

THE THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 1995-1996

Highlights: The Society had almost 3700 members at the start of the year. The Annual Meeting was held at the Anaheim California convention Center and 4375 persons registered, an excellent showing especially given the West Coast location for the meeting. The fourteen Continuing Education Courses attracted 2193 registrations. There were 245 exhibits at the meeting. The number of abstracts offered was the highest to date – 1783. A yearlong effort by Council produced a Long-Range Plan for the Society.

The thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology was held at the Anaheim California Convention Center March 10-14, 1996. At the Annual Meeting of Members on Tuesday afternoon, March 12, 1996, President Jack H. Dean outlined the Long-Range Planning Activity that had been underway for about a year. The result was a Vision Statement, a list of key issues that will impact the future success of the Society and a series of initiatives and pathways to be followed to realize that vision (reproduced below).

“The overall vision of the Society is to be the leading organization worldwide for stimulating state-of-the-art science in toxicology; translating and communicating the results of scientific investigations to members, media, government and the public; promoting sound regulatory practice and policy; and representing the scientific and professional interest of its members. The Society will achieve this vision through a combination of products and services that reflect its status as both a learned and [a] professional society; including the most highly respected journal, meetings and educational offerings.”

To achieve this vision, three broad goals were outlined. Each of these goals is accompanied by a set of strategic objectives as a means of meeting the goal. The goals are:

- (I. Critical gaps in toxicology research and education will be continually identified and addressed with innovative basic and applied science.
- (II. SOT will be indispensable to the scientific and professional development of its members.
- (III. The value of toxicology as a scientific discipline will be widely understood, accepted and utilized in enhancing human, animal, and environmental health.

The Treasurer of the Society reported a most active year driven in part by initial implementation of the strategic plan. Both income and expenses were within 1 % of budget. Reserves grew to keep pace with the growth of the Society and the Society implemented a plan to keep one-third of the reserves in a balanced, managed mutual fund to improve yield. Those reserves stood at \$ 2.3 million at the time of the Meeting. Outside the budget, the Society also managed \$ 855,000 in sponsored awards, the largest by far being the Burroughs Wellcome Award.

The Program Committee reviewed 1783 abstracts for the Meeting and these resulted in 14 symposia, 15 platform sessions, 52 poster sessions, 10 poster/discussion sessions and 10 workshops. There were two roundtables (Should benchmark doses be used in human health risk assessment and Proposition 65: what's happening to the science) and an issues session that was devoted to trichloroethylene and whether the animal data were predictive of human cancer risk. The Continuing Education Courses attracted 2193 registrations for the 14 courses. The subjects were: Advanced Topics in Toxicokinetics (given in am and pm sessions); Apoptosis: Recent Advances in Detection and Regulation (also given twice); Toxicant Effects Mediated by Steroid and Other Receptors; Epidemiology for Toxicologists; The Cell Cycle: Influence on Toxic Responses; New Approaches for Studying Cytochrome P450-Dependent Toxicant Metabolism; Aquatic Toxicology and Human Health Risk Assessment; Mitochondrial Injury in Toxicology; The Female Reproductive System – How to Assess Potential Toxicity; Quantitative Uncertainty Analysis in Risk Assessment: Monte Carlo Techniques; De-Regulation of ras Signaling by Toxic Chemicals and Applications of PCR Technologies to Molecular Toxicology. The CE program is also a significant revenue source for the Society with an excess of revenue over expenses of approximately \$ 135,000.

The Placement Committee and its Placement Service have filled an important role at Society meetings for many years. At the Thirty-fifth meeting there were 352 candidates listed and 130 jobs posted. The number of candidates was somewhat less than in the previous two years due possibly to an increase in the fee structure which discouraged those not truly serious about a job change. Surveys showed that most hiring was accomplished through networking with only 5 – 10 % through ads, placement services or recruiters. The SOT Placement Center success rate of 10 % in connecting employers with the candidate ultimately chosen was at the top of that published range. The Committee presented a Placement Seminar that was videotaped and made available to the Regional Chapters. The Committee has undertaken a survey of 5 to 10 year trends in the job market for toxicologists. The Committee's work at the meeting was aided by almost a dozen dedicated volunteers.

During the Thirty-fifth year of the Society, the Animals in Research Committee concentrated on responding to goals set forth in the Long-Range Plan. In order to educate members on the issues surrounding the use of animals in research, the Committee provided educational materials and staffed a booth at the Anaheim meeting. Articles on animal use were prepared for the Society's newsletter and the Committee has compiled and maintained a library of reference information on the use of animals in research. That library includes five videos, a slide set, about three dozen fliers and brochures and seven newsletters. In order to identify other groups which have been successful in conveying the benefits of animal research, the Committee holds membership on SOT's Community Outreach Subcommittee which offers to disseminate educational materials on numerous issues including the use of animals in research. The Committee further plans to contact Regional Chapters of SOT to assist in this effort and to seek ways to fund this form of outreach. Finally, the Committee on Animals in Research will contact Regional Chapters surveying their needs and suggestions on this topic.

The Corporate Associates Program provided \$ 115,000 to the Society in the Thirty-fifth year. This is an important source of revenue and the continuing support of those corporations was appreciated. There were 16 Regional Chapters and 13 Specialty Sections this year. Council agreed that membership in a Regional Chapter did not require that one reside in that geographical area. Discussions were begun regarding a European Regional Chapter but the issue was dropped for lack of strong support. A Regional Chapter in western New York State, tentatively titled the Lake Ontario Chapter was in formation. Additional Specialty Sections were also under consideration including one in the area of pharmacology.

The Toxicology Education Foundation moved to a sounder financial position. The first Board meeting of the Foundation in two years was held and the Board began a review and revision of the Bylaws, including the mission statement. The Board agreed that a better focus for its efforts was needed and the K-12 science program seemed the best choice. The Society contributed \$ 100,000 from IUTOX VII meeting profits to the Foundation.

The Board of Publications continued to be concerned about relations with Academic Press. These concerns centered on electronic publishing expenses and revenues; need for additional pages; editorial office expenses and manuscript processing statistics. The Society's newer journal, FAAT, was likely to undergo a transformation and a development plan was under review.

The Society's Awards Program, managed by the Awards Committee and chaired by Past President Meryl Karol, continued to evolve. The requirement for the Achievement Award was revised again to note that the award recognizes achievement within 15 years (as of the time of the award) of the candidate's receipt of his or her highest earned degree. The Awards Ceremony this year was held on Thursday evening, March 14 immediately following an Awards Lecture and preceding the Closing Night Reception. The Awards Lecture honored the 25th anniversary of the Ames Bacterial Mutagenicity Test and the 20th anniversary of the Williams DNA Repair Test. Both innovators spoke of the development of their tests, the mechanistic basis and the applications. The Board of Publications Best Paper Award for FAAT went to Bruce C. Allen, Robert J. Kavlock, Carole A. Kimmel and Elaine M. Faustman for their paper "Dose-Response Assessment for Developmental Toxicity - III Statistical Models" published in "Fundamental and Applied Toxicology" 23: 496-509 (1994). The award for TAP went to T. A. Slotkin, C. Lau, E. C. McCook, S. E. Lappi and F. J. Seidler for their paper titled "Glucocorticoids Enhance Intracellular Signaling via Adenylate Cyclase at Three Distinct Loci in the Fetus: A Mechanism for Heterologous Teratogenic Sensitization?" published in "Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology" 127: 64-75 (1994). The Education Award was made to Robert Snyder of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute for his contributions to education in toxicology. The Achievement Award for significant contributions to the field by a younger member of the Society was made to Kenneth Ramos of Texas A & M University. The Arnold Lehman Award acknowledges the use of sound scientific principles in the regulatory process. The awardee this year was John F. Rosen of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The Public

Communications Award was given for only the third time this year. It recognizes an individual who has made a major contribution over a significant period of time to broadening public awareness of toxicological issues through some aspect of public communication. The award was made to Bruce N. Ames of the University of California, Berkeley. The Society's most honored award is the Merit Award given in recognition of a distinguished career in toxicology. The 1996 award was given to Gabriel L. Plaa of the University of Montreal. In addition, the Society granted 35 minority student awards, 6 minority advisor awards, 85 graduate student travel awards, 5 graduate student fellowships, 4 Colgate-Palmolive visiting Lectureships and made the Zeneca Traveling Awards to James P. Kehrer of the University of Texas College of Pharmacy and Rick G. Schnellmann of University of Arkansas Medical Sciences. The Awards Committee also recommended that Council consider two new awards. One would be an international merit award and the other an innovation award. Council took no action on this recommendation during the Thirty-fifth year.

The Council of the Society met in May, July, September and November of 1995 and January and March of 1996 to manage the day-to-day operations of SOT. Council proposed and the membership approved amendments to the Bylaws which increased the number of members of the continuing Education committee from six to nine; changed the requirements for dues payments which include journal subscriptions, allowed a one year grace period for nonpayment of dues and expanded the description of the Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance Committee. Council approved Dr. Sten Orrenius of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden and Dr. Dennis Parke of the University of Surrey in Guildford, England for Honorary Membership in SOT. The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) approached SOT with an offer for the Society to become one of the constituent organizations of FASEB, which includes, among others, the pharmacology society from among whose members SOT was formed in 1961. Council declined the offer to join FASEB. Council approved a one-year contract with Capitol Associates, a public relations firm, to provide information on key topics for further dissemination to members. The issues of greatest interest for Capitol Associates to track were the Delaney Clause, Risk Assessment, Superfund and Research and Training Funding.

The Council for the Thirty-fifth year of the Society of Toxicology consisted of President Jack H. Dean, Vice President James S. Bus, Vice President-Elect R. Michael McClain, Treasurer Mary E. Davis, Secretary Jay I. Goodman, Secretary-Elect David L. Eaton, Past President Meryl H. Karol and Councilors Debra L. Laskin and James A. Swenberg (1994-1996) and Carole A. Kimmel and H. B. Matthews (1995-1997). Shawn Douglas Lopez of the management firm Association Development Group (ADG) was named as Executive Director. The Society revised its e-mail address to sothq@toxicology.com.