

## Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues (ELFSI) Specialty Section



# SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

## Executive Committee Letter

**Dear Ethical, Legal, Forensic and Societal Issues Specialty Section (ELFSI SS) Members,**

The past year has certainly been challenging for all of us personally and professionally. But we are making it through, and we will come out stronger.

One of our goals for this year and beyond is to grow our membership and our impact on the Society. Our Executive Committee (EC) put together an exciting webinar series with the Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology Specialty Section (SCCT), and we have sponsored/endorsed some great sessions for the 2023 Annual Meeting. We also co-sponsored a recent webinar with the Food Safety (FS3) and Biotechnology (BTSS) Specialty Sections. We look forward to working with all of you to build on our successes, and to create an even better programming for 2023 and beyond.

We want ELFSI to be the home for the difficult conversations about ethics, legal, forensic, and societal implications of toxicology. We can do great things – no, we will do great things! Ethics is related to all portions of toxicological research, and societal issues and impact are the reasons why we conduct our research. Forensics is not just related to litigation aspects, but also to data quality, interpretation, and analysis. Please encourage your colleagues and trainees to join ELFSI. We would love to expand these ideas through sessions at SOT and with incoming officers dedicated to growing the specialty section. That means we need to have a diversity of voices at the table. Through a larger membership we can have a big impact on the Society, and we can make sure we are having these difficult conversations with all sides represented, not just a few. We also need your ideas on how to improve ELFSI, and to ensure ELFSI is relevant to the lives of everyone that is impacted by toxicology. We need your ideas for sessions at the Annual Meeting for our programs throughout the year, and we would love for you to serve on the EC.

Please, reach out to any of the officers if you want to be more involved. If you've reached out to us before and we dropped the ball, we're sorry. Please reach out again and let us do better. Be persistent in case we missed your note. Talk to a couple of us about your interests and ideas. This is our Specialty Section, and we all need to be active in it, or else we may, sadly, see it slip away.

Thanks again for all that you do for the profession of toxicology,

### ELFSI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2023



**Michael McCabe**, Exigent  
President



**Lyle Burgoon**,  
Raptor Pharm  
& Tox  
Vice President



**Brittany Baisch**, Enko  
Sr. Councilor



**Laura Plunkett**,  
BioPolicy  
Solutions  
Jr. Councilor



**Katrina Jew**,  
CTEH  
Secretary/  
Treasurer



**Emma Karey**,  
AstraZeneca  
Postdoc  
Representative



**Amanda Charette**,  
SUNY-ESF  
Graduate  
Student  
Representative



**Steven Gilbert**,  
INND  
Past President



**Esther Haugabrooks**,  
Coca-Cola  
Past  
President

## Call for ELFSI Officers!

In total, we have 4 open positions for ELFSI Officers, with new terms beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please join us in thanking our President, Steve Gilbert, for his dedicated work in ethics. Michael McCabe is completing Steve's presidential term until April 30<sup>th</sup>, and he will serve his own Presidential term beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Lyle Burgoon is filling in as the Vice President and will serve his own VP term, also beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, we will have a vacancy open for the Past President, as Esther Haugabrooks is rotating off the EC. We are holding an election to fill the role of Past President, in the capacity of serving as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Councilor.

**Please send your biosketch and CV to [Lyle Burgoon](#) before March 17<sup>th</sup> to be considered for the ballot.** Our mission statements and officer roles and responsibilities are on our [website](#).

- **Vice President Elect** (4 year term through presidential chain)
- **Junior Councilor** (2 year term, serving as Senior Councilor in the second year)
- **Past President/Councilor** (1 year term) – If you have experience in leadership with other component groups, this is a great opportunity to mentor our growing Specialty Section!
- **Postdoctoral Representative** (1-2 year term depending on membership status)

Key initiatives for the incoming officers will be to revise the bylaws and officer roles and responsibilities and build our programming.

## ELFSI Objectives and Opportunities to Volunteer

- **Explore** the contributions and implications of toxicological based research on bioethical thinking and public policy.
- **Serve** as the focal point for interaction of SOT members interested in ELFSI related toxicology issues.
- **Develop**, propose, and conduct programs and educational activities that emphasize the latest developments in ELFSI related toxicology issues.
- **Relate** developments in the field of ethics to the activities of SOT, and to stimulate interest and growth in ELFSI as related to toxicology.
- **Act** as a resource to SOT, with a particular emphasis on the bioethical issues raised by advances in the toxicological sciences.

Looking for other ways to get involved with ELFSI? You can volunteer, serve as an officer for any of the committees below or help develop a session proposal!

Send a note to [Lyle Burgoon](#) for any additional information or to simply engage with the current happenings at ELFSI!

- Newsletter Committee
- Membership Committee
- Webinar Committee
- Scientific Session Endorsement
- Awards Review Committee
- Proposal Brainstorming and Generation
- Leadership

## ELFSI Reception at the SOT Annual Meeting in Nashville!

Please join us for the ELFSI luncheon and business meeting on

**Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM CT**

**Music City Center, Room 104B**

## ELFSI Endorsed Sessions at the Annual Meeting

### Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>

Put Your Science Where Your Mouth Is: Practice Makes Progress in Effective Science

Communication CE Course

1:15 PM - 5:00 PM CT

Music City Center, Rm 209

### Monday March 20<sup>th</sup>

OK Google, "How Do I Science?" Roles and Responsibilities of Developers and Users in Computational Toxicology

Roundtable

12:10 PM - 1:30 PM CT

Music City Center, Rm 202

### Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>

Achieving Successful Reproducibility for Next-Generation Toxicological Methods

Symposium

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM CT

Music City Center, Rm 202

### Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Cannabis Contaminants: Current Status of Regulations and Implications to Public Health

Workshop

8:30 AM - 11:15 AM CT

Music City Center, Karl Dean Ballroom A2

## Congratulations to our ELFSI Graduate Student Awardee!

### Symone Griffith

Arizona State University

PI: Maxwell CK Leung, PhD

*"Regulatory status and physician's risk perception of cannabis contaminants with Parkinson's Disease"*

Abstract 3183, P298

Regulation/Policy Poster Session –

Mon Mar 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM CT Expo Hall C



## Check out the ELFSI co-Sponsored, 3-Part Webinar Series!

From September 2022 through November 2022, ELFSI co-hosted a joint webinar series with SOT's Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology SS on the ethics of conducting toxicological research and communicating novel findings. The webinar series addressed issues and opportunities such as combating censorship and vilification, creating trust through integrity, transparency, how to communicate and share your science with the press and leveraging an ethics framework to be a steward of scientific integrity. The webinar series was a huge success with 50+ attendees for each session.

The recordings of these webinars and a recap, including the titles, speakers and abstracts are on the [ELFSI Events Page](#).

### **Session 1: Combating Censorship and Vilification**

This webinar highlighted recent examples of censorship of inconvenient viewpoints in toxicology (or "consensorship"), the importance of credibility and due diligence as expert witnesses in toxicology, and how to combat vilification by focusing on the science. This was the first webinar in a three-part series on how scientific bias, credibility, conflict of interest, censorship, and advocacy should be top of mind for toxicologists conducting and communicating their research, particularly in novel areas. This series was organized and hosted by the SOT Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology (SCCT) and Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues (ELFSI) Specialty Sections.

- **Censorship and Issue-Specific Advocacy: Is "Consensorship" the New Paradigm?**  
Chris Borgert, President and Principal Scientist, Applied Pharmacology and Toxicology, Inc.
- **Expert Witness Testimony and Ethics: Science over Advocacy**  
Laura Plunkett, Managing Partner, Biopolicy Solutions, LLC

### **Session 2: Toxicologists Can be Trusted through Integrity and Transparency**

This webinar provided tips for communicating the role of toxicologists to the general public – and why we can be trusted – and discussed the importance of scientific integrity and transparency, including how to disseminate your knowledge effectively. This was the second webinar in a three-part series on how scientific bias, credibility, conflict of interest, censorship, and advocacy should be top of mind for toxicologists conducting and communicating their research, particularly in novel areas. This series was organized and hosted by the SOT Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology (SCCTSS) and Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues (ELFSI) Specialty Sections.

- **Who Are Toxicologists, and How Are They Different from My Medical Doctor?**  
Michael Dourson, Director of Science, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA)
- **Knowledge Mobilization, Scientific Integrity, and Transparency**  
Wendelyn Jones, Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS)

### **Session 3: Avoid Being Toxicology's Worst Enemy**

This webinar will provided tips for interacting with the press to share your novel findings and for how to leverage the applied ethics framework and be a steward of scientific integrity. This was the third webinar in a three-part series on how scientific bias, credibility, conflict of interest, censorship, and advocacy should be top of mind for toxicologists conducting and communicating their research, particularly in novel areas. This series was organized and hosted by the SOT Sustainable Chemicals

through Contemporary Toxicology (SCCT) and Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues (ELFSI) Specialty Sections.

- **The Press is Not Your Enemy! How to Engage and Interact with the Press**  
Janet Raloff, Editor, Science News Media Group
- **Applied Ethics Analyses of Bias, Conflict of Interest, Censorship, and Issue Advocacy**  
Lyle Burgoon, PhD, Executive Chairman and Chief Scientific Officer, Raptor Pharm & Tox Ltd.

## ELFSI-Endorsed Webinar Discusses the Ethics of Cultivated Meat

ELFSI co-endorsed a webinar entitled “Cultivated meat: Regulatory & Safety Challenges for a Developing Industry,” that we jointly organized with SOT’s Biotechnology Specialty Section (BTSS), and the Food Safety Specialty Section (FS3).

The development of cultivated meat (e.g., chicken, beef, seafood) holds the potential of solving environmental, ethical, and health challenges associated with the production and consumption of traditional animal-based foods. At the end of 2021, more than 100 companies have emerged across the globe, all aiming to provide meat without slaughtering animals. This emerging technology has, however, raised the need for the rapid development of risk assessment protocols to address the safety of these novel products adequately. In addition, many global regulatory agencies have also found themselves quickly needing to adapt and develop their own regulations to determine how these products can be safely manufactured, distributed, and labeled.

This session aims to provide participants with 1) an overview of the molecular methodologies and challenges in the creation of cultivated meat, 2) an examination of the regulatory and safety challenges faced by this novel industry and regulators as well as 3) a brief discussion on consumer expectations on the sustainability, nutritional, and ethical considerations associated with the production of cultivated meat. This session will consist of three presentations followed by a panel discussion moderated by BTSS Secretary/Treasurer René Viñas, PhD, DABT.

- **Molecular Methodologies in Cultivated Meat Technology**  
David Block, PhD, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of California - Davis
- **Regulatory & Safety Challenges in Cultivated Meat**  
Dave Tonnuci, PhD, Vice President, Regulatory & Toxicology, SciFi Foods, Inc.
- **Consumer Expectations and Perceptions on Cultivated Meat**  
Janet Tomiyama, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of California - Los Angeles

The recording of the webinars and a recap, including the titles, speakers and abstracts are on the [ELFSI Events Page](#).

## Looking for a cause to support? Donate to ELFSI to grow our SS!

As your department and company set their budgets for 2023, including the 2024 Annual SOT Meeting, please consider donating to ELFSI. Many organizations offer a match! Now is the right time to donate, so that we can adequately plan our award amounts and have food and beverages at the ELFSI reception in 2014. ELFSI would be humbled and honored to receive sponsorships so that we can recognize you leading up to next year's meeting. As long as donations are not from tobacco companies or from an institution that is an [SOT Global Partner](#) (individuals at these institutions are ok), you are eligible to donate. The full list of ELFSI Donation levels for the 2024 Reception are:

Sponsorship Level	Amount	Acknowledgement*
<b>Platinum</b> – food or drinks at ELFSI reception (up to 3 available)	\$2,000+	ELFSI newsletter + poster + reception slides and announcement + photo op + website + signage at the bar/buffet table during the reception
<b>Gold</b> – Best Postdoc Scholar, or Best Graduate Student Award (up to 4 available)	\$500-\$1,000	ELFSI newsletter + poster + reception slides and announcement + photo op
<b>Silver</b> – AV and tech (up to 5 available)	\$100-\$500	ELFSI newsletter + poster + reception slides and announcement
<b>Bronze</b> – award and officer plaques, cover a colleague's meal or drinks (unlimited)	\$10-\$100	SCCT newsletter + SCCT poster

*\*Acknowledgement includes institutional logo if matched or donated by institution.*

If you are interested in donating to ELFSI please contact Sr. Councilor, [Brittany Baisch](#). We appreciate your sponsorship but above all, your engagement in ELFSI.

