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Society of Toxicology

**Communique**

Summer/Fall Issue 2004

**News in This Issue**

## President's Message

Dear Fellow SOT-ers,

Where has the summer gone? It used to seem that summers were long, lazy, and hot. But, this one has been anything but... at least for me, and probably for most of your SOT Council, as well as many of you. Science does not stop because it's summer. In fact, it's a time filled with meetings, such as the Gordon Conferences, the FASEB meetings, other small workshops, and international science events; plus, preparation for events to happen in the fall.

The SOT is an international organization. Many of you may not realize that over 16% of our full membership, and even 11% of our students, represent toxicologists from outside of the U.S. We have several international members on the Editorial Board for our journal, *Toxicological Sciences*, as well as serving on numerous SOT committees. Your membership committee is developing additional approaches to serve our international members, as well as attract new toxicologists to our Society. But, SOT has another, and possibly, more significant role to play on the international scene relative to toxicology. We are a member of IUTOX, the International Union of Toxicology, composed of 47 separate organizations from different countries and geographical regions. SOT works with IUTOX to administer travel grants for attendance at our Annual Meeting. Please visit the IUTOX Web site for more information on [how to apply](#) for these travel awards. Applications will be accepted beginning November 1. More importantly, we are active members of IUTOX, and help to provide educational programs to other societies.

Recently, your SOT Councilors have been busy with international activities. **Jose Manautou** delivered a speech to the Mexican Society of Toxicology, in Spanish, and **Elaine Faustman** spoke to the South African Society of Toxicology. We are eagerly invited to participate in these foreign meetings. In fact, we interact frequently with the European Society of Toxicology (EUROTOX), as evidenced by the debate held at our Annual Meeting and repeated, with the debaters switching sides, at the EUROTOX meeting. In addition, your presidential chain worked hard at the recent IUTOX meeting, ICT X (the 10th tri-annual meeting of the International Congress of Toxicology) held in Tampere, Finland in July.



SOT Councilors (left to right) George Corcoran, Ken Wallace, and Jose Manautou, take a 'smile break' as

We manned the SOT booth which garnered much interest, spoke to toxicologists from over 70 countries, gave presentations, and even judged over 700 posters including excellent work from many parts of the developing world! We took notes concerning some of the social events at the meeting, and are wondering if entertainment, receptions, and banquets would play as well on this side of the Atlantic. Your Council did decide that we would like to help support the travel of more scientists from developing countries to our Annual Meeting and that we will work more with IUTOX to provide training opportunities, not only by providing speakers, but potentially offering some of our CE courses in international venues.

Another initiative that SOT is emphasizing is our role in legislative and regulatory decision making. **RALA** is doing a phenomenal job. They are organizing a congressional science briefing for February on Dietary


[Visit the 2015 Annual Meeting Website](#)

Mark Your Calendar for SOT 2016:  
 March 13-17  
 New Orleans, Louisiana

*they prepare to man the SOT booth.* Supplements, both on the Senate and House sides of Congress. This is a collaborative effort with the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. They are also planning an Introduction to General Toxicology for Senate staffers. Because of interest, we are setting up a new section on our Web site for Congressional staffers. As mentioned in an earlier *Communiqué* from our past-president **Marion Ehrich**, we have also established a Task Force, chaired by past-president **Steve Cohen**, to address the issue of how we can better communicate with decision makers. What are the key messages? How we can play a more influential/helpful role in the future? We have also established another Task Force, chaired by past-president **Dave Eaton**, to actively deal with the NIH study section reorganization, which appears not to have adequately considered the impact on toxicology research.

**Ken Wallace**, your Vice President and the chair of the Program Committee for our 2005 Annual Meeting, March 6-10 in New Orleans ("Nawlins"), and the Program Committee are actively reviewing all of the symposium/workshop/roundtable "finalists" and will be scheduling them next month. We have more than three times the number submitted than can fit into the Annual Meeting—that's success!

[Registration](#) for the Annual Meeting is on-line – do it sooner, rather than later. Also, remember to submit your abstracts *via* the SOT [Abstract Central site](#) by October 3. You don't have to wait until October 2 to write and submit!

Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Fondly,

**Linda Birnbaum**

*2004–2005 SOT President*

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Toxicological Sciences Moves to Free Access

*Toxicological Sciences*, the official journal of SOT, now grants free public access to the journal 12 months after publication of each print issue. The SOT believes this will help it achieve its vision of being a leading global resource of toxicological information and will show its support of broad access to the scientific literature.

The Society made the decision to open access after consultation with the journal publisher, to make certain that the proceeds from the journal would not be significantly diminished and that journal proceeds would still be available to fund other SOT activities that support the SOT long-range plan. The Board of Publications will review the decision annually.

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Laws Concerning Criminality of Animal Rights Activism Reviewed in Recent Senate Hearings

**Brian Marable**, *Animals in Research Committee*

Death threats, intimidation and harassment, physical attacks, pipe bombs, destruction of property, arson, and economic sabotage—these are the tools of terrorists. But not all terrorists are international extremists. Many are working in the U.S. at the community level, pushing their animal rights agendas *via* criminal harassment and violence directed toward law-abiding individuals, businesses, and governments. To stop these "domestic terrorists" law enforcement agencies need the tools and resources to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators. On May 18, 2004, the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing on "Animal Rights: Activism versus Terrorism." The hearing chaired by Senator **Orrin Hatch** (R-UT) sought to examine what can and should be done when political activism, long-held as a fundamental right of a free democratic society, crosses into criminal acts. The committee heard statements from panelists with various experiences in the area of criminal activities related to fringe animal-rights groups.

**McGregor Scott**, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California, reported that animal rights groups and eco-terrorists "have committed more than 1,000 acts of terrorism and have caused more than \$100 million dollars in damage" since 1996. Mr. Scott stressed that the issue is not the millions of Americans who belong to and are active in legitimate animal rights groups, but rather the fringe factions (such as the Animal Liberation Front; ALF) who are frequently supported both financially and politically by more mainstream organizations. He went on to note that these terrorists represent a large part of the growing domestic terrorism problem. Of particular interest are the activities of Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC), an animal rights group that has claimed responsibility (or has

failed to publicly condemn), many of the violent acts committed against employees of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) and their financial partners. Mr. Scott closed his statement with a call to Congress to broaden the scope of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Statute, under which many animal rights individuals and eco-terrorists can be prosecuted.

**John Lewis**, FBI Deputy Assistant Director for Domestic Terrorism, stated that "in recent years the ALF and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) have become the most active criminal extremist elements in the United States." Of particular concern is the recent use of "improvised explosive devices . . . accompanied by threats of more, larger bombings and even assassinations of researchers, corporate officers, and employees." For example, following the explosion of two pipe bombs at the Chiron Life Sciences Center in Emeryville, CA (and subsequent increases in security), an anonymous letter claiming responsibility for the bombings included the threat ". . . you might be able to protect your buildings, but can you protect the homes of every employee?" Mr. Lewis went on to say that by far the most destructive practice of ALF/ELF was the use of arson tactics to scare and destroy. Oftentimes, this destruction includes valuable experimental data that cannot be replaced. Arsonist methods are not simple "toss and run" fire bombs, but are often sophisticated, timer-based incendiary devices that are used after significant external and internal intelligence information has been gathered. This information is frequently posted on Internet sites used to identify targets and plan attacks.

**William Green**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Chiron Corporation, testified that members of SHAC had carried out numerous attacks on Chiron employees, many of them as "home visits" that included harassing phone calls, setting up fake Internet advertisements using employee phone numbers, charging large purchases onto stolen employee credit cards, waking employees and their neighbors in the middle of the night with air horns and pounding on windows and doors, vandalizing homes and business properties including at least one death threat. These and similar tactics were used to try to pressure companies like Chiron to break current and future ties to HLS (although Chiron was mistakenly identified as having such ties). Green went on to state that since April of 2003 Chiron has spent at least \$2.5 million in direct costs relating to SHAC's campaign of harassment. These funds decrease the amount of money that can be spent on new drug development that can potentially benefit both humans and animals.

Finally, the committee heard testimony from **Jonathan Blum**, Senior Vice President of Yum! Brands, Inc., the parent company of such restaurants as Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Pizza Hut. Although not targeted by SHAC, Yum! Brands, Inc. has been the target of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), who disrupted the personal lives of employees by handing out misinformation packets to neighbors, distributing graphic videotapes of chickens being slaughtered to neighborhood children, and vocal protests at churches and homes. This campaign of intimidation has only "served to strengthen our resolve. We won't capitulate to PETA's demands or deal with corporate terrorists," according to Blum.

The purpose of this hearing, according to Senator Hatch, was to "help identify and show the line that distinguishes lawful expression and protest from criminal behavior." The testimonies of employees of companies that have been targeted by animal rights extremist groups such as ALF show that many of the activities of these groups cross the line from freedom of speech and political expression to criminal acts of violence and harassment conceived and carried-out with the purpose of intimidation and harm. Clearly, law enforcement agencies need resources to identify and prosecute these domestic terrorists. Expanding the scope of current laws, such as the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Statute, is a step in the right direction. These changes will aid not only in the prosecution of attacks on primary enterprises, but also those committed against "tertiary" enterprises (companies that support or do business with primary enterprises). The value of experimental animals in research is too great to allow these terrorists to block important advancements in human and veterinary medicine through their tactics of illegal threats, violence, and intimidation. Domestic terrorism, like international terrorism, cannot be tolerated.

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Animals in Research Report on the Recent APHIS  
Ruling and OLAW Changes

**Stephen M. Lasley**, *Animals in Research Committee*

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the Department of Agriculture has issued a final rule that revises licensing, application and renewal procedures, and restrictions on the acquisition of dogs, cats and certain other animals. The regulations impact Class 'A' and 'B' dealers; Class 'C' exhibitors, registered exhibitors, research facilities, and individuals currently exempt from the licensing regulations. Because the changes affect breeders and licensed dealers, they may have an impact on the cost of random source animals. Institutions that are also Class 'A' dealers should note some of the changes in licensing procedures. The proposed rule was published on August 4,

2000, and the final rule took effect on August 13, 2004.

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has announced changes related to two documents commonly required of institutions receiving National Institutes of Health funding. In July, a notice informing NIH grantee institutions holding Animal Welfare Assurances under the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals was posted in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts. OLAW will now approve most Assurances for periods up to four years. Institutions that currently have an Assurance with a five-year approval period will be requested to submit their renewal 6–12 months prior to the expiration date to allow time for review and approval within the PHS Policy timeframe. In addition, institutions are being strongly encouraged to use a calendar year (January 1–December 31) as the reporting period for annual reports. Those organizations that elect to use a different 12-month reporting period must submit a letter or [E-mail to OLAW](#) by January 31, 2005 indicating their preferred reporting period. If a reporting period other than the calendar year is not chosen, OLAW will assume that the institution is defaulting to use the calendar year as its reporting period.

To read the [full text of this notice](#), please click on the link.

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### **Colgate-Palmolive Graduate Student Training Funding Guidelines Broadened**

Toxicology graduate students can apply three times a year for the [Colgate-Palmolive/SOT Award for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods](#). The next deadline is October 15, 2004.

Guidelines for funding are now broader and include training at workshops, meetings, and in other laboratories on the home campus as well as at labs away from the home institution. The purpose is to gain knowledge about and develop “3 R’s” methods that will enhance the student’s thesis or dissertation research. Applicants can submit a budget for up to \$3500. Funds can be used for direct research expenses as well as for travel.

A complete [list of past recipients and their projects](#) is available on the SOT Web site.

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### **Merck Provides Additional 2005 Graduate Travel Funding**

Merck Research Laboratories is providing special funding for graduate students to attend the SOT Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Some of the funding will supplement that allocated by SOT for Graduate Travel Awards, increasing the number of awards. [Applications for these awards](#) are due October 9 and will be submitted this year for the first time directly on the Web site.

In addition, four Specialty Sections—Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology, Regulatory and Safety Evaluation, Carcinogenesis, and Mechanisms—have each received \$1,000 for travel awards. Students who apply for these awards must be the first author on an abstract to be presented at the 2005 meeting. More information about these applications and many others is posted on the SOT Web site under Information menu option then [Awards and Fellowships](#).

SOT thanks Merck for this valuable support of students in toxicology.

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### **Society of Toxicology Award Nominations Due Soon**

SOT Award nominations are easier *via* the on-line process. Tied to the SOT on-line directory, the forms are self-populating and fill in candidate and submitter information – it even sends an e-mail to the designated seconder. **The deadline for 2005 award nominations is October 9, 2004.**

SOT presents several prestigious awards each year in recognition of distinguished toxicologists and students. In addition to receiving the specific award, a plaque and generous stipend recipients are honored at the Awards Ceremony at the SOT Annual Meeting and their names are listed in SOT publications. The Awards Committee reviews applications and selects the winners for most SOT Awards and Sponsored Awards.

Nominations for most of these awards must be submitted by a sponsor and a seconder who are full members of SOT. The supporting documentation must indicate the candidate’s achievements in toxicology and is critical in the review of each candidate. See the award descriptions for the additional requirements for some of the awards, including the Sponsored Awards. The Best Paper Awards are reviewed by the Board of Publications, and the Education Committee reviews student award applications.

Most student award applications are still paper-based, but all [forms](#) can be printed from the SOT Web site. The exception is the Graduate Student Travel Award application, which will be completed on-line this year. For more information and applications, please visit the [Awards and Fellowships](#) section.

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SOT Council Member Participates in the V Mexican Congress of Toxicology

*Submitted by **Jose Manautou**, SOT Councilor*

This past March, Councilor Jose Manautou, had the unique opportunity to be invited as a speaker for the Continuing Education Program of the V Mexican Congress of Toxicology. This biennial event gathers toxicologists from throughout Mexico, and was held in the city of Guadalajara with coordination from the Mexican Society of Toxicology, in association with Centro Universitario de Ciencias Biologicas y Agropecuarias de la Universidad de Guadalajara and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

My participation was made possible by a financial contribution by the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX). One of the functions of the IUTOX Commission on Continuing Education and Career Development is to identify and sponsor speakers that can deliver CE courses and seminars in the native language of developing countries holding annual meetings of toxicology societies. This is one of several educational initiatives sponsored by IUTOX worldwide. Our Society, a member of IUTOX, provides financial support for its operation.

My seminar was entitled, "*Conceptos Basicos de Daño Hepatico Producido por Quimicos y el Efecto de Proliferadores de Peroxisomas en Toxicidad por Acetaminofen*" (Basic Concepts on Chemically-Induced Liver Injury and the Effect of Peroxisome Proliferators on Acetaminophen Toxicity). This was a very rewarding experience. The talk was well accepted and stimulated interest among local students from the University of Guadalajara who wanted to learn more about graduate studies in toxicology in the United States.

Many thanks to **Liliana Saldivar**, President, Mexican Society of Toxicology, and **Margarita Hernandez Gallardo**, of the local organizing committee, who served as my hosts during my stay in Mexico. I would also like to thank members of the IUTOX Commission on Continuing Education and Career Development **Chris Schonwalder** and **Judith MacGregor** (Chair) for the invitation and for coordinating my participation in the Mexican Congress of Toxicology.

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SOT Council Receives Report on Recruitment and Retention of Students in Toxicology

In January of 2003, SOT Council commissioned a task force to determine if one of the major SOT objectives, to increase the recruitment and retention of outstanding students pursuing careers in toxicology, was being met. The Task Force on Recruitment and Retention of Students in Toxicology was given this specific charge: "To come up with a plan to increase recruitment and retention of good students in the field of toxicology." The Task Force is composed of the following individuals, **Daniel Acosta, Jr.**, Chair, **Qin Chen**, **Serrine Lau** (Council Liaison 2003-2004), **Marion Ehrich** (Council Liaison 2004-2005), **Tom Simmons**, **Mary Walker**, **Gary Yost**, **Udayan Apte**, student representative, and **Betty Eidemiller**, SOT staff liaison.

SOT Council believes that the Society must do a better job of encouraging science majors to choose toxicology as a field of study; should advise student and post-doctoral members to change their membership status from student to associate once they graduate or obtain new employment; and should counsel student members to remain in the field of toxicology as they seek advanced post-graduate training. Meeting SOT's objective of recruiting students into graduate school in the sciences and retaining them in the field of toxicology is a major challenge. It is commendable that SOT Council has made this a critical priority for the Society.

The Task Force Report was divided into four major areas: 1) recruitment of students into toxicology; 2) status of toxicology graduate students and post-doctoral fellows; 3) student membership transition; and 4) executive summary and recommendations.

Some of the major findings of the Task Force included the following:

- 1) Greatly expand SOT's efforts in the promotion of undergraduate majors and courses in toxicology around the country;
- 2) Take the best ideas from major graduate toxicology programs around the country on recruitment and retention of students and incorporate them into SOT initiatives; and
- 3) Capitalize on the strength and enthusiasm of the Student Advisory Committee in

retaining current students in the Society.

The [full report of the Task Force](#) is available on the SOT Web site. We encourage the members of SOT to react to the report by commenting on the major recommendations and ideas presented in the study. Please send your comments to [Betty Eidemiller](#) at SOT Headquarters. We look forward to hearing from you.

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SOT Council Highlights

### **Annual Meeting News**

2005 Scientific Program Overview

The [SOT 44th Annual Meeting](#), to be held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, promises to provide the latest in toxicology research across all disciplinary areas. This five-day program includes a Continuing Education (CE) program, a Plenary Lecture, other Special Sessions, Symposia, Workshops, Roundtable Discussions, and Platform and Poster Presentations, as well as three days of the largest toxicology exhibition, [ToxExpo™](#).

A large number of excellent scientific sessions and CE courses were submitted for the meeting. This year the Program Committee has accepted 25 Symposia, 19 Workshops, 2 Roundtables, and has included 9 Sunset Sessions. The CE Committee is offering 11 regular courses, two of which will be offered in the morning and repeated in the afternoon, and one sunrise course.

SOT appreciates the time and effort from all who have submitted proposals and everyone involved in making the 2005 Annual Meeting a success.

### **Symposia**

- Altered Iron Homeostasis (AIH) as a Basis for Pulmonary Immunotoxicologic Effects of Particulate Matter
- Beyond Liver Toxicogenomics: Gene Expression Based Biomarkers in Non-Hepatic Tissues
- Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress: New Prospects and Approaches
- Cross-Species Toxicology in the Age of Genomics
- Developmental Expression of Human Phase I and Phase II Toxicant Metabolizing Enzymes: Impact on Early Life Stage Susceptibility
- Developmental Toxicology of the Lung
- Dietary Acrylamide: New or Ancient Risk?
- Emerging Issues in Risk Assessment and Risk Perception of Nanomaterials
- Environmental Factors Affecting Breast Cancer Susceptibility
- Genetic Susceptibility and Metal Toxicity
- Inhalation Exposure and Systemic Immunotoxicity: Mechanisms Linking the Lung and Immune System
- Nucleocytoplasmic Trafficking in Mechanisms of Toxicity
- Organophosphates & Carbamates: Cholinergic vs. Noncholinergic Mechanisms
- Pesticide Neurotoxicity in Adults: Integrating contributions from Epidemiology and Toxicology
- Proteomics and Antibody Microarrays: Applications in Toxicology
- Role of Cell-Cell and Cell-Matrix Interactions in Regulation of Toxicant-Mediated Cell Death
- Systems Biology: Approaches and Applications to Toxicology
- The AhR in Cell Growth and Death
- The Future of Molecular Genetic Therapeutics
- The Multi-Site Ambient Particle Study (MAPS): An Integrated Approach to Studying Health Effects of PM Components
- The Ubiquitin-Proteasome System as a Biological Target in Toxic Responses and Disease
- Update on Mechanisms for Environmental Tobacco—Smoke-Induced Health Effects
- What Makes Metals Neurotoxic in Neurodegenerative Disorders?

### **Workshops**

- Cellular/Molecular Mechanisms Involved in Environmental Chemical-Induced Dopaminergic Neurotoxicity and the Consequences on Neurodegenerative Diseases
- Conflict of Interest
- Current and Future Science-Based Approaches to Drug Safety Evaluation: An Assessment of Potential Cancer Risk
- Current Regulatory and Scientific Views Regarding Chemical Hazards to Children

- Current Status and Future Considerations for the Development and Validation of *In Vitro* Alternatives to the Draize Rabbit Eye Test
- Development and Evaluation of Short Term Cancer Bioassays and Mode of Action Based Hazard Identification using Genetically-Altered Mouse Models
- Dose-Additivity of Mixtures: Where are We Going with the Science?
- Dosimetry and Potential Impacts on Reproductive/ Developmental Study Design and Interpretation for Risk or Safety Assessment
- Environmental Terrorism: Development of Evacuation, Re-Entry and Re-Use Guidelines for Chemical, Biological and Radiological Agents
- High Throughput Screening Approaches in Genetic Toxicology
- Mode of Action in Relevance of Rodent Liver Tumors to Human Cancer Risk
- Molecular Pathways to Toxicant-Induced Osteoporosis
- Neuroimaging Strategies for Application to Neurotoxicology and Risk Assessment
- Role of Nutrigenomics in Safety Assessment of Functional Foods
- Safety Assessment of Biological Therapeutic Products—Defining the Scientific and Regulatory Issues
- Skin Model Selection for Safety Assessment of Topical Drug Products: Regulatory and Industry Perspectives
- The Development and Application of Biomarkers of Toxicity
- Toxicologic Evaluation of Inhaled Vaccines
- Toxicological Research and Testing: Best Practices and Opportunities for Laboratory Animal Refinement, Reduction, and Replacement

#### **Roundtables**

- Conducting a Comprehensive Toxicological and Safety Evaluation of Nanomaterials: Current Challenges and Data Needs
- Electrocardiography Safety Evaluation Studies—New Techniques and Approaches

#### **Innovation in Toxicological Sciences**

- Alternative RNA Splicing: A Mechanism for Enhancing Diversity of Gene Expression

#### **Sunrise Session**

- Toxic Torts: Toxicologists in the Courtroom

#### **Sunset Sessions**

- Advances in Material Safety Data Sheet Communication
- Brominated Flame Retardants: New Findings
- Developmental Toxicology Evaluations: Issues with Including Neurotoxicology and Immunotoxicology Assessments
- *In Vitro* Toxicity Testing of Air Pollutants: Pros and Cons
- Interviewing Skills for Graduate Students and Post-Docs
- Teaching Undergraduate Toxicology in the 21st Century
- The Safety Assessment of Nutritionally Improved Food and Feed Crops
- Toxicology Information and Data Update
- Vinyl Chloride: Legacy and Lessons Learned

#### **Continuing Education Courses**

##### **Sunrise**

- Fundamentals of Nanotechnology: Chemistry, Exposure, Health/Environmental Assessments and Societal

##### **Basic & Advanced**

- Clinical Pathology—The Granddaddy of Biomarkers
- Development and Interpretation of Toxicokinetic Data for Risk and Safety Assessment
- Developmental Toxicology Studies: Design, Interpretation and Risk Assessment
- Dose Considerations for *In Vitro* Studies of Air Pollutant Toxicity
- Evaluation of Cardiac Drug Toxicity in Pharmaceutical Discovery and Development (Presented in AM and PM)
- Fundamentals of Nanotechnology: Chemistry, Exposure, Health/ Environmental Assessments and Societal Impacts
- Immunology for Toxicologists

- International Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Conducting Non-Clinical Safety Studies of Human Pharmaceuticals: Guidelines, Case Studies, and Challenges (Presented in AM and PM)
  - Male Reproductive Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment in Pharmaceutical Development (What Do You Do Now That You Have a Signal?)
  - Phototoxicity: Current Concepts, Experimental Designs, and Regulatory Expectations
  - Something Old, Something New: Traditional and Novel Biomarkers of Renal Injury
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#### 44th Annual Meeting Information

The 44th Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 6-10, 2005, in New Orleans, Louisiana. SOT expects this meeting to be another big success! Visit the [Annual Meeting](#) section of the SOT Web site for up-to-date details and information.

#### **Awards Presentation**

Sunday, March 6, 5:15 PM–6:30 PM

Join us as SOT honors our prestigious award winners at the Awards Presentation.

#### **Welcoming Reception**

Sunday, March 21, 6:30 PM–7:30 PM

The Welcoming Reception is a great opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new acquaintances. Please join SOT in this initial event of the Annual Meeting.

#### **25-Year (or More) Member Reception**

Sunday, March 21, 7:00 PM–8:00 PM

Have you been a member of SOT for 25 years, or more? If so, please consider meeting your colleagues in celebration and recognition of the scientists who established the Society.

#### **Student/Post-Doctoral Fellow Mixer**

Sunday, March 6, 7:30 PM–8:30 PM

The Student Advisory Committee hosts this opportunity for students and post-doctoral fellows to gather, to meet new colleagues, and to re-establish relationships in an informal atmosphere at the beginning of the meeting. Complimentary tickets are obtained by registering for this event on the [Annual Meeting Registration Form](#).

#### **Lunch with an Expert**

Date and time vary by group

This event is an informal gathering of a small group of students and a Toxicology Expert. The groups are matched by research interests, and the Expert for each group identifies a time and place to assemble. Details for the group meeting will be sent to those pre-registered by mid-February.

#### ***In Vitro* Toxicology Lecture: LECTURE TOPIC ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE**

Tuesday, March 8, 12:00 NOON–1:15 PM

Students register for this event on the [Annual Meeting Registration Form](#); a \$5 deposit per ticket is required and will be exchanged for the ticket at the luncheon. Seating is limited.

#### **SOT Council Meeting with Students/Post-Doctoral Fellows**

Wednesday, March 9, 4:45 PM–5:30 PM

All students and post-doctoral fellows are encouraged to attend this meeting, which serves as a two-way dialog between SOT Council and students.

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#### 2005 Call for Abstracts—Deadline October 3, 2004

The SOT Program Committee invites the submission of abstracts for Platform and Poster Presentation at the Society of Toxicology 44th Annual Meeting to be held March 6–10, 2005, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

All 2005 abstracts will be submitted electronically *via* the SOT Web site. Electronic submission opened August 1, 2004. The deadline for submission is midnight, Eastern Time (ET), **October 3, 2004**. The fee for submission is \$40. To submit an abstract, please review the instructions by visiting the [On-Line Abstract Submission system](#).

If you have questions or need further assistance to submit your abstract, please contact [Donielle Danforth](#) at SOT Headquarters.

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#### EUROTOX Debate Topic Selected for SOT Annual Meeting

EUROTOX has selected the topic "Nanoparticles Are a Major Threat to Human Health," for the SOT/EUROTOX debate at the 2005 SOT Annual Meeting. Additional details will be added to the [SOT Web site](#) as they become available.

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#### SOT Seeks Hosts for the 2005 Minority Student Program

Do you want to help recruit excellent students to research careers in toxicology?

<p>Min Host</p> <p><i>The SOT host is crucial to the success of the undergraduate program. Photo taken at the 2004 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.</i></p>	<p>If the answer is yes, SOT needs you to serve as a Host for a group of minority undergraduate students and their advisors at the 2005 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.</p> <p>The Education Subcommittee for Minority Initiatives (SCMI) is planning the Undergraduate Program for 2005. The success of the program depends not only on the excellent speakers, but also the Hosts and graduate student Peer Mentors who participate with the students. The Hosts and Peer Mentors arrive Saturday, March 5, 2005, and meet their groups during the evening reception. Each group includes one or more toxicologist Hosts, a Peer Mentor (who has participated previously in</p>
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the program or is in graduate school), an advisor from an undergraduate institution, and four or five students. During the two-day program, the groups will investigate the field of toxicology, interact with poster presenters, learn about toxicology as a career, and explore options for graduate school. Hosts meet at various times with students from Saturday evening through 1 PM Monday to put the students at ease, discuss what a career as a scientist is like, answer questions, help students find the rooms for their sessions, review posters, and visit the exhibit hall and scientific sessions together.

This is a rewarding opportunity to mentor students. To volunteer, please contact SCMI member Peter Thomas or [Betty Eidemiller](#) at SOT Headquarters.

SOT's funding for the Undergraduate Education Program for Minority students has been supplemented in the past few years by support from NIH-MARC grant 2 T36 GM08397, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, and Covance. We appreciate all the SOT members and other supporters who make this program possible.

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#### Speakers Bureau

Did you know that SOT has a [Regional Chapter Speaker Bureau](#)? The Speaker Bureau is made up of SOT Councilors, Toxicology Specialists, and SOT members who have been instructors of continuing Education Courses. CE speakers have been nominated by the Continuing Education Committee based upon course evaluations, and these selected speakers have agreed to participate.

SOT encourages the Regional Chapters to take advantage of the Speaker Bureau. Any Regional Chapter may request a presenter for chapter meetings from the list on the SOT Web site. SOT will provide funding for one speaker per regional chapter per year. Since limited funds are available and allocated as requests are received, it is important to put your request in early to [Rita Rose](#) at SOT Headquarters.

Congratulations to the new members of the [Speaker Bureau](#): **Melvin Andersen, James Astwood, David Basketter, Hugh A. Barton, Alan Bass, Joseph Betz, and Carl Bortner**. For a complete list, visit the SOT Web site.

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#### Graduate Student Volunteers Sought for CE Courses

The Society of Toxicology (SOT) Continuing Education (CE) Committee is providing an opportunity for graduate students to assist with up to two CE Courses at the 2005 SOT Annual Meeting.

Two to three students are needed for each course. Responsibilities include attendance at an

orientation meeting and preparation of some materials Saturday evening before the Sunday courses, as well as collection of admission tickets, distribution of course materials, and collection of course evaluation forms on the day of the courses. In return, student volunteers are not charged for attending the courses and receive a syllabus of their choice for each course for which they volunteer, as well as an invitation to join the speakers and the CE Committee for lunch.

If you are interested in volunteering, go to the SOT Web site and complete the [Volunteer Form](#). Please be aware that there is a limit to the number of volunteers that we can accept, and participation will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Regular Features**

#### Member News:

##### National Association for Biomedical Research Announces Animal Law Section

In response to actions taken by animal activists and animal rights lawyers to change existing laws related to animals, NABR recently launched a new Web site that contains useful information about the emerging field of animal law and explore its impact on biomedical research. To learn more about this resource, please visit the [NABR Animal Law Section](#).

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##### SOTEnhancing Resource Guide to Careers in Toxicology Web Site

The Resource Guide revision working group of the Education Committee has been meeting by conference call since December 2003. Members include **Allen Silverstone**, Chair; **Judith Zelikoff**, **Joy Cavagnaro**, **James Klaunig**, **Kathy Rodgers**, **Karen Stine**, **Yolanda Banks Anderson** (liaison to the Career Resource & Development Committee), and **Wendy Jefferson** (SAC).

#### Plans include:

- We will not produce a new version of the printed Resource Guide, but will focus on enhancing a Web-based site/guide which will be a resource for anyone interested in pursuing a career in toxicology. The main target will probably be undergrads considering graduate career options (we will have materials that will also appeal to early undergrads and even high school students).
- A graded fee structure is in place for programs to be listed and linked from this Web site for three years—\$500 for institutions with both Masters/Doctoral programs, \$250 for those with Masters programs only, and \$100 for Bachelor's degree programs.
- We will attempt to enlist those toxicology programs listed in *Peterson's Guide* that have not participated in our site before (this is around 40 programs).
- We are revising the sections of the preceding [recruiting guide](#) to be more au courant, to have graphics and even video that will illustrate those sections, and to appeal to those interested in related areas such as forensics or environmental health, ecology, etc.

Input from all SOT members will be appreciated. We would also appreciate input from students about what they would do to make the site both more attractive and more helpful to students who may not even know they could fulfill their career goals by pursuing training and degrees in toxicology.

We would appreciate provision of photos, videos, etc., that programs are willing to release for use for this resource guide site. Please send all materials to the committee chair [Allen Silverstone](#) and our staff liaison [Betty Eidemiller](#).

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#### Student Committee Embarks on New Initiative

*Submitted by SAC Members: **Christina Wilson** & **James Luyendyk***

Attention post-docs! An exciting leadership opportunity will soon be available to you. SOT Council and the Student Advisory Committee have approved the request for formation of an SOT Post-Doctoral Task Force (SOT-PDTF). This group will offer a unique chance for you to "cast your vote" on issues related directly to you and your peers within the Society. The Task Force will begin its work in the coming months *via* a web-based message board. Action items will be identified and members will have the opportunity to post and discuss their ideas with others, chat on-line, and participate in polls about specific issues. Take advantage of this leadership opportunity to let the Society know how to better serve you during this critical point in your career. Watch your e-mail for more information.

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### Specialty Sections Welcome Students

Did you know that SOT Student Members can join their first Specialty Section free of charge? Joining a Specialty Section enables you to interact with other student members and talented toxicologists! You can sign up for a Specialty Section at any time by visiting the [Membership Renewal System](#) on the Web site and indicate which Specialty Sections you would like to join. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be involved in a SOT Specialty Section! This year each Specialty Section will have a student designated to communicate with Karen Riveles of the Student Advisory Committee.

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### Placement Committee: Mission Expansion & Name Change

The Placement Committee is now called the Career Resource and Development Committee (CRAD). The Placement Committee has expanded its mission to provide programs and resources not only for student and post-doctoral fellows, but also for the mid and late career Society members. The following mission statement was created to highlight this expansion:

**Dedicated to advancing career development for all members of the Society of Toxicology by providing employment information, resources and tools to prosper within the field of Toxicology.**

This expansion has taken shape primarily in the programs sponsored by the Placement Committee at the SOT Annual Meetings (2003 Roundtable "Insulation and Repair of Your Professional Career" and 2004 Workshop "Taking Command of your Career"). In keeping with this expanded mission, Society members voted this past spring in favor of this committee name change. In its new role, the CRAD Committee will continue to support the Society placement program on-site at the SOT Annual Meeting and through the web-based Job Bank services as well as strive to offer programs and resources that are valuable to all Society members.

Moving forward with gusto to offer SOT members sessions tailored to further career development, the committee has planned another Saturday session for the 2005 Annual Meeting. The session is entitled "Career Move: An Amalgam of Opportunities and Uncertainties." Look for more information on this session in the upcoming SOT Preliminary Program. This session is being co-sponsored by CRAD, the Education Committee and Student Advisory Committee.

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### Largest Class of Members Join SOT

SOT would like to extend the warmest welcome to our 356 new members joining this fall. This is the largest class of new members ever! Congratulations to you on your decision to join the Society and we look forward to your active participation.

We invite our Student and Associate Members to upgrade their membership. You may now meet the criteria for the next membership category. Take full advantage of all of the benefits that are available to you as a member of the Society of Toxicology (SOT). We encourage you to visit the SOT Web site for more information on how to apply for a [membership upgrade](#). With recent By-Law changes applications are reviewed and members accepted more rapidly than ever.

If you are not a member of SOT, we invite you to join over 5000 others who have become members of the Society. As a practicing and experienced toxicologist, you would be an asset to our organization and would benefit professionally. Together we will make a difference. Visit the SOT Web site for more information on how to [apply for membership](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [Rosibel Alvarenga](#) at SOT Headquarters.

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### The Early Bird Gets the Membership Benefits

Renewing your membership promptly will be more important this year than in the past. The SOT membership ratified several SOT By-laws changes this spring, including shortening the grace period for retaining membership privileges after nonpayment of dues.

December 15, 2004, is the deadline for payment of 2005 dues. Membership benefits, including the electronic *ToxSci*, the print *Communiqué*, member-only access to the SOT web site, and member registration rates for SOT meetings, will be suspended for those who do not pay their dues by **February 15, 2005**. Membership status and benefits will be completely restored only when dues are paid in full. Members who do not pay dues by the end of 2005 will be converted to inactive status and must go through the full new member application process to be reinstated as an SOT members.

The difficulty has been that without a formal suspension, some people miss their dues notices and do

not realize that their dues are in arrears. Currently the Society continues to bear their membership costs for two years past the paid interval, including the per capita cost for journal access. The new policy approved by the membership last Spring will allow better tracking of members and address changes, reduce overhead in following up on delinquent memberships, and provide more value for your dues.

If you still owe dues for 2004 or earlier, this is a good time to get caught up using the [On-Line Membership Renewal](#).

We value our members, and we do not want to lose you! Watch for your dues reminder. You can pay your 2005 dues beginning November 15.

If you have any questions, please contact [Rosibel Alvarenga](#) at SOT Headquarters.

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#### SOT Member Honored with William D. Wagner Award

Elizabeth K. Weisburger received the inaugural William Wagner Award from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists this past Fall. Dr. Weisburger's work in and contributions to the field of chemical carcinogenesis placed her at the top of the list of recipients for this prestigious award.

Dr. Weisburger's pioneering research in the field of chemical carcinogenesis has provided insight at the molecular level, which is essential in developing methods of treatment and prevention of cancer. Her work has emphasized the importance of developing improved test systems for evaluating carcinogenic risk, and she was among the first in the field to test drugs used in clinical cancer chemotherapy and to identify their potential dangers.

We are honored to have Dr. Weisburger as an SOT member and congratulate her on this prestigious award.

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#### Regional Chapter/Specialty Section News:

##### **National Capital Area Chapter Holds Hepatotoxicity Symposium**

This past June, the National Capital Area Chapter of the Society of Toxicology held its spring meeting at the National Library of Medicine. The symposium entitled "Novel Methods for Detecting Hepatotoxic Agents" attracted over 80 attendees.

The goal of this symposium was to help educate toxicologists and generate discussion about new methods for detecting liver toxicity. Hepatotoxicity is the leading clinical cause for toxicity-associated drug failure and the leading cause for drug recalls. Despite multi-species preclinical testing, current models often fail to predict rare instances of hepatotoxicity in humans. The symposium explored the scope of the problem and current methods and biomarkers that are used to predict liver toxicity. Additional presentations focused on the value of structural databases, and *in vitro* assays in predicting toxicity and factors that may be associated with risk for idiosyncratic liver injury. Presenters included **John Senior, Yvonne Dragan, James Kelly, Neil Jensen, Steven Yee, Thomas Flynn and Donna Mendrick**. A fall symposium is planned for November 2nd and will focus on "Toxicology of Dietary Supplements."

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#### SOT Announces New Specialty Section on Drug Discovery Toxicology

Submitted by **Drew Badger**

Drug Discovery Toxicology is an extension of the field of general toxicology, created to fulfill the growing need for generating higher throughput, integrative, and predictive toxicological information, in an effort to reduce attrition of drug candidates at later stages of development. Evidence of this need has surfaced in the emergence of numerous scientific sessions and organizations devoted to discovery toxicology, both external to and within SOT. It is for this reason that members of the Society worked to form the [Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section](#). There has also been a rise of dedicated discovery efforts within the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. These discovery efforts are designed to replace, refine, or supplement traditional costly and time-consuming animal-based toxicology models. In addition to *in silico* and *in vitro* predictive tools, other new technologies such as genomics, proteomics, and metabonomics may be used alone or as an integrated approach to support drug safety assessment.

The Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section will provide a forum to promote the broad acceptance of new technologies and models that impact predictive toxicology, to accelerate the integration of high potential or verified new technologies in early stages of drug discovery, and to broaden and strengthen the overall SOT program. Please help promote Drug Discovery Toxicology by selecting this Specialty Section at the time of [SOT dues renewal](#) later this year, and by sharing the news with colleagues who might not otherwise learn of its formation. The inaugural organizational meeting of this newly formed Specialty Section will be held during the 2005 SOT Annual Meeting in New Orleans, March 6–10. SOT members will get a chance to meet the interim council comprised of the founding core group at this meeting.

Watch your mail for Annual Meeting information, or check the [SOT upcoming conferences section](#) often for the date and time of this meeting. Your participation will be your opportunity to share ideas for the successful development of this new Specialty Section.

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Central States Chapter Back in Action

Submitted by **Samuel M. Cohen**

The [Central States Chapter](#) of SOT is excited to continue the important work delivered to members at the Regional Chapter level. This chapter has begun anew with a fresh slate of offices and delivered an exciting Fall meeting on September 17 in Kansas City. Dr. **Rick Schnellmann**, Medical University of South Carolina and Editor of the *Journal of Pharmacology in Experimental Therapeutics*, and **Lois Lehman-McKeeman**, Bristol-Myers-Squibb and the editor of *Toxicological Sciences*, were the featured speakers. The regional chapters are an important component of the Society, and it is a pleasure to see this chapter active again.

Please visit the Central States Web site as they are in the planning stages for its 2005 Fall meeting. All are welcome, and strongly encouraged to attend future meetings.

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SOT Mourns the Loss of Long-Time Member Ernest M. Dixon

Submitted by **Lynn Dixon Palmer**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of SOT member **Ernest M. Dixon**, M.D., Sc.D. Dr. Dixon passed away at his home in McLean, VA, on July 4th at the age of 80. Dr. Dixon completed his undergraduate studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the University of Virginia. He received his doctorate of medicine from the University of Virginia and later a second doctorate of science from the University of Cincinnati.

E Dixon

A pioneer in the field of occupational medicine, Dr. Dixon had a long and distinguished career. Prior to starting a private practice, he served as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy and later worked in industry as a corporate executive medical director. Prior to his retirement he was the president of Environmental Health Consultants. Notably, he was one of the longest living experts on asbestos and other environmental hazards. It was this expertise that facilitated Dr. Dixon's participation on the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health and allowed him to impact regulation, research, and the direction of OSHA and NIOSH.

In addition to practicing medicine, Dr. Dixon held prominent positions in many professional societies, including Fellow and past president of the American Academy of Occupational Medicine, Fellow and past director of the American Occupational Medical Association, and Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Dixon was a great man, a caring physician, a good neighbor, and a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Constance Cooke Dixon; two sons, Ernest M. Dixon, Jr. (Dick) of Long Island, NY and David E. Dixon of Chantilly, VA; two daughters, Laurie D. Morgan and Lynn D. Palmer, both of Dallas, TX, along with their spouses and nine wonderful grandchildren whom he loved very dearly.

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World-Renowned Scientist Philip H. Abelson Mourned

**Barbara Rice**, AAAS—Copyright © 2004

**Philip H. Abelson**, Ph.D., accomplished scientist and former *Science* editor, died on 1 August at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 91. His work and contributions spanned more than 40 years with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His positions of leadership



and his service on many national advisory committees enabled him to shape national science and technology policy.

Please [click on this link](#) to read the tribute to his accomplishments in its entirety.

*Excerpts and link provided with permission from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Photo credits: Yoichi R. Okamoto*

In Memoriam  
Ernest M. Dixon  
Elliott Harris  
Carmella I. Tellone

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#### Career Resource and Development Service: Position Advertisements

##### **Scientist**

ChemRisk is a consulting firm providing state-of-the-art toxicology, industrial hygiene, epidemiology, and risk assessment services to organizations that confront public health, occupational health, and environmental challenges. ChemRisk is seeking applicants with training in toxicology, pharmacology, the environmental sciences, risk assessment, biomedical engineering, industrial hygiene, medicine or health physics.

This position requires a Bachelor's degree in environmental or toxicological sciences. Candidates with a Master's degree in environmental sciences and a minimum of 1-3 years experience are preferred. Candidates with a background in consulting are especially desired. Positions are available in San Francisco, CA, Boulder, CO and Pittsburgh, PA.

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