SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY, INC.
1974-1975

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Placement
John G. Keller

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Bernard D. Astill
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Harold C. Grice
Sidney Laskin

Committee for Legislative Assistance
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Victor A. Drill
Wayland J. Hayes, Jr.
Paul A. Mattis
Sheldon D. Murphy
Robert L. Roudabush

Committee to Review Protocols on Preclinical Animal Testing
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Robert Beliles
David Blake
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John Noble
Geoffrey Woodard
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Technical Committee
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Robert G. Tardiff
William S. Upholt
Elizabeth K. Weisburger
Benjamin R. Zeitlin

ad hoc Committees

Advisory Committee on Acquisition of Toxicological Data on Pesticides for Food Additives Unit, World Health Org.
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Sheldon D. Murphy
Milton Eisler
William Durham
Wayland J. Hayes, Jr.
Frank C. Lu
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Emil Poulsen
Clara H. Williams

Committee on Ethics of Animal and Human Experimentation in Toxicology
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William D’Aguanno
John Doull
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Victor A. Drill

Representatives to the intersociety Forum on Occupational Health and Environmental Health
Seymour L. Friess
Sheldon D. Murphy
Robert A. Scala

Representative to Scientific Advisory Board, National Center for Toxicological Research
Robert A. Scala

Representative to Science Advisory Committee Registry of Tissue Reactions to Drugs, NAS-NRC
Harold M. Peck

Liaison with American Industrial Hygiene Association
Seymour L. Friess
Sheldon D. Murphy
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Liaison with European Society of Toxicology
Leon Golberg
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Liaison with Environmental Mutagens Society
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Liaison with American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
Joseph F. Borzelleca
John J. Burns
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Liaison with National Society of Medical Research
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FOURTEENTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY
1974-1975

The fourteenth meeting of the Society was held in Williamsburg, VA, March 9-13, 1975 with Dr. Sheldon D. Murphy, the presiding officer. At the time of the business meeting, 851 persons had registered—350 members, 435 non-members, and 66 students. Thirty-five had registered from Canada and 27 from overseas.

President Murphy reported that Council had met six times during the year. One of its undertakings was a complete review of the Constitution and By-Laws. Another of its concerns was how to increase revenue to pay for increasing costs of operating the Society. Council also asked the President to explore the possibility of forming an International Union of Toxicological Societies. President Murphy said he had attended meetings and/or visited toxicology institutions in Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Finland and gained the impression that toxicology is becoming of worldwide interest and that the time is rapidly approaching when this interest could be consolidated on an international level.

Among organizations in the United States seeking assistance from the Society of Toxicology was the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to review a draft criteria document on nitrogen oxides. The National Library of Medicine asked for advice and assistance in developing an international directory of toxicologists and a data repository for toxicology.

Various Society members have participated in an HEW Committee on Training Needs in Toxicology; a National Research Council Committee to Study National Needs for Biomedical and Behavioral Research Personnel; and on the U.S. Pharmacopoeia Revision Committee. The Society has also cosponsored two symposia and a workshop, one with the American Medical Association on “Dermato-Toxicology,” one with the Association of Official Analytical Chemists on “Toxicology Tests,” and a one-week course on “Principles and Practices of Industrial Toxicology” at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Some highlights of committee accomplishments were:

The Educational Committee completed the roster of colleges and universities offering courses in toxicology and was working on a revision to be sure it is up to date.

The ad hoc Committee on Ethics of Animal and Human Experimentation had prepared a position paper on this subject, and after review and approval by Council, it will be published in Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology.

An ad hoc Committee to assist the World Health Organization in the Acquisition of Toxicology Data on Pesticides under the chairmanship of Dr. Harold C. Grice had prepared a report recommending that the Society, by means of its Newsletter, publish notices of compounds to be reviewed by WHO and what kind of information is required.

The ad hoc Committee for Legislative Assistance, chaired by Dr. Joseph F. Borzelleca, was formed to provide an informational exchange with key staff members of various legislative committees. The Society of Toxicology was named as the one organization preeminently
qualified to conduct a review of the scientific programs of the National Center for Toxicological Research and this honor was, in part, a result of the efforts of this committee.

The Council unanimously agreed to appoint Dr. Harry W. Hays as Historian of the Society for a term of five years.

The Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Hans P. Drobeck, reported a 38% increase in operating costs over the previous year but the five-dollar increase in dues and two unexpected grants reduced the anticipated deficit to about $2,000. The Finance Committee had submitted recommendations to the Council in an effort to forestall future deficits: an increase in registration fees and a provision that Academic Press would give $4,000 a year toward support of the editorial office of the Journal. Also, the Society would discontinue subsidizing the banquet by $2.50 per ticket, a sizeable amount when multiplied by approximately 500 diners. They said the members would have to join the real world and pay the entire cost of their banquet tickets. Other sources of revenue would have to be considered in the future.

Other Committee reports were as follows:

The Membership Committee with Dr. Frederick Sperling as chairman reported 87 applications were reviewed and 51 accepted. The usual criteria were used, that is, number and relevance of publications, toxicological experience and level of responsibility, and recognition as an expert as shown by participation on panels, seminars and committees. One recurring problem was inadequate supporting letters, or in some cases, none at all. It is only from these letters that the Committee can judge an applicant's experience, level of responsibility and expertise.

The Board of Publications acknowledged the contribution of $4,000 from Academic Press as a great help in defraying some of the costs of the editorial office of the Journal. Other matters considered by the Board were involvement in a review type publication and a format for publication of safety evaluation data in the Journal. The number of manuscripts received for possible publication was 356 for a 13-month period, an average of 27 per month. One hundred forty-six were accepted, 103 rejected, and 107 still in process. The backlog of manuscripts had been cleared and the time from submission to publication reduced to 5-6 months.

*Technical Committee:* Several projects were initiated during the year but none had time enough to come to fruition. It was suggested that three-year rotating terms for its members be considered. With the one-year tenure, they were no sooner familiar with the problems than their terms were over.

The Placement Service continued operation under the direction of Dr. John G. Keller, with 108 resumes from applicants being reviewed and 66 from employers. As far as is known, 22 persons found employment and 12 employers found the toxicologists they were seeking.

An *ad hoc* Panel to the Educational Committee had been appointed to study the report on manpower and training and make recommendations. The Panel felt that the efforts of the *ad hoc* Committee on Manpower and Training should be continued in order to meet future needs for toxicologists. It recommended that some group, such as a panel or task force, should develop a better-designed questionnaire to provide a more accurate assessment of training and manpower
needs. Also, several qualified persons in the Society should make on-site visits to universities and colleges to evaluate their present programs, and to industrial, commercial, and government laboratories to assess their needs.

**Program Committee:** This was a very important year in the history of SOT. It was the year in which the Society was to cosponsor with the National Institute of Health Sciences the first of a series of symposia on “Target Organ Toxicity.” The first was scheduled for May 13-14,1975, on hepato-biliary and renal systems. A Steering Committee composed of Drs. Borzelleca, Golberg and Robert Weir was asked to develop a workshop on “In Vitro Chemical Carcinogenesis.” the Society, along with the American Industrial Hygiene Association, cosponsored a one week course on Principles and Practices of Industrial Toxicology, organized and conducted at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. It was the first year that the Poster Session became a part of the scientific presentation. It was the year in which Dr. Leon Golberg, the Society’s representative to the European Society of Toxicology (EST) met with the Council of EST at its meeting in Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia, and discussed the proposed joint SOT-EST meeting set for June 16-18, 1975, in Montpellier, and the possible formation of an International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX). He found considerable support for an IUTOX rather than an affiliate of the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHARM). It was the year when more than 10% of the members were actively participating in the affairs of the Society.

A highlight of every meeting was the announcement at the banquet of the recipients of the Society’s awards. On Tuesday evening the President, Dr. Sheldon Murphy, presented the Achievement Award to Dr. Ian Munro, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Canada, for significant contributions to toxicology; the Frank R. Blood Award to Drs. G.J. Johnstone, D.J. Ecobichon and O. Hutzinger for their paper on “The Influence of Pure Polychlorinated Biphenyl Compounds on Hepatic Function in the Rat” *(TAP 28:66-81, 1974)*; the Education Award, given for the first time, to Dr. Harold C. Hodge, Professor of Pharmacology, University of California at San Francisco; and the Merit Award to Dr. Fred Coulston, Director of the Institute of Toxicology and Pathology, Albany Medical College, for a distinguished career in toxicology.

The Council unanimously agreed to honor a distinguished friend of toxicology by presenting Dr. Otto A. Bessey a plaque expressing the Society’s gratitude for his support and encouragement in toxicology, which read “In appreciation for his public service toward the promotion and support in research and training in toxicology.” The speaker for this occasion was Dr. Fred Coulston.