

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE SOCIETY

1982-1983

The Society held its annual scientific and business meeting at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, NV on March 7-14, 1983. At the business meeting on Wednesday, March 9, President Dr. Robert Dixon announced that nearly 1,900 people had registered for the meeting. Whether this was due to the special attractions in Las Vegas or the excellence of the program will, of course, never be known but I would prefer to think it was the latter. This is the first year that every member had to travel by plane or car, since Nevada is one of four states not represented in the Society of Toxicology, the other three being Alaska, Vermont and Wyoming. This should be a challenge to have all 50 states represented by the 25th year. The President, after asking for a moment of silence in honor of those who died during the year, a custom practiced at every annual business meeting, proceeded to review the highlights of the year's activities and accomplishments. He outlined a few statistics which bear repeating:

Council met six times.

- Membership increased by more than 200, bringing the total to nearly 1,600.
- Cash reserves increased by more than \$120,000 and now exceed \$500,000.
- Two new Regional Chapters were certified, for a total of six.
- Two new Specialty Sections were approved, bringing the total to five.
- Liaison was established with 30 scientific organizations.
- The Society was supported by more than 40 corporate associates.
- 750 members responded to the Board of Publications survey.
- 32 students received travel support, amounting to more than \$16,000.
- Four continuing education courses were offered at Las Vegas and more than 700 scientists registered.
- Six symposia and 556 platform and poster presentations were made and more than 2000 persons were registered for the meeting.

This was a truly impressive list of accomplishments and by now it must have been obvious to everyone that there was no turning back. The President acknowledged with thanks, the work and dedication of the members of the committees, the Board of Publications, the Placement Service, the Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections, and other matters of interest to the members. It was a very thorough review.

The Treasurer, Dr. Richard S. Waritz, reported that the Society had more than one year's operating budget in reserve, a goal set by previous treasurers and councils. A new format was developed to clarify income and expenses for each activity of the Society. Net income from 1979 to 1982 rose from \$50,000 to \$117,000 while the reserves increased from \$92,000 to \$519,000. Operating costs during the same period increased from \$202,000 to \$415,000.

The major sources of income were the same as usual, but the interest on the reserves decreased substantially due to lower interest rates.

The International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) now had 12 full member organizations and five were to be voted into full membership at the IUTOX Council meeting in August 1983. The Third International Congress was scheduled to meet in San Diego at the same time the IUTOX Council was to meet. It was mentioned that a special feature would be the first established Lectureship in Toxicology and would be presented at each International Congress thereafter. It was established in honor of Dr. William B. Deichmann for his pioneering contributions to toxicology over a professional career of nearly half a century. IUTOX was now incorporated in the United States as a non-profit organization, dedicated to education and the advancement of the goals of all the subdisciplines in toxicology. The Fourth International Congress would be in Japan in 1986.

The Program Committee received 680 abstracts, the largest to date, for the scientific sessions. These were divided into 18 platform sessions with 203 papers and 19 poster sessions with 453 posters. Monday was devoted entirely to the Society's continuing education program. The four refresher courses included:

(1) Dermatotoxicology, which followed the concept of using a textbook and having the contributors discuss selected portions. The Editors of the textbook were Francis N. Marzulli, National Academy of Sciences; and Dr. Howard I. Maibach, University of California. Two hundred registered for this course. (2) Practical Statistics for the Toxicologists had 226 registered; (3) Complications of Infectious Agents in Toxicology Research had 114 registered; and (4) Male Reproductive Tract Toxicology had 235 registered.

The first of six symposia was on Monday, March 8, on "The Future of Animals in Research and Teaching." One of the speakers was Mr. T.R. Kramer, Chief Staff Director, House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, who talked about "Current Legislation for Development of Substitutes for Animals in Research." This was a very good move on the part of the Education and Program Committee to face the issues head-on. Gordon Newell, Chairman of the Animals in Research Committee, who had followed this problem for a number of years, served as Moderator. There was standing room only since an estimated 700-800 people were in attendance. The second symposium, organized by the Specialty Section on Mechanisms, was on Tuesday afternoon and the subject was "Alcohol Metabolism and Hepatotoxicity" and was chaired by Dr. Ronald G. Thurman, University of North Carolina. On Wednesday, a symposium on "Selenium: Toxin or Panacea" was organized by the Metals Section of SOT and was chaired by Dr. Carol Angle, University of Nebraska Medical Center. On Thursday morning a symposium jointly sponsored by the Society and the American College of Veterinary Toxicologists was on "Current Concepts in Food Technology." This was chaired by Drs. J.B. Hook of Smith, Kline & French and Jane Robens of FDA. The Neurotoxicity Section of SOT arranged a symposium on "The Application of Neurotoxicological Techniques to Toxicological Problems" and was chaired by Dr. Dorothy E. Woolley, University of California at Davis. The sixth and final symposium was on "Biological Effects of Chemical Interactions" and was chaired by Drs. William O. Berndt, University of Nebraska, and H.M. Mehendale, University of Mississippi Medical Center. All of these symposia attracted a great deal of attention and

demonstrated the value of the Society's sections in spearheading a very important part of the scientific program.

Of particular importance was the first Student/Postdoctoral Colloquium, arranged by the SOT Education Committee. It was chaired by a graduate student, Claude McGowan, Toxicology Program, North Carolina State University. One speaker in particular was S.A. Chow, winner of the 1982 Procter & Gamble Fellowship, who presented a paper on "Cyproheptadine Toxicity in the Developing Endocrine Pancreas."

Tuesday afternoon was a flurry of activity. The Issues Session held at 12 noon to 1:15 p.m. allowed an opportunity for any member who wished to attend to ask the officers and Council members questions about the affairs of the Society that could not be discussed at the business meeting because of the time limitations. Since no minutes were kept of these meetings or the attendance, there is no way of knowing whether they have served a useful purpose, especially when the surrounding areas provided some interesting things to do. After the platform and posters sessions had ended the Regional Chapters and Specialty sessions took over. The Michigan, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, National Capital area and the South Central Chapters met at 5:00 p.m. in various rooms for libations and to encourage prospective members to join. The Mountain West Chapter, still in the formation stage of organization, met to continue its work.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter initiated an "Ambassador in Toxicology Award" and it was presented to Dr. Julius Coon at its annual meeting. Previous Ambassadors were Dr. Leon Golberg and Dr. Ben Oser. The Mid-West Chapter presented the Kenneth P. Dubois Award to Dr. Robert Forney at the Las Vegas meeting. The first award was presented to Dr. Victor A. Drill in 1982.

The Specialty Sections had their day on Wednesday afternoon. The Inhalation Section presented its first Research Award to Dr. Herbert Stokinger. The Metals, Neurotoxicology and Reproductive Toxicology Sections held open meetings for current and prospective members.

The Board of Publications reported that during calendar year 1982, a total of 583 manuscripts were received for publication in *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*. Of these, 205 were accepted, 5 were withdrawn, 293 rejected and 80 were still under review. The average time for publication was 3.9 months.

Fundamental and Applied Toxicology became current in the second year of publication. This made it possible for the Journal to be included in Current Contents/Life Sciences, and the Science Citation Index. During calendar year 1982, 147 papers were submitted for review and 63 were accepted, 14 rejected, 3 withdrawn and 67 were under review. The average time between acceptance and publication was 4-5 months.

A major activity of the Board was the conduct of an opinion survey on Journal subscription and dues structure. The response rate was 54%, much better than most surveys. About 90% endorsed the Society's support of the Journals as a fulfillment of the purpose of the Society. Seventy-five percent felt they should have an option on whether or not to purchase the Journal. Seventy-one percent were willing to continue mandatory purchase until a means could be found to make optional purchase at a reasonable cost. The Board recommended to Council that members eventually be given the option to purchase one or the other of the Journals as soon as

it could be accomplished without being a detriment to either one. The Board also considered commercial publication of *Fundamental and Applied Toxicology* and contacts were made with several companies publishing scientific journals.

The Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee became more aggressive in communicating with the Federal Government by providing Senate and House Committee staff members an overview of toxicology. This included virtues and vices of *in vitro* test methods; critical aspects of species and dose selection; statistics and computerized data acquisition; hazard evaluation and extrapolation of animal data to man. This was later followed by a second meeting with additional Senate and House staff members and provided an opportunity to answer a wide variety of questions that put toxicology in a much better light and hopefully would be reflected in any new proposed legislation.

The Education Committee met in Las Vegas to select the 1983 Procter and Gamble Fellowship Award. After interviewing a number of candidates Ms. Laurie A. Basting, Department of Environmental and Community Health, Rutgers University, was chosen to receive the award. In addition to increasing the award to \$8,000, the Procter and Gamble Company offered to pay the travel expenses to Las Vegas for the candidates selected for the interview.

The Council awarded travel grants to 31 graduate students under the SOT Travel Grant Program. The funds were substantially increased from \$6,713 in 1982 to \$17,000 in 1983. Nine of the students were from the east coast, 14 from the midwest, 7 from the west coast and one from Canada. The Committee arranged the Student/Post-doctoral Colloquium and suggested that it be a regular part of the annual meeting and be renamed "Young Investigators Colloquium." The Committee updated the brochure and poster information. It recommended that Council provide funds in support of a regional speakers program that would enhance the graduate training in toxicology. The President, Council and the Committee held a reception for graduate students attending the annual meeting which gave the students an opportunity to meet senior members of the profession in an informal setting. It was recommended that this be done each year.

This was a record year for the Membership Committee. Two hundred thirteen applications were filed, of which 130 were recommended for Active and 68 for Associate membership. Eleven were rejected and 4 were deferred. Several recommendations were made in regard to procedural matters.

The Toxicology Scholar Award Advisory Committee, composed of three members of the Society of Toxicology recommended by the Council and approved by the Directors of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and one member appointed by the Directors of the Fund, was established in 1981 to provide support to academic institutions in the United States for a faculty member to serve as a focus for the development of toxicology teaching and research. The first award was given to Dr. Alan Poland of the University of Wisconsin McArdle Laboratory for Oncology; the second (1982) was made to Dr. Curtis Klaassen of the University of Kansas Medical Center. In 1983 the task of selecting the award became very difficult and the Advisory Committee recommended that two awards be given. The Directors of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund generously accepted the recommendation without establishing a precedent. These awards

of \$200,000 each, payable over a five year period, were made to Dr. F. Peter Guengerich, Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Vanderbilt University, and to Dr. R. Craig Schnell, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacodynamics and Toxicology at the College of Pharmacy, University of Nebraska.

The Placement Service under the direction of Drs. F.R. Johannsen and Richard A. Parent had a very active year, processing 241 resumes for persons seeking jobs and 39 positions to be filled. With a modest increase in fee structure the service showed a profit of nearly \$1,500. Efforts were being made to encourage more dialogue between applicants and potential employers during 'the year rather than focusing on the Annual Meeting. Regardless of what short-comings there may have been, the Placement Service was doing an outstanding job for the members of SOT.

In April 1982, the President, Bob Dixon, appointed a Task Group of nine Past Presidents to make an intensive review of the Constitution and Bylaws. This resulted in a line-by-line evaluation with a number of recommendations for minor or substantial changes. The Task Group felt that the Constitution and By-Laws should not be excessively cluttered with details. A second Task Group of Past Presidents was asked to prepare a planning document on options for a headquarters operation. The general consensus was to change the existing contract, but not before making an indepth analysis of the financial impact.

At the banquet on Thursday evening, March 10, the President, Dr. Robert Dixon and members of Council, presented the following awards: the Frank R. Blood Award to Dr. Henry d'Arcy Heck for his paper, "Chemical Urolithiasis 2. Thermodynamic Aspects of Bladder Stone Induction by Terphthalic Acid and Dimethyl Terphthalate in Weanling Fisher 344 Rats," published in *Fundamental and Applied Toxicology*, Vol.1, pp. 299-308, 1981.

The Education Award, jointly sponsored by SOT and the Forum for the Advancement of Toxicology, went to Dr. Julius M. Coon, a highly respected scientist and teacher. The Arnold J. Lehman Award was given to David P. Rall, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Toxicology Program, NIEHS, for his excellence on scientific endeavors.

The Merit Award was presented to Perry' J. Gehring, D.V.M., Ph.D., of Dow Chemical Company, Midland, MI, for an outstanding career in toxicology and for a major contribution to studies on toxicokinetics.