

ELSI NEWSLETTER – FALL 2014

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Missed the 2014 Meeting? - Recap ELSI-SC Reception (March 25, 2014)

This past SOT, ELSI-SC had an exiting and enlightening luncheon. If you missed the luncheon, Paul Zigas our current President and Gary Marchant our past President and current Councilor, gave an informative presentation entitled ‘Patents and Toxicology’. The presentation overviewed patents: the definition, types, use, and terms.

Patent law and notable cases, such as Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) and *In re Bilski*, were highlighted congruent with patents and their useful in toxicology (e.g., genetically engineered animals), their limitations, and the implications for scientific advancements.



Mark your calendar for the 54th Annual Meeting in San Diego, California - March 22-26th! *Have any ideas for topics to discuss at our luncheon? Please send them to: Suzette Long (Long.Suzette.M@cat.com)*

Officers 2014–2015 (pictured below left to right)

President
Vice President
Vice President Elect
Secretary/Treasurer
Past President/Councilor
Councilors

Paul H. Zigas, East Carolina University
Lynne T. Haber, TERA
Suzette M. Long, Caterpillar Inc.
Angela J. Harris, ENVIRON
Gary E. Marchant, Arizona State University
Anthony R. Schatz, Merck & Co., Inc.
Robert G. Tariff, Toxicologic Consultative Services, LLC



Technical Topic – Controversy Over Government Scientific Advisors

Most national governments have a scientific adviser that helps the government address scientific and technological issues, including many toxicological controversies. In Europe, the very existence of a EU scientific adviser has itself become controversial. The current and first Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission, Dr. Anne Glover, has been an outspoken critic of some EU policies on issues such as the precautionary principle, endocrine disruptors, and genetically modified organisms. Now a coalition of health and environmental non-governmental organizations has called on the new EU Commission President to abolish the position of Chief Scientific Adviser altogether. Other organizations and prominent scientists have come to the defense of Dr. Glover and the position in general. While recent US scientific advisers to the U.S. President under both Democratic and Republican administrations have advanced their own viewpoints that have stirred some critics, recent U.S. science advisers have not generated the intense firestorm currently raging in Europe. This controversy about the role of science advisers is timely given the recent first global conference on science advice to governments convened in Australia on August 28-29, 2014. The conference addressed many of the variations and tensions in scientific advice to governments. Video recordings, presentations, and other materials from the conference are available at <http://www.globalscienceadvice.org/>. The SOT ELSI section plans to further address this controversy in a future webinar.

ELSI has a new logo!

Look for our new logo and banner images (at the top of the newsletter) – a key step in helping our group to become more established and grow membership.



Member Highlight

In this issue, we are highlighting the current President, Paul Zigas, and our outgoing President, Gary Marchant.

Paul H. Zigas is the Senior Associate University Attorney at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. His legal practice focuses on research, intellectual property, compliance, and transactional issues. He serves as liaison for the Office of University Counsel to the Division of Research and Graduate Studies. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and holds a Master of Toxicology, B.S.

Biochemistry, and B.A. in History from North Carolina State University. Mr. Zigas is licensed to practice law in North Carolina and before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He presents on legal issues of interest to researchers and administrators ranging from conflicts of interest and commercialization of inventions to compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. In addition to serving as President of the Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology, Mr. Zigas is a Board Member of both the North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Society and the Thomas Jefferson Scholars Alumni Advisory

Board. Mr. Zegas is married to Dr. Rachel Murrell (who also a member of the Society of Toxicology), and they have one son, Wyatt.

Gary Marchant, Regents' Professor and Lincoln Professor of Emerging Technologies, Law & Ethics at Arizona State University, served as President of the ELSI section in 2013-2014. The most notable thing about his term as section

President was the broad diversity of ELSI issues and expertise within the Section. "There is no shortage of cutting edge ethical, legal and social issues affecting the work of every practicing toxicologist that the ELSI section can help to clarify and address" said Marchant.

Thank you to Gary for all of his hard work as president!

Meet Our New Student Representative – Lisa Hoffman!

Lisa is currently a doctoral student at St. John's University, with a concentration in Toxicology. She was awarded a doctoral teaching fellowship within the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and teaches laboratories in Anatomy and Physiology and Biochemistry. In 2011, Lisa was granted an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education pre-doctoral fellowship, a national award in which only 44 students across the country receive. Her research focuses on the investigation of metal containing pesticides, specifically ethylene bisdithiocarbamates, and their ability to elicit toxic consequences to the gastrointestinal tract. Normal and transformed human gastrointestinal cells are being used as an *in vitro* model system for this research to determine the mechanism of toxicity of these agents. Lisa is the co-author of 7 peer-reviewed and published abstracts and has presented her work in poster form at the Society of Toxicology meetings in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. Additionally, Lisa has published her research in the journal of Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology. Lisa has served as secretary on MASOT's Education and Outreach Committee for the past 4 years and was student representative of the *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty section from 2011-2013.



Announcements

Leadership opportunities! ELSI is now accepting nominations for our upcoming elections. Open positions are VP elect (4-year term, progressing to VP, president, and past-president), councilor (2 years), secretary/treasurer (2 years), post-doctoral representative (1 year), and student representative (1 year). Self-nominations are welcome. Interested candidates should keep a lookout for an email requesting

nomination information. Contact Lynne Haber (haber@teraj.org) if you are

interested or would like additional information.

New members! Please welcome our newest member Mylene Ratelle from the University of Montreal! *ELSI is always on the lookout for new members, please encourage others to join!*



Upcoming Newsletters! If you would like to have items are topics included in the next newsletter, or have any ideas for upcoming

technical webinars, *please send them to Suzette Long (Long.Suzette.M@cat.com).*

Reading Room

IRIS Reform

Is the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) really the gold standard? What did the National Research Council have to say about what some call a broken process?

<http://blog.epa.gov/science/2014/07/improving-iris-please-join-the-conversation/>

GHS Compliance

The Globally Harmonized System of Classifying and Labelling Chemicals (GHS) was originally developed by the United Nations (U.N.) GHS Sub-Committee in 2002, and subsequently endorsed by the U.N. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the GHS and the U.N. Economic and Social Council in July 2003. A full copy of the GHS (rev. 4)(2011) can be reviewed at http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev04/04files_e.html, and the status of implementation by 67 countries is found at

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/implementation_e.html.

During **2015**, chemical manufacturers (**June**) and distributors (**December**) within the United States must achieve full compliance with the GHS for classifying and labelling chemicals, as mandated by OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard in 2012. Information on the U.S. implementation of the GHS can be found at <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>. In Australia, GHS compliance must be completed for all workplace chemicals by **December 31, 2016**, per the National model Work Health and Safety Regulations adopted in 2012 (<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/whs-information/hazardous-chemicals/pages/hazardous-chemicals-other-substances>).

Technical Retractions

Interested in retractions? *Stay on top of the latest retractions at retractionwatch.com!*