

TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY

1984-1985

The Society held its annual meeting at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California from March 18-22, 1985. Two thousand seven hundred fifty persons registered for the meeting, the largest number in the history of the Society. The President, Dr. Fred Oehme, called the business meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, and after discharging some of the necessary formalities, he called upon the officers and chairmen of certain committees to present their annual reports.

The Secretary, Dr. Marshall Steinberg, read the results of the election of officers and committee members, which had been taken by mail ballot, and which would take effect on May 1, 1985.

The Treasurer, Dr. Richard Waritz, presented an excellent report on the financial status of the Society. He said that even with the anticipatory change in moving to new headquarters, the Society would still be able to maintain a positive cash flow. The Society, he said, continues to support travel grants to students, provides assistance for special programs in IUTOX and Specialty Sections, travel and per diem expenses for Council and committee meetings during the year. The major sources of income continue to be from the annual meetings, corporate associate dues and interest from investments. Total assets as of March 1985 were \$710,050.

The Membership Committee met in September 1984 and reviewed 140 applications. Of these, 63/83 were accepted for Active; 22/27 for Associate and 25/30 for Student membership, for a total of 110 new members. In February 1985, the Committee reviewed 110 applications and accepted 37/52 for Active; 18/21 for Associate and 37/37 for Student membership, for a total of 92 new members. The total for the year was 202 new members. Reasons for rejection or deferral were the same as those in previous years but the Committee is continuing to recommend changes in procedures that could result in a greater acceptance rate.

The Program Committee received over 1000 abstracts for the scientific meetings. With the excellent cooperation of the committee members and the headquarters staff, a well-organized program was developed by late October. The abstracts were divided into 19 platform sessions with 250 papers, and 25 poster sessions with 764 posters, the largest number ever recorded. In addition, arrangements were made for eight symposia.

The meeting started off on Monday with four Continuing Education Courses developed by the Professional Relations and Standards Committee: (1) "Inhalation Toxicology;" (2) "Renal Toxicology," which provided a review of pulmonary and renal morphology and the nature and mechanisms of toxic responses; (3) "Monoclonal Antibodies-Application to Toxicology" provided an overview of the role of monoclonal antibodies in their application to toxicology, including techniques and basic concepts, and (4) "Toxicological Information Searches by Computer." This was an indepth discussion of the content, use and searching methods associated with the chemical and toxicological data bases, such as Chemline and Toxline. A total of 1066 people pre-registered for these courses, paying approximately \$30 per course. This was certainly a reflection of the importance the members, as well as non-member professionals, place upon this part of the Society's scientific program.

The first symposium, held on Tuesday, March 19, on “Application of Cell Culture to Toxicology” was sponsored by the Mechanisms Specialty Section of SOT and the Tissue Culture Association. It was co-chaired by Daniel Acosta, University of Texas, and June Bradlaw of the Food and Drug Administration. The second symposium on Tuesday afternoon was on “Sensory Systems Toxicology: Correlated Measurements of Toxicity” and was sponsored by the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section of SOT. This was chaired by Donald A. Fox, University of Houston, TX.

On Wednesday, a third symposium entitled “New Issues in Regulatory Toxicology and Health Risk Assessment” attracted a great deal of attention and was one of the largest of the week-long meeting. This was co-chaired by Michael L. Dourson, EPA, Cincinnati, OH, and A. Wallace Hayes, R. J. Reynolds Industries. The New Investigators’ Colloquium, sponsored by the Education Committee, provided an opportunity for young people to discuss their research. Philip Bartholomew, the 1984 Procter & Gamble awardee, presented a paper on “Tolerance to Organophosphate Cholinesterase Inhibitors. The chairperson was D. Keller of Duke University.

Two symposia were scheduled for Thursday morning. The first was on “Recent Developments in the Use and Disposal of Hazardous Chemicals in the Research Laboratory” and was sponsored by the Technical Committee of SOT. The other was on “The Biological Activity of and the Effect of Food-Processing Operations on Selected Food-Borne Toxicants,” and was sponsored by the Institute of Food Technologists and the Society of Toxicology. This symposium was chaired by P.L. Kraft, Pepsi-Cola Co. and S.T. Omaye, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

On Thursday afternoon, the Metals Specialty Section of SOT sponsored a symposium on “The Role of Glutathione in Toxicology of Metals.” It was chaired by Bohdan R. Nechay, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

The eighth and final symposium on Friday, March 22, was sponsored by the Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Section and was on “Male-Mediated Reproductive Toxicology.” It was chaired by Granville Nolen of the Procter & Gamble Co.

The Poster Sessions, with over 700 posters, constituted a big part of the scientific program, and from all accounts was very successful. There were, however, some complaints about the quality of the posters. This comes as no surprise for the Society has tried for 25 years, without much success, to get platform speakers to prepare slides that can be seen and read from any part of the meeting rooms. Both of these problems will take time, patience, and education to make any real advance.

The Presidents of the Specialty Sections, of which there are five, met with the Council on Tuesday, March 19, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Cabinet Room of the Hotel to report on their activities and future plans. As noted in the scientific program, the Specialty Sections played a very important part in making the meeting interesting and rewarding. There are now over 400 members in the Specialty Sections and each one has a progressive recruitment program. Council now has under consideration the establishment of several new sections.

The formation of Regional Chapters, which now number ten, provides an opportunity for scientists at the grass roots level to participate in the affairs of the Society, particularly for those who may find it inconvenient to travel to the annual meetings, by organizing scientific programs, helping to educate the public on the need for use of animals in research, assisting young developing scientists interested in toxicology as a career, and developing good interdisciplinary relations with other scientists in the area.

The Technical Committee was requested to provide peer review on OSHA's proposed short-term exposure limit (STEL) and to express an opinion on whether short-term limits are applicable to materials that are carcinogenic, mutagenic, genotoxic, or cause other chronic effects. The Committee discussed the need for symposia, workshops and short courses and suggested that the Council prepare a position paper on the use of animals in toxicity testing.

After several lengthy meetings, the Animals in Research Committee suggested that the Council give serious consideration to publishing guidelines on the use of animals in toxicological research, develop an educational program, study the feasibility of producing a pamphlet describing certain aspects of research in toxicology, and explore the possibility of getting a public relations firm to write a series of general articles on research that could be used by the news media to help forestall restrictive legislation. The Committee pointed out that in the first two months of 1985, eight states introduced legislation on the use of animals in research.

The Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee continued to monitor proposed legislation at the federal level that would impact on toxicology and when requested, provide information to various Congressional committees.

The Committee on Public Communications was established in June 1984 by Dr. Fred Oehme, President, as an extension of the Communications Task Group. It was requested to develop and implement a multifaceted program through which SOT could foster better communications with the general public on the goals and benefits of toxicology to Society. The Committee developed a number of proposals, among which were the following:

- (1) Develop a joint workshop/symposia with national professional societies of the news media.
- (2) Develop an outreach course on toxicologists/news media information exchange.
- (3) Organize a symposium on "Toxicologists and the News Media."
- (4) Prepare a series of articles for publication in the Journal of the American Medical Association.
- (5) Arrange for radio spot programs on toxicology issues.

These were placed under consideration and there was no indication of how Council reacted to these suggestions.

The Education Committee received 36 applications for the Procter & Gamble and Hazleton Laboratories Fellowship Awards. Four finalists were interviewed and two were selected to receive the awards at the banquet on Thursday, March 21, 1985. Travel awards were made to 44

pre-doctoral students. This has been a very important part of the Society's efforts to encourage young people to make their careers in toxicology. Through the efforts of the Committee and with the assistance of Dr. John Autian, a roster of colleges and universities offering graduate courses in toxicology continues to be an important part of the Committee's activity.

The Placement Service, with Richard Parent and Carl Hake as Director and Co-Director respectively, has made some significant advances toward more effective operation. Reaching students has been a problem and members of SOT have now been requested to post announcements in the Newsletter and on their bulletin boards so that students can take advantage of the lower pre-registration rates. Two postcard surveys were made in 1984 and it was found that of more than 100 job applicants, 27 found employment through the placement service while 24 found positions through other means. The Regional Chapters were encouraged to set up employment services for people with bachelor's degrees. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter has already initiated such a program. Total income of the Placement Service was \$9560 with expenses of \$2496, leaving a net profit of \$7064. As more people are registering prior to the annual meeting to take advantage of the lower rate, the income is expected to decrease. With the assistance of the Information Handling Committee, the Placement Service plans to move into the computer age with more sophisticated on-line service.

The Board of Publications, responsible for the Society's official journals, *TAP* and *FAAT*, had a very successful year and the journals continue to enjoy increasing readership largely due to the high scientific quality. The Board has been fortunate in having fine editors, associate editors and editorial boards. The acceptance rate of manuscripts has remained fairly constant with 45% for *TAP* and 65% for *FAAT*. A good portion of the papers in *FAAT* are devoted to symposia that have already been peer-reviewed, thus accounting for the higher acceptance rate. The Board continues to publish the *Toxicologist* as a means of disseminating the abstracts of papers to be presented at the annual scientific meeting. These were previously published in the journal, taking up valuable pages for scientific papers. The first volume appeared in 1981. Some questions have been raised about possible conflict of interest and after careful review of the selection process for Editor and Associate Editor, it was concluded that scientific expertise was the major factor.

During 1984-85, the Anniversary Committee met on three separate occasions to make plans for the 25th year of annual meetings of the Society. In April 1985, Dr. Harry Hays submitted a draft to Council of the History of the first 21 years. Members were asked, via the Newsletter, to provide memorabilia of important events for display at the meeting in New Orleans in March 1986.

The SOT-IUTOX Councilors selected five highly qualified scientists to attend the first IUTOX summer school in Menstrup Kru near Copenhagen, Denmark. The Councilors also interacted with the program committee for the 4th International Congress of Toxicology to be held in Tokyo, Japan, on July 21-25, 1986.

On April 29, 1985, the Headquarters Committee made several onsite visits to places believed to be conveniently located for access to the headquarters office. Several locations were reported to look promising and a decision was made to move the office from Akron, OH, to Washington, D.C.

The Information handling Committee made several suggestions to improve the operation capabilities of the Society. For the 1986 meeting, efforts are being made to develop a keyboard/author indexing capability; survey the membership for personal information of historical interest and to help Council identify members with specialized knowledge who can be called upon for their particular expertise; develop a computerized information and message center to eliminate the corkboards with hundreds of paper slips, and thus bring order out of chaos.

In 1981, the Council adopted a code of ethics, which, at the time, seemed adequate but it did not require any personal commitment. During the past year or two, a committee composed of Drs. Marshall Steinberg, Chairman, Robert Forney, Leon Golberg and Sheldon Murphy, drafted a new code, which, after numerous revisions, was submitted to the membership for approval. Of the 891 ballots returned, 93.7% voted in favor of the code. Every member has been sent a copy suitable for display. In general, the code provides for objectivity and integrity, a recognition that credible science is fundamental to all research, that information be disseminated in a timely and responsible manner, and the need to avoid situations that might involve conflict of interest. This has been a subject of concern for many years and this code should help to maintain a high standard of professionalism in the Society.

On Thursday evening, March 21, the officers and members of Council participated in presenting the various awards. The recipient of the Merit Award was Carrol S. Weil, formerly with the Carnegie-Mellon University, for a long and distinguished career in toxicological research and for his many contributions as a member of numerous committees promoting the science of toxicology.

The Achievement Award was presented to Alan R. Buckpitt, Assistant Professor of Toxicology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis, for providing a better understanding of the role of glutathione ad-ducts in the specificity of the pulmonary lesions produced by naphthalene. The recipient of the Arnold J. Lehman Award was Dr. Fred Coulston for his many contributions to the regulatory aspects of toxicology.

The Toxicology Education Award was presented to William B. Buck of the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, in recognition of his being an accomplished educator in the basic, applied and clinical aspects of toxicology.

The Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award was given to the University of Arizona on behalf of I. Glenn Sipes. The award of \$250,000, payable over a five-year period, is given annually by the Society of Toxicology with funds made available by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. It is a collaborative program to recognize scholarly achievement in toxicology. Dr. Sipes has done outstanding work in developing techniques for the elucidation of the mechanisms of chemically-induced liver injury and is certainly worthy of this recognition.

The Frank R. Blood Award was presented to three scientists from Kitasata University, Tokyo, Japan: Dr. Miura, Dr. Inokawa and Dr. Imura, for their paper on the “Effects of Methylmercury and Some Metal Ions on Microtubule Networks in Mouse Glioma Cells and *in vitro* Tubulin Polymerization.” Dr. Imura accepted the award and expressed the authors’ appreciation for this recognition. The paper was published in *TAP* 73:218-2311984.

The 1985 Procter and Gamble Graduate Fellowship Award of \$8,000 was presented to Russell Esterline of Rutgers University. The recipient of the Hazleton Graduate Fellowship Award of \$4,000 was Kevin Gaido of West Virginia University.