

ETHICAL, LEGAL, FORENSIC, AND SOCIETAL ISSUES (ELFSI)

Specialty Section Newsletter

Winter 2024



Message from the President

Dear ELFSI Members,

Welcome to the Winter 2024 ELFSI Newsletter! Before you know it, we will be meeting in Salt Lake City for the SOT Annual Meeting. I hope to see many of you at our ELFSI luncheon on Wednesday. In addition to catching up with your ELFSI Specialty Section colleagues, the luncheon agenda will include updates on our membership, student and postdoc awards, an introduction of new Specialty Section officers, and we plan to broach the subject of developing a mission statement for ELFSI, which we expect will generate lively discussion and interaction.

In addition, due to the hard work of our members and committees, there are several ELFSI-sponsored Scientific Sessions at the Annual Meeting this year—3 Workshops and 1 Roundtable, which I'm sure will be insightful and worthwhile to attend.

Details on the ELFSI-sponsored sessions and the Annual Meeting luncheon can be found in this newsletter.

Thank you all for your input and work within ELFSI and the toxicology community during the past year. Please let me know if you have any suggestions to improve ELFSI. And...

For now, I'll leave you with the following:

“Ask not what your ELFSI Specialty Section can do for you but ask what you can do for the ELFSI Specialty Section.”

Your active participation in various Specialty Section Committees, including Programming, Awards, Newsletters, and Membership is encouraged. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City and interacting with you in the coming year.

Michael J. McCabe, Jr., PhD

President

Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section

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ELFSI Sponsored Events

We look forward to seeing you, in Salt Lake City, for the 63rd Annual SOT Meeting! Please join us for these exciting ELFSI Sponsored Events!

Monday, March 11th

Roundtable: Women's Health on the Frontlines: Science Behind Sex-Specific Toxicology Differentials, Health Disparity, and Marginalization and Their Ethical Implications

12:20 PM – 1:30 PM

Grand Ballroom E

Salt Palace Convention Center

Workshop: Using Geographical Information to Promote Environmental Health and Justice

1:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Room 251 D

Salt Palace Convention Center

Tuesday, March 12th

Workshop: Addressing Health Inequities and Susceptibilities via Incorporation of Nonchemical Stressors within Toxicological Approaches and Cumulative Risk Assessments

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Grand Ballroom F

Salt Palace Convention Center

Wednesday, March 13th

ELFSI Members Luncheon

12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Room 255 F

Salt Palace Convention Center

Publication on Scientific Challenges surrounding PFOA/PFOS

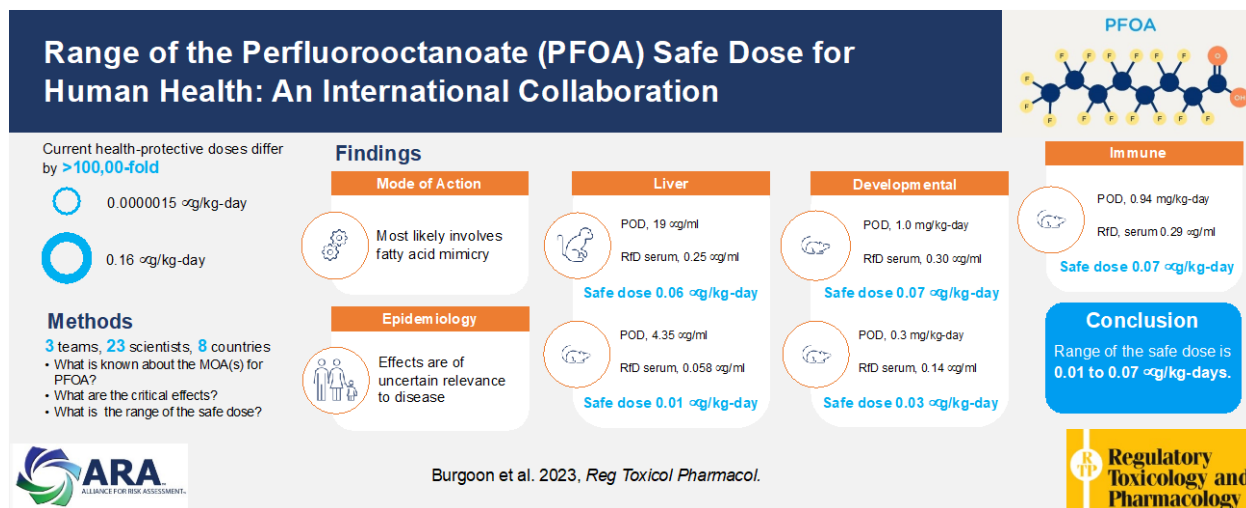
Michael Dourson

The publication by Burgoon et al., (2023) was a significant part of a recent workshop of the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) within the workshop series Beyond Science and Decisions (see: https://www.tera.org/Alliance%20for%20Risk/ARA_Dose-Response.htm). The focus of the workshop was a comparison of the water limits that have been set by Australia/New Zealand, the EU, Canada, the World Health Organization, and the United States, where the underlying safe doses differ by about 500-100,000 fold.

The workshop in Washington, DC brought together numerous experts in the fields of toxicology and epidemiology who understand the scientific challenges surrounding PFOA/PFOS and various risk assessments. Presentations during this workshop made it clear to ~150 attending toxicologists, epidemiologists, environmental scientists, policy makers or lawyers why there are diverging views amongst agencies and where resolution of these differences might be possible.

This workshop stimulated conversations between the scientists for the various agencies around the world and gave insight to the legal community as it begins to address both the personal injury claims, as well as the claims against various firms asked to pay for cleaning groundwater, estimates of which run as high as \$800B.

The presentation of the findings from the publication of Burgoon et al. (2023) was very well received by the attendees and commented on favorably by the expert science panel. These findings served as an intermediary position amongst the diverse assessments, and one based on more recent publications. A graphic view of the findings by Burgoon et al. (2023) follows.



Citation: Lyle D. Burgoon, Harvey J. Clewell, Tony Cox, Wolfgang Dekant, Linda D. Dell, James A. Deyo, Michael L. Dourson, Bernard K. Gadagbui, Philip Goodrum, Laura C. Green, K. Vijayavel, Travis R. Kline, Tamara House-Knight, Michael I. Luster, Therese Manning, Paul Nathanail, Frank Pagone, Katie Richardson, Tiago Severo-Peixe, Anurag Sharma, Jackie Wright. 2023. Range of the perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) safe dose for human health: An international collaboration. *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*, Volume 145, December, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2023.105502>.

Outgoing Officers

Thank you for your Service to ELFSI!



Katrina Jew
Secretary-Treasurer



Laura M. Plunkett
Councilor



Emma Karey
Postdoctoral
Representative



Amanda Charette
Graduate Student
Representative

Plans and Outreach

As we build our annual program, we encourage participation from ELFSI membership. As our membership grows, so too will the needs for sub-committees and assistance with our common goals. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know via email: mary.a.popovech@exxonmobil.com

The Ethical, Legal, Forensic, and Societal Issues Specialty Section will be of interest to toxicologists concerned about the broader impact of our research on bioethical and societal decision-making, as well as, the conduct and application of toxicology based research. Our Specialty Section provides a forum in which to discuss research integrity, conduct of research with animals and humans, and the ethical, legal, and social implications of results from our science.

First and foremost, our goals as a Specialty Section of the SOT are to:

- Explore the contributions and implications of toxicological based research on bioethical thinking, public policy and forensics.
- Serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the Society of Toxicology interested in ethical, legal, forensic and social issues related to toxicology.
- Develop, propose, and conduct programs that emphasize the latest developments in ethical, legal, forensic, and social issues related to toxicology.
- Act as a resource for SOT in the area of the ethical, legal, forensic, and social issues related to the science of toxicology.

You may find more detailed information on the [ELFSI Specialty Section website](#), including information on meetings, newsletters, awards, governance, educational outreach, and more.

Executive Committee 2023-2024



Michael McCabe
President



Lyle Burgoon
Vice President



Michael Dourson
Vice President-Elect



Katrina Jew
Secretary-Treasurer



Laura M. Plunkett
Councilor



Marusia Popovech
Councilor



Emma Karey
Postdoctoral Student
Representative



Amanda Charette
Graduate Student
Representative

Interested in a leadership role?

Contact any member of the EC to find out more! ELFSI is currently soliciting nominations for the 2024-2025 board.

Newsletter Submissions

If there are items that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please send them to Marusia Popovech (mary.a.popovech@exxonmobil.com).