

## **THE TWENTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1989-1990**

Highlights: The recommendations of the Tox 90's Commission with respect to education prompted the formation of a working group (the Tox 90's ad hoc Task Force), which in turn produced a poster and brochure on career opportunities in toxicology. The group also developed a Resource Guide to Careers in Toxicology, a slide set for use in recruiting and a Summer Internship Program. A record number of membership applications were received and approved and the Society for the first time numbered more than 3000 members. The Animals in Research Committee produced a pamphlet on the use of animals in the science of toxicology. This publication continued the Society's awareness of the broad issue of the use of animals in research. The Society has created a Toxicology Education Foundation, which will provide grants in aid, further public education in the field and promote the development of educational programs in toxicology. The Annual Meeting drew a record attendance and again proved to be an efficient and successful means for communication between toxicologists.

The twenty-ninth Meeting of the Society of Toxicology took place in Miami Beach, Florida from February 12 to 16, 1990 at the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort and Spa. The Annual Meeting of Members was held on February 14 at 4:00 pm and was chaired by President Roger O. McClellan. As usual, the statistics of the meeting showed the growth in the Society and the science. There were 3238 registrants for the meeting including 2942 scientists, edging out the twenty-eighth year as the second largest in the history of the Society. Exhibitors numbered approximately 140. There were 2394 course attendees in the Continuing Education Program, which comprised nine topics. The Scientific Program included 1412 abstracts, 14 symposia, 10 platform sessions, 21 poster/discussion sessions, and 48 poster sessions. Also, as a part of the meeting, there were 234 candidates in the Placement Service looking over the 201 positions listed with the Service.

The core mission of the Society of Toxicology is education. The report of the Tox 90's Commission the previous year gave appropriate emphasis to education. Council responded with a special work group charged with implementing the Commission recommendations and in his Report to the Members, President McClellan highlighted the accomplishments of the work group. They concentrated on the issue of increasing the number of qualified students entering training in toxicology and took three approaches- information, experience and education. With respect to information, the work group prepared and distributed wall posters and a new recruitment brochure. By the time of the Annual Meeting, over 800 inquiries had been received. Outside funding was received to prepare and distribute over 6000 copies of a "Resource Guide to Careers in Toxicology". All members of the Society received the guide. A slide set and a poster display regarding educational and career opportunities in the field of toxicology were prepared. The slide set has been given to the Regional Chapters and graduate teaching programs. The display was used at different functions including minority student recruitment. In the belief that

“hands-on” experience is a successful recruiting tool, the Summer Internship Program permitted undergraduate students to spend the summer in a laboratory. In the summer of 1989 over 150 students applied and about 30 were accepted. No Society funds were involved in the internships as all arrangements were between the student and the host laboratory. In cooperation with the Public Communications and Education Committees, the work group developed a poster presentation which gave minority students exposure to suitable role models. There was also some effort at redirecting scientists with advanced degrees in other fields into toxicology primarily through tailored post-doctoral programs.

The Membership Committee had a record level of effort in the twenty-ninth year. There were a total of 306 applications reviewed during the August 1989 and January 1990 meetings. Of that number 125 were approved for Full Membership, 88 for Associate Membership and 81 for Student Membership. As a result, Society membership crossed the 3000 mark for the first time. The future of the Society is largely determined by the review process used by the Committee to select new members. Equally important is the Nominating Committee which determines the future leadership of the Society. With a large pool of talented toxicologists to draw upon, representing diverse talents and SOT experience, the Committee assembled an excellent slate of candidates for all elected positions. The Secretary announced the results of the mail ballot at the Annual Meeting of Members. The elected officers were Vice President-Elect, John L. Emmerson; Treasurer-Elect, R. Michael McClain and Councilors (1990-1992) Mary Jo Vodcink and James S. Woods. The elected Committee members were Serrine Lau and Robert A. Roth (Education Committee 1990-1993) and David Eaton and Deborah C. Rice (Membership Committee 1990-1993). The elected members of the Nominating Committee were Gary P. Carlson from the Specialty Sections, Steven D. Cohen from the Regional Chapters, Gabriel L. Plaa from the Past Presidents and Deborah A. Cory-Slechta from the membership at large.

The Education Committee again had a busy and productive year with eight major activities. All Student members and applicants for Student membership received information on SOT, especially regarding support such as travel awards, pre-doctoral fellowships and a post-doctoral award for students. Over 80 graduate students applied for Student Travel Awards for the twenty-ninth meeting. Sixty-eight applicants, representing over 40 institutions were funded. SOT funds for this activity were augmented by special support from three private sector organizations. There were 17 applicants for the SOT Graduate Student Fellowships. The Committee narrowed the list to 6 finalists who were interviewed at the Miami meeting. Julian Green from the University of Kansas Medical Center received the Hoffmann-LaRoche Award; Mary Stefaniak from the University of Arizona received the CIBA-Geigy Award and Enrique Chacon of the University of Texas at Austin received the Procter & Gamble Award. The Colgate-Palmolive Post-Doctoral Fellowship in *In Vitro* toxicology carries a two-year stipend plus funds for supplies, equipment and research-related travel. The Award was given to D. Chapman of the Mayo Clinic. The U.S. Air Force Post-Doctoral Fellowship was given to Doug A. Dawson of the University of Tennessee and the Young Investigator Award to Karen McBee of Oklahoma State University. The Education Committee also arranged a panel discussion at the Annual Meeting for new investigators. Panelists were from all sectors funding research. There

was also a special program at the Annual Meeting aimed at minority undergraduate students to introduce them to toxicology. The final Education Committee project was the submission of a grant application to NIH to provide funds enabling minority undergraduate science majors and their advisors who are from outside the immediate area of the Annual Meeting to attend such meetings.

Closely allied to the educational mission of the Society is its responsibility to communicate the results of the science to the rest of the scientific community. The focus of that responsibility is the Board of Publications which is charged with the oversight for the Society's two journals. The journals received and published slightly more manuscripts in the twenty-ninth year than in the previous year. Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology published 5 volumes comprising 15 issues and 2886 pages. There were 503 manuscripts accepted, rejected or in process during the year. Fundamental and Applied Toxicology published 2 volumes comprising 8 issues and 1699 pages. There were 248 manuscripts approved, rejected or in process. The two editors continued to work together to see that the journals were complementary and not competitive. Carefully delineated editorial policies have been helpful as well. FAAT continues to operate at a loss which is less than the gain registered by TAP so the net result is on the positive side.

The Animals in Research Committee continued to function in an area critical to the future of research in the field of toxicology. The need to find a rational middle ground between the highly polarized extremes of the debate was unchanged and the Committee made significant strides in public education through the brochure on animal use in the science of toxicology. An article titled "Comments on the LD50 and Acute Eye and Skin Irritation Tests" was published in FAAT. A second brochure dealing with the benefits of animal testing to humans and animals was in preparation. Both the Committee and a professional science writer have been involved. Two position papers were also released. They were titled "A Position Statement Regarding Use of animals in Toxicology" and "Society of Toxicology Guiding Principles in the Use of Animals in Toxicology". The Committee organized a special lecture by Gerhard Zbinden on "The Predictive Value of Animal Studies in Toxicology" which was presented at the Annual Meeting.

At the twenty-ninth Annual Meeting there were two events sponsored by the Committee on Public Communications. The first was a special poster/discussion session on "Communicating Concepts in Toxicology" and the other was a workshop titled "Toxicology, Toxic Substances and the Public". This was an overwhelming success with a video camera needed to transmit the workshop to the overflow audience in the corridor. Potentially valuable interactions continued with the American Chemical Society and the National Science Teachers Association regarding SOT contributions to science education programs; with ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) concerning physician education programs and with a comic book publisher regarding a Toxicology Comic Book as an innovative way to provide toxicology education to both children and adults.

The Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award is determined by an Advisory Committee which is chaired by Past President Tom S. Miya and includes at least one previous award winner. This is one of the most prestigious awards of the Society and is generously funded by the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation. Since 1981 over \$2.5 million has been granted to the career development of twelve Scholars. In the current year the Advisory Committee faced a most difficult task attempting to select a single awardee from 16 high caliber applications. The award was granted to Mahin Maines, Dean's Professor of Biophysics at the University of Rochester Medical Center and the first woman recognized for this award. In addition to the work of evaluating application for the award, there was a brief survey made of the teaching and research productivity of past and present Scholars. From the ten who responded there had been a total of 401 peer-reviewed papers, 229 invited presentations and 363 presentations at various meetings. There were 76 pre-doctoral and 98 post-doctoral trainees. The Burroughs Wellcome Award funds have resulted in an additional \$15 million in grants and contracts to the Scholars.

The Finance Committee worked with the Treasurer to oversee the handling of SOT funds. It was reported that the overall financial position of the Society was healthy although the twenty-ninth year showed a slight operating loss of \$35,000. This was attributed to two factors. The aggressive development of the recommendations from the Tox 90's Commission regarding education resulted in higher than anticipated expenses and the 1990 meeting in Miami was more expensive than planned. The Society's annual income and expenses exceeded \$1 million for the first time, not including substantial "pass-through" funds supplied by outside sponsors in support of awards to SOT members. These additional funds totaled over \$600 thousand for the 1989-1990 fiscal year. Working with the Committee and the Headquarters staff, Treasurer James S. Bus has implemented an improved budget tracking system with a consequent improvement in the ability to monitor progress and to facilitate future planning. The need to add to reserves to achieve the desired level of 6 month's operating expenses has been emphasized by the last few Treasurers.

The Program Committee once again faced a flood of abstracts, symposium suggestions and other offerings and, in turn, produced a sound, well balanced and stimulating program. Under the leadership of Vice President Curtis Klaassen, the committee scheduled 1412 abstracts, 14 symposia, 21 poster/discussion sessions, 10 platform sessions and 48 poster sessions. By way of comparison, President Roger O. McClellan noted that fifteen years earlier, at the 1975 meeting, there were 3 symposia, 16 platform sessions but only 3 poster sessions. The total involved fewer than 300 abstracts. Posters were a novel idea; poster/discussions were some distance in the future. In the twenty-ninth year, the Continuing Education Committee offered nine courses and there were 2394 attendees (1532 individuals with about half enrolling in two courses). The topics were Cardiovascular Toxicology, Developmental Toxicity, Advanced Metabolism (a continuation from the previous year of offering at least one "advanced" course), Advanced Hepatotoxicity (am and pm), Concepts in Cell Biology (am and pm), Carcinogen Risk Assessment (am and pm), Free Radical Toxicology, Respiratory Tract Toxicology and Toxicity of Pesticides. Both informal comments and responses to course questionnaires found a strongly favorable response to the courses. Changes in course content and format for the twenty-ninth

year included allowing more time for discussion at the end of each course, development of a planning guide for course organizers and chairs and closer review of the visuals and handouts for the individual courses. Already planning was well along for the next year with target organ courses, toxicity of specific agent classes and “advanced courses” slated. Another key feature of the Annual Meeting is the operation of the SOT Placement Service. For the first time, job openings were advertised in the Newsletter instead of using quarterly mailings of applicant and job lists. A videotape “Introduction to the SOT Placement Service” was prepared for this meeting and served to facilitate placement activities. There was a repeat of the popular Placement Seminar in which representatives of industry, academia and government presented perspectives on employment in these sectors. These talks were followed by a professional recruiter giving some practical suggestions and tips. The number of candidates and the number of openings were about equal at 210 and 208, respectively. The volume of candidates for the period of time available created great pressure on the capabilities of the Service, especially on the first day. This has been a continuing problem with the solution perhaps to be found in more staff and automation of the databases.

The Society of Toxicology Awards are among the highest form of peer recognition for a professional toxicologist. The nominations and selections are all by peers so the recognition is especially valued. The Awards Committee, chaired by Past President James E. Gibson, selected the following winners of the Society’s five awards. The Frank R. Blood Award for the outstanding paper in a Society journal was given to William P. Beierschmitt, Joseph T. Brady, John B. Bartolone, D. Stuart Wyand, Edward A. Khairallah and Steven D. Cohen. The Education Award, given to an individual distinguished in the teaching and training of toxicologists and who has made significant contributions to education in the field, recognized Charles H. Hine formerly of the University of California San Francisco. The Arnold J. Lehman Award reflects significant contributions to the science-regulatory interface and was given to Harold C. Grice of Cantox. The Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to toxicology by a younger member was received by Michael Waalkes of the National Cancer Institute/Frederick Research Center. The Society’s most honored recognition, the Merit Award, was presented to Sheldon D. Murphy of the University of Washington for his distinguished career in toxicology. Among his many accomplishments was his service as the fourteenth President of the Society of Toxicology.

The Council of the Society spent considerable time considering the locations for future meetings. Among the criteria examined were number of sleeping rooms; amount and quality of exhibit space; number and size of meeting rooms for platform sessions; amount of space available for poster sessions; ancillary meeting rooms and other hotel amenities and ease of access by air. With the increase in size of the Society’s Annual Meeting, only one hotel in the U.S. could accommodate the entire meeting. Council was forced to examine issues such as availability of rooms in other hotels; inter-hotel shuttles and eventually, the use of convention centers for the meeting itself. Projected meeting sites as of the twenty-ninth meeting were a return to the Loews Anatole in Dallas (1991), the Sheraton Seattle (1992) and a return to the Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami (1993). The subject remained under continued review by Council. Longer term considerations included San Antonio, Washington DC and Baltimore.

The sixteen Regional Chapters of the Society continued to provide important geographical centers for toxicologists. These Chapters hold their own meetings, may make awards and other recognitions and contribute to the vitality of the profession. During the twenty-ninth year, the Southeastern Regional Chapter extended its boundaries to include the state of Florida. There was some preliminary consideration of a Canadian Regional Chapter but this proceeded cautiously in order to maintain the desired close relationship with the Canadian Society of Toxicology. The Society has nine Specialty Sections providing specialists in several fields of toxicology a smaller and more narrowly focused organization for meetings and information exchange and for the Society at large, a source of symposium ideas and speakers at the Annual Meeting. There were no new Sections added or under development during the twenty-ninth year.

Council appointed a Management Review Task Force headed by a Past President of the Society to examine the operations of the Society's Headquarters. The existing management group, IMG, had been under contract for about five years and a review of staff and operations was in order. The Task force found that IMG was performing competently for SOT although the Society was not giving IMG adequate direction or performance standards. IMG was doing more than was documented in the basic contract and in the absence of mutually agreed goals, new tasks often impeded the completion of earlier tasks. IMG properly handled accounting and subcontracting tasks although an independent review of IMG's financial condition might be valuable. As a result, Council agreed to renew the management contract for an additional five years and make the recommendations of the Task Force a part of the contract. Council also decided to communicate the findings to the membership through the Newsletter and seek comments. Council provided by mail ballot an opportunity for the membership to consider several amendments to the By-Laws. These included creation of the offices of Secretary-Elect and Treasurer-Elect; balloting procedures, composition and operation of the Nominating Committee and the Board of Publications and dues obligations. All received a favorable vote of 85% or more.

The Council of the Society met in May, July, September and November of 1989 and February of 1990. As usual, these meetings were normally of two days' duration each and centered on the day to day operations of the Society. Through the concept of Council liaison to individual committee and work groups, reports on these activities were regularly heard and acted upon by Council. The Council for the twenty-ninth year of the Society of Toxicology consisted of President Roger O. McClellan, Vice President Curtis D. Klaassen, Vice President-Elect Donald J. Reed, Secretary Florence K. Kinoshita, Treasurer James S. Bus, Past President James E. Gibson and Councilors Meryl H. Karol and Jack H. Dean (1988-1990) and John A. Moore and Philip G. Watanabe (1989-1991).