

## **THE THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1994-1995**

Highlights: Many of the elements of the SOT Strategic Plan were addressed and significant progress achieved during the past year. The Annual Meeting, held in Baltimore Maryland, was the usual scientific and financial success. For the first time in its history, the Society was led by a woman, Meryl Karol. A new Specialty Section, "In Vitro Toxicology" was established and a study of the Society's journals was initiated. Much emphasis was given to improvement in communications with members, the rest of the scientific community and the public at large. An important element of this communication was the publication of an SOT position paper on a contemporary scientific issue in one of its journals.

The thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology was held in Baltimore Maryland at the Baltimore Convention Center from March 5 to 9, 1995. The size of the Society's meetings has required the use of convention centers rather than hotel meeting facilities. As usual, the first day was given over to 12 Continuing Education Courses. The remainder of the time was devoted to Symposia, Platform, Poster and Poster Discussion Sessions, Workshops and Round Table meetings. The Annual Meeting of Members was held at 4:30 pm on Tuesday March 7 with President Meryl Karol presiding. Much of her report dealt with progress made in achieving the goals set in 1993 as part of the Society's Strategic Plan. There were seven major items in the Plan and in the two years just past there were significant advances recorded:

The first goal was to establish a mechanism to allow SOT to speak proactively on issues impacting the discipline of Toxicology. The Society has developed a procedure for the preparation of position papers and the first such paper, opposing a ban on chlorine, was published in FAAT in January 1995. The Society set up a "Write your Congressman" booth at the thirty-fourth Annual Meeting to encourage members of the Society to establish contact with their Member of Congress. A 'public communications' firm was hired to assist the Society in reaching the public regarding the exciting science presented at the meeting. SOT has joined with other leading scientific societies and AAAS to establish the AAAS Coalition to Encourage Public Understanding of Science.

The second goal was to assure that SOT responds effectively to emerging areas and interests in Toxicology. Two new Specialty Sections were formed- Veterinary (1994) and In Vitro Toxicology (1995). The Continuing Education Courses and invited speakers at the Annual Meeting afford a means of bringing new topics in the field to the attention of the membership.

The third goal was to evaluate SOT's efforts to recruit and train future toxicologists. Through the Education Committee, the Society has conferred Research Awards, established Summer Internships for students and minority recruitment programs and begun developing a

Science Teacher Partnership. The Membership Committee has enhanced the effort to bring new members into the Society by making the application for membership easier to complete.

The fourth goal of the Strategic Plan was to expand SOT's relationships and collaborative efforts with relevant organizations. SOT is a member of the International Union of Toxicology and hosted ICT VII in Seattle during July 1995. Other liaison efforts have included the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, the AAAS Coalition and the National Association for Biomedical Research.

The fifth goal was to assure the quality of SOT journals. The Board of Publications led by Chairman Bernard Schwetz has begun an evaluation of SOT journals, looking at structure and operations and considering such issues as communicating the full dimensions of Toxicology, emphasizing areas of new growth in the field, maintaining an openness to new developments in publication technology and reviewing subscription policies. The Board of Publications award for the best publication in Toxicology was for the first time this year granted to a paper from each of the Society's journals.

The sixth goal was to develop a long range plan to assure SOT's financial stability and to diversify income sources. At present, the Annual Meeting represented 63% of the Society's annual income. By contrast, member dues accounted for only 7%. The final goal of the Strategic Plan was to assure that the committee structure of the Society is aligned with the objectives of the Society. The emphasis should be on ways to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, provide for education and training of toxicologists, exchange scientific information among toxicologists and with other disciplines, have an impact on issues in the field and provide employment opportunities for members of the Society. This was an ongoing effort of the Council of the Society.

The Program Committee, chaired by Vice President Jack Dean with Vice President-Elect James Bus as Co-Chairman organized a scientific program consisting of 16 Symposia, a Plenary Lecture on Chaos Theory by Donald Coffey, 8 Platform Sessions, 51 Poster Sessions, 14 Poster discussion Sessions as well as 7 Workshops and 2 Round tables. The Committee accepted over 1600 abstracts for this meeting.

The Continuing Education Committee presented 11 Courses which attracted approximately 2000 registrants. The Courses offered were Basic Molecular Methods for the Analysis of Gene Regulation and Expression (given in both the morning and afternoon sessions); New Endpoints in Developmental and Reproductive Regulatory Studies: Methods for Success; Cytokines and Growth Factors in Toxicity; In Vitro Methods for Product Development and Safety Assessment; Cell Transformation and Chemical Carcinogenesis; Basic Applications in Risk Assessment; Advanced Methods in Molecular Biology for Toxicologists; Basic Concepts of Endocrine Disruption and Its Role in Tumorigenesis; Comparative and Cellular Aspects of Liver Toxicity; Ecotoxicology: Responses, Biomarkers and Risk Assessment; and Advances in Risk Extrapolation: Dose-Response Assessment. Each year the Committee faced the challenge of offering a slate of courses with a wide range of topics that was balanced, timely and appealing to

the diverse interests of the attendees at the Annual Meeting. The principal topic areas are target organ systems, toxic mechanisms, regulatory toxicology and methods and techniques. These courses are further divided into basic and advanced offerings. Course evaluations in recent years have stressed the need for the Continuing Education Courses to provide both didactic and practical, how-to-do information, especially in the field of molecular biology. In recognition of the effort made by each of the course lecturers to produce a high quality syllabus, the speaker expense fee was increased from \$300 to \$400. Total income from the Continuing Education Courses in the thirty-fourth year of the Society was \$166,455 with a net income to the Society of \$99,355.

The Treasurer, Judith A. MacGregor, reported that the fiscal year ending April 30, 1994 produced record income for the Society. Net income from the 33rd Annual Meeting in Dallas was also a record. That gave the Society three years in a row of outstanding financial performance and reversed the earlier trend of net losses from operations. For the 1994 Fiscal Year, total income was \$2,058,000 and total expenses were \$1,703,000 with the balance being placed in reserves. Those reserves as of April 30, 1994 were \$1,550,000 or approximately 90% of one year's expenses. This is a healthy position for a scientific society and permits new initiatives and some committee growth as needed. In addition, the Society administered almost a half million dollars in sponsored award funds. The Society spent approximately \$248 per member but the dues for a full member were only \$45. The Finance Committee and Treasurer have improved financial planning, created long term stability and improved financial systems during the thirty-fourth year and have begun work to diversify income sources.

The Education Committee, chaired by Michele Medinsky, had a busy year, especially in connection with the Annual Meeting. The Committee reviewed applications and selected recipients for Fellowship and Travel Awards. Sixteen applications were reviewed for the CIBA-GEIGY, Hoffmann-LaRoche, Procter & Gamble and Hazleton Graduate Student Fellowships and six finalists were interviewed at the Baltimore meeting. Four Fellowship awardees were chosen by the Committee. Seven applications were reviewed for the Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship and two finalists were interviewed at the Annual Meeting. One awardee was chosen. There were 86 applications for SOT Graduate Student Travel Awards. Seventy-four were supported by SOT funds, two by the Hazleton Alumni Association and one by the Toxicology Round table. Finally, from a total of 186 applications for Minority Travel Awards, 47 students and 13 advisors were selected to attend the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. These awards were funded by SOT, an NIH grant and the R. W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute. The Education Committee also conducted a program for minority students and advisors at the Annual Meeting. This program included a Saturday night social in which the students and advisors met SOT volunteers who served as mentors; a Sunday morning tour of Baltimore; a Sunday afternoon Symposium on Toxicology as a discipline, graduate program and career; a Focus Group Discussion in which SOT members and visitors met in small groups to discuss issues raised in the Symposium and a Monday morning Special Poster Session in which SOT members presented papers to give the visitors an idea of the breadth of toxicology research. The Committee also prepared a questionnaire sent to attendees of the program over the last several years to measure

the effectiveness of this Program for Minority Students in attracting minorities into biomedical research. There was a Forum on Grantsmanship and Sources for Research Support for all researchers seeking financial support for research and training and a Graduate Student Luncheon. The Committee sponsored a Scientist-Science Teacher Partnership presentation and workshop during the Annual Meeting. The featured speaker was the President of the Society of Biology Teachers. For the future, the Committee has been developing a proposal to Colgate-Palmolive Company to establish a Lectureship in In Vitro Toxicology.

The Animals in Research Committee was chaired by Harry M. Olson and enjoyed an active year with several accomplishments of note. Articles were prepared for the Society's Newsletter to keep members informed on research trends, in vitro toxicology contributions and related issues. They also advised members of the availability of tapes and literature from the Society regarding animals in research. A column on answers to members questions about animal use in research was initiated. The Committee has served as a resource for SOT Council in reviewing and making recommendations regarding funding requests from outside educational groups for support of biomedical research. For the thirty-fourth Annual Meeting the Committee developed a Workshop titled "From Teachers to Toxicologists: Answering the Tough Questions about Animal Use". Presentations from the Workshop were planned for publication in FAAT. The animal rights protest at the start of the thirty-fourth meeting helped to focus attention on the impact of these issues on the Society.

The Board of Publications, chaired by Bernard A. Schwetz has concentrated on reviewing the future direction and scope of SOT publications. These discussions have considered questions of journal ownership by SOT and the future of electronic publishing, especially as the current contracts with Academic Press near expiration. The Board appointed Reviewers and Associate Editors for the two journals to help with the flow of manuscripts. In addition manuscript review procedures were reevaluated. The Frank R. Blood Award for the best publication in the Society's journals was replaced by an award of the Board of Publications for the best paper in each of the two Society journals. The publisher proposed increasing the number of pages per year for FAAT from 1500 to 1600. TAP is currently capped at 2250 pages per year but the publisher indicated that some overage could be tolerated. Electronic publishing issues consumed much time of the Board of Publications.

As always, the Nominating Committee played an important role in determining the future of the Society of Toxicology. John L. Emmerson, a Past President of the Society, chaired this group which assembled the slate of candidates for elected office. The Membership chose Michael R. McClain as Vice President -Elect; David L. Eaton as Secretary-Elect and Carole A. Kimmel and H. B. Mathews as Councilors for 1995-1997. Those elected to Committee positions were James E. Klaunig and Kenneth Ramos for the Education Committee (1995-1998) and Craig S. Barrow and Hugh A. Tilson for the Membership Committee (1995-1998).

The Awards Committee administers the SOT awards, which recognize the contributions of individuals for their service to the Society of Toxicology and to the profession of Toxicology.

As in the previous year, the names of the award winners were announced in the Society's Newsletter well in advance of the Annual Meeting at which the award was presented. In addition, for the thirty-fourth year, Council decided to present the awards at a special Awards Ceremony and not at the Annual Banquet as attendance at the latter had fallen off considerably. The Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday afternoon following the Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award Lecture and was followed by a general reception. The Awards Committee was chaired by Past President I. Glenn Sipes. The Education Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to education in the broad field of Toxicology, especially in the teaching and training of toxicologists. The award was made to William Carlton. The Zeneca Traveling Award Lectureship was given to Hanspeter R. Witschi of the University of California at Davis and to David L. Eaton of the University of Washington. The Achievement Award is given for significant contributions to the science of Toxicology by a younger member of the Society. The award was given to Lucio Costa of the University of Washington. The Arnold J. Lehman Award recognizes major contributions to the control of chemical agents especially in instances where sound scientific principles have been applied to the regulatory process. The award at the thirty-fourth meeting was given to Emil A. Pfitzer of Hoffmann-LaRoche and a Past President of the Society. This was the second year that the Public Communications Award was given. This award recognizes 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 this year was Philip Abelson, editor of "Science". The most prestigious award of the Society is the Merit Award which recognizes a distinguished career in Toxicology. At the thirty-fourth Annual Meeting the award was given to Robert A. Scala of Exxon Biomedical Sciences and a Past President of the Society.

During the thirty-fourth year the Society added a thirteenth Specialty Section, In Vitro Toxicology. The other Specialty Sections include Carcinogenesis, Food Safety, Immunotoxicology, Inhalation, Mechanisms, Metals, Molecular Biology, Neurotoxicology, Regulatory and Safety Evaluation, Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology, Risk Assessment and Veterinary. The Council of the Society expressed some concern over the proliferation of these Sections. The Society has sixteen Regional Chapters located in Allegheny-Erie, Central States, Gulf Coast, Michigan, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Mountain West, National Capital, North Carolina, Northeast, Northern California, Ohio Valley, Pacific Northwest, South Central, Southeastern and Southern California. These Specialty Sections and Regional Chapters afford toxicologists an opportunity to meet and share data and other matters with colleagues in less formal settings and provide a venue for students and young professionals to network with more established professionals. Many also give awards for posters, publications and scientific contributions.

The Council of the Society met in May, July, September and November 1994 and March 1995 to deal with the day to day matter of operations, overview of committee activities and plans for the Annual Meeting. There were no amendments to the Society's Bylaws during the year. The Council for the thirty-fourth year of the Society consisted of Meryl H. Karol, President; Jack H. Dean, Vice President; James S. Bus, Vice President-Elect; Judith A.

MacGregor, Treasurer; Mary E. Davis, Treasurer-Elect; Jay I. Goodman, Secretary; I. Glenn Sipes, Past President and Councilors William F. Greenlee and Robert A. Roth (1993-1995) and Debra L. Laskin and James A. Swenberg (1994-1996). Shawn Douglas Lopez was the Executive Director.