, 6 trainees were awarded travel funds to attend the annual meeting. The 6 winners of the 2013 HOT Travel Awards were presented at the HOT Reception:

- Pergentino Balbuena, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow at The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences (North Carolina, USA)
- Zeliwaan Rivera Craig, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Illinois (Illinois, USA)
- Brandon Gaytan, Ph.D. Student at University of California, Berkeley (California, USA)
- Federico L. Sinche, Doctoral Student at Oregon State University (Oregon, USA)
- Héctor Rosas Hernandez, Doctoral Student at Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí (San Luis Potosí, México)
- Mariana Flores Torres, Doctoral Student at Imperial College London (London, UK)

#### **2013 HOT Executive Board Breakfast at SOT:**

Held in San Antonio on March 12th, 2013.

Meeting Minutes: Available on ToXchange

#### **2013 SOT Annual Meeting Sessions with HOT Sponsorship:**

HOT Sponsored the following scientific session:

- Introduction to Principles of Product Stewardship: Practical Application Strategies and Tools to Promote Product Safety Along the Value Chain

HOT endorsed the following scientific sessions:

- Border 2020: The United States-Mexico Environmental Program
- Assessment of Environmental, Dietary, and Biological Risk Factors Impacting Liver Cancer Incidence in Texas
- Role of Systems Biology in Characterizing Risk of Developmental Origins of Disease
- Drug Safety Assessment and Regulatory Landscape in Emerging Markets
- Molecular Basis of Age-Related Susceptibility to Chemicals and Environmental Hazards: From Model Systems to Humans
- Plants used for food and feed: Chemical factories that cripple, convulse and dement impoverished populations
- Environmental Factors Disrupting Juvenile and Adolescent Brain Development and Social Behavior

#### **HOT Newsletter:**

The HOT newsletter, *Toxenlaces*, has been published bimonthly since July 2009. It is distributed by email to all HOT members and our sister organizations outside the United States and the Special Annual Meeting issue is printed and distributed during the SOT Annual meeting. *Toxenlaces* usually includes an article on issues of toxicological importance from Ibero-American countries.

Current and past issues are available in the SOT/HOT website at:  
<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot/newsLetter.asp>

## **UPDATES**

- April/May 2013
- February/March 2013
- December 2012/January 2013
- October/November 2012
- August/September 2012
- June/July 2012
- April/May 2012
- February/March 2012
- December 2011/January 2012

## **White Papers:**

None

## **Contributions to SOT Web site:**

The HOT website through the SOT website was expanded for inclusion of our Sister Organizations and links. In reciprocity, HOT Sister Organizations now include HOT and SOT websites and links on their web pages.

## **Other Special Interest Group 2012-2013 Activities:**

HOT members were invited to the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Dr. Pedro del Valle, Dr. Ofelia Olivero and Dr. Elena Hernandez attended representing HOT.

## **HOT Board members (Dr. Betina Lew and Dr. Ofelia Olivero) participated in the Special Interest Group-Collaboration Group (GC).**

## **Participation in the GC Group throughout the year.**

Dr. Ofelia Olivero also contributed with one article about mentoring minorities in the annual newsletter.