

THE THIRTY-FIRST YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1991-1992

Highlights: The Society had grown to such an extent that only one hotel in the US was able to accommodate the Meeting. For the first time, the Annual Meeting was held in a convention center. The choice was the center in Seattle, Washington and the decision turned out to be an excellent one. Attendance was excellent and the number of exhibitors continued to grow. Society membership approached 3500 and the number of applicants indicated that membership will continue to grow at a steady rate. The number of abstracts offered at the meeting was 1640, an increase of 304 from the previous meeting. At the start of his term, President Donald J. Reed identified two major challenges for the Society: issues surrounding the use of animals in research and continuing efforts in improving and expanding toxicology education, especially for undergraduates.

The thirty-first meeting of the Society of Toxicology was held at the Seattle, Washington Convention Center from February 23 to 27, 1992. This was the first year that the Continuing Education courses were held on a Sunday. The meeting ended on Thursday after both morning and afternoon sessions. A major stimulus for the change was the sharp discount in airline fares with a Saturday night stay. The Annual Meeting of the Membership was held at 4:00 pm on Monday, February 24 in the Convention Center and was chaired by President Reed. At that point, 3247 persons had registered for the meeting and almost 2000 for the Continuing Education courses. There were 167 exhibits, an increase of about 10% from the previous year. The President's report reflected a continuation of the pattern of growth in Society programs and participation of the membership, especially the Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections, in that growth. The 1991-92 Directory showed 16 Regional Chapters (Allegheny-Erie, Central States, Gulf Coast, Mid-Atlantic, Michigan, Mountain West, Midwest, National Capital, North Carolina, Northern California, Northeast, Ohio Valley, Pacific Northwest, South Central, Southern California and Southeastern) and 9 Specialty Sections (Carcinogenesis, Immunotoxicology, Inhalation, Mechanisms, Metals, Molecular Biology, Neurotoxicology, Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment). The strong SOT involvement in promoting the science and the profession through new booklets and brochures along with the continuing support of graduate student travel and minority participation in the Annual Meeting has provided the underpinnings for this growth.

Apart from the report on growth and society sponsored programs, the most dominant note in the 31st year was the need for stronger financial controls and stricter budgeting. The Society has experienced deficits in its operating accounts in four of the last five years with the shortfall being made up from reserves. Consequently, the

operating reserve was closer to 25% of the annual budget instead of the desired 50%. As a result, a study of SOT's financial policies and practices, the investment policies and the security of accounts and assets had been underway for over a year. The Society's General Counsel, Mr. William Hays, participated in all these evaluations. Data from the 1990-1991 fiscal year showed an excess of expenditures over revenue of approximately \$70,000 in a year in which total expenses, exclusive of sponsored awards and grants, were \$1.49 million. The major revenue items for the Society were the Annual Meeting (61%), publications (19%) and membership dues (12%). Over half of the dues income was from Corporate Associates which meant that individual member dues accounted for only about five percent of the income needed to operate the Society. On the expense side, the Annual Meeting accounted for 35% of the total expenditures, followed by administrative costs (27%), Council and Committee activities (20%) and member subscription expense for the Society's journals (14%). The Treasurer, R. Michael McClain, noted that the Society currently received \$43.00 in dues per member but spent approximately \$400.00 per member on operations. Among the cost saving efforts was the decision to reduce the number of Newsletter issues from six to five per year, a savings of at least \$40,000. With an annual cash flow of over \$ 2 million, the Society had certainly grown from its first Annual Meeting when the Treasurer reported that there was a total of \$1512.82 on hand.

The Membership Committee has the responsibility for determining the future composition of the Society through its evaluation of the applications for membership. In the Fall of 1991, 217 applicants were considered and there were 80 recommended for full membership, 52 for associate membership and 52 as student members. An equally large number were recommended in the Spring 1991 review resulting in an overall increase in membership of about 13%. The President predicted a total membership of close to 3500 by the end of 1992.

The Education Committee reviewed 111 applications for Graduate Student Travel Awards to attend the Seattle meeting. All were predoctoral students and first author of an abstract submitted for presentation at the meeting. A total of 61 applicants representing 16 institutions were funded. Three of these were from outside the United States. The Education Committee also screened applicants for the SOT Graduate Student Fellowships sponsored by Ciba-Geigy, Hoffmann LaRoche and Procter & Gamble; the Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship and the U. S. Air Force sponsored Post-Doctoral and New Investigator awards. Under a National Institutes of Health grant, the Education Committee brought in 45 minority students who were undergraduates to attend the meeting along with 9 minority science advisors. Each participating student had a member of the Society as a mentor for the entire meeting. There was also an educational program including a seminar and a poster session at the meeting for minority students.

New officers elected by the members with terms scheduled to begin May 1, 1992 were Vice President-Elect Meryl H. Karol; Treasurer-Elect Judith A. MacGregor; Councilors (1992-1994) Daniel Acosta and Hanspeter Witschi; Education Committee (1992-1995) Steven H. Cohen and Michele A. Medinsky; and Membership Committee (1992-1995) Sidney Green and Carole A. Kimmel. The elected members of the Nominating Committee to serve for one year were Carol J. Henry, James A. Popp, James E. Gibson and A. Jay Gandolfi. The outgoing past president serves as chair of this committee. A total of 1152 ballots were cast.

The Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award Advisory Committee reviewed 15 applications for the Award and after extensive study selected Janice Chambers of Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine as the 1992 Scholar. Dr. Chambers' research has been directed towards understanding the factors, which contribute to insecticide toxicity. The Award will also permit MSU to formalize and expand its toxicology program and develop links with other institutions in the state. For 1993, the Committee, with the concurrence of the sponsor, proposed to redirect the Burroughs Wellcome Award to support individuals whose work is expected to have an impact on the discipline of toxicology. In the past the emphasis was on both the Scholar and the institution. Future Awardees will be selected on the basis of the ability and potential of the candidate to conduct innovative research which has the potential to further development of the science of toxicology. The institutional plan for program development will have a lesser weight in the decision than before.

The thirty-first year of the Society was an important one for the Board of Publications. The Board has oversight responsibility for the two journals of the Society as well as the selection of editors for the journals. The editors, in turn, recommend editorial board appointments to the Board. During the past year Bernard Schwetz stepped down as Editor of "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology" and in January, 1992 Henry Heck took over for him. Shortly after that change occurred, Glenn Sipes also expressed a desire to complete his service as Editor of "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" and a search was undertaken by the Board for his replacement. At the time of the Annual Meeting it was announced that Edward Bresnick would begin a period of transition with Dr. Sipes and in January 1993 take over as Editor. At the Annual Meeting President Reed noted that high quality has been a requirement for publication in the Society's two journals and that the new Editors will hold to that tradition. Besides these two major tasks, the Board of Publications increased the manuscript handling fee to \$100 in order to offset the increasing cost of the journals to the Society. Both journals will have format changes to 8 1/2 x 11 inch page size, new color schemes for the covers and new cover logos. The Board also considered requests to publish symposium proceedings; the need to increase institutional subscriptions and a concern over a slight decline in the number of manuscripts submitted to both journals. Since only about 25% of the papers presented at the SOT Annual Meeting are eventually published in one of the Society's journals, there is clearly a substantially

untapped market for manuscripts. The profitability of FAAT, now 10 years old, continues to present a concern to Academic Press, the Board and Council. In particular, it was reported that institutional subscriptions to FAAT are only about one-third of those to TAP.

Having entered its fifth year, the ad hoc Tox 90s Educational Issues Task Force continued to be very active as a focus to encourage undergraduates to select toxicology as a discipline. The Committee has completed the second edition of the "Resource Guide to Careers in Toxicology", a listing of more than 60 teaching programs in the US, reflecting both predoctoral and postdoctoral training activities. The Guide was complemented by wall posters with tear-off post cards to request additional information. The posters have been broadly distributed to US and Canadian undergraduate institutions and have yielded over 8960 responses since late in 1989. In addition to the Guide there was a brochure called "Careers in Toxicology" which the committee developed for distribution to young people considering career choices. Also available were a poster display for use at meetings and a set of recruiting slides. The Committee has also organized and operated a summer internship program for four years. In this program college students have the opportunity to spend the summer in a laboratory or office learning more about the science of toxicology. The experience to date had been that many students apply but more government, academic and industrial laboratories are needed to serve as hosts for these students. The Committee also sponsored a workshop on what makes a good undergraduate course in toxicology on the Saturday before the Seattle meeting. Twenty-five toxicologists involved in undergraduate education developed a consensus on the content of a one-year undergraduate course in toxicology.

The Technical Committee which seemed quite active in the early years of the Society has in recent times struggled to find a set of tasks relevant to Society or membership needs and which could be completed on a timely basis. The time necessary to develop a sound technical position and secure enough approvals so that the document could reflect the official position of SOT seemed to defeat many earnest undertakings. In the thirty-first year, the Committee had evaluated possible alternatives for the Society to sponsor specialized regional meetings that could complement the Annual Meeting.

The mission of the Toxicology Educational Foundation and its Board of Trustees is to educate the public regarding the role of toxicology in modern society, to promote the development of educational programs in toxicology and to provide some grants to aid in education of young students. The Trustees attempt to acquire, preserve and build financial resources to achieve this mission. The Foundation is a tax exempt organization operated for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Members of the Society are encouraged to make contributions to the Foundation with their dues payments. President Reed reported that 272 individuals had given over \$17,000 to the Foundation which, along with other sources now has assets of approximately \$75,000.

The Sixth International Congress on Toxicology (ICT-VI) sponsored by the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) is to be held in Rome, Italy later in 1992. These Congresses are held every three years and ICT-VII is scheduled for July 1995 in Seattle with SOT as the host Society. A separate organization was formed with Finance, Scientific Program and Social Committees beginning to do the planning.

The Specialty Sections of the Society have grown in number and membership. Associated with this was a strong presence at the Annual Meeting and in separate Section meetings. Two major contributions of these sections have been the development of symposia for presentation at the Annual Meeting and, for some Sections, the creation of awards programs. Initially, these were often a recognition for best papers by a student or by a member of the Section. Increasingly, these awards have taken on a broader character and now some Sections recognize outstanding young scientists, paper of the year, career achievement, etc.

The Society's Vice President, John L. Emmerson chaired the Program Committee for the thirty-first meeting. This Committee had, each year, an extremely demanding task and the results of its work have an impact on the teaching and practice of toxicology. The Committee fulfilled its responsibilities in outstanding fashion. There were a record number of abstracts submitted and 1640 were included in the program, an increase of 304 from the thirtieth meeting in Dallas, 1991. These papers were organized into 18 platform sessions, 15 poster discussion sessions and 56 poster sessions. From the 31 proposals for symposia and workshops, 17 symposia were selected for the final program. That seemed to be about the maximum number that can be accommodated in a meeting of this type and duration. The work of the Specialty Sections in developing symposia was recognized for its impact on the increasingly high quality of the symposia. The program also included two Burroughs Wellcome Scholar lectures, a forum for new investigators, an effective presentations workshop and a Medline demonstration.

The Continuing Education Committee presented a program of 9 courses at the Seattle meeting. Three of these were given in both morning and afternoon sessions for a total of 12 course offerings. These courses drew a total of 2154 registrations, a decrease of about 10 % from the previous year. The courses were Basic and Applied Hematology, Case Studies in Risk Assessment, Development and Safety Evaluation of Recombinant Products for Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Use, Liver Toxicology, Molecular Control of Cell Proliferation, Developmental Toxicity, Renal Toxicology, Toxicity of Halogenated Hydrocarbons and Implementing Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic Models. The latter course was an interactive computer session. Changes introduced in the past year to improve the quality of the courses included the use of a standardized format to describe the course, revised printing of slide material to reduce reproduction costs and an experiment in videotaping the presentations for later sale. (The latter was dropped as not being cost effective). The Committee prepared a

matrix of course offerings to assure that courses are not repeated too frequently and to identify subject areas which have not been addressed in several years. The courses were in four categories: target organ systems, toxicity of agents, regulatory toxicology and methods or techniques. Both basic and advanced courses may be offered. The 1992 matrix had approximately 40 titles.

The Placement Service Committee had its usual busy time, especially at the opening of the Service. There were 279 job applicants with about 60% of these registering on-site. Job postings totaled 192 and approximately half of these were registered on-site. To accomplish its voluminous tasks the Committee was complemented by SOT volunteers, Headquarters staff and staff from the host hotel. The Service also offered a Placement Seminar on the subject of "Careers in Toxicology" with representatives of academia, armed forces, government and industry. The presentations drew approximately 200 interested persons. For the future, the Chairman recommended more volunteer support, greater emphasis on pre-registration, completion of Placement preparations the day before the Service opens, greater publicity for the "Confidential Candidate" service and a review of Placement Service fees.

At the Annual Banquet during the Seattle meeting, one of the highlights was the presentation of the Society's awards. The ICI Traveling Lectureship, awarded for the first time in 1991 was given to Charles V. Smith and Jerold A. Last. The Frank R. Blood Award was given to Donald A. Fox, Steven D. Rubenstein and Pauline Hsu for their paper "Developmental lead exposure inhibits adult rat retinal, but not kidney Na⁺, K⁺ -ATPase". The paper was published in "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" 109: 482-493, 1991. The Toxicology Education Award was given to Dean E. Carter and the Arnold J. Lehman Award to Roger O. McClellan. The Achievement Award was made to Michael P. Holsapple and the Society's highest award, the Merit Award, was given to W. Norman Aldridge.

The Council of the Society met in May, July, September and November of 1991 and in February 1992. Reports of the officers and Committee chairs with respect to Council assignments were received and discussed. Much time was spent with the Headquarters management group on issues involving the day to day management of an organization with over 3000 members and a cash flow in excess of \$ 2 million annually. Many of the items reviewed for the members at the Annual Meeting were worked out in detail in the Council meetings. Among the items of continuing concern were the logistics of ICT-VII, sites of future SOT meeting (through 2000), the continuing struggle to keep costs under control and yet continue to deliver needed services, maintaining schedules, developing policy and procedure manuals, a number of publications matters and the possible development of a new award related to Public Communications. The Headquarters staff provided almost 9000 hours of service in support of SOT activities.

The Council noted that the membership had approved a By-laws change regarding membership on the Nominating Committee. A system of rotation among the Specialty Sections and Regional Chapters was established to permit candidates from those organizations to stand for the Nominating Committee. The Council began discussions with Eurotox regarding some form of joint activity at each other's Annual Meeting, perhaps in the form of a debate. The 1993 Meeting in New Orleans was considered for the first step in this direction. It was learned that ASPET was considering a Toxicology Section and to some this seemed like old issues being revisited as both SOT and "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" in the minds of many grew out of a dissatisfaction with the status of toxicology among pharmacologists.. Council also noted that the Central States Chapter had initiated an award in honor of Past President John Doull.