

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

ANNUAL REPORT: 2017-2018

May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018

I. OFFICERS/COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

	2017-2018	2018-2019
President	Robert P. Casillas	Silvia Barros
Vice President	Silvia Barros	Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde
Vice President-Elect	Ranulfo Lemus-Olalde	Enrique Fuentes-Mattei
Secretary	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez	Julieta Martino
Treasurer	Nilsa Rivera	Nilsa Rivera
Past President	Elena Hernandez-Ramon	Robert P. Casillas
Councilors	Veronica Ramirez Alcantara	Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez
	Rene Viñas	Aline DeConti
	Mariana Cardenas-Gonzalez	Teresa Palacios-Hernandez
	Aline DeConti	Dania Bacardi Fernandez
PDA Representative	Julieta Martino	Alexandra Colon-Rodriguez
GSLC Representative	Teresa Anguiano	Yanelli Nuñez

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:** Aline DeConti (Chair); José F Delgado (Co-Chair); Silvia Barros, Verónica Ramírez-Alcántara, Teresa Palacios, Robert P. Casillas, and Mariana Cárdenas-González (Volunteers).

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:** Silvia Barros (Chair); Elena Hernández-Ramón (Co-Chair); Robert P. Casillas (Assistant). No changes were made in the current year to the HOT bylaws.

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); Robert P. Casillas (Co-Chair); Federico Sinche (Assistant).

- **Website Subcommittee:** The chair acts as Website Coordinator and interacts with SOT Headquarters staff to maintain the HOT/SOT website information current and useful as a repository of information for future Executive Committees. **Members:** Julieta Martino (Chair); Teresa Anguiano (Co-Chair); Alejandro Ramírez-Lee, John Szilagyi, Pamella Tijerina, and Mariana Cárdenas-González (Volunteers).
- **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:** José F. Delgado (Chair); Alejandro Ramírez Lee, Aline DeConti, Teresa Anguiano, and Julieta Martino (Volunteers). Toxenlaces was regularly published during 2017-2018 period.
- **Social Media Subcommittee:** This subcommittee of the Communication Committee is responsible for the maintenance and updating of social media accounts held by the organization, including Facebook and LinkedIn. **Members:** José F. Delgado (Chair), Pamella Tijerina (Assistant).

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 on 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); Aline DeConti (Co-Chair); Teresa Anguiano, and Federico Sinche (Volunteers).

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:** Ranulfo Lemus Olalde (Chair), René Viñas (Co-Chair).

- **Sponsorship Subcommittee. Members:** Linval DePass (Chair), Robert Casillas (Assistant).

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 to Sister Organizations. **Members:** Elena Hernández-Ramón (Chair); Mariana Cárdenas-González (Co-Chair); Silvia Barros, and Minerva Mercado-Feliciano (Volunteers).

Graduate Student Committee

This committee encourages involvement of Hispanic/Latino graduate students in the HOT and SOT, as well as facilitating 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:** Teresa Anguiano (Chair), Julieta Martino (Co-Chair), Pamella Tijerina (Assistant).

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 of HOT Committee communications. Historically, a Councilor chairs this committee and recruits other talented HOT members for key initiatives. **Members:** Verónica Ramírez-Alcántara (Chair).

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for annual elections. According to the bylaws, 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:** Elena Hernández-Ramón (Chair), Minerva Mercado-Feliciano, Linval DePass, Betina Lew, Leslie Recio, Ofelia Olivero, Pedro Del Valle, Braulio Jiménez, Mari Stavanja.

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:** Julieta Martino (Chair), Teresa Anguiano (Co-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. **Members:** Silvia Barros (Chair); Robert P. Casillas, and Pamella Tijerina (Volunteers). 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:** Robert P. Casillas (Chair), Silvia Barros (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 in regards to HOT issues and activities. Each past president serves in this committee for 5 years. **Members:** Minerva Mercado-Feliciano (Chair), Linval DePass, Betina Lew, Leslie Recio, Ofelia Olivero, Pedro Del Valle, Braulio Jiménez, Mari Stavanja.

II. ACTIVITIES

a) 2018 HOT Annual Meeting Reception

The 2018 HOT Annual Meeting and Reception was held in San Antonio, TX at Pat O'Brien's on March 13th, 2018, with approximately 120 attendees.

- Dr. Silvia Barros called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.
- Dr. Robert Casillas started the meeting thanking our sponsors for this year: Data Science International, Ingenieros Lemus de Mexico, Maria Tort, MRI Global, Silvia Barros and HOTA. After that he addressed the HOTA Achievements for 2017-2018.
- Travel Awards were presented by the Vice President, Dr. Silvia Barros. Dr. Elena Hernandez-Ramon, and Dr. Pedro Del Valle, chairs of the Zika Symposium presented the winners of the HOTA Special Award on Zika Virus Research.
- The HOTA meeting Keynote speaker was Dr. Tomás R. Guilarte, winner of the 2018 HOTA Distinguished Toxicologist Award. Dr. Guilarte could not be present so two members of his laboratory spoke on his behalf.
- The meeting was followed by the reception with food and dancing until 10 pm.

b) 2018 HOTA Annual Meeting Awards

For the 2018 57th SOT Annual Meeting, HOTA awarded one Distinguished Toxicologist Award, two Special Awards on Zika Virus Research and five Travel Awards (one Postdoctoral fellow, four graduate students). Additionally, HOTA won the 2018 ToXchange Profile Picture Contest. The prize consisted of a \$500 award for travel aid to the 2018 SOT Annual Meeting.

Graduate Student Travel Awards

- Andrés Henríquez-Coria, PhD student. *Long acting β 2 adrenergic agonists potentiate ozone-induced lung injury and inflammation*. UNC Chapel Hill/US EPA. Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus Mexico.
- Eva Vitucci, PhD student. *A Cellular Game of Telephone: Trans-Cellular Reprogramming in Responses to Toxic Stimuli*. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill/National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, US EPA. Sponsored by MRI Global and Data Sciences International.
- Teresa Anguiano, PhD student. *Arsenic disrupts muscle stem cell determination through fibroblast mitochondrial maladaptation that directs a dysfunctional extracellular matrix memory*. University of Pittsburgh. Sponsored by Maria Tort and The Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Programs.
- Yazmín Godínez-Solís, PhD student. *Low lead concentrations decrease the sperm function by altering the acrosome reaction in mice*. Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, México. Sponsored by Ingenieros Lemus Mexico.

Postdoctoral Travel Award

- Maria Beatriz Camargo Monteiro Caillaud, PhD. *A High-Throughput Screen Identifies Novel Targets for Kidney Tubular Regeneration*. Harvard Medical School. Sponsored by HOT.

HOT Special Award on Zika Virus Research (both winners also participated as speakers during the platform section Zika Pathophysiology and Potential Intervention)

- Carolina Manganeli-Polonio, PhD student. *Evaluation of the role of interferon-gamma in Zika Virus Infection*. University of Sao Paulo. Sponsored by HOT.
- Maria Isabel Giraldo, PhD. *Zika Virus hijacks the host ubiquitin system for replication*. University of Texas Medical Branch. Sponsored by MRI Global.

HOT Outstanding Award

José F Delgado-Jiménez and Alejandro Ramirez-Lee. For their role as Toxenlaces Editors.

HOT Distinguished Toxicologist Award

Tomás R. Guilarte, Ph.D., ATS Fellow. Dean, Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work; Professor of Environmental Health Sciences; Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience & Imaging (Department of Physics); Director of the Brain, Behavior & Environment FIU Emerging Pre-Eminent Program; Member of the Biomolecular Sciences Institute; Florida International University.

c) 2018 HOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions

HOT Annual Mentoring Activity

This year, the focus for the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists' Annual Mentoring Activity was "Careers in Toxicology." The event was held on Tuesday, March 13th from 12 pm to 1 pm at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center Room 215 located in Downtown San Antonio, Texas. The mentees (36) included undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and other trainee participants. The mentors (14) represented institutions from all over, including the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, International Tungsten Industry Association, the School of Pharmaceutical Science in São Paulo, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The mentees were divided into three tables, each one designated for a different professional sector (academia, industry, and government). Each professional sector was represented by at least three mentors who would address any questions asked by the participants. The event was divided into two 20-minute sessions of Questions and Answers, so

as to give the participants the opportunity to meet with mentors from two different professional sectors.

Light snacks were provided, including mini cookies, biscotti, whole apples, coffee, and hot tea (the Coffee Talk selection from the Take-A-Break menu offered by the Convention Center Catering). The catering order was estimated for 25 individuals at \$12/person. There was no charge for reserving the room but there were additional fees. An application was submitted on behalf of the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists for Mentoring Initiative Matching Funds through the SOT Career Resource and Development (CRAD) Committee. The Committee accepted the proposal and approved HOT for a total of **\$250** in matching funds for the event. The Chair of the event was Teresa Anguiano, HOT Graduate Student Representative for the 2017-2018 term.

Zika Virus Symposia and Platform

For the 2018 SOT Annual Meeting, HOT Members Dr. Pedro del Valle and Dr. Elena Hernández-Ramón organized and chaired the Symposium “Understanding the Molecular Mechanisms of Zika Virus Reproductive and Developmental Toxicity”. A total of 70 attendees were present during this session which had talks from Dr. Ricardo Rajsbaum, Dr. Jean S. Peron, Dr. Rafael Larocca, Dr. Elizabeth Mendez and Dr. Prabagran Esakky. Considering the interest of the Symposium and the number of abstracts on the area, a Platform Session “Zika Pathophysiology and Potential Intervention” was also organized during the SOT annual meeting. The Platform Session, supported by HOT, was chaired by Pedro Del Valle, US FDA, Silver Spring, MD; and Anthony M. Franchini, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. The following speakers: Dr. David Pamies, Dr. Maria Giraldo, Dr. Ruben Soto Acosta, Nagela Ghabdan Zanluqui, Carolina Polonio, Lilian Oliveira, Dr. Claudia Wrzesinski, and Dr. Stefanie Burleson took part of this activity.

d) Endowment Fund Details

The HOT advisory committee started a discussion about the possibility of HOT organizing an endowment fund.

e) Newsletters

By June 1st 2018, 6 *Toxenlaces* have been published. Particular sections include the Trainee Section with 5 contributions, 5 short Scientific Articles by invited HOT members, and 4 HOT Professional Tips by Julieta Martino and José Francisco Delgado Jiménez. *Toxenlaces* reached its 50th issue in March 2018. 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

As part of the webinar series “Updates in Toxicology”, HOT and Clubes de Ciencia México (CdeCMx) hosted the webinar “Characterization of a sulindac derivative in human lung cancer cells and an orthotopic mouse model of lung cancer” presented by HOT Councilor Dr. Verónica Ramírez Alcántara. There were a total of 19 attendees from Mexico, Chile, Cuba, Peru and US. Webinars for 2018-2019 are already being organized.

g) White Papers

None.

h) Contributions to SOT website

The HOT Communications Committee successfully updated the HOT website and increased social media outreach to 1115 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 2017-2018 Activities

SOT supported four HOT representatives to attend the 1st International Symposium of Environmental and Regulatory Toxicology on July 4-6, 2017 in La Habana, Cuba. HOT also held the course “Current Trends in General Toxicology and Food Safety”. (June 15-19, 2017) also in Cuba. A total of 112 new HOT members were recruited from these events SOT supported.

HOT members actively participated at the SOT 2017 Annual Meeting and the 1st International Symposium of Environmental and Regulatory Toxicology (Havana, Cuba)

j) New HOT members

Currently, HOT has 327 members. 202 members are registered as SOT/HOT members. Additionally, HOT has 125 HOT-only members. Our membership is distributed among 13 countries (USA, Colombia, Mexico, Spain, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, UK, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Panama and New Zealand and approximately 45% of our membership is new, many of which are student members. HOT also has new full members.
