ELSI Welcomes Tristan Colonius –
International Policy Analyst
US Food and Drug Administration

Come join us at our Specialty Section’s Luncheon
Monday at 12:15 pm to hear Tristan Colonius
present on:

“Science and Science Policy: They are not the Same
How Congress uses science to inform policy”

Have you ever wondered how your research is (or is not) being used by the legislators on Capitol Hill?
Have you ever said to yourself, “What are they DOING?” or “that’s NOT what the science says” when reading when daily newspaper? If so, then you are not alone as the current political climate indicates.

Congress is made up of 535 individuals representing people from across the country with very different ideas. So when it comes to climate change, Zika virus, hydraulic fracturing, and GMOs, to name a few, factors other than science often come into play. An army of dedicated professionals work to inform and advise our legislators behind the scenes; they are the first people legislators turn to for critical information. Dr. Tristan Colonius served as Deputy Legislative Director for Senator Diane Feinstein. Dr. Colonius will speak about his experience and provide insight to the audience about how science informs policy decisions on the Hill.

Dr. Tristan Colonius came to the Hill as an AAAS Science and Technology fellow in 2012 in Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s (NY) office. Dr. Colonius work to help pass the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the “Farm Bill”) renewal. Dr. Colonius then went to work for Senator Diane Feinstein, first as a Legislative Assistant and then as her Deputy Legislative Director. While in Senator Feinstein’s office, Dr. Colonius worked on disaster preparedness, climate resiliency, emerging public health threats, homeland security, federal science policy, and animal welfare/conservation. Dr. Colonius is currently an international policy analyst for the US Food and Drug Administration.

He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University and earned a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Illinois Springfield.
Missed Last Year’s Luncheon?

At our specialty section Luncheon last year, James Lamb, PhD, DABT, Fellow ATS presented on “TSCA Modernization in 2016? Searching for Perfection or Compromise”. Dr. Lamb was a member of the SOT Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Task Force. His presentation on TSCA was timely considering the amendment to TCSA, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, was signed in June 22, 2016 – three months after the SOT annual meeting. In the reform of TSCA, he SOT Task force was instrumental in providing 1) flexible language for the selection of the best available science for generating and evaluating information used in the safety and risk assessment process 2) language that protects the authority of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and 3) language ensures the terms and concepts used in the legislative language that apply to the science of toxicology are consistent, accurate, and unambiguous.

ELSI Sponsored Events at SOT

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<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Time and Location</th>
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<td><strong>Informational Session:</strong> Communicating Toxicology to the Public</td>
<td>Wednesday March 15, 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM CC Room</td>
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<td><strong>Roundtable:</strong> Bias and Conflict of Interest in Conducting Research and Risk Assessments: Perspectives from Academia, Government, Industry, and Others</td>
<td>Monday, March 13, 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM CC Room 314</td>
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Future ELSI Sponsored Events

ELSI is hosting a webinar titled “Hookah: Toxicological Facts and Fantasy about Waterpipes” chaired by ELSI E-board members Judith Zelikoff (Vice President) and Tamara House-Knight (Secretary/Treasurer). Dr. Zelikoff was one of the senior authors on an SOT Issue Statement on Hookah in 2015. One of the common misconceptions about waterpipe usage is that the practice is less detrimental than smoking cigarettes, which is one of the reasons smoking hookah is rising in popularity with young adults. The toxicological effects of hookah use will be discussed as well as public and environmental health policies/issues. More information about the webinar and registration is forthcoming.
Past ELSI Sponsored Events
On January 10, 2017 ELSI and RASS cosponsored a webinar with the Society for Risk Assessment focusing on the Frank R. Launtenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (LCSA). This Act was signed into law on June 22, 2016 and serves as an amendment to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Some of the improvements brought by LSCA included new risk-based safety determinations, increased public transparency, and mandatory deadlines for the US EPA to evaluate the safety of existing chemicals. The webinar gave participants an overview of the new law, as well as a more in-depth discussion on policy and risk including: “Evaluating Unreasonable Risk without Considerations of Cost” and “Risk Management Under the LSCA”. ELSI members who attended the luncheon at the 2016 Annual Meeting will remember the talk by Jim Lamb of the SOT TSCA Task Force discussing TSCA modernization before the LCSA was passed.

![Former US President Obama signing the bipartisan 21st Century Chemical Safety bill June 22, 2016.](image)

President Message
Dr. Daniele Wikoff is the Health Sciences Practice Leader for ToxStrategies based in Asheville, North Carolina. With more than ten years of experience in the fields of toxicology and risk assessment, she specializes in evaluating human health risks associated with exposures to a wide variety of consumer products, food ingredients and additives, pharmaceuticals, and industrial chemicals. Her primary areas of interest include systematic reviews and incorporation of weight of evidence information in applied risk assessments, as well as the development of health-based toxicity values. Her work often involves scientific and technical oversight, analysis, interpretation and critiques of data, as well as preparation of reports and peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts. Dr. Wikoff received her PhD in Toxicology from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2005 after completing her toxicokinetic and risk-based dissertation on brominated flame retardants at the USEPA. Dr. Wikoff actively participates in the scientific community by serving as a peer reviewer for a number of toxicology and risk journals, has authored over 20 peer-reviewed scientific papers and book chapters focused on toxicology and risk assessment. Dr. Wikoff has been a member of SOT for more than ten years, including specialty sections/special interest groups. She has served SOT in multiple capacities such as the co-chair on the ELSI Newsletter (lead on development of ELSI logo), member of the RASS Best Abstract Committee, and chairperson for poster sessions and workshops at the annual SOT meetings.

Dr. Wikoff thanks the executive committee for their energy and hard work on a continued reinvigoration of the ELSI Specialty Section. As outgoing President, she looks forward to supporting the growth and contributions of the incoming leadership group.

Student Representative
Trudi Denoon is a Doctoral Candidate and teaching fellow at St. John's University. She obtained a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from St John's University. Ms. Denoon is currently a 4th year PhD candidate, and is under the guidance and tutelage of Dr. S. Ford. Her research interest lies in the elucidation of energy metabolism and mitochondrial activity in response to toxicants, particularly in renal proximal tubular cells which are highly dependent on oxidative metabolism. Renal proximal tubular cells are responsible for excreting many metabolites, xenobiotics and drugs and are responsible for transporting solutes and organic cations. Although cultured renal porcine proximal tubule cells maintain many of their in vivo characteristics, it has been demonstrated that these cells, overtime, dedifferentiate from an oxidative metabolism to high rates of glycolysis over time. Renal cells that rely heavily on glycolysis compensate for mitochondrial impairment by utilizing glycolysis for ATP generation. Thus, these cultured cells are more resistant to mitochondrial toxicities.
Announcements

New officers
Please welcome our 2017-2018 elected officers

Marusia A. Popovech, PhD, MPH     Vice President-Elect
Tamara House-Knight, PhD, DABT     Secretary/Treasurer
Linda G. Roberts, PhD, DABT       Councilor
Trudi Denoon, MS                  Graduate Student Representative

Luncheon: what to expect
In addition to our guest speaker we will have a short business meeting following

Upcoming Newsletters!
If you would like to have items are topics included in the next newsletter please contact Esther Haugabrooks (ehaugabrooks@pcrm.org).

Join the newsletter committee! Or write for our blog!
Dedicated and creative writers we need your help. Join our ELSI newsletter committee to help keep our members informed and maybe entertained. We also need writers for mini-blog posts, on a ethical, legal, and/or social topic of your choosing. All interested and willing members please contact Esther Haugabrooks (ehaugabrooks@pcrm.org).

Thank you to the 2016-2017 Officers and Leadership! (pictured above left to right)

President
Daniele S. Wikoff, ToxStrategies
Vice President
Judith Zelikoff, New York University School of Medicine
Vice President-Elect
John Norman, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences Inc
Secretary/Treasurer
Tamara R. House-Knight, Ramboll Environ US Corporation
Past President
Lynne T. Haber, TERA
Councilors
Robert G. Tardiff, Toxicologic Consultative Service, LLC
Esther M. Haugabrooks, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Student Representative
Benjamin R. Kistinger, St. John’s University