

THE TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1986-1987

Highlights: After the highly successful Silver Anniversary year, there could have been some tendency for a let-down. However, the Society maintained its momentum and showed growth in numbers of members, size of the Annual Meeting, number and size of Specialty Sections and Regional Chapters and overall strength.

The twenty-sixth Meeting of the Society was held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington DC on February 24-27, 1987 with the Annual Meeting of Members at 4:00 pm on February 25. The meeting was chaired by President John Doull who announced that registration again set a record with a total of 3359, an increase of about 300 from the previous year, also a record year. The reception held at the Corcoran Gallery was well attended and featured a string quartet and an inspiring talk by the President of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Frank Press.

The 26th year of the Society was one of consolidation. The officers and members appeared to have drawn on the reflections and reminiscences of the Silver Anniversary Year 1985-1986 to set the goals and define the concerns for the next several years. Chief among these were the need for closer attention to financial planning and the merits of having the Society's operations in the hands of a Washington DC-based professional management firm. In a sense these two issues were linked. As the needs and activities of the Society grew and as services provided to members increased, there were increased demands placed on the paid headquarters staff to carry out functions previously done by unpaid volunteers. The Society no longer had reserves equal to one year's operating expenses, a goal established many years earlier. In its 26th year SOT had an annual operating budget approaching \$ 1 million and reserves of approximately \$650,000. The Finance Committee (Gary L. Lage, Treasurer as Chair with John Doull, President, Jerry B. Hook, Councilor, Robert Snyder and Roger O. McClellan as members) recommended and Council approved increases in several fees including registration for the Continuing Education courses, Annual Meeting registration, Membership dues, journal manuscript handling fee and the institution of an abstract fee for the Annual Meeting. These were to take effect with the 1987-1988 year. These increases would not significantly increase SOT's reserves but would avoid budget imbalances such as were experienced this year. Membership dues provided less than 20% of SOT income whereas the Annual Meeting represented over 50%. On the expense side, the Meeting accounted for about 34% of the outflow and general administrative costs another 28%. The Society partially underwrites the expenses of new Specialty Sections. SOT also finances a number of awards and grants for student travel.

Another major force shaping the future of the Society is the selection of officers and Councilors. New officers to begin serving May 1, 1987 were Roger O. McClellan, Vice

President-Elect; Steven D. Cohen, Secretary and Councilors (1987-89) John L. Emmerson and I. Glenn Sipes. The treasurer Gary L. Lage was elected for a second two-year term. Elected Committee members were Deborah A. Cory-Sleeta and James V. Bruckner (Education) and Robert E. Menzer and Michael J. McKenna (Membership). Each will serve for two years. The elected members of the Nominating Committee to serve 1987-1988 were Ernest Hodgson, Hanspeter R. Witschi, Gabriel L. Plaa and Joseph F. Borzelleca.

Proposed By-Laws amendments brought before the membership at the Annual Meeting involved the means by which the Chair of the Membership Committee is appointed; the number of members of the Education Committee and the term of those members. These items were submitted to mail ballot and subsequently approved by the membership.

The Education Committee funded 55 student travel awards and screened 20 candidate applications for SOT Graduate Student Fellowships. At this meeting the New Investigator Program was incorporated into the regular platform sessions instead of being free-standing as before. The Committee also compiled the Roster of Degree Programs in Toxicology. This Roster was formerly done as a service by one of the Society's members, John Autian and has been a most valuable tool in counseling students who may have an interest in toxicology as a career.

The Membership Committee reviewed 361 applications during the past year and recommended 152 for full membership; 93 for associate membership and 89 for student membership. The Committee reported that the number of applications, particularly from students, continues to grow. This is clearly a sign of health for the Society and the profession. The Headquarters office worked well with the Committee in checking applications for completeness thus making the entire review process more efficient.

Past President Tom S. Miya continued to chair the Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award Advisory Committee. This year he and his committee reviewed 15 applications and noted that collectively the nominations were of the highest quality observed since the inception of the program. Don Reed completed his service on the Committee and with the concurrence of SOT Council was replaced by Curtis Klaassen for a three year term. Dr. Klaassen was just completing his tenure as a Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar and thus brought a special perspective to the award selection process.

The Nominating Committee considered a total of 79 members for the seven offices and committees to be placed on the 1987 ballot. To avoid any bias because of position on the ballot, the committee recommended that the candidates be listed in reverse alphabetical order this year and on alternate years. All candidates, in addition to

agreeing to stand for election, were required to provide a photograph and brief biographical statement for use in preparing the ballot.

President Doull emphasized the importance of the SOT journals to the Society and to each individual member. These publications are an important part in the fulfillment of SOT's broad purposes and are overseen by the Board of Publications. The Chair of the board was Gary P. Carlson with President Doull, Mary Vore and Gabriel L. Plaa as members and Jerry B. Hook, SOT Vice President; Bernard A. Schwetz (FAAT Editor) and I. Glenn Sipes (TAP Editor) as Auditors. The Board sets editorial policy for the journals and has the duty to maintain the high quality of these publications. Both journals named new editors during the past year and the transition was smooth including the naming of four new associate editors each for FAAT and TAP. The overall objectives of the two journals were unchanged with "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" dealing primarily with papers that are mechanistic in nature and pertain to an understanding of lesions or actions on cell and tissue function at all levels. "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology" is concerned with safety evaluation, issues in risk analysis and the results of investigations which either use new methodologies or are more descriptive than mechanistic. In 1986 TAP published 2851 pages in 15 issues covering 5 volumes. There were 590 manuscripts submitted in 1986 with 146 accepted; 116 in review; 227 rejected and the remainder transferred to FAAT, under revision, withdrawn, etc. FAAT published 1490 pages in 8 issues covering 2 volumes. There were 257 manuscripts submitted in 1986 with 86 accepted; 90 in review or revision; 72 rejected and the remainder either transferred to TAP or handled as letters. The total of 847 manuscripts submitted to the two journals is about 8% more than considered in 1985. The acceptance rate continued in the historic range of 45-55%. The Board continued to be concerned about the small number of institutional subscriptions to FAAT, due in part to the practice of individual members donating their personal copies to institutional libraries. Since there is a significant difference between subscription rates, the practice adversely affects the finances of the journal. The Board also considered the problem of manuscripts rejected by one of SOT's journals being submitted to the other SOT journal, resulting in confusion for both editors and reviewers. Member cooperation in this matter was sought. Finally, the authors of manuscripts requiring revision following review have not always completed this revision in a timely fashion. The result is a large number of reviewed manuscripts that still await an accept/reject decision thus hindering the planning of individual issues.

The Specialty Sections now number 7 with the addition of the Carcinogenesis Section. The others are Mechanisms, Metals, Inhalation, Neurotoxicology, Immunotoxicology and Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology. These Sections contribute to the scientific vigor and richness of the Society through meetings, Annual Meeting or other symposia, newsletters and continuing education courses. Some of the Sections also offer awards. Among the latter are the Career Achievement Award of the

Inhalation Specialty Section given this year to Mary O. Amdur. Most Sections provide cash or other awards for graduate student research papers.

The Society also has 14 Regional Chapters with the addition of the Northern California Chapter. The original Chapters dating from the 1979 Council approval of this activity were Mid-Atlantic, Michigan, Mid-West and North Carolina. Later additions included National Capital Area, Gulf Coast, Central States, Northeast, South Central, Southeastern, Pacific Northwest, Ohio Valley and Mountain West. A Southern California Chapter was under consideration. These Chapters make a considerable contribution to the discipline of toxicology and increase local awareness of the science and its contributions to public health and safety.

Two linked issues- Ethics and Animals in Research received considerable attention from their respective appointed committees during the 1986-1987 year. The Ethics Committee met and presented to Council a series of recommendations largely dealing with the manner in which the society could deal with potential ethical questions arising in connection with applications for membership, the Society's Code of Ethics (adopted January 31, 1985) and related issues. A Standing Committee of former Councilors was also proposed. As these matters required a By-Laws change and past experience had shown such matters to be exceedingly complex, Council decided to proceed with caution and advice of legal counsel. The Animals in Research Committee sponsored a full day's program at the 1987 Meeting with a symposium titled "Alternatives to Animals and Innovative Designs in Toxicology". Both platform and poster presentations were included and the invited speakers included leaders in the field of alternatives to animal testing. This issue increased in importance to SOT as there has been considerable interest (and pressure) to reduce the numbers of animals used in toxicity studies and to refine or eliminate some tests which appear to have limited utility or involve inappropriate levels of distress to the test animals. The Committee has in preparation a pamphlet on the need for animals in biomedical and toxicological testing and a code of practice for those who use animals in research.

The Information Handling Committee undertook a large series of topics for the year. Many of them related to database or bibliography development such as an annotated bibliography of alternatives to animal testing. This topic linked well with the concerns of the Animals in Research Committee. Other projects involved an electronic mail system for use by Headquarters and members (Headquarters and Council are already linked); taking over the Keyword Index of papers presented at the Annual Meeting from the member, Elton R. Homan, who had been doing this task on his own home computer; a more efficient message center at the Annual Meeting (the computer-based electronic system used at the 25th Annual Meeting was overwhelmed; Council found this concept not cost effective and it was dropped) and a proposal for a salary survey. The Committee also proposed a symposium on "Toxicology in the Year 2000" and began the search for colleagues with that sort of vision.

The newest committee has one of the most demanding assignments. The Long Range Planning Committee has been charged with three tasks. They are a review of the Headquarters operation; an investment plan for the Society and examination of the Annual Meeting. As a preliminary activity, the Committee surveyed 50 selected members for their ideas on each of these issues and began discussions with the Society's Executive Secretary regarding the advantages and disadvantages of using convention centers for future meetings. The Committee rejected a proposal that the Society invest in Washington DC area real estate for a possible future "home". It suggested to Council that Miami, Florida be the site of the 1990 meeting and that long term contracts be used to assure optimal dates and rates. Council supported the booking of Miami not only in 1990 but in 1993 and 1996 as well. Since the Society's contract with the present association management firm was only a year old, it was felt that more time should elapse before there was an in-depth study.

The Committee on Public Communications had three major projects underway. One involved the feasibility of a toxicology information resource service; the second was the development of source materials for use in public schools and the third involved the development of short spots for radio on toxicologic issues. Proposals regarding each of these matters were under review by Council but the expenses attendant on each of them dimmed prospects somewhat.

The Continuing Education Committee prepared a slate of six courses for the 26th Annual Meeting that served to start the scientific program on a high note. The courses offered were Dermal Absorption and the Metabolism of Xenobiotics, Hepatotoxicity, Naturally Occurring Toxins, Clinical Chemistry of Laboratory Animals, In-Vitro Toxicology Testing and Toxicology of Special Senses. There were 1500 registrations for these courses, the highest number ever. There was interest in securing continuing education credits for these courses and the Committee, chaired by William E. Rinehart, will determine whether it can be done.

The Society's President Elect, Jerry B. Hook, was chair of the Program Committee. The work of this Committee is among the most demanding tasks in the Society and certainly has a major impact on the scientific credibility of the Society and the profession. The Committee responded to this challenge in an outstanding fashion. They reviewed 1107 abstracts and considered 20 applications for symposia. The final program consisted of 15 symposia, some planned jointly with Specialty Sections or Standing Committees of the Society, 24 platform sessions and 34 poster sessions. The latter continued to be an increasingly popular and effective means of scientific communication. A modification of this was the "poster/discussion" sessions. After viewing posters in one area, interested parties moved to another room where there was a focused discussion on the subject. All this took place despite the usual problem of last

minute submissions of abstracts. The line of Federal Express trucks outside the Headquarters office on deadline date was a testimony to that.

The Placement Service Committee presented a popular and well received seminar titled "How to Handle Yourself Successfully in the Current Job Market". This was in addition to working with approximately 300 candidates and 128 job postings. As a result there was a premium on interviewing rooms. The Committee reported fewer students but a compensating increase in "non-students" this year as compared with the previous year.

The Fourth International Congress of Toxicology (ICT-IV) was held in Tokyo in July, 1986 with the Science Council of Japan and the Japanese Society of Toxicological Sciences having served as hosts. The IUTOX Executive Committee for the 1986-1989 period will include SOT members Perry J. Gehring, President; James E. Gibson, Secretary-General; Jens S. Schou, Treasurer and Bo Holmstedt, Past President. ICT-V will be held in 1989 in Brighton, England.

At the Annual Banquet during the Washington DC meeting, the highlight was the presentation of the Society's awards. The Frank R. Blood Award was given to John Kao, Frances K. Patterson and Jerry Hall for their paper "Skin Penetration and Metabolism of Topically Applied Chemicals in Six Mammalian Species, Including Man: An In Vitro Study with Benzo[a]pyrene and Testosterone." *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* 81: 502-516, 1985. The Toxicology Education Award was given to Gabriel L. Plaa and the Achievement Award was won by James S. Bus. The Arnold J. Lehman Award was given to John P. Frawley and the Society's most prestigious award, the Merit Award was given to Bo Holmstedt. The Committee reported that for most awards there were a substantial number of qualified nominations.

The Council of the Society met in May, July, September and November, 1986 and January and February 1987. Reports were received from officers and committees and the routine business of managing a professional society with over 2000 members transacted. All of this required the continuing support of the Headquarters staff. Among the issues considered were the handling of exhibits at the Annual Meeting by an outside contractor; additional supporters for the Graduate Student Fellowship Award; a possible professional manpower survey; the Society's contract with Academic Press and the closely related issue of member subscription fees; several possible By-Laws changes; an increase in the stipends for the SOT awards and the decision to ban smoking in the exhibit and poster areas.