Dear Colleagues,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Your Executive Committee has been busy planning for our first SOT RSESS virtual mixer and business meeting. We are so excited to connect as a group, provide some specialty section updates, and most importantly – honor our 2021 award winners and welcome new officers!

Although our newsletter is brief, there is some key information that we have provided to ease your SOT virtual meeting schedule. On the last two pages you will find a list of the titles and times for the large number of RSESS Sponsored Programs. We are so pleased as an organization to endorse these high-quality scientific sessions. Please be sure to put them on your schedule.

We will be announcing our new officers at our virtual mixer, and you will have the opportunity to hear what the 2021-22 Executive Committee has planned for the upcoming year.

In addition to our annual Graduate Student, Postdoctoral Student, and Best Paper Awards; we will be announcing the inaugural winner of the Outstanding Contribution to Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Award. So be sure to Zoom in on Tuesday, March 16th at 4:15 PM.

The full agenda for our virtual mixer and business meeting is provided on Page 2. We will miss seeing each other in person; but let’s look forward to connecting via the chat room!

Enjoy this issue, and stay safe and be well!

Amy L. Roe, PhD, DABT, Fellow ATS
RSESS President, 2020-2021
Join us at the RSESS Virtual Meeting and Mixer!
Tuesday, March 16th 4:15-5:45PM EDT
(Open for Virtual Meeting Registrants.)

Meet the new RSESS officers
2021 Award Ceremony

2021 RSESS Mixer Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:15 – 4:55 PM EDT</td>
<td>Business meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:55 – 5:15 PM EDT</td>
<td>Student Award winner presentations</td>
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<td>5:15 – 5:25 PM EDT</td>
<td>Best Paper Award author presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:25 – 5:45 PM EDT</td>
<td>2021-22 Executive Committee Officer introductions and upcoming RSESS plans</td>
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Exploring Science Communications During Graduate School

Krisa Camargo, BS (PhD Candidate, Texas A&M University)

Two positives resulting from COVID-19 are graduate students’ adaptability to virtual platforms and their creative solutions in communicating their research. As a Texas A&M University (TAMU) toxicology student, my program instilled interdisciplinary learning within the first two years; however, it was my dissertation research within the TAMU Superfund Research Center that solidified this interdisciplinary research environment. In turn, both of these learning environments have influenced my interest in science policy and science communications; especially since local environmental policies could impact or intersect my research findings. I also often found myself interacting with non-scientists or with other non-toxicology researchers. Given training programs are being developed for rising undergraduate and graduate trainees in science policy and/or science communications, I hope this article will serve as an additional resource for students interested in improving their science communication skills or pique their interest in a science policy career.

My first recommendation to trainees is to research their research institution’s student organizations. For instance, at TAMU we have Aggies in Science, Technology, Engineering, Policy (A-STEP), which comprises of undergraduate students, graduate students and professional students seeking to bridge gaps between decision makers, policy makers, the general public, and the scientific community. As the current A-STEP President, an additional pillar my leadership team and I have incorporated into A-STEP is science communications. Some of our efforts have included working with our Science & Technology Journalism Graduate Program professors (e.g. Dr. Barbara J. Gastel) as well as hosting guest speakers from industry, like Dr. Blair Paulik of Integral. In both cases, our members received insights on how to incorporate science communications both in their graduate school writing and in the professional environment.

SOT’s Graduate Student Leadership Committee has also served as a great resource; for example, last Fall 2020 a webinar discussing science communications was held. One of my favorite suggestions was the one made by Dr. Lauren Walker, in which she suggested graduate students consider writing and submitting Op-Eds. This writing activity is a creative and challenging way to address timely topics while also considering non-scientific audiences. The University of Wisconsin is another resource to consider where Mr. H. Adam Steinberg and Dr. Bassam Z. Shakhashiri share creative ways for students to learn how to present their data and research to non-scientific audiences. As for science policy, the National Science Policy Network (NSPN), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) serve as additional resources in which trainees can explore science policy related topics and apply for opportunities such as workshops, fellowships, and conferences. For current and rising trainees, I hope these resources assist in directing you to opportunities to become more involved and/or aware of current efforts within science policy and science communications.
Congratulations Again to Our 2020 Award Winners!

**Graduate Student Excellence Award**
Jennifer Schaefer
Rutgers University

**Graduate Student Excellence Award**
Luma Melo
Indiana University

**Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence Award**
Colette N. Miller, PhD

**Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence Award**
Katelyn Lavrich, PhD

Patricia McGinnis (not pictured)

**Best Paper**
“Data derived extrapolation factors for developmental toxicity: A preliminary research case study with perfluorooctanoate (PFOA)”
Michael Dourson, Bernard Gadagbui, Chijioke Onyema, Patricia McGinnis, Ray York
There were many sessions proposals for the 2021 SOT Annual meeting, of which 24 asked for RSESS endorsement. Five asked for primary endorsement from RSESS and 13 and 6 asked for secondary and tertiary endorsement, respectively.

Overall, there were endorsement requests for 12 workshops, 9 symposia, 2 continuing education sessions, and 1 round table; of which 17 sessions were selected into the program. That is an acceptance rate of over 70%!

Congratulations to the following courses and sessions that were endorsed by RSESS and accepted into the 2021 program:
### Workshop Sessions

**The Scientific Challenges in Regulating Organohalogen Flame Retardants (OFRs) as a Class in Consumer Products**
- Date: 3/21
- Time: 11:45AM-02:30PM EDT

**Regulatory Learnings from the EU Flagship Nonanimal Toxicology Project, EU-ToxRisk**
- Date: 3/25
- Time: 11:30AM-02:15PM EDT

**Thresholds of Toxicological Concern: Reassessing the Basis and Expanding the Horizon**
- Date: 3/22
- Time: 11:15AM-02:00PM EDT

**Molecular-Based Points of Departure as the New Basis for Chemical Risk Assessment: Are We Ready?**
- Date: 3/23
- Time: 11:15AM-02:00PM EDT

**Paving the Way for Greater Data Sharing to Advance Biomarker and Drug Development: Industry, Academia, and Regulatory Insights**
- Date: 3/23
- Time: 11:15AM-02:00PM EDT

**Chemical-Induced Mouse Lung Tumors: Mode of Action, Relevance, and Risk Assessment**
- Date: 3/15
- Time: 11:15AM-02:00PM EDT

**Establishing Quality, Safety, and Regulatory Principles for Probiotics: More Than Just a Gut Check**
- Date: 3/15
- Time: 11:15AM-02:00PM EDT

### Continuing Education Courses

**Applications of In Vitro and In Silico New Approach Methodologies for Predictive and Mechanistic Thyroid Toxicity Testing**
- Date: 3/12
- Time: 11:00AM-2:45PM EDT

**Development, Toxicology, and Pathology of the Female Reproductive Tract: Interpretation of Findings from the Pathologist and Regulatory Perspectives**
- Date: 3/19
- Time: 11:00AM-2:45PM EDT

**Navigating New Modalities: A Preclinical Roadmap for Developing Novel Oligonucleotide Safety Strategy**
- Date: 3/19
- Time: 11:00AM-2:45PM EDT

### Roundtable Session

**The Future of Uncertainty Factors with In Vitro Studies Using Human Cells**
- Date: 3/18
- Time: 02:45PM-04:05PM EDT

### Symposia

**Developmental Toxicity Hazard Assessment without Animals: Pathways and Prospects**
- Date: 3/16
- Time: 11:15AM-02:00PM EDT

**Evolving Technologies for Determination of Biotherapeutic Specificity**
- Date: 3/16
- Time: 02:45PM-4:15PM EDT

**Controlling the Message: Safely Navigating the Development of Novel Oligonucleotide Therapeutics**
- Date: 3/25
- Time: 11:30AM-2:15PM EDT

**Opportunities and Challenges in Utilization of Toxicokinetic Data in Dose-Level Selection for Repeated-Dose Toxicity Studies**
- Date: 3/17
- Time: 11:30AM-02:15PM EDT

**Mind the Gap: Finding Practical Ways to Fast-Track the Future of Animal-Free Toxicology Testing**
- Date: 3/17
- Time: 11:30AM-02:15PM EDT

**Closing the Data Gap: Assessing Population Variability Using Next-Generation Tools in Toxicology**
- Date: 3/18
- Time: 11:15AM-02:00PM EDT

A BIG thank you to the committee members (Sherleen Adamson, Dave Allen, Krisa Camargo, Cynthia Heinlein, Mansi Krishan, Claire Neilan, Logeswari Ponnusamy, Santhini Ramasamy, and Matthew Taylor) for their thorough scientific feedback and very timely contributions!