

THE THIRTY-THIRD YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1993-1994

Highlights: This was a year of growth and near record accomplishments for the Society. Membership continued to grow at about 10% per year and totaled 3475. The Annual Meeting attracted 4132 attendees, the second largest ever, and there was a record number of registrations for the Continuing Education courses. The Society's finances continued on the strong course of improved revenues and decreased expenses. Not only was the number of student members at an all time high but the number of trainees who attended the Graduate Student Luncheon was also the highest ever. The assets of the Toxicology Education Foundation reached \$100,000 for the first time as Council debated whether the overlap of the Foundation's program with that of SOT itself made the Foundation redundant. Council continued to develop the themes articulated at the Long Range Planning Retreat held a year earlier. The first Public Communications Award was presented.

The thirty-third Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology was held in Dallas, Texas at the Loews Anatole Hotel March 13-17, 1994. At the time of the meeting, the Anatole was the only hotel in the United States which was able to accommodate the Society's meeting. That was the basis for the use of convention centers the previous two years and for the foreseeable future. The first day was devoted to the Continuing Education Courses. The symposia, platform sessions, poster, workshops and other activities occupied the remaining four full days. The Annual Meeting of Members of the Society was held at 4:30 pm on Tuesday March 15 with President I. Glenn Sipes presiding. He summarized the activities of Council and many of the operating committees during the past year and provided statistical highlights of the current meeting. Noting that the theme for the thirty-third Annual Meeting was the fostering of better communication of science to a public that is often viewed as anti-science or scientifically illiterate, President Sipes said that toxicology, perhaps more than any other biologically based discipline is seriously impacted by an inability to communicate with the public. Because the public wants to know whether an agent will affect that person or their children, concepts of dose-response, concentrations at target sites and genetic variance are neither understood nor of interest. Toxicologists are responsible for bringing the up the level of public comprehension of what toxicologists do and what the results of their research mean. To that end, the Committee on Public Communications scheduled a Plenary Lecture by a Pulitzer Prize winning author, Jon Franklin, on the topic "Communicating Science and Technology to the Public" at this meeting. The Committee has also sponsored a Workshop on incineration (a topic of lively public debate) and has developed a slide set on risk assessment. In addition, the Society inaugurated a new award recognizing Public Communications.

The Program Committee accepted approximately 1650 abstracts for the meeting and these were organized into 16 symposia, 9 platform sessions, 24 poster/discussion sessions, 53 poster sessions plus 3 roundtable discussions, 4 workshops, 2 forums and a debate. The Continuing

Education courses offered at the thirty-third Meeting included Molecular Mechanisms Controlling Gene Expression; Toxicokinetics: Study Design and Data Analysis (offered both morning and afternoon); Molecular Biomarkers in Toxicology; International Harmonization-Update on Scientific and Regulatory Issues: Part I: Foods, Drugs, Cosmetics and Devices and Part II: Toxic Substances and Environmental Issues; In vitro Neurotoxicology: Principles, Practice and Paradigms; Target Organ Toxicology: Respiratory Tract Dosimetry and Response to Inhaled Toxicants; Strategies for Cloning Toxicant Inducible Genes; Sensory System Toxicology; Genetic Toxicology: Current Regulatory Guidelines and New Technologies and Pulmonary Immune Responses. The Continuing Education Committee has followed the Master Course Matrix which maintains a balance in offerings and avoids redundancy. This year 2 of the 11 courses were at the advanced level. The others were established as basic courses. The Regional Chapters and Specialty Sections have been a valuable source of suggestions for topics and for course organizers. To facilitate this process a Newsletter article was prepared and copies sent to Regional Chapter and Specialty Section presidents. A presentation on this topic was also given at the meeting of Specialty Section presidents at the thirty-third Annual Meeting. The 1994 courses drew 2519 registrants and generated a net income to the Society of over \$136,000, both records.

Also a major part of the Annual Meeting is the Society of Toxicology Placement Committee and its Placement Service, a meeting place for prospective employers and employees. There were 429 candidates and 145 employers registered for the Dallas meeting. This was a 29% increase in the number of candidates for employment and by co-incidence a 29% decrease in the number of employers. The total of 574 is the largest recorded by the Placement Service. For example, twenty years earlier, at the 1974 meeting in Washington DC, the Placement Service reported processing 163 candidate resumes and 38 employer requests. The current economic situation was blamed for the increase in applicants and decrease in employer registrations from the previous year. The Placement Service offered a seminar on job recruitment and interviewing which attracted approximately 350 persons to hear presentations from representatives of academia, consulting firms, government and industry. At the request of Council, the Committee developed two survey instruments to measure the effectiveness of the Placement Service. There was an satisfactorily high level of response from both employers and candidates with both groups expressing approval of the services offered. Recommendations were made with respect to the application form and possible computerization of the Service. Both would remain under discussion over the next several months.

The Membership Committee continued a practice started in the previous year in which the reviews of applications for membership were handled by teleconference in May and October. Of 328 applications received and examined by the Committee, 321 were submitted to the Society's membership for approval. In several instances the committee found that an applicant for Full Membership was more appropriately considered for Associate Membership. The final totals were Full Membership 119; Associate Membership 80 and Student Membership 122. Total society membership in the thirty-third year was 3475, about 1000 more than in the Silver Anniversary year, 1986. Also playing a key role in the future of the Society was the work of the

Nominating Committee. An impressive ballot was assembled and the Society membership chose James S. Bus as Vice President-Elect; Mary E. Davis as Treasurer-Elect and Debra Laskin and James A Swenberg as Councilors for 1994-1994. The elected committee positions were George B. Corcoran and Elizabeth H. Jeffery for the Education Committee (1994-1997) and Elaine M. Faustman and Robin S. Goldstein for the Membership Committee (1994-1997). The elected members of the Nominating Committee were Doyle G Graham from the Regional Chapters; Robert T. Drew from the Specialty Sections; Curtis K. Klaassen from the Past Presidents and Deborah A. Cory-Slechta from the Membership-at-Large. President Sipes reported at the Annual Meeting that Council had granted Honorary Membership in the Society of Toxicology to Wendell W. Weber of the University of Michigan and Ronald W. Estabrook of the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center. They are the sixth and seventh Honorary Members.

The Treasurer's report was more optimistic than usual. A recent pattern of expenses exceeding revenues had been reversed and the Society was again accumulating some reserves. The Annual Meeting generated over 60% of the Society's income and represented about 40% of its expenses. Publications were approximately break-even at 15-16% of revenue and expenses. Corporate and Member dues totaled about 15% of income with the remainder made up of interest and other items. On the expense side, the Headquarters operation was about 25% of the expense total and Council and Committee expenses approximately 15%. Grants, awards and other expenses made up the remainder.

The Board of Publications reported that contracts were in place with the publisher Academic Press for the next several years for both "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" and "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology". Editorial Board changes were made for FAAT and the editor of TAP has requested two Associate Editors. This request was under Council review. The perennial issue of a mandatory link of journal subscriptions with membership dues remained under discussion.

The Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Advisory Committee received 33 applications for the award and narrowed the choice to the 8 most promising candidates. These were then given more intensive review and two were recommended to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Board of Directors who approved the suggested names. The new Burroughs Wellcome Scholars were Kim Boekelheide of Brown University and Dennis Thiele of the University of Michigan. The Advisory Committee also continued to hold that the emphasis on promoting research in toxicology and on the career development of individuals whose research will impact toxicology was appropriate. The number of applicants was the highest on record and the quality of those applying was considered to be the best in the history of the program. The Advisory Committee has discussed other needs in toxicology and has begun formulating other award concepts for review by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Board of Directors.

The Education Committee received word from NIH that the grant supporting the Committee's efforts with respect to minority students in toxicology had been renewed from June 1993 to May 1996 but at a level of funding below what was requested. The Society has

supplemented the NIH award and thirteen private sector organizations also provided funds for graduate student travel, the Graduate Student Luncheon, social activities, a poster session for visiting students and graduate fellowships. For the minority student and advisor travel awards there were 142 students and 34 advisors who had applied for support and funds were available for 39 minority students and 13 minority advisors. The Committee also awarded 79 graduate student travel grants. In addition, the Committee was extremely active during the thirty-third Annual Meeting with coordination of a Forum on Grantsmanship and Sources for Research Support, a special poster session for visiting students, an educational program for minority students and an orientation program.

The Animals in Research Committee had another busy year which was not surprising considering the attention given to this subject by the media and animal activists. The Committee completed the publication and distribution of an SOT brochure, "The Importance of Animals in the Science of Toxicology". They also completed a compilation of an SOT Animals in Research Video Library. The videos are loaned to SOT members at no fee. The Committee sponsored two program elements at the Dallas meeting. The first was a Workshop jointly with the American Medical Association titled "Medical Progress: A Miracle at Risk" and the second was the annual Issues Session which in 1994 was on the topic "Animal Rights in the Classroom: Tackling Scientific Illiteracy". This dealt with the coordinated introduction of animal rights literature and other so-called teaching materials into public schools. The Committee also staffed a booth in the exhibition area in which the videos were shown and information packets were available for distribution.

During the thirty-third year of the Society, Council approved a request to change the name of the ad hoc TOX 90's Educational Issues Task Force to the Toxicology Initiatives Task Force. The ad hoc status was retained but the terms of reference were broadened beyond education and the group encouraged to be innovative on behalf of SOT. Among the group's major efforts in the thirty-third year of the Society was the organization and presentation of an Educator's Forum at the 1994 Annual Meeting. The focus of the Forum was toxicology and environmental education in grades K-12 and included poster presentations and a computer demonstration. Working with the Education Committee, the Task Force was involved with the Visiting Students Program and Poster Session at the 1994 Meeting. Plans were made to develop a tracking system to see how many students attending the meeting selected careers in science. A cross-sectional group from this Task Force as well as the Education, Public Communication and Animals in Research Committees began to explore ways to introduce toxicology and environmental education into pre-college curricula. Grades 4-6 were selected for the initial effort. The Task Force worked with Headquarters to coordinate the Summer Internship Program. Eleven sponsors selected twenty interns to participate in summer research projects. Tracking of prior internship programs revealed that five interns have become Student members of SOT.

The Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee developed a Newsletter article outlining how members should communicate with their elected representatives. A letter drafted by the Committee for the signature of SOT President Sipes on the Society's position on the use of animals in research was sent to the White House and to members of key Senate and

House Committees. The Committee also worked with the Food Safety Specialty Section to prepare comments on the draft FDA Redbook II (toxicity testing guidelines). This letter, along with an associated procedure statement on the process for handling future requests for comments, were approved by Council. The replies were sent to FDA and the procedure adopted by Council as policy.

The future of the Toxicology Education Foundation continued to be in doubt. A small number of contributions were made to the Foundation during the thirty-third year of the Society and the total assets were in the \$100,000 range. Given the overlap in mission and intended functions of SOT and the Foundation and the tax-exempt status of each it seemed difficult to justify the continued existence of the Foundation since the likelihood of its raising enough funds to be independent and self-sustaining seemed not to be promising. Council agreed to gather all information required to evaluate dissolution of the Foundation.

The Corporate Associates Program continued to provide support to the Society during the thirty-third year. Three new Associates were added bringing the total to 66. Most of the Associates were U. S. companies although Canada and Japan were also represented. There were no new Regional Chapters added. Two new Specialty Sections were under development and planned to hold organizational meetings during the Annual Meeting in Dallas. They are In Vitro Toxicology and Veterinary Science.

The Awards Committee again recognized individuals for their service to the science and profession of toxicology. Unlike previous years when the identity of the recipients was kept secret and provided fuel for guessing games, this year the names of the awardees were published in the SOT Newsletter. The awards were made at the Society's Annual Banquet on Wednesday March 16, 1994. The Awards Committee was chaired by Past President John L. Emmerson and from an outstanding group of nominees made their selections. The Frank R. Blood Award for the best paper in one of the Society's journals was given to S. J. Borghoff and William H. Lagarde for their paper "Comparison of Proteins Isolated from Kidneys of Male Rats and Humans: Evaluation of the Human Risk for Developing Chemically-Induced Protein-Mediated Nephrotoxicity" published in "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" 119: 228-235, 1993. The Education Award recognizes an individual who is 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 made to Robert A. Neal of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. The Achievement Award is given for significant contributions to the field of toxicology by a younger member of the Society. At the thirty-third Annual Meeting the award was given to James L. Stevens of the W. Alton Jones Cell Science Center. The focus of the Arnold J. Lehman Award is major contributions to the control of chemical agents especially where sound scientific principles have been applied to the regulatory process. The recipient of the Lehman Award was Bruce N. Ames of the University of California, Berkeley. The Public Communications Award was presented for the first time at the thirty-third Annual Meeting of the Society. This award is given to an individual who has made a major contribution over a significant period of time to broadening the awareness of the general public on toxicological issues

through any aspect of public communication. The recipient was Michael A. Kamrin of Michigan State University. The most honored award of the Society is the Merit Award which recognizes a distinguished career in toxicology. The 1994 award was given to Ernest Hodgson of North Carolina State University. The Zeneca Traveling Award Lectureship was not given and the Robert L. Dixon Award is made only every three years, next due in 1995.

Three amendments to the Bylaws were brought before the Annual Meeting of Members and later submitted for mail ballot. These were changing the title of the paid executive from Executive Secretary to Executive Director; annual rather than semi-annual processing of requests for retired status and earlier payment of annual dues. These changes were approved by an overwhelming majority of votes cast.

The Council of the Society met in May, July, September and November 1993 and in March of 1994. Each meeting dealt with the day-to-day operations of the Society, overview of committee activities and the plans for the Annual Meeting. SOT has entered the electronic age with the acquisition of e-mail capability. The Society's address is 73162,506@CompuServe. The Headquarters office moved during the year from downtown Washington DC to Reston Virginia. Council meetings continued to be held in a Washington hotel. The sites under consideration for future Annual Meetings of the Society were Baltimore in 1995, Anaheim CA in 1996, Cincinnati in 1997, Seattle in 1998, New Orleans in 1999 and Philadelphia in 2000. Council also approved a change in fiscal year for the Society. The fiscal year had been the same as the term of elected office, May 1 to April 30. The new fiscal year would be from July 1 to June 30, permitting all costs associated with the Annual Meeting to be incorporated in the same fiscal year. The period of office would remain unchanged.

President Sipes addressed the progress made following the previous year's Long Range Planning Retreat. One of the key objectives was to establish a mechanism by which SOT could speak out proactively on issues impacting the discipline. The Society wanted to avoid short-term crises and concentrate on more global or strategic issues. The request for SOT comments on the revised FDA Redbook provided such an opportunity and permitted the development of procedures for such responses. The final product was the result of a coordinated effort involving the Food Safety Specialty Section and the Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee. Input was also obtained from other Specialty Sections and from Council. Other key planning issues included the development of position papers directed toward the public on such broad topics as dose-response and risk assessment. Council had those under consideration and it was clear that the Specialty Sections would be the major means of developing such positions. The Committee on Public Communications initiated efforts with other societies in improvement of communication with the public. The value to the Society of interaction with sister scientific societies and organizations was more broadly recognized. Council also noted that toxicology organization in other countries have chosen to model their societies after SOT, a tribute to SOT's excellent international reputation.

The Council for the thirty-third year of the Society of Toxicology consisted of President I. Glenn Sipes, Vice President Meryl H. Karol, Vice President-Elect Jack H. Dean, Treasurer Judith A. MacGregor, Secretary Marion Ehrich, Secretary-Elect Jay I. Goodman, Past President John L. Emmerson and Councilors Daniel Acosta and Hanspeter R. Witschi (1992-1994) and William Greenlee and Robert A. Roth (1993-1995). Joan Walsh Cassedy continued as Executive Secretary.