

## **THE THIRTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1992-1993**

Highlights: The day-to-day operation of the Society consumed so much of the agenda of Council meetings that little or none was left for long range planning. To remedy that, Council held a planning retreat about three weeks before the Annual Meeting and the results were reported to the membership at the New Orleans meeting. The Annual Meeting was threatened by a severe snow storm in the Northeast just as participants were leaving for the Gulf Coast and many flights and other travel plans were delayed or canceled. The Society continued its strong emphasis on minority participation in the meeting with corporate and NIH support. Membership in the Society, numbers of abstracts for the Meeting, numbers of Specialty Sections and adequacy of financial reserves reached all time highs. Four changes in the Society's Bylaws were discussed and were to be submitted for mail ballot. Significant effort continues to be given to the issue of animals in research especially in light of the activities of the animal rights movement in the schools.

The thirty-second Meeting of the Society of Toxicology was held at the New Orleans Louisiana Convention Center March 14-18, 1993. For the second time the Society used a convention center for its meeting with participants housed in nearby hotels. One day was devoted to Continuing Education courses and four full days to the scientific sessions. A Sunday to Thursday format permitted attendees to take advantage of significant discounts in air fares for Saturday night stays. The Annual Meeting of the Membership was held at 4:30 pm on Tuesday March 16 in the Convention Center with President John L. Emmerson presiding. There were 3839 pre-registrants for the meeting with many more expected to register during the meeting. All available exhibit space was contracted for and an exhibitor advertising book was prepared for the first time.

The Program Committee reported that 1685 abstracts were accepted out of 1719 submitted. Those not accepted were for lack of data. These abstracts were arranged into 12 platform sessions, 19 poster-discussion sessions and 58 poster sessions. In addition, there were 16 symposia, two Workshops and one plenary lecture. The Continuing Education Courses drew 2284 registrants for 10 topics, two of which were offered in both the morning and afternoon. The topics were Advanced Behavioral and Neurophysiological Testing for Neurotoxicity; Molecular Biomarkers in Toxicology; Insecticides: Mechanism of Action, Metabolism and Toxicology in Vertebrates; Coping With Nongenotoxic Carcinogens: Mode of Action, Detection and Risk Assessment; Mechanisms of Cell Death (am and pm); Basic risk Assessment: Current Developments; Immunology of Chemical Hypersensitivity; Advanced Topics in Risk Assessment; Experimental Approaches to Assess Chemically-Induced Alterations in Gene Expression and Application of Advanced Technologies to Problems in Toxicology. As a consequence of the severe weather in the Northeast, most of the faculty for the Biomarkers course were unable to reach New Orleans in time so it was not held. The Continuing Education

Committee has a master course matrix which is used to assure that topics are either not repeated more often than at three year intervals or not lost from view. Courses are offered in four categories: target organ systems,, toxicity of agents, regulatory toxicology and methods or techniques. Many topics were covered with both basic and advanced courses. At the thirty-second meeting of the Society half of the topics were at the basic level and half were advanced. The most popular courses have been those dealing with risk assessment and molecular biology. Written course evaluation forms were given to all registrants for use by the Continuing Education Committee in planning future offerings. Over 80% of those responding found the overall quality of the courses “good ” to “excellent”. The quality of the course description and the syllabus were given a rating of “good” to “excellent” by over 90% of respondents. Slide quality rated a little lower largely because the historic tendency for slides in the regulatory courses to be judged poorer than other courses was borne out again in the 1993 offerings.

The Placement Office and related functions represent a major commitment by the Society to career growth and development for all in this field. On Sunday March 14, the Placement Committee sponsored a seminar on recruiting and interviewing for positions in various sectors of the economy. There was extensive interaction not only during the formal presentations, but also during an informal discussion after the program. Approximately 250-300 persons attended. The Placement Service saw an increase of 20% in the number of candidates registered to 333 and smaller increase in the number of employers registered to 204. Each year the Committee members plus volunteer helpers review the forms, procedures and overall logistics of the placement operation to make improvements for the upcoming year. Among the issues reviewed at the New Orleans meeting the design of a standardized message form, use of graduate student workers, improvements in Committee succession and continuity, changes in message coding and the like. This Committee continues in an unheralded way to provide an extremely useful service to the Society and its members.

Also carrying a most valuable role for the future of the Society of Toxicology is the Membership Committee through its review of applications for the several categories of membership and its continuing work on making the Application for Membership more useful to reviewers and more “friendly” for applicants. During the thirty-second year of the Society there was an increase of 166 in the number of Full Members; of 98 in Associate Members and of 74 in the number of Student Members. This total increase in membership of 343 is about 11% more than the previous year and is equal to the total membership in the Society in the mid 1960’s. The Society will end the year with 3547 members (2136 Full, 794 Associate, 229 Retired, 5 Honorary and 383 Student).

In addition to the Annual Meeting, there are other educational activities of the Society. These are in the hands of the Education Committee charged to fulfill the purpose of SOT to promote the acquisition and utilization of knowledge in toxicology. The Educational Program for Minority Students, The Special Poster Session for Visiting Students and student awards and fellowships all enriched the thirty-second meeting of the Society. These programs are funded by

an NIH grant and by gifts from 12 private sector organizations. The number of applicants for these programs, especially for travel grants far exceeded the funding available.

Linked well with the work of the Education Committee was the ad hoc 90's Educational Issues Task Force. In regard to undergraduate education in toxicology, the Task Force has prepared an outline for an undergraduate course and held the Second Forum on Undergraduate Education at the New Orleans meeting. Much of the time was spent discussing the need for an appropriate textbook at this level. The Task Force also held a poster discussion at the meeting which afforded programs a chance to present teaching techniques and materials. The Summer Internship Program has continued to be a success and the Task Force has attempted to increase the number of sponsors and to track the subsequent careers of previous interns as a measure of success of the program. The Task Force has updated the SOT exhibit and arranged for showings at a number of other professional meetings, especially those involving minority students or investigators.

The Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award is administered by an Advisory Committee chaired by an officer of the Society and having a Burroughs Wellcome Award scholar as a member. During the thirty-second year of the Society a record number of applications for this award were reviewed by the Advisory Committee. After careful examination of these 35 applications, the Committee recommended to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Board that there be two awards granted in 1993. Those honored were Debra Laskin of Rutgers University and Leona Sampson of Harvard University School of Public Health. This award was the first under slightly revised criteria in which greater weight is given to the ability and potential of the scholar to conduct innovative research which will significantly impact the science of toxicology. Lesser weight was given to the program plans of the institution where the Scholar resides.

The Board of Publications selected Edward Bresnick to be the new editor of "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" effective January 1, 1993. He succeeded I. Glenn Sipes. At year end 1993 the contract with Academic Press to publish the Society's journals will expire and Council and the Board began the negotiations with the publisher. Particular attention was paid to the subscription structure for "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology" and the marketing strategy for that journal; the accumulated debt for FAAT; mandatory subscriptions to TAP as part of the member's dues and the structure of the royalty payments to SOT by the publisher for TAP. Both journals remained healthy as judged by the number of manuscripts submitted, the number of subscriptions and Institute of Scientific Information citation index parameters. The Board made efforts to give TAP a more molecular science orientation. It was expected that FAAT would be profitable in the thirty-second year and that the accumulated deficit would be eliminated in the next few years.

The Toxicology Education Foundation was established by the Society in 1990 to encourage and facilitate the education and training of individuals in the science of toxicology and to assist the public to be more scientifically knowledgeable about toxicological issues. During the year efforts were initiated to prepare a brochure to assist the Foundation in fund raising. The

Board of Trustees of the Foundation also decided that the immediate Past President of SOT serve as President of the Board of Trustees instead of the Past-Past President. The immediate Past President also serves on SOT's Council and this liaison would be beneficial to the Foundation. Total contributions during the fiscal year were just over \$12,900 from 199 contributors. The assets of the Foundation were over \$90,000.

ICT-VI, the Sixth International Congress of Toxicology met in Rome, Italy in the summer of 1992. The theme of the Congress was "Toxicology for the Wellbeing of Mankind" and there were 1425 participants. The Proceedings were published in "Toxicology Letters" later that year, meeting an extremely tight time schedule. The Society of Toxicology has been active in the planning for ICT-VII scheduled for Seattle, Washington in July 1995 and Society officers will hold important roles in this meeting.

With questions involving the use of animals in biomedical research still being raised by animal rights activists and others, the Animals in Research Committee continues to justify its importance to the Society. The Committee organized the SOT Issues session at the thirty-second meeting to concentrate on the use of animals in research. Approximately 250 members attended. An SOT Animals in Research Brochure with resource information for members of the Society has been prepared and was distributed by Headquarters for use in outreach programs. At the 1994 meeting there will be another workshop offered with resource kit, video and related materials. This workshop will be directed at those toxicologists called upon to defend their work before the media, animal rights activists and interested members of the local community.

The sixteen Regional Chapters continued to thrive during the thirty-second year of the Society. Many of them sponsor awards and scholarships in addition to holding scientific meetings alone or in conjunction with other chapters or societies. The Allegheny-Erie Chapter awarded the first Carpenter, Smyth, Weil Career Achievement Award to Yves Alarie of the University of Pittsburgh for his contributions to the field. The Central States Chapter presented its John Doull Award to Tom Miya, Dean Emeritus of the School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina. Both Dr. Doull and Dr. Miya are Past Presidents of SOT. The Mountain West Chapter celebrated its 10th anniversary with a retrospective given by its first president, Raghubir P. Sharma. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter presented its Ambassador of Toxicology Award to Bernard Goldstein of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The Midwest Chapter recognized Dante Scarpelli with its Kenneth P. DuBois Award and J. M. Bies-Tobola with its Victor Drill Award.

The Society increased its number of Specialty Sections to eleven with the addition of a Food Safety Specialty Section and a Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section. These sections provide new forums for discussion and communication for interested members within SOT.

The SOT Awards program recognizes the contributions of toxicologists to the science and profession of toxicology. These were again presented at the Annual Banquet of the Society. The

ICI Traveling Lectureships were awarded to Terrence J. monks and Harihara Mehendale. The Frank R. Blood Award for the best paper published in one of the Society's journals in the past year was given to Thomas A. Mably, Robert W. Moore, Robert W. Goy and Richard E. Peterson for their paper "In utero and lactational exposure of male rats to 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin. 2. Effects on sexual behavior and the regulation of lutenizing hormone secretion in adulthood." *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* 114:108-117, 1992. The Education Award recognizes an individual distinguished by the teaching and training of toxicologists and who has made significant contributions to education in the broad field of toxicology. The award was given to Curtis D. Klaassen. The Arnold J. Lehman Award is given to an individual who has made major contributions to the control of chemical agents based either on research or on the application of sound scientific principles to regulation. The award is named for a Founder of the Society and was given to Thomas W. Clarkson. The Achievement Award recognizes a member of the Society who has made significant contributions to the field in the first 15 years of a career and was given to David L. Eaton. The Society's highest honor, the Merit Award, acknowledges a distinguished career in toxicology and was given to John Doull.

The Nominating Committee solicited suggestions from the membership at large and from their own members to assemble a slate of candidates for each of the elected offices and committees of the Society. Following a mail ballot those elected to serve from May 1 were Vice President-Elect Jack H. Dean; Secretary-elect Jay L. Goodman; Councilors (1993-1995) Robert A. Roth and William F. Greenlee; Education Committee (1993-1996) Ronald G. Thurman and Janice E. Chambers; Membership Committee (1993-1996) Michael J. Olson and James A. Bond and Nominating Committee (1993-1994) Harry Salem from the Regional Chapters, Gary L. Lage from the Specialty Sections, Jerry B. Hook from the Past Presidents and Linda S. Birnbaum from the Membership-at-Large.

Four Bylaws changes were presented to the membership at the thirty-second Annual Meeting. These were deletion of the Ethics and Technical Committees; deletion of the requirement that all members of the Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee, Animals in Research Committee and Placement Committee be voting members of the Society; an increase in the size of the Placement Committee and a requirement that members of the Board of Publications be voting members. These changes were submitted for mail ballot shortly after the meeting and all were accepted.

In his report to the members, President John L. Emmerson reviewed in detail the results of a special planning meeting just a few weeks before the Annual Meeting. Most Council meetings are fully occupied with the details of day-to-day Society operations and providing guidance to the Headquarters staff on area of their responsibility. Council was acutely aware of the need for strategic planning and of the lack of time to do such planning properly. Attending the meeting were the Officers and members of Council plus the Past Past President, the incoming Vice President -Elect, the Executive Secretary Joan Cassedy and a professional facilitator. The draft report of some 32 pages was the basis the review. The meeting began with an analysis of what the Society was, who they served and what services were offered. This was compared with

milestones of the past and characteristics of similar scientific societies. The general tone of the stated purpose of the Society was one which considered SOT the preeminent society for toxicologists with a significant responsibility for leading, for shaping philosophically the approach to the science, for providing future direction and for policies that will guide education and training. Not all points found unanimity within the group. With respect to the internal functioning of SOT, there was a recounting of objective information on who had what responsibilities with respect to finances, organization, accountabilities and the like. There was also some further discussion of basic SOT traditions, culture and beliefs. These findings deserve to be enshrined in a history of the Society and are reproduced below. SOT is the premier and most influential organization in toxicology. The Society believes in dose-response. The Society does not speak to issues as a Society. SOT does not represent or advocate to government for its members. SOT recognizes scientific and educational achievement and states that real toxicologists should be in the Society. The Society supports responsible animal experimentation. The Annual Meeting is the central activity for SOT. The Society supports education and research in toxicology. The group also analyzed the current state of SOT from the perspective of strengths and associated weaknesses. From a list of 26, President Emmerson summarized six which were representative. Hosting the largest meeting of toxicologists in the world is a strength, but the associated weakness is member concern about the loss of collegiality due to size. SOT occupies a leading position in its field, but there is little or no recognition from other disciplines. The Society has a diverse and talented membership yet its very diversity inhibits it from finding consensus on issues. The public is interested in toxicology but the Society does not connect well to the public. The Annual Meeting represents an excellent return on investment and that leaves SOT very dependent on meeting revenues. The last example was one which noted that SOT was the only toxicology organization for many professionals and this gives rise to the potential for splintering. The group then made a list of assumptions regarding the future which would underlie any long range plan. They were the current thinking of Council and were largely extensions of present trends. A few of these were summarized by President Emmerson. Toxicologists will be more diverse in their training and knowledge. They will continue to be more biologically oriented than chemically oriented and more environmentally oriented than pharmacologically oriented. They will also be less experienced in whole animal research. Public awareness of and involvement in toxicology will increase and activist groups will proliferate. The demand for toxicologists will increase modestly but there will be less tolerance for the use of animals in toxicology. The work environment for toxicologists will be more regulated and bureaucratic. From all of this came a series of objectives for action. Five of these were reviewed at the Annual Meeting. They were 1) establish a mechanism to allow SOT to speak proactively on issues impacting the discipline of toxicology; 2) insure that SOT responds effectively to emerging areas and interests in toxicology; 3) develop a long-range financial plan to assure SOT's financial stability, including diversification of income sources; 4) insure the continued success of the Annual Meeting and 5) reevaluate SOT's efforts to recruit and educate future toxicologists. Over the next several months the work of this group was further refined through statements of philosophy, guidelines and position development, all of which was communicated to the membership through the SOT newsletter.

The Society's finances were reported by Treasurer R. Michael McClain to be in the best condition in many years thanks to a four year long effort to modernize and upgrade the budgeting and expenditures management process. The result was that a five year trend in which expenditures exceeded income for most years was reversed. Cash reserves once again returned to the target level of 50% of operating expenses. For the thirty-second year of the Society, operating income was \$1.87 million and operating expenses were \$1.59 million. The annual Meeting continued to be the largest single source of income and the largest expense as well. Nonetheless, the Meeting income also underwrote many other Society activities. The Society also administered \$483,000 in sponsored awards, an important contribution by those sponsors to the promotion of the discipline of toxicology.

The Council of the Society met five times during the thirty-second year. These meetings were in May, July, September and November 1992 and March 1993. The meetings were usually two days long and dealt with the operation of the Society. In particular, timelines had been developed for all major activities and progress or difficulties with each of these matters were reviewed and appropriate steps taken. Committee appointments were reviewed and committee activities tracked by the various Council liaison persons. There was also significant effort related to collaboration with other societies and overview of the work of Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections. The Council for the thirty-second year of the Society of Toxicology consisted of President John L. Emmerson, Vice President I. Glenn Sipes, Vice President-Elect Meryl H. Karol, Treasurer R. Michael McClain, Treasurer-Elect Judith A. MacGregor, Secretary Marion Ehrich, Past President Donald J. Reed and Councilors James S. Bus and John G. Dent (1991-1993) and Daniel Acosta and Hanspeter R. Witschi (1992-1994). Joan Walsh Cassidy was the Executive Secretary.