Greetings CVSS members!

This is going to be a great year for all of us as we begin to hold hands together with TEPSS forming CTPVSS. Your CVSS officers have been busy working towards the 2020 SOT Annual Meeting to be held at Anaheim, California. Inside this newsletter, you will read about highlights to watch out for in Anaheim from the CVSS; mentoring activities; member highlights and SOT domestic ToxScholar Program and more! We have great line up of events at the upcoming SOT annual meeting, Anaheim with member luncheon and CVSS sponsored symposium. This short Newsletter highlights those events. Importantly, we’d like to remind you to start thinking about your proposal for 2021 annual meeting to be held at Orlando, Florida for considerations and endorsement by CVSS.

Please feel free to connect with any of the officers regarding questions you may have, new ideas or directions for the new CTPVSS, or to volunteer your time to support our specialty section and allow us to be as productive as possible. We look forward to seeing many of you in Anaheim, particularly at our luncheon reception on Monday March 16th! This will be a great opportunity for you all to meet the upcoming officers for combined specialty section CTPVSS!

Sabitha Papineni, DVM, PhD
President, CVSS 2019-2020

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CVSS and TEPSS Merger: Updates

CTPVSS Effective May 1, 2020!

CVSS and TEPSS leadership have been working hard to ensure a smooth transition this summer to our new Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section. The proposal is based on the premise that the membership of the two specialty sections is drawn from toxicologists with a common background in veterinary training, with an interest in comparative toxicology and toxicologic exploratory pathology. The two groups share the Roger O. McClellan award, plan their luncheons for the same time at the annual SOT meeting, and share a number of common goals. Merging the two specialty sections will better serve the needs of this select membership.

Goals: To recognize the common scientific and professional interests of members of CVSS and TEPSS, while increasing membership with a new, combined specialty section so that we may better utilize resources available through SOT. It is anticipated that membership of the CTPVSS will be approximately 200, ensuring greater strategic, programmatic and financial stability for the collective group of SOT members.

Highlighted Changes

- As approved by SOT Council, our new merged Specialty Section (Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section (CTPVSS)) will be officially operating as of May 1, 2020.
- A budget plan has been agreed on for the 2020 Annual meeting.
- To carry out elections and to ensure that there is a smooth transition, the leadership of both TEPSS and CVSS developed and implemented the following plan for officer elections this year:

  **President:** Current Vice Presidents from both specialty sections were put on the ballot for the President role for the coming year. This position was not open to new candidates.

  **Vice President:** Current VP elects from both specialty sections were put on the ballot for the Vice President role for the coming year. This position was not open to new candidates.
Vice President-Elect: Whichever VP elect does not win could become the VP elect of the new merged section, but this position was also open for nominations from the membership of both specialty sections.

Past President: (Was not open, both current Presidents will fulfill this role).

Secretary/Treasurer: This position was open for nominations from the membership of both specialty sections.

Councilor: We kept all councilors from both specialty sections going forward and let the new leadership decide if that number should be reduced going forward. This position was open for nominations from the membership of both specialty sections as well.

Post Doc: This position was open for nominations from the membership of both specialty sections.

Grad Student: This position was open for nominations from the membership of both specialty sections.

Congratulations 2020-2021 CTPVss Officers!

President: Bhanu Singh, BVSc, MS, DACVP, DABT, Fellow IATP

Vice President: Vanessa Schumacher, DVM, MS, DACVP, DABT

Vice President-Elect: Satya Achanta, DVM, PhD, DABT

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Magee, BA

Councilors: Katherine Horzmann, DVM, PhD, MPH, DACVP; Vinicius Carreira, DVM, PhD, DACVP, DABT; and Nisha A.R., BVSc, PhD

Postdoctoral Rep: Caroline Moore, DVM, PhD

Graduate Student Rep: Jaclynn Andres, PhD Student

Past Presidents: Sabitha Papineni, DVM, PhD; Heath Thomas, DVM, DACVP
If you haven’t already, renew your SOT membership! During the SOT membership renewal process for 2020 you will be able to select the combined CTPVss membership.
CVSS Mentoring Program and Opportunities

WE NEED YOU!!

Our CVSS mentoring program has been extremely well received in the past due to the time and effort our mentors give during the SOT annual meeting to actually sit down and talk with our mentees. To make this year a success you need your help again!

This event will be about 2 hours long and our mentees will have a chance to talk to each mentor to gain as many different perspectives on a career in veterinary toxicology as possible, while having a safe space to ask challenging questions about this invigorating yet complicated field of research.

Please contact Brittany Szafran (bns267@msstate.edu) and Satya Achanta (vetsatyam@mail.com) to sign up to be a mentor at this year’s SOT mentoring event. Please also share this event with any early career professional you work with who is interested in comparative veterinary toxicology and pathology!

Event Title: Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section Mentoring Event

Location: Anaheim Marriott

Room Name: Orange County 1

Event Date: 3/16/2020

Start Time: 4:30 PM-6:00 PM

Light refreshments will be provided!!
SOT Domestic ToxScholar Program

While not specifically a CVSS mentoring-related activity, I would like to take this opportunity to share how SOT members can share their experiences and knowledge with potential future generations of toxicologists. The Society of Toxicology offers funding in the form of the Domestic ToxScholar Outreach Grant to support presentations about toxicology to audiences composed of primarily undergraduates. The purpose of this program is to promote awareness of toxicology among groups of students who may not otherwise be given the opportunity to learn about our field. Applications for the program are reviewed by the Faculty United for Toxicology Undergraduate Recruitment and Education (FUTURE) Committee and are accepted on a rolling basis until funds for the year are depleted. As part of the program, the funding recipient will give a presentation on toxicology as a field and career, meet with a faculty member at the visiting institution, submit a report to SOT, and write a blog post for the Communique detailing the ToxScholar visit.

Over the last few years, I had the opportunity to make my own visits as a graduate student. I gave a full seminar at the Mississippi University for Women in 2018 and co-presented the seminar in 2019 with another graduate student. In April 2020, I will be visiting once again to present this rewarding seminar. These visits began after my advisor hosted a summer research student from their school. She got in touch with this student’s mentor and asked if we could introduce students in their department to toxicology. We’ve visited annually to give seminars on toxicology since 2017. During my visits, I introduced a group of chemistry and biology upperclassmen to toxicology, my research, and potential career options in toxicology. After the seminar, I had a chance to talk to the students and answer questions in small round-table discussions over pizza. I think it’s very important for members of CVSS, especially those with combined degrees, to reach out to undergraduate audiences. From my interactions with undergraduate students, I’ve learned that many students are trying to choose between a medical degree and a career in research. Some are not aware that dual-degree programs are an option. For example, this past year, a student applying for veterinary school in the upcoming application cycle told me that he was now considering the dual-degree program after learning these programs exist. I have even been able to assist students interested in other fields by providing contacts to previous professors who taught in their area of interest. In my first seminar, one student approached me after the talk to let me know that my background had inspired her to keep moving towards her goals. Unfortunately, we have not been able to track if any of these students decided to pursue toxicology as a career; however, I know by offering up our experiences and advice, we can help provide knowledge that may guide decisions regarding their futures.

While I have only had experiences with the Domestic ToxScholar program, there are also opportunities for funding to those who would like to expand awareness of toxicology in developing nations through the International ToxScholar Outreach Grants.

To read the blog entry from my most recent ToxScholar visit, you can visit this link: https://toxchange.toxicology.org/p/bl/et/blogaid=3065
You can read more about the ToxScholar program here: https://www.toxicology.org/awards/gf/toxscholar.asp

-Brittany Szafran, DVM
CVSS Member Highlights

We asked what you were proud of in 2019 and here are your responses!

From: Satya Achanta, DVM, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at Duke University School of Medicine.

- Dr. Achanta received a three year $2.3M grant to develop medical countermeasures against chlorine gas-induced pulmonary injuries from NIH CounterACT program as co-principal investigator.
- Dr. Achanta became Diplomate of American Board of Toxicology (DABT) in 2019.

Thank you, Satya, our CVSS Vice President-Elect!

From: Dennis J. Meyer, DVM, DACVIM (Internal Medicine), DACVP (Clinical Pathology), ToxClinPathInsight, Toxicologic Clinical Pathologist Consultant


Thank you, Dennis!

From: Caroline E. Moore, DVM, PhD, Steel Endowed Pathology Fellow, Disease Investigations, Institute for Conservation Research, San Diego Zoo Global

- Dr. Moore was appointed co-chair of the American College of Toxicology Early Career Professional Committee.
- Dr. Moore transitioned into a new position at the San Diego Zoo Global and is the first veterinary toxicologist in the Disease Investigations laboratory.

Thank you, Caroline, our CVSS Post-doctoral Representative!
Congratulations to Drs. Ronald E. Baynes, DVM, PhD and Jacqueline Kinyamu-Akunda, DVM, PhD our very own CVSS members on being elected as Members of the Membership Committee of the SOT at large.

**Ronald E. Baynes, DVM, PhD.** Dr. Baynes is a Professor of pharmacology with the North Carolina State University (NCSU) College of Veterinary Medicine. His research at NCSU has been supported by several National Institutes of Health, US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Defense, and industrial grants. He has generated more than 130 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters pertaining to his teaching, extension, and research activities. Dr. Baynes joined SOT in 1999 and previously served as Councilor for the Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section.

**Jacqueline Kinyamu-Akunda, DVM, PhD.** Dr. Kinyamu-Akunda is a Sr. Scientific Director of non-clinical safety at The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson and also is an adjunct faculty in the Joint Graduate Program in Toxicology at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, where she teaches nonclinical safety in drug development and co-directs a course in advanced topics in toxicology focusing on pharmaceutical safety assessment. Since joining SOT in 2005, Dr. Kinyamu-Akunda has served in various leadership positions for the Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section including the president.
Become involved with CVSS

Please Consider Supporting SOT CVSS Endowment Funds
Our joint CVSS/TEPSS endowment fund, the Roger O. McClellan Student Award Fund, enables the CVSS to provide an award for outstanding DVM/PhD Students. Your contribution will enable CVSS to recognize an outstanding individual for her/his accomplishment in the Veterinary Toxicology field. To review the fund and donate, kindly visit CVSS.

"I was very surprised and pleased as the recipient of this prestigious award. This award is a great opportunity to continue the research and will help to pursue my passion in the veterinary toxicology field. I am very thankful to CVSS for such encouragement and it truly created a motivational impact in my research career. I am also very thankful to Dr. Roger O. McClellan for showing his generosity to support the graduate students by establishing this award. My current research work focuses on developing a diagnostic biomarker for manganese neurotoxicity and to other neurodegenerative conditions like Parkinson's and prion diseases. In the current study, I identified exosome-based biomarkers such as aggregated alpha-synuclein and some small RNA changes as potential biomarker value for manganese neurotoxicity. We developed a Real-Time quaking-induced conversion assay to detect the aggregated alpha-synuclein protein in a group of welder's populations using the serum exosomes." – Sireesha Manne, DVM, PhD Candidate, Iowa State University. 2019 Roger O. McClellan Award Recipient.

Reminder: Update your SOT ToxChange Profile: Now is the time to update your SOT profile on ToXchange! This membership directory serves you and others in many ways including for potential employers to search for their candidates, networking with current and future members and for SOT members to reach out to potential mentors. Update your profile and help others!

Many Ways to Get Involved with CVSS

- Volunteer to serve on a CVSS committee
- Nominate yourself for an officer position
- Serve as a CVSS Mentor
- Attend Annual CVSS Luncheon

Click here to join the SOT Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section!

Click here to contact us and receive more information about a career in toxicology & Comparative and Veterinary Specialty!
Mark your Calendars for 2020 SOT Annual Meeting

Conference Dates: March 15-19th, 2020

SOT CTPVSS sponsored events!

Monday, March 16th, 2020 11:30-1:00pm CC Room 201B
Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section Roger O. McClellan Student Endowment Award and Luncheon

Monday, March 16th, 2020 4:30-6:00pm Anaheim Marriott Orange County 1
Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section Mentoring Event

Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 11-12:30pm CC Room 303C

Newsletter Committee:
Caroline Moore
Brittany Szafran
Satya Achanta