Dear Colleagues,

We find ourselves on the brink of the fall season and now many months into a global pandemic. I know that I speak for the entire RSESS Executive Committee in wishing that our members and their loved ones are safe and healthy. Despite the challenges that we all have been dealing with, your Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section leadership has been working diligently during the first quarter of the 2020/21 cycle.

We have an interesting collaboration that we have initiated with the International Society for Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology (ISRTP), led by President David G. Sarvadi. If you are not currently a member of ISRTP, please check out the article in this newsletter provided by President Sarvadi. We are currently working on identifying a webinar that our two organizations can co-sponsor. Although we have a few ideas for webinar topics, we are always open to suggestions from our membership. If you have topic idea to share, please contact Dr. Haitian Lu, RSESS Councilor, who is leading this effort (Haitian.Lu@syngenta.com).

The Awards application season is also upon us. The various RSESS awards application deadline is December 1st; 2020. In addition to the graduate and postdoctoral awards we have established the Outstanding Contribution to Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Award. This is the inaugural year for this award, which recognizes an individual within our organization who has made significant contributions in the areas of regulatory and safety evaluation. I know that we have numerous RSESS members who should be considered for this award; so please think about nominating a colleague. Applications can be found on our website, under the “Awards” tab. If you have questions about this new award, or to apply for any of our awards, please contact Dr. Annette Köerner (annette.koerner@roche.com).

Lastly, please give particular attention to the article by Postdoctoral Representative, Dr. Lauren Walker. Dr. Walker provides perspective on the impact of the COVID pandemic on graduate and postdoctoral trainees. She, along with Graduate Student Representative, Jessica Jimenez have developed a virtual resource page including hyperlinks that has been distributed broadly to SOT student members. Our student members need our support now, more than ever; so please be vigilant of opportunities to connect with the next generation of toxicologists.

I have just mentioned a few of the topics that are covered in this newsletter. I hope that you enjoy the full issue. Please stay safe and be well!

Amy L. Roe, PhD, DABT, Fellow ATS
RSESS President, 2020-2021
Calling All Volunteers!

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

- Now seeking editors and article contributors!
- Please indicate interest to Lauren Walker (Lauren.M.Walker@Rutgers.edu).

**AWARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- Now seeking volunteers to review RSESS Award Applications for the 2021 Annual Meeting!
- Interested individuals should contact Annette Köerner (annette.koerner@roche.com).

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**2021 RSESS Awards Deadlines!**

All RSESS Award applications are due to Annette Köerner (annette.koerner@roche.com) by **DECEMBER 1, 2020**.

- **Graduate Student Excellence Award**
- **Postdoc Excellence Award**
- **Best Paper of the Year Award**
- **NEW: Outstanding Contribution to Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Award**

Award applications are scored across the following categories: **Innovative, Impactful, Quality**, and **Relevancy**. For student awards, the strength of the support letter is also considered.

We depend on RSESS members to volunteer their time to serve on the Awards Review Committee.

For more info: https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/RSESS/award-details/
Starting in 2021, the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section (RSESS) would like to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions in areas of regulatory and safety evaluation.

Any RSESS member can nominate an individual for this award by December 1. The nomination should include a summary of key contributions in the regulatory and safety evaluation and include, but not limited to:

- Advancement or enhancement of safety evaluation.
- Development of regulation/guidance documents in safety assessment.
- Extensive contribution in regulatory and safety field.
- Major influence in the education/training/mentorship of young scientists in government, industry, and/or academia.
- Leadership and service to the field including involvement in the RSESS or other organizations related to the regulatory and safety assessment.

The nomination and the CV of the nominee should be submitted to the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section at the following email address: annette.koerner@roche.com.

What’s New on the RSESS Website?

Kristina D. Chadwick, PhD, DABT

Every year we like to review and update RSESS website with the new President’s message, Executive Committee’s pictures and bios, and new awards. This year we took it a step further since we missed seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting and hosting our mentoring event.

With the addition of the Resources page you can find a great compilation of virtual professional development resources collated by our RSESS student representatives, Jessica Jimenez (Graduate Student) and Lauren Walker (Postdoc). These resources are great for trainees at all stages of their education or career and include links to the: AAUW Salary Negotiation Course, Intro to Biostatistics, Image Processing, Communication and Writing, Education, and much more!

Have you ever considered nominating yourself or someone else for a RSSESS award but don’t know what awards are available or how to apply? Look no further than the updated Awards page, which includes descriptions of our awards, including the new Outstanding Contribution to Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Award, and a summary of the criteria the Awards Review Committee uses to assess nominations. Believe it or not, the deadline for applications, December 1st, is just around the corner!

Lastly, SOT ToXchange recently underwent a major makeover. If you haven’t done so already, re-upload your profile photos. We would love to see our members’ smiling faces!
Angélique P.J.M. Braen-van Birgelen, PhD, DABT

It was another busy season for the Scientific Program Committee, consisting of Sherleen Adamson, Dave Allen, Krisa Camargo, Cynthia Heinlein, Mansi Krishan, Claire Neilan, Logeswari Ponnusamy, Santhini Ramasamy, and Matthew Taylor.

For the 2021 SOT Annual meeting, 24 proposals requested RSESS endorsement. Five asked for primary endorsement from RSESS and 13 and 6 asked for secondary and tertiary endorsement, respectively. The committee members provided detailed feedback on the scientific merit and strength of these 24 proposals in order to facilitate the selection for the 2021 SOT Annual meeting. Prior to the wave of 24 proposals that needed to be reviewed and ranked, the committee also pre-reviewed 21 proposals! A busy task but always very rewarding as we can tell from the positive comments we received from the chair and co-chairs of the proposed sessions.

Overall, there were endorsement requests for 12 workshops, 9 symposia, 2 continuing education sessions, and 1 round table. A nice mix as usual! Currently, of these sessions, 15 are tentatively accepted.

A BIG thank you to the committee members for their thorough scientific feedback and very timely contributions!

Calling All Suggestions—What Webinar Topics Would You Like to See?

Which webinar topics are you interested in seeing this Fall?

Let us know by reaching out to Ryan Hamilton (ryan.hamilton@ashland.com) and Haitian Lu (haitian.lu@syngenta.com).
The spate of campus closures in March following global COVID-19 infection surges thrust undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral trainees into an unprecedented predicament. All researchers who were not actively engaged in “essential” COVID-related research were required to work from home until further notice. While stepping away from the bench was absolutely necessary to curb the spread of infection, many trainees were tasked with finding alternative routes to advancing their professional and project development. Earlier this summer, I checked in with a number of my peers to see how they were faring during the nationwide campus closures.

Many of us were able to use the closure time to submit grant applications, catch up on thesis or manuscript writing, and/or brainstorm new projects for our eventual return, though everyone felt the sting of suspended research. For most trainees like Danielle Kozlosky (PhD Candidate at Rutgers University) the abrupt pause on research set back her studies by several months. “I was preparing to complete set of animal studies before the shutdown,” she said, “Now I will need to get it up and running again with new mice.” While starting again from scratch later was a disappointing prospect, Danielle found that the break afforded her more time to sit down and study for her qualifying exams this summer. Taking a deep dive into the material, she said, helped enhance her comprehensive understanding of her previous toxicology courses.

Campus closure “silver linings” were a common thread among my peers. Determined to make the most of the hand we had been dealt, everyone sought ways to pivot towards a version of practical productivity. Macon Abernathy (PhD Candidate at the University of California, Riverside) saw his summer research plans upended overnight “The closures derailed my personal progress as well as my lab’s progress for the summer,” Macon said. Upon his return to campus in late summer, he pivoted to pushing forward on side projects using campus equipment in shared facilities and ultimately created a new collaboration with a lab in a different department. The collaborative effort is training him on cell culture exposure models—something not originally in his training plan. Like many trainees, he’s hopeful for a productive return to the bench this fall.

Though a full return to lab life as we once knew it is unlikely in the near future, a hybrid professional development experience seems inevitable as we transition into autumn. Summer’s experiment with virtual meetings proved to be a hit with many trainees. Reduced financial and travel requirements increased trainee ability to engage with the influx of online professional development, training, and networking resources between March and August. My colleagues, Kim Wiersielis (Postdoctoral Fellow at Rutgers University) and Tamara Young (PhD Candidate at University of New Mexico) found themselves attending more trainings than previous summers because the virtual component rendered them more accessible.

In August, myself and other trainees began to return to the bench. We’re glad to be back, though most view the return with what Jaclynn Andres (PhD Candidate at Rutgers University) calls “realistic optimism.” The coming weeks, she noted, will undoubtedly focus on balancing the pressure to make up for lost time with the amount of work that can be performed safely given social distance requirements and laboratory shift work schedules. A successful pivot to socially distanced, yet constructive trainee development will require collaborative strategic planning, a bit of creative thinking, and a great deal of flexibility within research groups. This will be an unprecedented and potentially challenging year for trainees, though I anticipate that we will emerge more resilient for it.
David G. Sarvadi

We at the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology (ISRTP) are happy to be joining you in efforts to provide sound scientific information to the regulatory community. Organized in 1985, the mission of ISRTP is to provide an open public forum for policy makers and scientists promoting sound toxicologic and pharmacologic science as a basis for regulation affecting human safety and health, and the environment. The Society is unusual in that it brings together professionals with interest in regulatory science, including regulatory managers, toxicologists, industrial hygienists, lawyers and others interested in the role of science in society.

To advance our Mission ISRTP has supported the Journal of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, for more than 35 years -- a journal which many SOT/RSESS members read and have published their papers. The Society also sponsors conferences where issues can be fully debated, evaluated, and discussed.

You may also be aware of the ISRTP/RSESS Student Award. Since 2010, ISRTP has collaborated with the RSESS to present an ISRTP/RSESS student Achievement Award for the best student poster. The Award includes an honorarium of $500. Our 2020 winners were Luma Melo, graduate student from the School of Public Health at Indiana University, and Katelyn Lavrich, Post-doctoral student at the Biomolecular Screening Branch, of the National Toxicology Program in Raleigh, NC.

We look forward to a long and mutually satisfying relationship. To learn more about ISRTP, go to www.isrtp.org.
Virtual Professional Development Resources for Trainees

Jessica Jimenez, BA and Lauren Walker, PhD

Looking for resources to continue your training and professional development at home? Look no further—a variety of recommended resources are listed below and online.

Educational & Career Development
- SOT Mentor Match Online Mentoring Program (Coming Soon!)
- SOT Webinar Archive: Career Development Webinars
- National Postdoctoral Association: Postdoc Resource Library
- National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
- myIDP – Science Careers Individual Development Plan
- 2Actify Resources for LinkedIn
- INTERSECT Job Simulators
- Pathways to Science Career Resources
- AAUW Salary Negotiation Course

Data Science
- Statistics and R Online Course (FREE; Harvard University edX)
- Reddit: Guide to Help Wet Lab Biologists Learn Computational Biology
- R for Data Science (FREE; book course)
- Quantitative Genomics and Genetics (FREE; Cornell)
- Introduction to Biostatistics

Science Communication, Grant Writing, & Professional Soft Skills
- Webinars for Extramural Trainees: NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE)
- Live Webinars: Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science
- Grant Writing and Funding
- Citation managers & Software Comparisons (by UMich Libraries)

Image Processing
- Basics of Image Processing and Analysis in Image J Course (FREE)
- Adobe Illustrator for Scientists (YouTube)
- BioRender Online Science Illustrator
- Making Science and Engineering Pictures: A Practical Guide to Presenting Your Work

Research Aids
- JAX™ On-Demand Webinars
- Web of Science

Science Education & Teaching
- SOT Eminent Toxicologist Lectures
- Online Teaching Resources (UC Riverside)