Dear HOT Members and Colleagues,

Firstly, I hope all of you had a festive holiday season and a happy New Year.

With the beginning of 2013 we begin to turn our attention to the upcoming SOT Annual Meeting, March 10-14, in San Antonio Texas.

I would like to remind all Hispanic postdoctoral fellows and students that there is still time to apply for Travel Awards (HOT and other Specialty groups); importantly, the deadline for all the SOT Annual meeting late-breaking abstract submissions is January 20, 2013, at 11:59 pm EST. I encourage you to participate in SOT Awards as part of your career development process.

I want to extend an invitation to all to attend the HOT reception, a time to relax, enjoy the company of your HOT colleagues, and network with new colleagues. You will find more information in the next Toxenlaces issue.

Participation of HOT members in all aspects of the SOT annual meetings is important to increase our scientific presence. During the SOT annual meetings, HOT has maintained a tradition of volunteers being present at the SOT Pavilion to assist members of HOT and others; so please, consider volunteering to assist HOT Board Members at this coming annual meeting.

Another way to help HOT is with your participation for fund raising, in fact, a responsibility of all our HOT members. So please also consider a donation to HOT, to continue and maintain our SIG.

We are looking forward to an active and engaged HOT presence at the 52th Annual SOT Meeting!!

Leslie Recio, Ph.D, DABT
HOT President
Building Bridges Through Toxicology
Dear HOT Students, Postdocs and Mentors,

Our organization offers Travel Awards for the annual Society of Toxicology meeting for students and postdocs of Latino/Hispanic origin. The time to apply is between the moment you know your abstract has been approved for presentation at SOT and January 12th 2013, 11:59 PM EST.

The HOT travel award is offered to outstanding young scientists to help with associated cost when attending and presenting their research at the SOT Annual Meeting. Applications are judged by a panel of scientists based on the scientific merits of the SOT-approved abstract (rationale and scope, experimental procedures, results, conclusions and advancement of toxicology) and a letter of recommendation from the mentor. HOT offers up to 4 Travel Awards each year, depending on availability of funds from sponsor donations. The Award consists of $750 and a beautiful plaque for your lab or office space.

IMPORTANT: Before applying, please check with your institution that you will be allowed to accept the award money, as some institutions (especially government) may have specific rules for accepting awards, and may not allow their trainees to receive an award funded by a for-profit company.

HOT will give preference to first-time applicants with quality research and previous winners may apply with the understanding that their probability to obtain a second award may be linked to funding availability after first-time applicant winners have been chosen.

To apply candidates should comply with the following:

- Applicant must be undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate (postdoctoral) fellow.
- Applicant must be SOT and HOT member (or applicant) of Latino/Hispanic origin.
- Applicant must be first author of the abstract submitted to the SOT Annual Meeting.
- Applicant must submit a copy of the complete abstract accepted by SOT and a letter of recommendation from mentor (not to exceed one page).
- Documents must be received by January 12, 2013.

Instructions are also available at [http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot/awards.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot/awards.asp).

Please send your documents via e-mail to the following 2 HOT officers (it is important to send to both people, in case one email gets lost):

**Minerva Mercado-Feliciano**, HOT Awards Committee Chair, [mercadofelicim@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:mercadofelicim@niehs.nih.gov)

**Betina Lew**, HOT Vice President, [lew.bj@pg.com](mailto:lew.bj@pg.com)
The scientific journey of Dr. Vanesa C. Sanchez started on a class assignment. In the late 80’s, when she was in elementary school, her science teacher gave to the students an article from a science magazine to read. “The article was about biotechnology…”, Vanesa says, “…it described how scientists were manipulating genes in order to obtain bigger and easier to grow vegetables as well as bigger rabbits. There was a picture of a 3.2 foot rabbit! It totally blew my mind away”. Of course at that time she didn’t have an idea about what a gene or DNA was, or even how a cell is organized, but she started to read about that. Years later, when she had to choose a career “…I didn’t doubt it, I chose Biotechnology and Molecular and Cell Biology”.

Vanesa got her master’s degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires. Then she started to think about continuing her studies to get a Ph.D. When she decided to pursue a Ph.D., she moved to the US to work as a Research Associate at Rhode Island Hospital, in Providence, RI. After a few years of doing research at the Department of Endocrinology, when her English got better and she felt secure enough to continue with her scientific journey, she started her Ph.D. studies at the Brown University in the Graduate Program of Pathobiology. She did her Ph.D. in Nanotoxicology in the laboratory of Dr. Agnes B. Kane, Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine of Brown University; her co-mentor was Dr. Robert H. Hurt, Professor at the School of Engineering and Director of the Institute for Molecular and Nanoscale Innovation of the same university.

Her Ph.D. project was about developing a 3-dimensional in vitro model of epithelioid granulomas induced by high aspect ratio nanomaterials. Vanesa explains that carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are a commercial success of nanotechnology with potential applications for biomedical devices, imaging, drug delivery, tumor targeting, electronics, composite materials and sensing applications. However, the success of the CNTs is threatened by potential environmental and human health adverse effects of those engineered nanomaterials. With her project she was providing a platform for high-throughput screening to evaluate the potential of engineered nanomaterials to induce granulomas following inhalation, since a pathological reaction of intratracheal instillation, pharyngeal aspiration, or inhalation of CNTs is formation of epithelioid granulomas accompanied by interstitial fibrosis in the lungs. During her Ph.D. training, due to the collaboration with Dr. Hurt's group, Vanesa had the opportunity to closely work with engineering and chemistry students, “…it was one of the most valuable scientific experiences that I ever had. Although it was not easy at the beginning, because we spoke in a different scientific language and think in a very different way, I really understood why it is so important to work in an interdisciplinary environment. It gave me a different perspective about science and helped me to integrate my project from the perspective of a single molecule to complex physiological processes”.

After a successful project, Vanesa got her Ph.D. degree. Later, she got a postdoctoral position at the Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Biology at the Cancer Center Research, National Cancer Institute, of the National Institutes of Health. In the laboratory of Dr. Alan Krensky and Dr. Carol Clayberger, Vanesa studied the mechanisms of synthesis, processing and release of granulysin (GNLY). This is a cytolytic protein expressed in human T cells and Natural Killer (NK) cells after 3-5 days post activation. GNLY has multiple forms (18 kD, 15 kD, and 9 kD) with different functions as well as several potential post-translational modifications. It presents cytolytic activity against tumors and pathogens, and it is a chemoattractant for other inflammatory cells. Working in the immunology field was something new for Vanesa, but she took the challenge, “…the idea to work in immunology, and particularly in the GNLY project, was to unify what I learned when studying neuroendocrinology with what I learned about toxicity and inflammation during my Ph.D. training”. Moreover, Vanesa thought that adding more areas of knowledge will help her to open the horizon of choices for her next career step.

In a future, not so far away, Vanesa would like to work in regulatory sciences and/or policy. “I think that it will be a good place where I can use all the tools that I learned over the years and integrate them into a solid field. I would like to learn to see sciences from a different perspective and contribute to the field from there”. After her postdoctoral training, Vanesa is planning to apply for the NCI-FDA Research and Regulatory Review Fellowships. “In the meantime, I am working on my teaching and mentoring skills because I enjoy teaching as well as taking courses in policy and technology transfer”. 
Section
From our members
GSTF: International Research Collaboration

As president of the SOT Mechanisms Specialty Section, Dr. José Manautou was part of the Global Strategy Task Force (GSTF) focused on increasing SOT’s worldwide presence, specifically targeting toxicologists in Spanish-speaking countries. Dr. Manautou’s five-member committee ultimately identified the Argentinean Society of Toxicology (ATA) as the association that best synched with the mission set forth by SOT leadership.

At the 2010 ATA Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires, each member of the SOT GSTF presented their research and was given a chance to network with ATA members to discuss the benefits of SOT membership, as well as share research ideas. During this visit, Dr. Manautou met with Dr. Aldo Mottino and Dr. Carolina Ghanem to discuss collaborative research opportunities. “I was familiar with Dr. Mottino and Dr. Ghanem’s research, but had never met either personally,” says Dr. Manautou. “We shared our research approaches; after our meeting we decided to try and get Dr. Ghanem to come to work in my laboratory”.

With Dr. Manautou’s endorsement, Dr. Ghanem successfully applied for and was granted with a scholarship for researchers by the Argentinian government. This grant was funded by the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET is the National Research Council of Argentina). These CONICET scholarships are geared toward expanding the education of the young researcher and are also aimed at generating collaborative research between international scholars and their international peers. Dr. Ghanem’s award funded six months of research (completed in May 2012) at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Connecticut to work in Dr. Manautou’s laboratory.

Dr. Ghanem’s stay not only represented Dr. Manautou’s first time hosting a visiting scholar, but was the first time he worked closely with the intestinal tract, a complementary area to his primary focus, the liver. Dr. Ghanem’s research focuses on the intestinal tract, specifically intestinal regulation of ABC transporters in response to acetaminophen toxicity. Dr. Ghanem’s work applies techniques used in Dr. Manautou’s laboratory working with the liver towards working with the intestine. The primary goal of this collaboration was to see if liver and intestinal changes, in response to acetaminophen, can be mapped onto transport proteins.

“Aside from my primary work with the liver I’ve worked with the kidneys, but have done very little work analyzing gene expression of intestinal proteins,” says Dr. Manautou. Dr. Manautou’s own research focuses primarily on liver function, and in working with Dr. Ghanem, he hopes to learn more about different approaches that are taken in examining other organs within the gastrointestinal system.

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HOT Sister Organizations

AETOX – http://www.aetox.com
Asociación Toxicológica Argentina – http://www.ataonline.org.ar
Center of Environmental and Toxicological Research – University of Puerto Rico – http://cetr.rcm.upr.edu
Ritsq - http://www.ritsq.org
Sociedade Brasileira de Toxicologia – http://www.sbtox.org.br/
Sociedad Cubana de Toxicología
Society for Risk Analysis Latin America – http://www.srala.org/
Toxicología Acuática Ambiental, Medicina Veterinaria-Universidad Nacional de Colombia http://www.docentes.unal.edu.co/fgonzalezma
Università di Cartagena – http://reactivos.com
Announcements

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) is once again requesting your help in identifying truly outstanding new postdoctoral fellows for consideration to positions in the NIGMS Intramural Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRAT) Program (see: http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/PRAT.htm).

This highly competitive postdoctoral fellowship program provides up to three years of support for exceptional postdoctoral trainees working in the laboratories of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Program is intended for outstanding individuals with strong leadership potential. The overall theme of the postdoctoral research project proposed by a candidate to the PRAT Program may explore a variety of subject areas (molecular pharmacology, biochemistry, signal transduction mechanisms, drug metabolism, immunology, chemistry and drug design, endocrinology, cell biology, structural biology, neuroscience, gene therapy or clinical pharmacology) however, the PRAT program places special emphasis on training fellows in relevant emerging research areas as defined by NIGMS. For the next 3 years (2013-2015), these areas are quantitative and systems pharmacology (QSP) and computational biology. The focus of the research conducted during the PRAT fellowship period should therefore fall within the definition of quantitative and systems pharmacology and/or computational biology.

Applicants must have received a Ph.D. or a professional degree (M.D., D.D.S, D.O., D.V.M., or Pharm.D.) in a basic or clinical science within the last five years, and they must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. Applicants may apply prior to coming to NIH or FDA, or they may have started postdoctoral research at NIH or FDA within the 12-month period prior to the application receipt deadline.

If you have outstanding postdoctoral fellows with leadership potential, who you feel would be a good fit for this program, we ask that you please encourage them to apply.

Applications are available on line https://prat.nigms.nih.gov/. Receipt deadline is February 27, 2013.

For more information contact Dr. Marino marinop@nigms.nih.gov or Dr. Okita okitar@nigms.nih.gov, PRAT Program Co-Directors

Dear Members of HOT:

The overall goal of HOT is to develop, propose, and conduct programs and educational activities that promote career development opportunities for toxicologists; act as a resource to SOT in the area of toxicology as it relates to the specific interest of each group; and to promote and recognize the accomplishments of toxicologists from within each group. Every year HOT supports a number of scientific and social activities to meet this goal including: supporting scientific and career-oriented symposia, supporting the annual reception and other networking opportunities, and very importantly, support travel awards to students and postdoctoral fellows to support their participation in the SOT Annual Meeting. The HOT Board is tasked to ensure this mix of scientific and career support is carried out throughout the year.

Although we are very fortunate to have several companies sponsoring our students and postdoctoral fellows with travel awards and some support for our reception, the main financial resource for our annual reception and the other activities of our organization come from members like you. Each year, in addition to the already generous payment of the membership, we request support from the HOT community to support these activities. Fundraising for HOT is an activity requested of all members of HOT to maintain a strong organization in support of Hispanic toxicologist but also builds a sense of community that will maintain HOT over the years. Typical support is in the range of $50 - $250*. As president of HOT and representing all the members of the HOT Board and the HOT community, we very much appreciate your support.

Thank you in advance for supporting HOT and hope you have a safe and festive Holiday Season.

Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!! Feliz Natal e Próspero Ano Novo!!

Leslie Recio, Ph.D., DABT
HOT President

*, HOT contributions are compliant with Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.
HOT wants you be part of our organization! To make it available to everyone, HOT started to accept applications from non-SOT members to become HOT members. Yes, that is right!! Now you only have to have the desire to collaborate with and be part of our great organization.

Being a HOT member provides valuable resources throughout your scientific career with networking through the largest Hispanic toxicologist community, opportunity for Travel Awards or serving as a mentor to the young Hispanic toxicologists; besides you receive Toxenlaces newsletters every two months.

Application and more information can be found at Non-SOT Member Application.

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

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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 and SOT members, and Sister Organizations. You can collaborate with short scientific articles, news or notes related with toxicology. Other ways to collaborate is by nominate your peers or yourself for the sections Featured Trainee and When I Grow Up. For more information about collaborating with Toxenlaces send an email to Veronica Ramirez (Toxenlaces Editor) at vramirez@usouthal.edu for more information.

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### Upcoming Events 2013

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1-Feb 27</td>
<td>Several deadlines to apply for SOT awards for RC, SIG and SS, some are (for complete list visit SOT Awards and Fellowships webpage, Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award, SS Battelle Student Research Award, SS Student Travel Award, RC South Central Postdoctoral Achievement Award, RC Northern California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Deadline for the Hispanic Travel Award <a href="http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot/awards.asp">http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot/awards.asp</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Deadline for Early Bird Registration to attend the 52nd SOT Annual Meeting <a href="http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2013/index.asp">http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2013/index.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Deadline for Housing Registration to attend the 52nd SOT Annual Meeting <a href="http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2013/housing.asp">http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2013/housing.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 31-Feb 1</td>
<td>Immunogenicity and Immunotoxicity Conference, at California. US <a href="http://www.gtcbio.com/component/conference/?file=home&amp;cn=Immunogenicity+%26+Immunotoxicity=&amp;cid=109">www.gtcbio.com/component/conference/?file=home&amp;cn=Immunogenicity+%26+Immunotoxicity=&amp;cid=109</a></td>
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2013 HOT-SOT Annual Meeting Sponsors

The Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists (HOT) is a Special Interest Group (SIG) within the Society of Toxicology integrated by professionals of Hispanic origin with expertise in scientific areas associated with Toxicology. HOT membership is diverse representing industrial, academic, governmental, and commercial organizations from the USA and Ibero-American countries. It serves as a focal point for interaction, fellowship, networking, and professional development among Hispanic Toxicologists in the United States and the international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking scientific communities with emphasis on outreach to the Hispanic population and it operates in compliance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please visit our web site at http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot.

Corporate sponsorship will help HOT bring together Hispanic Toxicologists in the United States and international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Toxicologists attending the 2013 SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, March 10-14th for interaction, networking, mentoring, and expanding the SOT outreach efforts in global toxicology. Your organization’s sponsorship will help sustain HOT’s effort to promote scientific excellence in toxicology. HOT offers Travel Awards to support Students and Postdocs in the United States and other countries to offset the cost for presenting their research at the SOT Annual Meeting. HOT activities also include the evening reception and dinner sponsorship and bimonthly publication of our newsletter Toxenlaces. Your sponsorship also helps increase your organization visibility to SOT and HOT members, annual meeting attendees, and the international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking scientific communities, and provides opportunities for recruiting young scientist and experienced toxicologists to your company.

There are four levels of sponsorship available, as follows:

HOT Distinction Level 1: Evening Reception Sponsorship, $1,700 or more
  • Prize drawing box in your booth for a HOT drawing – two prizes awarded. Attendees will drop their business cards at your booth.
  • Special front-page sponsorship acknowledgement in the February-March 2013 HOT Newsletter, Toxenlaces, copies available at the Annual Meeting HOT stand.
  • Acknowledgment of your sponsorship and participation in the HOT Reception Night in a special report about the event in the April-May 2013 Toxenlaces, including pictures.
  • Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the HOT Web site and Toxenlaces Newsletter (June 2012 through May 2013).
  • Five invitations to the HOT Reception Night.

HOT Distinction Level 2: Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Lecture & Luncheon Sponsorship, $1,200
  • Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the February-March 2013 HOT Newsletter, Toxenlaces, copies available at the Annual Meeting HOT stand.
  • Acknowledgment of your sponsorship and participation in the HOT Reception Night in a special report about the event in the April-May 2013 Toxenlaces, including pictures.
  • Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the HOT Web site and Toxenlaces Newsletter (June 2012 through May 2013).
  • Four invitations to the HOT Reception Night.

HOT Distinction Level 3: Student & Postdoctoral Travel Awards Sponsorship, $800
  • Recognition in the February-March 2013 HOT Newsletter, Toxenlaces, copies available at the Annual Meeting HOT stand.
  • Acknowledgment of your sponsorship and participation in the HOT Reception Night in a special report about the event in the April-May 2013 Toxenlaces, including pictures.
  • Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the HOT Web site and Toxenlaces Newsletter (June 2012 through May 2013).
  • Three invitations to the HOT Reception Night.

HOT Distinction Level 4: Toxenlaces Publicity Sponsor Benefits ($500)
  • Recognition in the HOT Web site and Toxenlaces Newsletter (June 2012 through May 2013).
  • Two invitations to the HOT Reception Night.

2013 HOT-SOT Annual Meeting Sponsorship Opportunities

HOT Distinction Level 1: HOT Evening Reception Sponsorship Benefits ($1,700 or more)
  • Prize drawing box in your booth for a HOT drawing – two prizes awarded. Attendees will drop their business cards at your booth.
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HOT Distinction Level 2: Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Lecture or Luncheon & Learn Sponsorship Benefits ($1,200)
  • Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the February-March 2013 HOT Newsletter, Toxenlaces, copies available at the Annual Meeting HOT stand.
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HOT Distinction Level 3: Student & Postdoctoral Travel Awards Benefits ($800)
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