

Society of Toxicology NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1988

ISSX/SOT Platform, Poster Presentation Awards Announced

Due to the excellence of papers presented at the International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics/Society of Toxicology (ISSX/SOT) North American Symposium on "Endogenous Factors in the Toxicity of Xenobiotics" in Clearwater, Florida, in November, the judges announced co-winners for first place in both platform and poster categories.

Winners in the platform category (\$500 and a plaque) were **James A. Bond**, J.R. Harkema, V.I. Russell, and **R.O. McClellan**, Lovelace Inhalation Toxicology Research Institute, Albuquerque, for "Regional Distribution of Xenobiotic Metabolizing Enzymes in the Canine Respiratory Tract," and R. van de Stratt and N.P.E. Vermeulen, Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, for "Prevention of Paracetamol-induced Hepatotoxicity in the Mice and in Hepatocytes of the Rat by Structural Modification of Paracetamol."

The poster award (\$500 and a plaque) was shared by Margot Bengtsson and Jan Rydstrom (sponsored by J-A Gustafsson), Department of Biochemistry, Arrhenius Laboratory, University of Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden, for "Cell Type Specific Metabolism of 7,12-dimethylbenz(a)anthracene in the Rat and Human Ovary," and Joseph M. Malik and **Alan G.E. Wilson**, Monsanto Agricultural Company, St. Louis, for "Species Differences in the Tissue Distribution, Metabolism, and Elimination of the Herbicide Alachlor."

Judges for the platform presentations were **M.W. Anders**, Neal Castagnoli, **Robert P. Hanzlik**, **Paul Hollenberg**, and William Tragler.

Judges for the poster presentations were **John R. Bend** and Richard M. Welch.

The awards are presented in memory of Anna Di Carlo.



Awards Winners at the ISSX-SOT Symposium include, left to right, Nico Vermeulen, Margot Bengtsson, **Fred Di Carlo**, Joe Malik, and **James Bond**.

Member News

M.W. Anders, Ph.D., DVM, University of Rochester, currently is on sabbatical leave at the Graduate Department of Biochemistry, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, and is the National Institutes of Health Merit Awardee and the Burroughs Wellcome Visiting Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Marshall University, for April 1988.

John Autian, Ph.D., Memphis, Tennessee, recently returned from a year's service in Saudi Arabia as Senior Science Advisor to a Joint United States-Saudi Arabia program to help expand and advance educational and research programs at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah. In this capacity, Dr. Autian also assisted in establishing the first Environmental Toxicology Laboratory in Saudi Arabia.

William H. Benson, Ph.D., has been named Associate Professor and Director of the Toxicology Program for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Northeast Louisiana University.

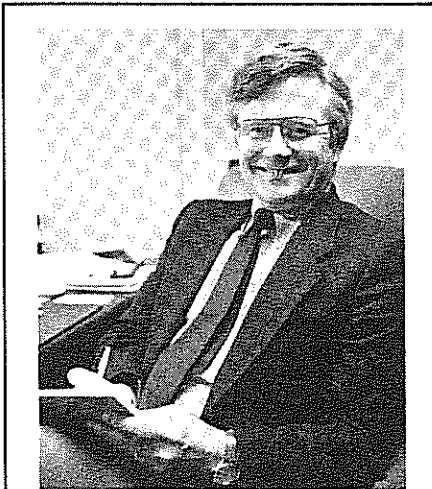
Lorris G. Cockerham, Ph.D., has retired from the U.S. Air Force and his position as Program Manager, Air Force Office of Scientific Research to assume the position of Executive Director, National Center for Toxicological Research/Associated Universities, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Henry Jay Foreman, Ph.D., Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, has been appointed an Associate Professor with tenure.

M.T. Stephen Hsia, Ph.D., Mitre Corporation, McLean, Virginia, recently presented a paper, "Recent Advances in the Use of Isolated Liver Parenchymal Cells in Toxicology," in Taipei, Taiwan, at the symposium, "Recent Advances in Biological and Medical Sciences," sponsored by Academia Sinica, the Republic of China. The meeting was cosponsored by the Chinese Technology Association and the Food and Drug Bureau.

Foster L. Mayer, Jr., Ph.D., Environmental Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Gulf Breeze, Florida, chaired the program for the annual meeting recently of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, in Pensacola, Florida.

Charles D. Proctor, Ph.D. Medical School, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, has been awarded the Papal Medal, "Cross Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice," by Pope John Paul II. One of the two highest decorations bestowed by a Pope, the award is given for "outstanding career contributions" to humanity, the church, and the Pontiff. Included in the citations covering this award given to Dr. Proctor were his development of a biological diagnostic test for schizophrenic reaction and his early demonstration of the rate limiting step in norepinephrine-dopamine biosynthesis *in vivo*.



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**Deadline for next
issues: March 15, 1988
May 15, 1988
July 8, 1988
September 8, 1988
November 8, 1988**

President's Message

There are two major unresolved issues facing toxicologists in the waning years of this century. The first, generically referred to as "risk assessment," encompasses the difficulties of extrapolating observations in animals to humans. This is an area that has attracted considerable attention from many in the SOT and we are slowly moving toward resolution. The more insidious problem, with a less well-defined means of resolution, is the issue of the use of animals in research. I need not elaborate on the innumerable benefits to society that have derived from the use of animals in experimentation. It is well, however, to re-emphasize the increasing momentum and force of those who question the propriety of this fundamental underpinning of our work.

An increasingly vocal and active minority of individuals in the United States are having a significant impact on this issue. Those who have raised their voices against animal research and testing appear to be divisible into two groups distinguished by highly significant philosophical differences. The first group are those concerned with "Animal Welfare." These individuals have raised the consciousness of scientists and laymen alike to the constant need for vigilance and concern for the animals with which we work. These individuals have caused us to question the need for historical practices such as the use of the LD₅₀ and large numbers of animals in tests for which there may be reasonable and scientifically valid alternatives. The second and more threatening group includes those who ascribe certain rights to animals—the "Animal Rights" activists. These individuals view philosophically the rights of animals as being equal to those of man. In their view, man is just another species. These activists have a fundamental philosophical opposition to the use of animals by man in any way, including food, clothing and research. Philosopher Carl Cohen of the University of Michigan and others have made a strong case that since nonhuman animals lack the capacity for free moral judgment their possession of rights is in question. Nevertheless, many continue to feel animals have the same rights as humans, and frequently espouse violent and unlawful behavior as a means to achieve their ends. These militant activists are being exceedingly effective in attracting attention and swaying public opinion on these issues. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) alone has quadrupled in size in the last three years, increasing from 60,000 to more than 250,000 members. New groups, including some containing lawyers, physicians and other professionals, are rapidly springing to life.

The impact of these more militant groups has been felt in several areas and will increase. Research laboratories have been subject to attack and, with the increasing numbers of professionals subscribing to some of these more extreme philosophical points, cells of activist groups have begun to influence the thinking on many high school, college and university campuses. It is not unlikely that these strong philosophical points will begin to impact on the teaching in lectures and laboratories on these campuses. Considerable impact has been felt at the federal, state and local levels on a variety of legislations and regulations that may be promulgated on the biomedical community. In the main, the more extreme positions have not been accepted by legislators on the federal level due to the effectiveness of scientific and professional groups that have been able to efficiently and effectively educate legislators to distinguish fact from emotion on these issues. The Society of Toxicology, through the Committee on Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance and the Committee on Animals in Research, has been quite active in this regard. Nevertheless, legislation has passed at the federal level and several other issues will be the subject of debate in the near future.

Currently before Congress, the Pet Protection Act (HR778 and S1457), if passed will abolish the use of pound animals in NIH funded research. In addition, S1457 would require that all dogs be bred and raised on the premises where they are to be used. Although pound animals are not widely used in toxicology studies, such a bill, nevertheless, would have a serious impact on our colleagues throughout the biomedical community. It has been estimated that the use of purpose bred animals alone would add as much as \$90,000,000 annually to biomedical research costs. Additionally before the Congress, HR1770 would allow persons or groups to sue the federal government on behalf of an animal to enforce the Animal Welfare Act. HR1708 would introduce a bureaucratic tangle by establishing a national center for research accountability to prevent duplicative experiments.

However, the real concern at this time is at the state and local levels where the activists groups appear to be focusing their political attention. Several state legislatures have considered a variety of bills in recent years ranging from allowing animal welfare groups to obtain warrants to search animal facilities in Pennsylvania to completely outlawing the LD₅₀ and Draize test in Massachusetts, a state that has also banned the use of pound dogs in research. More than 80 other bills are pending in committees in a number of state legislatures.

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January/February 1988 Membership Changes

Returned Mail:

SOT mail addressed to the following members has been returned undelivered. If you know where any of the following individuals may be found, please notify the SOT headquarters office of his/her address or telephone number.

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In Memoriam
Paul S. Larson
A Founding Member
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Coming Events

PHS Policy Workshop on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Duke University Medical Center, March 22–23, 1988, Sheraton University Center, Durham, NC. Contact Division of Laboratory Animal Resources, P.O. Box 3180, Duke University, Durham, NC 27710, (919) 684-2797.

Skin Product Development: A Multi-disciplinary Approach, March 23–25, 1988, San Francisco Bay Area. Contact The Center for Professional Advancement, P.O. Box 964, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-0964.

Preparing Clinical Protocols and Managing Clinical Investigations, March 21–22, 1988, Jamesburg, NJ. Contact The Center for Professional Advancement, P.O. Box 964, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-0964.

Applications of Recombinant DNA Technology, March 25, 1988, Palo Alto, CA. Contact Aivars Ramans, Institute of Toxicologic Sciences, Syntex Research, 3401 Hillview Ave., R2-201, Palo Alto, CA 94303, (415) 855-5636.

Good Clinical Practices: Regulations Pertaining to Sponsors, Monitors, and Clinical Investigators, April 6–8, 1988, Princeton, New Jersey. Contact Michael Robin, The Institute for Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Center for Professional Advancement, (201) 613-4548.

Project Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry, April 6–8, 1988, East Brunswick, New Jersey, May 18–20, Los Angeles. Contact Michael Robin, The Institute for Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Center for Professional Advancement, P.O. Box 964, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-0964, (201) 613-4500.

The Society of Legal Medicine and Toxicology and the Latin American Society of Toxicology are sponsoring the International Conference of Legal Medicine and Toxicology, the International Congress of Ecotoxicology, and the Latin American Congress of Toxicology, April 11–15, 1988, Buenos Aires. Contact Julia Higa de Landone, Reconquista 538, 4 C, 1003 Buenos Aires, telephone 393-2399.

Mid-American Technology Course, April 17–22, 1988, The University of Kansas Medical Center. Contact Curtis D. Klaassen, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS 66103, (913) 588-7714.

Principles of Contemporary Immunology, April 18–22, 1988, Jamesburg, NJ. Contact Michael Robin, The Institute for Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Center for Professional Advancement, P.O. Box 964, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-0964, (201) 613-4500.

Dermal Toxicology, April 22–25, 1988, East Brunswick, NJ. Contact Michael Robin, The Institute for Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Center for Professional Advancement, P.O. Box 964, East Brunswick, NJ 08815-0864, (201) 613-5400.

Safety Evaluation of Medical Devices, April 25–27, 1988, Irvine, CA; June 1–3, Toledo, OH. Contact Michael Robin, The Institute for Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Center for Professional Advancement, P.O. Box 964, East Brunswick, NJ 08815-0864, (201) 613-5400.

Cosmetic Toxicology, April 27–29, 1988, Somerset, NJ. Contact Michael Robin, The Institute for Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences, The Center for Professional Advancement, P.O. Box 964, East Brunswick, NJ 08815-0864, (201) 613-5400.

Coagulation, Revisited, May 6, 1988, Philadelphia, PA. Contact Mrs. Diane Rhodes, Smith Kline Corp., 1500 Garden St., Philadelphia, PA 19101.

27th Annual Conference on Trace Substances in Environmental Health, May 23–26, 1988, St. Louis, MO. Contact Dr. D.D. Hemphill, Environmental Trace Substances Research Center, Route 3, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO 65203, (314) 882-2151.

Broyles Symposium: The Science and Surgery of Laryngeal Cancer, June 2–3, 1988, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact Francette Boling, Program Coordinator, Office of Continuing Education, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, 720 Rutland Avenue, Turner 22, Baltimore, MD 21205, (301) 955-6085.

Toxicology Update '88: Current Concepts in Reproductive Technology, June 6–8, 1988, Baltimore, MD. Contact Dr. Jacqueline Corn, Director, Continuing Education Programs, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe St., Room 1003, Baltimore, MD 21205, (301) 955-2609.

First Congress of the International Society of Ocular Toxicology, June 6–8, 1988, University of Toronto, Canada. Contact Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A8, Canada, (416) 978-2718.

The International Congress on Forensic Sciences, September 4–7, 1988, Beijing, China. Contact Office of International Congress on Forensic Sciences, China Express Congress Limited, 101-2 Energy Plaza, 92 Granville Road, T.S.T.E., Kowloon, Hong Kong, telephone 3-7217689.

Sixth International Neurotoxicology Conference: "Drug Abuse and Brain Development", October 10–14, 1988, Little Rock, AR. Contact Dr. Joan M. Cranmer, Department of Pediatrics #512, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR 72205, (501) 370-2986.

Fifth International Congress of Toxicology, July 16–21, 1989, Brighton, United Kingdom. Contact IUTOX '89, Congress House, 65 West Drive, Sutton, Surrey SM27NB, UK.

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

As I mentioned above, at the national level, scientific and professional organizations can interact with the Congress to modify extreme positions in potential legislation. However, these groups are not well equipped to handle issues at the state and local levels. Large organizations, particularly commercial organizations, are almost immediately suspect. The Society of Toxicology, through its Regional Chapters, may have some influence at the local levels, but it still remains the responsibility of individual scientists and local organizations to attempt to influence legislation locally.

We must make our opinions known now. We can no longer hope for legislators to hold the line against growing furor and unified protests among their constituencies. It has been suggested that some disciplines of science will disappear for failing to influence public opinion. As recently as January 18th of this year, Dr. John Bedbrook, CEO of Advanced Genetic Systems (creator of the Frost Ban bacterium), lamented in the *New York Times* that the future is bleak for farm products made from recombinant bacteria due to the fact that public concern from activists groups has produced costly delays from continual litigation. Unless scientists act now with a concerted effort to educate the public and their elected officials as to the meaning and benefits of responsible research with animals, we may have to witness the dismantling of such research and the loss of the benefits that were to follow.

Cheers,

Watching Washington

FDA Considering Appeal of *De Minimis* Ruling

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reportedly is studying the possibility of appealing an adverse ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, which ruled that the agency may not use a *de minimis* policy to clear carcinogenic color additives to the U.S. Supreme Court (*SOT Newsletter*, November/December 1987).

In a related matter, the FDA has called on users of Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Color Additive Red Number 3 to list the uses of the additive with the agency. The FDA reportedly will use the survey information to allot usage of the color additive in case such use has to be limited.

Senate Group Pushing for Biotechnology Policy

A group of Senators, led by Lawton Chiles (D.-FL), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee; Edward Kennedy (D.-MA), Chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee; Patrick Leahy (D.-VT), Chairman of the Agriculture Committee; and Pete Dominici (R.-NM), ranking minority member of the Budget Committee, are backing the Biotechnology Competitiveness Act of 1987 (S. 1966).

The bill would, among other things:

- establish the National Center for Biotechnology (as a unit of the National Institutes of Health) to coordinate and disseminate biotechnology data;
- create the National Biotechnology Board to review Government and private sector programs related to biotechnology; and
- call for the National Advisory Panel on Human Genome to promote research and policies to map human chromosomes.

Hearings will be held in both the Budget and Agriculture Committees soon.

State Activity

A bill has been introduced in Massachusetts to prohibit "a lethal dose test or eye irritancy test on a living non-human vertebrate for purposes of testing consumer products."

In California, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to continue making unwanted pound animals available for research; and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors has approved a similar policy.

A total of 36 bills amending animal cruelty statutes have been proposed in 16 states. Although pound bills have died with adjournment of legislatures in Arkansas, Florida, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming, bills introduced in Iowa, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Washington have been carried over to the new sessions of the legislatures. In addition, bills also are still pending in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

The New Hampshire Legislature passed a bill in 1987 that gives enforcement authority on animal cruelty to the New Hampshire State Veterinarian.

California Continuing Schedule for Proposition 65

The California Government is continuing its schedule of implementing the State's Proposition 65 (the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Act of 1986) with portions of the law to become effective in late February.

The law prohibits the release or discharge of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity into waters or into land where the chemicals might seep into groundwater and imposes labeling requirements.

International Society on Toxinology Promotes Interest in Toxin and Antitoxin Research

Philip Rosenberg

Liaison Representative

International Society on Toxinology and Society of Toxicology

The purpose of the International Society on Toxinology (IST) is to advance knowledge of the properties of toxins and antitoxins and to bring together scholars interested in these substances through a common society.

Membership consists of those who have published meritorious original investigations in toxicology. Persons who do not qualify for membership in the IST but who are interested in the field of toxicology are eligible for associate membership.

The IST includes about 700 members from 50 countries grouped in three regions—European, Pan American, and Asian-Pacific.

The Society sponsors a World Congress on Animal, Plant, and Microbial Toxins every three years, with the next Congress scheduled July 31–August 5, 1988, in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

In addition, the three regional groups hold meetings, usually bi-annually.

Toxicon, the official journal of IST, published monthly by Pergamon Press, is devoted to the exchange of knowledge on the poisons derived from animals, plants, and microorganisms. The IST and *Toxicon* celebrated their 25th anniversaries last year.

The IST also publishes a newsletter several times a year and an annual membership directory.

At each Congress, the Society presents the "Redi Award" (illuminated manuscript, framed award, and monetary stipend) to the individual deemed to have contributed the most to the science of toxinology.

Current officers are Dr. Chen-Yuan Lee, Taipei, Taiwan, President; Dr. Dietrich Meds, Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic of Germany, Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Philip Rosenberg, Storrs, Connecticut, President-Elect and Editor, *Toxicon*.

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