Food Safety Specialty Section (FS³)

Newsletter Fall 2017

President’s Message

Dear SOT-FSSS members,

One behalf of the 2017-18 FSSS leadership, please accept our sincere gratitude for the sustained support from our renewed members and the warmest welcome to our new members! There are 231 FSSS members this year!

Considering the size of our Specialty Section, we have been very successful in submitting and endorsing scientific sessions at the annual meetings. In the 2017 SOT Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the symposium and workshop we endorsed (probiotics and botanic dietary supplements) were both well attended. Earlier this year, we completed reviewing scientific proposals for the 2018 SOT Annual Meeting. Please stay tuned for our spring newsletter with a list of food safety-related sessions in San Antonio!

Despite the winter storm in Baltimore, we had a great turn out at the annual meeting reception, where lots of successful networking happened. At the reception we also announced the results of the new officer ballot and presented our prestigious awards, the Burdock Student Award and the Frank Lu Student Endowment Award to our winners. As a former student and postdoctoral member, I appreciate how much our society has done to encourage this important career path and to foster the growth of future colleagues. We are seeking ways to add one more award to outstanding student or postdoctoral researchers who work on toxicological projects related to improve food safety.

I am fortunate to work with a strong and experienced leadership team this year. I’d like to welcome Drs. Mansi Krishan (Vice President-Elect), Cody Wilson (Councilor), Michael Bolger (Councilor), Gopi Gadupudi (Postdoctoral Representative), and Mr. Suresh Nagumalli (Graduate Student Representative) to the 2017-18 Executive Committee. Our Past President, Dr. Laurie Dolan, has been extremely resourceful. I’d also like to thank Drs. Karin Ke, Lisa Navarro, René Viñas, and Pam Marone for continuing with their responsibilities. Working together as a team, our aim is to make our specialty section a strong scientific community and better able to serve your needs.

If you have any thoughts and suggestions to help improve our organization, or would like to share your scientific and career achievements, please feel free to contact any of the officers or directly email to sotfoodsafety@gmail.com.

Sincerely yours,

Yu (Janet) Zang, PhD, DABT
Mansi Krishan, PhD (Vice President-Elect)

Dr. Krishan is a Senior Science Program Manager at ILSI North America, where she provides scientific and strategic leadership to the research committees on Food and Chemical Safety and Food Packaging. Her work on “Toxicology and Risk Assessment of Chemical Mixtures” was recognized at EUROTOX 2014 and she was also selected as one of the 115 global experts to participate in the “European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Scientific Colloquium N°21: Harmonization of human and ecological risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals” held in 2014. Her work on mixtures along with her expertise in toxicology, risk assessment and food safety were instrumental in the formation of two new research committees on mixtures and food packaging, at ILSI North America, comprising of experts from government, academia, and industry. Dr. Krishan received her doctoral degree in toxicology from University of Cincinnati in 2013. The focus of her doctoral research was to enhance intranasal delivery of nucleoside drugs to the central nervous system. She has authored/co-authored 12 peer-reviewed publications, a book chapter, and is co-editing a book on heavy metals in foods. Dr. Krishan has received multiple awards for her scientific contributions at prestigious toxicology conferences including 5 SOT awards, EUROTOX Fellowships, Arthur Furst Award at American College of Toxicology, and the highly competitive editorial assistantship for the International Journal of Toxicology. She has also been invited by reputed toxicology journals to peer review manuscripts, and has chaired/co-chaired scientific sessions at toxicology and food safety conferences.

Dr. Krishan has been an active member of SOT since 2011. During her term as the Councilor of the SOT Food Safety Specialty Section (FSSS) from 2014-2016, she served as the Chair of the FSSS Awards Committee. Dr. Krishan has been instrumental in highlighting the impact of toxicology in food safety and increasing the visibility of the emerging FSSS within SOT. She developed the first webinar supported by the FSSS which led to a webinar series within FSSS, and also developed successful scientific session on food safety which serve as a valuable educational resource to communicate the relevance of food safety and toxicology research to the scientific community. Dr. Krishan is also a member of other specialty sections within SOT i.e. Mixtures; Regulatory and Safety Evaluation; Risk Assessment; In Vitro and Alternative Methods; and Women in Toxicology. Dr. Krishan has membership in the ACT, EUROTOX, Society for Risk Analysis, and Toxicology Forum.
Welcome, New Officers-continued

Cody Wilson, PhD, DABT, ERT (Councilor)
Dr. Cody Wilson currently serves as Senior Director, Food Safety Center of Excellence within Global Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at The Coca-Cola Company. The Food Safety COE focuses on stewardship and advocacy for ingredients, food contact materials, and crop protection technologies. Cody joined The Coca-Cola Company in April 2014 from SC Johnson and Son, Inc., where he most recently served as Director, Regulatory Affairs for Asia-Pacific based in Shanghai, China. Prior to joining SC Johnson in 2010, Cody led the Methods of Toxicological Assessment group with RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Before joining RJ Reynolds in 2006, Cody was Coordinator for External Affairs of the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense, a US Department of Homeland Security University Center of Excellence. Prior to that, he served as a US Navy officer and toxicologist in a range of research and operational assignments, including service in Iraq, from 1998 until 2004.

His recent external leadership and committee service includes roles in The Toxicology Forum, International Society for Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, Society of Toxicology, the American Board of Toxicology, the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and the Boy Scouts of America. He has held adjunct academic appointments at the Texas A&M University Health Sciences Center, Duke University Integrated Toxicology Program, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Dr. Wilson has been a Full Member of the Society of Toxicology since 1999, with previous service on the Task Force on Chemical and Biological Terrorism Preparedness.

Cody earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry (1993) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Toxicology (1997) from Texas A&M University in College Station and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and a European Registered Toxicologist. Cody has authored/coauthored nearly 80 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, government technical reports, and conference proceedings.

P. Michael Bolger, PhD, DABT (Councilor)
Dr. Bolger received his bachelor’s degree in biology in 1971 from Villanova University and his doctoral degree in physiology and biophysics in 1976 from Georgetown University. After a three year postdoctoral position at the Georgetown University Medical Center, Dr. Bolger became a staff fellow in toxicology with the Bureau of Foods in the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA). Upon completion of his staff fellowship, he accepted a position as a toxicologist with the Contaminants Branch, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, US Food and Drug Administration. Since 1980 Dr. Bolger has been involved in the hazard/safety/risk assessment of anthropogenic and naturally derived contaminants in food. Dr. Bolger is a board-certified toxicologist by the American Board of Toxicology. Dr. Bolger is the recipient of the 2009 Arnold J. Lehman Award conferred by the Society of Toxicology and the 2010 Outstanding Risk Practitioner Award conferred by the Society of Risk Analysis. Until 2012 Dr. Bolger was director of the Chemical Hazards Assessment Staff in the Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, US Food and Drug Administration which was responsible for the hazard/safety/risk assessment of food borne contaminants, and for reporting US FDA monitoring efforts on food-borne environmental contaminants and the conduct of exposure assessments. Presently Dr. Bolger is a Senior Managing Scientist at the Center for Chemical Regulation and Food Safety, Exponent in Washington DC. Dr. Bolger is also currently serving as a food safety expert of the World Health Organization and is a member of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group of the World Health Organization.
Dear Friends,

This fiscal year (June 2017) has closed with an asset balance of $16,777, and an increase in revenue over 2016 of $1,951. While we did see a decrease in section membership dues, declining from $4365 to $3660 year over year we had an increase in membership attendance at the 2017 Annual Meeting resulting in an increase in our Society attendance bonus by $205. In addition, measures to streamline spending associated with the annual mixer also helped to defer expenses, reducing our social event costs by $2,193 from 2015. We also held our Executive Committee meeting at a local restaurant to save money, with a net savings of $74. Combined efforts to reduce spending while maintaining an active Specialty Section continue.

Thanks!

Lisa

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At IFT17 (Institute of Food Technologists 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo), SOT-FSSS members George Pugh, Ashley Roberts, and Janet Zang contributed to a session entitled “Food Additive Safety: Using Chemical-Specific Adjustment Factors (CSAFs) when Estimating Acceptable Daily Intakes (ADIs)”. The Session was opened by Dr. Glenn Sipes with the general concepts and methodology in establishing ADIs, followed by a talk on practical implications of developing studies, especially PBPK studies, from Dr. Odete Mendes. After a case study (Steviol Glycosides) presented by Dr. Ashley Roberts, Dr. Janet Zang addressed the sources of uncertainties in food additive safety assessments and summarized the current regulatory practices and recommendations. The session was moderated by Dr. George Pugh.

(Left to right: Drs. Ashley Roberts, George Pugh, Yu (Janet) Zang, I. Glenn Sipes, and Odete Mendes)
Highlights from SOT 2017 Annual Meeting

Blake Rushing (East Carolina University) receiving Frank C. Lu Endowment Award from FSSS President Dr. Laurie Dolan

Suresh Nagumalli (University of Louisiana at Monroe) receiving FSSS Burdock Award from FSSS President Dr. Laurie Dolan

Dr. Laurie Dolan receiving service award from FSSS Past President Dr. Brent R. Kobielush
**Food Safety Specialty Section Awards:**

**Food Safety SS Burdock Group Travel Awards**

**Candidates:** Full-time graduate students attending the Annual Meeting with research interests in the toxicology of food and food ingredients; students early in their graduate training who have not attended an SOT Meeting are particularly encouraged to apply.

**Requirements:** Letter of request indicating: Student is enrolled in good standing in a masters or doctoral training program (and not possessing another doctoral level degree); How student’s research and training relate to food safety/toxicology (1/2 page or less); Any other travel award received for this meeting or previous meetings; Whether student and major advisor are currently members of Food Safety Specialty Section; Agreement that student will become a member of Food Safety Specialty Section if not already a member; Signatures of student and major academic advisor.

**Winner receives:** Up to $600 per student to cover meeting expenses not met by other funding or travel awards. The winner will also receive a recognition plaque commemorating the event. There may be up to three winners per year, with the cash award for each winner limited to $500.

**Contact:** Laurie Dolan

**Deadline:** 2/1/2018

**Food Safety SS Frank C. Lu Student Award***

**Candidates:** For one meritorious graduate student abstract presented at the SOT Annual Meeting; abstracts will be judged on methodology/approach, uniqueness/creativity inherent in the project, thoroughness of investigation, hypothesis, soundness of judgment used in interpreting results, and relevance to food safety.

**Requirements:** Application, including copy of submitted abstract and short summary of work to be presented, with purpose, rationale, and statement of significance and relevance to food safety (two page max; 10 point font size), statement on student’s role in project (three sentences), and signatures of student and primary research advisor.

**Winner receives:** $600 and a recognition plaque.

**Contact:** Pam Marone

**Deadline:** 2/1/2018

*This award is made possible by the Frank C. Lu Food Safety Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment.*
Congratulations to our Award Winners

**Burdock Group Award Winner, 2017**

**Name:** Suresh Nagumalli  
**Affiliation:** University of Louisiana at Monroe  
**What does this award mean to you?**

Receipt of this award makes my work even more enjoyable and challenging at the same time. I want to thank the Burdock Group for their continued support and encouragement to the students.

**What made you choose your current research area?**

I am interested in studying plants. It is fascinating to study and understand how nature hides its many secrets.

**Any story/experience you want to share from SOT annual meeting last year?**

My best experience at the 2017 SOT Annual Meeting was mentoring undergraduate students at networking for next generation event and encouraging them to pursue a career in toxicology.

**Frank C. Lu Award Winner, 2017**

**Name:** Blake Rushing  
**Affiliation:** East Carolina University  
**What does this award mean to you?**

Receiving this award was such an honor. It’s truly rewarding to get such a positive recognition for the work that our lab has done.

**What made you choose your current research area?**

Before I started my project, I knew very little about aflatoxins. When I learned how much a problem they are for global food safety, I wanted to not only raise recognition of this problem, but also work towards possible solutions for it. Being able to work on issues that affect so many people has been very fulfilling.

**Any story/experience you want to share from SOT Annual Meeting last year?**

I think the best experience that I had was being able to meet many of the other members of FSSS. It was a lot of fun talking with people who were very passionate about similar research areas. It was definitely worth braving the snow storm for!
**Burdock Group Award Winner, 2016**

**Name:** Jennifer Breins  
**Affiliation:** University of Saskatchewan  

**What does this award mean to you?**

By receiving this award, I was able to bring attention to another area of food safety, the pet food industry. It was great to be recognized coming from the pet food sector and this award helped me attend the SOT Annual Meeting and present my work.

**What made you choose your current research area?**

My MSc work is in the area of veterinary nutritional toxicology. I am very passionate about animal health and toxicology so my project was a perfect fit which is evaluating different carbohydrate sources in pet feed. I want to work to expand healthy pet food options and highlight food safety in this area, as both animal and human health are part of a one health initiative.

**Frank C. Lu Award Winner, 2016**

**Name:** Gopi Gadupudi  
**Affiliation:** The University of Iowa  

**What does this award mean to you?**

It gives me immense pleasure and a great sense of accomplishment in receiving this award. This recognition from FSSS section is a great sense of encouragement.

**What made you choose your current research area?**

I have been greatly drawn towards the understanding human physiology. The dynamic nature of physiological responses to external stimuli such as chemicals and lifestyle, never ceases to intrigue me!

**Share from SOT Annual Meeting last year?**

Meeting eminent toxicologists at FSSS and Risk Assessment Specialty Sections, interacting with them, sharing their experiences and receiving career advice from them towards a career in toxicology was humbling as well as great experience for me!
Upcoming Events/Webinars

1. FDA-SOT Colloquia on Emerging Toxicological Science Challenges in Food and Ingredient Safety (October 24th): http://www.toxicology.org/events/shm/fda/fda.asp

2. Annual meeting of the Society of Risk Analysis: http://sra.org/2017-annual-meeting

3. Winter Toxicology Forum: http://dialogue.toxforum.org/page/upcoming-meeting

Message from Your Student Representative

Hi all! My name is Suresh K. Nagumalli. I am the Graduate Student Representative of the Food Safety Specialty Section (FSSS) for 2017-2018. I am also the Student Representative for Career Resources and Development (CRAD) Committee in SOT. I am a graduate research assistant in toxicology at University of Louisiana-Monroe. I am currently working on understanding the variation in toxicological and pharmacological properties of various accessions of *Echinacea*.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce exciting opportunities SOT presents for students. The deadline for submitting abstract for SOT 2018 Annual Meeting is October 9, 2017. Presenting your research work at annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to receive valuable feedback from your peers. CRAD offers a free webinar in November titled “Get a Job in Academia”. Call for student volunteers for “Continuing Education” courses will be in early November. All volunteers can attend a Continuing Education course for free. Student events at the annual meeting:

❖ Student/postdoc mixer
❖ Chat with an expert
❖ Mentoring breakfast
❖ Tox Showdown

A complete list of all the available resources and opportunities for students can be found at http://www.toxicology.org/groups/gs/graduates.asp.

The Food Safety Specialty Section is one of the rapidly growing specialty section in SOT. FSSS acknowledges and supports meritorious student research by providing two awards for graduate students to facilitate travel to the annual meeting. Therefore, I encourage all the students to apply for these awards before the deadline. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact (suresh.nagumalli22@gmail.com) me. Thank you.