

ONLINE



Communiqué

Winter Issue 2007–2008

News in This Issue

President's Message



President
George B. Corcoran

December brings with it many of our best and most time-honored traditions. We take time from busy schedules to congregate with friends and family, to celebrate our customs, to reflect on the past, and to peer into the future. I know I am not alone when, each year, I make a short list of New Year's Resolutions that capture the changes I want to make, or feel I need to make. Some resolutions fall by the wayside, yet others endure and guide us to becoming the people we want to be. In a way, the members and leaders of the Society of Toxicology are in the midst of just such a process as we strive to create and implement our new Strategic Plan. Our goal for the plan is that it will embrace our friends and family, it will celebrate our most valued traditions, it will reflect what has worked well in the past and, most of all, it will capture a path that will ensure that our Society remains vibrant, relevant, and successful in the future.

Let me briefly update you on the status of our strategic planning. The last *Communiqué* described how the 3 strategy reports, as well as the considerable member input received to date, are the backbone of this planning process. During the spring, summer and fall of 2007, over four 2-day meetings, Council merged strategy reports with member comments, saw that there are areas of very strong agreement, and developed steps for moving these areas forward. Some consensus strategies involve forming new committees and others involve constituting temporary task forces. The next 6 months will see the formation of new committees in the areas of communications, current concepts in toxicology, funding, scientific liaisons, and awards nominations. There will be new task forces in the areas of needs assessment, data collection and assessment, and disease prevention. We are also actively interviewing candidates to fill a new Communications Specialist position. These areas have been identified by you and us as earning high priority and prompt action.

There are some planning areas of diverse opinion where the path forward is less clear. Additional member input will be vital for moving forward in these areas. Members are urged to comment on the draft consolidated Council Strategic Plan in early 2008 when it is posted to the SOT Web site and to participate again in a Town Hall meeting on the Plan in Seattle in March 2008. You will receive an e-mail reminder of these opportunities.

On a related subject, the 2008 Annual Meeting in Seattle is sure to be one of our best ever. See the article later in this *Communiqué* for more details. There will be a record number of abstracts (over 2,300). Some submissions are organized from among the 4 scientific themes and a track devoted to career development. The themes were selected by the Program Committee to support the feel of specialty meetings within a meeting. The themes include Developmental Basis of Disease, Nanotechnology, Oxidative Signaling and Redox Biology, Stem Cell Biology and Toxicology, and Career Development. For our 2009 meeting in Baltimore, the Program Committee plans to highlight the following themes for session and abstract submissions—Biomarkers, Epigenetics, Inflammation and Disease, and Neurodegenerative Disease. Due to the timeliness of this issue, Nanotechnology, will again be highlighted for the upcoming meeting. We hope that announcing themes in advance will result in the further development and effectiveness of this thematic approach. Watch your e-mail for the call for symposia, workshops, roundtable, and informational session submissions—due April 30.

The entire range of Council activities and initiatives is not well known to all members, and I thought it might be helpful to note some of the highest level activities. Your leaders have met recently with NIH Center for Scientific Review Director **Antonio Scarpa**, with National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Director **Sam Wilson** and Assistant to the Acting Director **Sally Tinkle**, and we are scheduled to meet soon with Food and Drug Administration Director **Andrew von Eschenbach**. Some of the goals of these meetings are to open channels of communication, identify areas of common interest and need, and establish new avenues for public-private partnerships.

The Nominating Committee has worked hard and effectively again this year to bring you a slate of outstanding members for your consideration as you select the next group of SOT officers and elected committee members. You will be receiving your ballot on or about December 31. Please remember to cast your ballot. As a member-driven Society, we can remain strong only if you and your fellow members actively participate in elections.

This *Communiqué* also includes an article reporting on the remarkable progress of the SOT Endowment Fund. The term remarkable is one that is widely overused today. It should be reserved for a truly extraordinary circumstance or event. My use of the term here is fully justified. In the less than 12 months that the Endowment Fund Board has been in existence, it has accomplished the exceptional, and promises to continue on in the same manner. Please be sure to learn more about the Endowment by reading onward.

Our Seattle meeting will once again feature an informal Soapbox Session, which was wildly successful last year in Charlotte. If you did not know about it, or simply missed it, I cannot urge you strongly enough to participate or simply attend and partake in what has become in some ways a vanishing art of our meeting - loosely organized informal interaction on the hottest professional topics. Read on to learn the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the 2008 Soapbox Session.

I close with what some consider one of my philosophical trademarks—that SOT is Almost Amazing (i.e., its most amazing years and zenith lay ahead). Recently, I returned from a meeting of the Council of Scientific Society (CSSP) Presidents, a society SOT joined about 10 years ago. The CSSP encompasses over 60 other scientific societies. As you may know, association membership and the health of professional societies have been spiraling downward for a number of years. I can say with great confidence that the SOT is on the forefront of many of the common issues facing scholarly societies, whether it be in the area of governance or in our commitment to the compelling professional issues of our time. With your active engagement and support, and with an effective strategic path forward, the

future for SOT is bright.

You have my best regards and warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

See you in Seattle.

George B. Corcoran,
2007–2008 SOT President

Upcoming Election Process Has Begun—Be Sure to Cast Your Ballot!

Ballots for the election of Council Officers and elected standing committees will be sent *via* e-mail to Full Members and Retired Full Members by December 31, 2007. Offices to be filled include the Vice President-elect, Treasurer-elect, two Councilors, two Membership Committee Members, two Education Committee Members, three Awards Committee Members, and three Nominating Committee Members.

If you are a Full Member, please [vote on-line](#) on or **before February 1, 2008**, or if you [vote by paper ballot](#), fax the signed cover sheet and ballot to the fax number on the form. The results of the election will be announced *via* e-mail in late February, as well as at the 2008 SOT Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

SOT Proposed By-Laws Changes—For Review and Comment

Each year, SOT Council undertakes a complete review of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society of Toxicology. During its October 2007 meeting, SOT Council approved three proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the Society of Toxicology. SOT Voting Members may provide comments on the proposed changes, which are due no later than January 21, 2008. After consideration of the comments by SOT Council, the proposed By-Laws changes will be submitted to the membership for a vote. Approval by two-thirds vote of ballots received within 60 days shall be required for adoption.

The proposed changes are as follows, with new text indicated by an underline.

Article Fourth: Standing Committees

Nominating, CE, and Program Committees Final By-Laws Language

Section 2. Nominating Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section and notwithstanding anything else in these By-Laws, the slate of nominees for elected office and elected standing committees to be submitted by the Nominating Committee shall not include the name of any person elected a member of the Nominating Committee for a term of office which has not yet elapsed, irrespective of whether he or she has continued to serve in that capacity.

Section 4. Scientific Program Committee. The Scientific Program Committee shall consist of the Vice President as Chair, the Vice President-elect and twelve members of the Society who hold no elective office. Four shall be appointed annually by the President for three-year terms of office. The Scientific Program Committee shall make recommendations to the Council as to informative and appropriate

scientific programs and shall be responsible for the planning and organization of the scientific program of the Annual Meeting meeting. The Scientific Program Committee also shall make recommendations to Council regarding special scientific meetings and/or symposia.

Section 6. Continuing Education Committee. There shall be a Continuing Education Committee consisting of nine members who hold no elective office. Three members shall be appointed annually for a three-year term by the President. The President shall designate the Chair. The Continuing Education Committee shall organize continuing education courses which may meet the requirements of the attendees for information on new developments in toxicology and related disciplines as well as the requirements of certifying and licensing boards. The Committee shall be responsible for the planning, organization and presentation of CE courses. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to Council.

Send all comments to sothq@toxicology.org

Endowment Fund Annual Report Highlights Inaugural Year Success

Roger O. McClellan, Chair, SOT Endowment Fund Board, announced that the first SOT [Endowment Fund Annual Report](#) documenting a very successful inaugural year has been mailed with a Donor Contribution Form to all SOT members. The [Donor Form](#) is also available on the SOT Web site. Dr. McClellan noted "in the Inaugural year every member of the Endowment Fund Board and SOT Council contributed to the Endowment Fund at the *Paracelsus* Circle Recognition Level with a gift of \$500 or more. This "leadership by example" is encouraging others to give." In addition to Dr. McClellan, the 2006–2007 members of the SOT Endowment Fund Board were **Linda S. Birnbaum, James E. Klaunig, Rick G. Schnellmann, I. Glenn Sipes, Jacqueline H. Smith, and Kendall B. Wallace** with **James A. Popp, Norbert E. Kaminski, William Slikker, and Shawn Lamb** serving in an *ex-officio* role. For 2007–2008, **Linda S. Birnbaum, Rick G. Schnellmann, and Jacqueline H. Smith** rotated off the Board and were replaced by **James A. Popp, Norbert E. Kaminski, and Jon C. Cook. George B. Corcoran** became an *ex-officio* member.

Contributions also were made at the *Paracelsus* Circle Level by more than half of the living SOT Past Presidents and many other Society leaders. Since January 1, 2007, 68 individuals have given gifts at the *Paracelsus* Circle Level and 27 individuals became Lifetime Members of the *Paracelsus* Circle by giving or pledging \$5,000. The generosity of these leaders in toxicology is truly remarkable. One hundred and forty individuals and 3 institutions have made contributions and the SOT Endowment Fund balance as of October 31, 2007, totals \$440,242 exclusive of income on investments.

The Endowment Fund now includes 14 individual funds that are described in the Annual Report. Of special note is that in September 2007, the SOT Council approved the recommendation of the Endowment Fund Board and the Finance Committee to use SOT restricted funds to match donor contributions to the Endowment Fund. Named the "SOT 50th Anniversary Match," the funds are expected to serve as a major stimulus for SOT member contributions. "Donors can take advantage of matching funds to leverage their contributions to individual Funds geared to their personal interests and the long-term goals of SOT," stated Dr. McClellan. "I cannot imagine a better way to celebrate the SOT 50th Anniversary. The SOT Endowment Fund is well on its way to achieving restricted assets of \$1 million, financial resources that will help the SOT continue to nurture the professional growth of future generations of toxicologists. I encourage every SOT member to give to the Endowment Fund according

to their personal means."

New SIG Established—Toxicologists of African Origin

SOT Council has approved the formation of the sixth Special Interest Group, the Toxicologists of African Origin (TAO SIG). The objectives of the "TAO SIG" are as follows below:

- To promote career development opportunities for toxicologists of African origin, and to increase the recruitment and retention of Africans and African-Americans entering the profession of toxicological sciences;
- To promote information exchange, collegiality, and networking among toxicologists and related professionals of African origin; and to recognize the accomplishments of toxicologists of African origin;
- To propose, develop, and sponsor scientific and educational programs including symposia, workshops, poster and platform sessions, continuing education classes, and informational sessions on current scientific and policy issues that are relevant to populations of African origin;
- To enhance focus within SOT on environmental and public health issues relevant to populations of African origin; and
- To act as SOTs liaison to other organizations on toxicological issues that are relevant to populations of African origin.

Student and Postdoctoral SOT Members can join one SIG at no cost. For more information on the TAO SIG, please contact **Sanmi Areola** and to join go to the [SOT Renewal on-line](#).

SOT Seeks Hosts and Academic Program Directors for the 2008 Undergraduate Student Program



Mentors provide personal insight into life as a toxicologist.

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

If you said yes, we have two opportunities for you to do so at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Seattle. First, you can serve as a Host for a group of undergraduate students and their advisors, and second, your graduate program or research internship program is invited to staff information tables about their programs on Sunday afternoon, March

16.

Hosts: The Committee for Diversity Initiatives (CDI) is planning the Undergraduate Program for 2008. About 45 undergraduate students will be selected to attend, some from groups that are underrepresented in the sciences, and others from institutions that receive low levels of federal science funding. The success of the program depends not only on the excellent speakers, but also on the Hosts and graduate student Peer Mentors who participate with the students. The Hosts and Peer Mentors arrive Saturday, March 15, 2008, and meet their groups during the evening reception. Each group includes one or more toxicologist Host(s), a Peer Mentor (who 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 1:00 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 Tox Expo™ Exhibit Hall and scientific sessions together. This is a rewarding opportunity to mentor students. To volunteer as a host or peer mentor, please contact CDI member [Vanessa Silva](#) or [Betty Eidemiller](#) at SOT Headquarters.

Academic Program Directors and Internship Sponsors: Academic and training programs and research internship sponsors have the opportunity to showcase their programs in an open session Sunday, March 16 from 3:00 PM–5:00 PM. We provide tables so you can display program materials and interact directly with these bright prospective graduate students. Students are seeking information about graduate programs and research opportunities. Your institution will want to be a part of this recruitment session! Contact CDI member [Kim Daniel](#) or Betty Eidemiller at SOT Headquarters to arrange for space during the Program Director session.

SOT's funding for the Undergraduate Education Program for Minority Students is supplemented by support from NIH-MARC grant 2 T36 GM08397, and other sponsors including Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Chevron-Phillips, and Covance. We appreciate all the SOT members and other supporters who make this program possible.

SOT's *Toxicological Sciences* Journal Provides a Host of Features

The mission of *Toxicological Sciences (ToxSci)*, the official journal of the Society of Toxicology, is to publish premier peer-reviewed, hypothesis-driven, original research articles in all areas of toxicology and *ToxSci* continues to be one of the most cited journals in toxicology. In the recent 2006 ISI Journal Citation Rankings, *Toxicological Sciences* ranked 9 out of 76 toxicology journals.

By going to the [ToxSci Journal](#), you can view and download current and past issues and utilize a number of features and services related to the journal and the Society.

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Access a free online sample issue of *Toxicological Sciences* today.

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Choice of [Open Access](#)

Effective January 2008, *Toxicological Sciences* will join a growing group of journals that provide an

optional, voluntary author-pays open access model. This means that authors will be given the option to pay an open access charge to make their article freely available immediately upon publication *via* the *Toxicological Sciences* Web site.

Utilize Additional Benefits

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- **[The Communiqué](#)**
Access the latest issue of the Society of Toxicologists quarterly newsletter, *Communiqué*. In addition to news and information on the Society, you will also find features and tips on *Toxicological Sciences*.
- **[Career Resources](#)**
Find links to career resources and information for toxicologists from the Society of Toxicology.

The Top Five Most-Frequently Cited *ToxSci* Articles—For December 2007

Each issue of the *Communiqué* will highlight the top five among the 50 most cited articles in *Toxicological Sciences* for the month that the newsletter is disseminated. Most-cited rankings are recalculated at the beginning of the month. Rankings are based on citations to articles on this journal site from articles in [HighWire-hosted journals](#).

1. Akiko Enomoto, Ken Itoh, Eiko Nagayoshi, Junko Haruta, Toyoe Kimura, Tania O'Connor, Takanori Harada, Masayuki Yamamoto
High Sensitivity of Nrf2 Knockout Mice to Acetaminophen Hepatotoxicity Associated with Decreased Expression of ARE-Regulated Drug Metabolizing Enzymes and Antioxidant Genes
Toxicol Sci Jan 01, 2001; 59: 169-177.
(In "Systems Toxicology")
 2. Eve Mylchreest, Russell C. Cattley, Paul M. D. Foster
Male Reproductive Tract Malformations in Rats Following Gestational and Lactational Exposure to Di(n-butyl) Phthalate: An Antiandrogenic Mechanism?
Toxicol Sci May 01, 1998; 43: 47-60.
(In "Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology")
 3. Louise G. Parks, Joe S. Ostby, Christy R. Lambright, Barbara D. Abbott, Gary R. Klinefelter, Norman J. Barlow, L. Earl Gray
The Plasticizer Diethylhexyl Phthalate Induces Malformations by Decreasing Fetal Testosterone Synthesis during Sexual Differentiation in the Male Rat
Toxicol Sci Dec 01, 2000; 58: 339-349.
(In "Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology")
 4. JM Peters, MG Narotsky, G Elizondo, PM Fernandez-Salguero, FJ Gonzalez, BD Abbott
Amelioration of TCDD-induced teratogenesis in aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR)-null mice
Toxicol Sci Jan 01, 1999; 47: 86-92.
(In "Articles")
 5. L. Earl Gray, Joseph Ostby, Johnathan Furr, Matthew Price, D. N. Rao Veeramachaneni, Louise Parks
Perinatal Exposure to the Phthalates DEHP, BBP, and DINP, but Not DEP, DMP, or DOTP, Alters Sexual Differentiation of the Male Rat
Toxicol Sci Dec 01, 2000; 58: 350-365.
(In "Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology")
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SOT Receives Update on Resources Available *via* EPA Library Network and Services

The EPA Library Network recently invited SOT to participate in a teleconference to assure the scientific community that EPA information resources are readily available to scientists even while reliance on physical collections decreases. The EPA Library Network vision is to be the premier environmental library for timely access to information for decision-making and environmental awareness, both for employees and the public. Recent changes reflect the need to provide more information faster and expand the role of electronic resources in a time when budgets and space are limited. In addition, the EPA seeks user input on its plans for the future of the Library Network, based on the [Library Framework](#). One recent change has been to strengthen the Library Network governance.

Currently EPA maintains a strong network of physical libraries and is expanding access to the electronic delivery of library services. The Network includes libraries at the agency headquarters, regional and field offices, research centers, and specialized laboratories, plus web access to digital collections accessible through the Internet. Resources available include general information on environmental protection and management, chemistry, and biology, as well as more specialized publications in toxicology, engineering, and on topics related to legislative mandates such as hazardous waste and toxic substances. At this time 26,000 out of 60,000 EPA documents are accessible in digital form and

conversion of the remaining reports is proceeding. EPA maintains repositories in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, for the archived hard copies.

For the public, EPA library staff provides on-line access to a user-friendly [Frequently Asked Questions](#) knowledgebase, and respond to on-line inquiries.

No question to the home page of EPA goes unanswered, and these responses are added to the FAQ resource.

EPA employees have access to 200,000 information sources in the Library Network through their computers, plus professional library staff that provide reference and research services.

NAS Issues Report on Applications of Toxicogenomics to Toxicology

A new report was released on October 29, 2007, by the National Academies of Sciences National Research Council, which is entitled Applications of Toxicogenomic Technologies to Predictive Toxicology and Risk Assessment. This report states that the technological hurdles that could have limited the reproducibility of data from toxicogenomic technologies have been resolved and recommends ways for the field to move forward.

The Committee on Applications of Toxicogenomic Technologies to Predictive Toxicology included SOT Members **Cynthia Ann Afshari, John Balbus, James S. Bus, David C. Liebler, Gary Marchant, Kenneth S. Ramos, Raymond E. Stoll, Roger G. Ulrich, and Helmut Zarbl.**

This report recognizes the importance of toxicogenomics in predicting effects on human health and recommends the integration of toxicogenomics into regulatory decision making. The NAS report was commissioned by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health. Toxicogenomic technologies provide tools to better understand the mechanisms through which environmental agents initiate and advance disease processes. They can also provide important information to help identify individuals that are more susceptible to disease risks posed by certain environmental agents than the general population.

[The full press report from NIEHS](#)
[The National Academies of Sciences press report](#)

47th Annual Meeting

2008 Sessions: Thematic Approach Developed to Enhance Program

The Program Committee has developed a slate of timely and highly informative symposia, roundtables, workshops, and other special sessions that span the entire spectrum of topics of interest to our diverse membership. The 2008 program promises to be yet another banner year for the exchange of the most recent advances in toxicological sciences with over 2,300 abstracts to be presented.

In addition to regular programming, this year's scientific program has been crafted to highlight 4 scientific themes of topical interest with a track devoted to career development as well. The 4 scientific themes are: Developmental Basis of Disease, Nanotechnology, Oxidative Signaling and Redox Biology,

Stem Cell Biology and Toxicology, plus the Career Development track. There are over 40 sessions under this umbrella, which are listed below. We are excited that this new approach will afford us an opportunity to gain a depth of analysis and reflection on timely topics of relevance to toxicologists and position the meeting participants to effectively develop strategies for active involvement in these areas.

Watch your mail for delivery of the *Preliminary Program* for the full description of these sessions, as well as detailed information on an exciting Annual Meeting. We'll see you in Seattle March 16–20, 2008.

Developmental Basis of Disease Theme:

- **Oxidant Air Pollution and Childhood Asthma** - Symposia Session
- **Neurotoxicant-Induced Alterations in Developmental and Adult Neurogenesis: Structure-Function Studies and Clinical Relevance** - Symposia Session
- **Developmental Basis of Health and Disease: Persistent Effects of Tobacco Smoke Exposure** - Symposia Session
- **Strategies for Assessing Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology of Bio-Pharmaceuticals** - Workshop Session
- **Reproductive Toxicity Studies: One Generation Versus Two Generations** - Roundtable Session
- **Altered Reproductive Development** - Platform Session
- **Developmental Immunotoxicology, Host Resistance and Genomics** - Platform Session
- **Developmental Basis of Disease** - Platform Session
- **Mechanisms of Reproductive Toxicity** - Platform Session
- **New Insights for Developmental Toxicology** - Platform Session
- **Developmental Toxicology** - Poster Session
- **Developmental Neurotoxicity** - Poster Session
- **Perchlorate Exposures, Iodine Modulation of Effect, and Epidemiologic Associations: Implications for Risk Assessment** - Satellite Meeting

Nanotechnology Theme:

- **Particle Interactions With Biomaterials: Beyond Opsonization** - Symposia Session
- **Nanomaterial Pharmacokinetics: Where We Are and Where We Need To Go?** - Symposia Session
- **Dermal Toxicological Assessment of Nanomaterials and Nanodevices** - Workshop Session
- **Pulmonary Toxicity Testing of Nanoparticles** - Workshop Session
- **Nanoparticles: Cellular and Organ Disposition** - Platform Session
- **Nanoparticles: Testing Approaches, Geno- and Ecotoxicity** - Poster Session
- **Nanoparticles: Target Organ** - Poster Session
- **Nanoparticles: Inhalation and Respiratory Cell Injury** - Poster Session

Oxidative Signaling and Redox Biology Theme:

- **Molecular And Genomic Insights Into The Nrf2-Regulated Oxidative Stress Response: Impact On Carcinogenesis** - Symposia Session
- **Endothelial Dysfunction: More Than Just a 'No NO' Phenomenon** - Symposia Session
- **Cellular Redox Status and Zinc Signaling** - Symposia Session
- **Molecular Mechanisms and Molecular Biology of Metal Carcinogenesis** - Workshop Session
- **Detection of Biological Free Radicals in Time and Space** - Informational Session

- **Oxidative Stress, DNA Strand Breaks and Applications of the COMET Assay** - Platform Session
- **Nrf2 Induced Gene Regulation** - Platform Session
- **Inhalants: Oxidative and Redox Mechanisms** - Poster Session
- **Oxidative Stress Mechanisms in Chemical Carcinogenesis** - Poster Session
- **Reproductive System** - Poster Session
- **Oxidative Injury and Redox Biology I: *In Vivo*** - Poster Session
- **Oxidative Injury and Redox Biology II: *In Vitro*** - Poster Session

Stem Cell Biology and Toxicology Theme:

- **Stem Cells: New Tools for Neurotoxicologists** - Symposia Session
- **Stem Cells in Developmental and Reproductive Biology and Toxicology** - Symposia Session
- **Stem Cell Biology and Toxicology** - Poster Session
- **Signal Transduction and Gene Regulation** - Poster Session

Career Development Track:

- **Toxicology Training Needs: New Faces and New Tools for the 21st Century** - Roundtable Session
- **The Future Of Toxicology** - Roundtable Session
- **Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Job Interviewing Session for Early-Career Scientists** - Informational Session
- **NIEHS Outstanding New Environmental Scientists (ONES) Awardees** - Informational Session
- **Mentoring 101—How to Mentor, How to Be Mentored** - Informational Session
- **Professional Career Development as a Toxicologist** - Informational Session

Abstract Submissions Hit 2,300 Mark

SOT has accepted over 2,300 abstracts for the upcoming meeting in Seattle, Washington. We have exceeded the 2007 record of 2,174 abstract presentations.

As noted in early messages, the 2008 meeting has been crafted to highlight themes of which several poster and platform sessions have been developed. The 4 scientific themes are: Developmental Basis of Disease, Nanotechnology, Oxidative Signaling and Redox Biology, Stem Cell Biology and Toxicology.

Watch you mail for the SOT *Preliminary Program* highlighting the Annual Meeting sessions, and review the article listing the themed sessions in this issue. In the meantime, visit the SOT [Annual Meeting Web site](#) to see what all the excitement is about.

All Annual Meeting information is readily accessible there, including an updated list of [sessions](#) and [CE course descriptions](#).

Call for Proposed Topics for the "Soapbox" Sessions at the 2008 SOT Annual Meeting

Again this year, the SOT Annual Meeting will feature an informal "Soapbox" Session at which members can share ideas, views, and concerns of interest to the general toxicology community. The session will be

held at noon on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. Prospective speakers should e-mail their proposed topic to the session chairpersons:

Chair: [Harvey Clewell](#) or Co-Chairs: [John Morris](#) and [Hollie Swanson](#)

Each speaker will be allowed to address the audience for up to 10 minutes on a topic they have submitted in advance. Topics can reflect either an area of continuing concern or an issue that has arisen during the meeting, and are expected to be novel, controversial, contrary, and/or unpopular. No projector or computer slide capability will be provided, but speakers can hold up a poster as a visual aid if desired. After each speaker, the audience will have up to five minutes to challenge or support the speaker with questions or comments.

Toxicologists Educating and Mentoring Students:

Paracelsus will visit Washington State Classrooms March 18 by Videoconference

Continuing the tradition of providing public outreach in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, "*Paracelsus* Goes to School" in March 2008 will connect classrooms beyond Seattle in a symposium for high school students *via* videoconference. As part of the TEAMS Project Toxicologists Educating and Mentoring Students—twelve groups of students will present their projects to one another and to a panel of toxicologists in a morning and an afternoon session on March 18. Other students will have the opportunity to submit an electronic version of their project for a virtual poster session. The presentations will educate other students about a health or environmental health issue of importance to the students or their community.

You can participate! The Committee on K–12 Education is recruiting volunteers to mentor teachers, classrooms, and students in the months preceding the meeting as the students develop their presentations. A panel of toxicologists will also provide commentary on the presentations during the symposium. Other toxicologists can review materials submitted for the electronic poster session. More information is to be posted to the [K–12 Teams](#) of the SOT Web site, or contact [Betty Eidemiller](#) at SOT.

The event will:

- Involve teachers and students from around the state;
- Establish connections between SOT member mentors, high school educators, and students in Washington to enrich scientific learning experiences;
- Increase knowledge and understanding of toxicology as a discipline;
- Explore the feasibility of using different technologies to reach students and teachers; and
- Increase the number of SOT members working directly with students and teachers.

Help us enlist students (and potential future toxicologists) in the dissemination of what toxicology is and how toxicologists help create a safer and healthier world.

Communicate with Annual Meeting Attendees

SOT has developed a number of ways to facilitate interactions at the 2008 SOT Annual Meeting and the location of three important areas are described below.

Meeting Pole

In order to facilitate attendees in locating friends and new acquaintances, a centralized meeting location has been designated on the 6th floor in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. The photo of the Space Needle makes it easy to locate colleagues at the pole and will also present a great photo opportunity.

Paper and Pen Message Boards

The pen is still mighty. Leave a quick note on the message boards. Note pads and push pins will be available to post messages on the message boards. SOT message boards will be located across from the E-mail Center computers on the 6th level of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

Internet E-mail Center

The SOT Annual Meeting E-mail Center is provided to help you stay connected to your colleagues during the Annual Meeting. SOT members, 2008 Annual Meeting attendees, and CRAD Job Bank registrants can access the E-mail Center on the SOT Web site to send and receive e-mail messages during the 2008 Annual Meeting—just like a standard e-mail application. The difference? The 2008 SOT Annual Meeting E-mail Center gives you a unique mailbox without having to provide your personal e-mail address to correspondents. The service will send you an e-mail alert when you receive a message. Use the communication preference to forward your incoming message to your standard e-mail address or PDA. Available 24/7, access to the E-mail Center is available any time of day and from any computer with an Internet connection, before, during, and after the 2008 Annual Meeting (March 1 through April 1). Step-by-step instructions for the Internet E-mail Center are included in the *Preliminary Program* and *Annual Meeting Program*.

SOT Keeps You in the Loop—Annual Meeting Computer and Internet Access Available

SOT knows the importance of staying connected to your daily activities while attending the Annual Meeting and provides you several ways to stay in touch.

- **Computers Available at the Convention Center**—SOT will provide computers you can use to access the Internet. These computers are available to attendees in the E-mail Center, located on Level 6 of the Convention Center.
- **Wireless Access**— "Hot Zone" designated areas in the Exhibit Hall and the E-mail Center will be clearly marked for laptop and handheld users to access the Internet *via* the Wi-Fi network at the Convention Center. Look for Wi-Fi network access instructions and locations in the *Program* and *ToxExpo™ Directory* or on the SOT Web site.

SOT Resource Pavilion—Opportunity to Volunteer

Information about the Society of Toxicology's services and activities will be displayed in a large pavilion situated between the two expansive Exhibit Halls in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Join with others staffing these exhibits in reaching out to SOT members and other meeting attendees who are interested in learning more about the Society. You can demonstrate your commitment to SOT and help inform others about the Society. Use the [Volunteer Form](#) and sign up to assist in the SOT Resource Pavilion and/or to volunteer for other activities to enhance your participation in SOT.

Experts Needed for "Lunch with an Expert" in Seattle

The Lunch with an Expert opportunity continues at the SOT 2008 Annual Meeting in Seattle. SOT members are encouraged to sign up to serve as an [Expert](#) before January 15. The Expert selects the site for breakfast or lunch and meets with a small group of students matched by scientific interests for informal discussion. Each participant pays for his or her own meal. [Students and postdoctoral fellows](#) can sign up at the same address.

Annual Meeting On-Site Job Bank Center—Weve Gone Electronic

Located in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, the On-Site Job Bank Center provides Annual Meeting attendees with access to the Career Resource and Development (CRAD) Job Bank system as well as assistance in facilitating interviews at the SOT Annual Meeting. The on-line Job Bank includes more than 100 positions available at corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and private research organizations. Employers rely on this on-line service to provide them with a robust database of candidates available for career opportunities, ranging from junior- to senior-level positions. There are between 150 and 250 candidate profiles posted on the Job Bank at any time. **SOT Affiliate Members use this system at a reduced rate in appreciation of their commitment to help further the objectives of the Society.** Candidates and employers alike can access this year-round [CRAD](#) service anytime, any place.

For the first time this year, the Job Bank Center is nearly paperless. All candidates and positions will be sought on-line. Employers recognize and appreciate that the Annual Meeting On-Site Job Bank Center provides a cost-effective and efficient way to interview a distinguished pool of candidates. Therefore, interview rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For your convenience, printers will be available for producing paper copies of candidate profiles and position descriptions.

All users with current registrations at the time of the Annual Meeting will be permitted to use this service. Although you are encouraged to pre-register before entering the Job Bank Center, you can register on-site in Room 205. Follow the signage that will lead you to the Job Bank Center Registration Office as well as Room 206, which has multiple spaces available to hold interviews. The center is available during the following hours of operation:

Sunday,
March 16 10:00 AM–4:30 PM

Monday,
March 17 9:15 AM–4:30 PM

Tuesday,
March 18 8:30 AM–4:30 PM

8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Wednesday,
March 19 [On-line Job Bank](#) access will be available—as always—through your personal computer and at the Annual Meeting E-mail Center. Access to the on-line Job Bank in the center is limited to short searches for updates or new information. For additional information, contact [Kristy Rand](#) at SOT Headquarters; (703) 483-3115 ext. 1429

Driving to Seattle? Share a Ride!

SOT is offering a Ride Sharing program in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Many SOT Members reside within driving distance of Seattle and may decide to take to the open road with other toxicologists in their area. Avoid airport hassles and drive, and make it easier for other scientists to attend by sharing rides. Students especially appreciate ways to make the meeting even more economical.

Once you have registered for the Annual Meeting, you can access the [Ride Sharing Program](#). You can indicate whether you want to drive or be a passenger, and then see a list of others who have signed up. It will be up to you to match your plans with someone else whom is registered, and then to remove your names when you have travel plans in place.

SOT Offers Annual Meeting Room Sharing Resource

Registered for the SOT Annual Meeting but still looking for someone with whom to share a hotel room? SOT has established a registry so that you can make contact with those interested in containing meeting costs by room sharing. Select the [Room Sharing Program](#) (you must be registered for the meeting to access) on the SOT Web site. Add your name to the list or view those who have already signed up. The service is available to each meeting registrant who voluntarily enrolls in the program and accepts the terms of the legal disclaimer. Each participant in the program will communicate with a potential room sharer and together they will work out an agreement for lodging. Once you have a match, please remove your name from the list.

This is one more way that SOT fosters professional development and networking within the greater toxicology community.

Annual Meeting Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the 2008 SOT Annual Meeting. Your sponsorship serves as visible evidence of your organization's commitment to the science of toxicology. Please review the current [sponsorship opportunities](#) on the [ToxExpo™](#) Web site designed to assist your organization in taking a leadership position in the 2008 exhibition.

An array of pre- and post-show promotions will help draw attendees to your booth and provide recognition for your company during the Annual Meeting.

In addition, your sponsorship increases overall awareness of your company by SOT members and over 6,100 Annual Meeting attendees. As a sponsor, your company will be featured in pre- and post-meeting newsletters and publications, the *ToxExpo™ Directory* and featured sections of the [SOT](#) and [ToxExpo™](#) Web sites. In addition, acknowledgement signs and banners will be displayed prominently during the Annual Meeting.

Four levels of sponsorship are available:

- Diamond: over \$10,000
- Platinum: \$5,000–\$9,999
- Gold: \$2,500–\$4,999
- Silver: \$1,000–\$2,499
- Contributor: \$999 and under

Your sponsorship helps keep registration fees low so scientists at all stages of their career are able to participate in this meeting. If you are interested in SOT Sponsorship, contact [Liz Kasabian](#) at SOT Headquarters (703) 438-3115 or visit [ToxExpo™](#) for further information.

2008 Annual Meeting Sponsors

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[Sapphire Group, Inc., The](#)
[Teratology Society, The](#)
[Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment](#)

Contributor:

[Systems Pathology Company, LLC](#)

Current 2008 ToxExpo™ Exhibitors
(as of January 7, 2008)

AAALAC International
AAAS/SCIENCE
ABC Laboratories, Inc.
AbD Serotec
Accelera
Access Technologies
ADMET Group
ADMET Technologies

Advinus Therapeutics, Pvt. Ltd.
Advion
AEGis Technologies Group
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Agilent Technologies
AIT Laboratories
Alabama Research & Development
Alpha Genesis, Inc.
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American Board of Toxicology, Inc. (ABT)
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Bio Medic Data Systems, Inc.
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BioDuro (Beijing) Co., Ltd.
BioDynamics Research, Ltd.
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Biomedical Photometrics Inc.
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Biotrin International
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Cayman Chemical
CeeTox, Inc.
Cellular Dynamics International, Inc.
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Covance Research Products, Inc.
Crown Bioscience Inc.
Crystal Import Corporation
CXR BIOSCIENCES LIMITED
Data Integrated Scientific Systems (D.I.S.S.)
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Gradient Corporation
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Hamilton Company
Hamilton Thorne Research
Harlan
HemoGenix Inc.
HistoTox Labs, Inc.
HSRL (Histo-Scientific Research Laboratories)
Hugo Sachs Elektronik/Harvard Apparatus
Humana Press
Huntingdon Life Sciences
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IDEXX Preclinical Research Services
IIT Research Institute (IITRI)
ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI)
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Roche
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RTC, Research Toxicology Centre S.p.A.
RTI International
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SAGE

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SCIREQ, Inc. (Scientific Respiratory Equipment)

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SOT Resource Pavilion

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- K-12 and Public Outreach Materials
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SOT Guest Lecturer Visits: North Carolina Central University

By **Antonio T. Baines**, North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina & **Marquea D. King**, Environmental Protection Agency, Arlington, Virginia

Sponsored by the Society of Toxicologists Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI)



Guest Lecturer, Marquea King

From my experiences, when you ask freshman biology majors what they want to do when they graduate from college, the majority of students proudly say "I want to be a medical doctor." Of course, there is absolutely nothing wrong with this ambition, but many students do not realize the vast career opportunities that can be obtained with a background in biology and/or chemistry. It was not until I received an opportunity as a sophomore undergraduate to attend a Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting and participate in a summer internship program in a toxicology research laboratory that I changed my focus from medicine to biomedical research. It was this exposure that led to my decision to study toxicology in graduate school. Now as a college professor/toxicologist at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), a historically black university, I want to do my part to help

provide college science students in Durham, North Carolina, some meaningful exposure to the exciting field of toxicology.

This is where **Marquea D. King**, a professional toxicologist, a colleague, and a good friend comes into the story. Currently, she works at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) based in Arlington, Virginia in the Office of Pesticide Programs, Health Effects Division. We had the good fortune of meeting a couple of years ago at SOT and ever since have worked together at SOT meetings during the Undergraduate Education Program, which helps to expose underrepresented groups to the world of toxicology. During the 2007 Annual SOT Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, Marquea and I both agreed that it would be great if she could come to Durham and talk to NCCU students. This led to the joint effort in writing a short application for SOT's [Guest Lecturer](#) program, which provides funds for toxicologists to help defray costs to travel to college campuses and encourage science students to consider a career in toxicology. The application was accepted and we immediately began planning for the visit. Dr. King was awarded travel funds to come to NCCU on October 15–16 to deliver an introductory toxicology seminar to undergraduate/graduate students and faculty in the College of Science & Technology, and as a bonus she was able to provide a guest lecture to graduate students in my masters level toxicology course.

The seminar was scheduled during the 10:40 AM hour that is usually reserved for various student organizational meetings. To ensure ample space, we reserved one of the larger classrooms in the science complex. After advertising this program with flyers and visiting science classrooms, it was great to see around 45–50 participants in the large classroom with the majority being undergraduate students. Both students and professors alike were very interested and engaged with Dr. King, which led to a whole host of questions and conversation about her presentation. Initially, a brief introduction of her background and current employment status was provided. Then, the discussions began with a description of the field of toxicology and how almost any material or chemical could become toxic depending on the dose. To ensure dialogue with the students, Dr. King challenged them to think of any chemical or substance with which they were consistently in contact, in and around the environment, that was not toxic. This opportunity prompted one of the undergraduate students to accept this irresistible challenge and to proclaim that oxygen was not toxic. This allowed for a great teaching moment, as the very next slide clearly demonstrated how extremely high concentrations of oxygen were potentially lethal. In addition, one of the chemistry professors in the audience provided a personal story of how oxygen toxicity could affect the health of newborns, further supporting the important point that the dose makes the poison as *Paracelsus*, the Father of Modern Toxicology, is credited with stating.

Another student in the audience inquired why there were more toxicologists employed on the East Coast, which led to a very candid discussion about toxicologists working not only in academia, but also in various other settings, such as pharmaceutical companies. Professors were also stimulated by the talk. One of the biology professors wondered how toxicologists correlated toxicity studies conducted in animal models to humans. This provided the opportunity to discuss some of the challenges with animal subjects as models

in toxicology as well as the importance of influencing environmental and human health policy. Also discussed were the many ethical dilemmas that government agencies, such as the EPA face, when dealing with human studies, both intentional dosing and accidental exposures. The seminar was so informative and engaging that once the presentation was over, there were still a great number of audience members, both students and faculty, asking questions about toxicology.

From the many praising comments made by the NCCU students, I know that Dr. King's visit was successful. One of the students stated that the seminar was so interesting that it did not even resemble the normal or regular seminars that are usually given. Another student commented how informative the talk was and how grateful he was to be able to attend. One of my graduate students informed me that after hearing Dr. King speak on the subject, she was now considering a potential career in nutrition and toxicology. These are just a few examples of the impact that a professional toxicologist such as Dr. King can have on undergraduate and graduate students alike as they are planning their career paths. Sincere thanks go to Dr. King for being willing to take time away from her work schedule from the EPA to come to NCCU. In addition, both Dr. King and I are extremely grateful to the SOT/CDI program for providing the opportunity to make this visit a success! I hope the Guest Lecturer program will continue to sponsor experts in the field who can encourage the next generation of toxicologists.

Regular Features

Member News

Corcoran Appointed to CSSP Board

SOT President **George Corcoran** was elected as a member at large to the board of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP), which is an organization of presidents, presidents-elect, and recent past presidents of about sixty scientific federations and societies. Since 1973 CSSP has served as a strong national voice in fostering wise science policy, in support of science and science education, as the premier national science leadership development center, and as a forum for open, substantive exchanges on emerging scientific issues.

Jirtle Nominated as Times Person of the Year

Randy Jirtle, Duke University Medical Center, Department of Radiation Oncology, Durham, North Carolina, was nominated as Time Magazine's Person of the Year. His nomination was forwarded by Nora Volkow, Director of the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse, Bethesda, Maryland. Her nomination states, "I'd select the Duke University scientist whose pioneering work in epigenetics and genomic imprinting has uncovered a vast territory in which a gene represents less of an inexorable sentence and more of an access point for the environment to modify the genome. The trailblazing discoveries of Dr. Randy Jirtle have produced a far more complete and useful understanding of human

development and diseases." Visit [Time's Web site](#) for more information about the nominees and recipients.

Postdoctoral Assembly Board Meets with National Postdoctoral Association Executive; Board Nominations Due Soon

The Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) Board held its annual off-site meeting September 19 in Reston, Virginia, to discuss innovative approaches to meeting the unique professional needs of postdocs within the Society. One of the highlights of the meeting was a visit from Alyson Reed, Executive Director of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA). The NPA provides a national voice for postdoctoral fellows and works to enhance the quality of the postdoctoral experience. A variety of resources are available at www.nationalpostdoc.org, including professional development information such as questions to ask when interviewing for positions, model policies for institutions, and information for international postdocs. Federal agencies and research institutions have responded favorably to new standards and policies proposed by the NPA. The Society of Toxicology is a Sustaining Member of the NPA and provides funds for a PDA Board member to attend the annual NPA meeting held each spring.

After meeting with Ms. Reed, the PDA Board concluded that SOT is a forerunner in meeting the needs of postdocs within a professional society. With the recent establishment of a postdoctoral membership category, as well as the PDA-sponsored career development workshop to be held at the 2008 Annual Meeting, SOT provides increased visibility for postdocs and opportunities for postdocs to participate in programming for the Annual Meeting, both of which are consistent with the NPA recommendations for professional societies. The PDA Board looks forward to working with the NPA in the future and has discussed other ways to interface with the NPA, such as co-sponsoring events at the regional or national level.

Other matters discussed at the meeting included the surveys from the pilot mentoring program sponsored by the Career Resource and Development Committee, the 2008 Annual Meeting symposium developed by the PDA, "Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Job Interviewing Workshop for Early-Career Scientists," the Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards, and Annual Meeting activities. For more information see the [Fall issue of the Post-Y](#), the PDA newsletter.

REMINDER: Nominations for PDA officers for 2008–09 are due by January 13, 2008. Open positions include Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Councilor. The Vice-Chair position is a two-year term, with the Vice-Chair transitioning to become the Chair the following year. The Secretary-Treasurer and Councilor positions are for one year. For details about the positions, see [Officer Responsibilities](#). Eligible nominees must be SOT members who will occupy a postdoctoral position by February 1, 2008, and will be a postdoc for more than half of the term of service.

Student Advisory Council News

Restructuring

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) reflects the changes in structure of the student representative committees in the past year. The student representatives have divided into two formal committees that differ in their specific duties. These groups are called the Graduate Committees and are divided into the Regional Chapter and Special Interest Group Graduate Committee (RC-GC) and the Specialty Section Graduate Committee (SS-GC). Each Graduate Committee has its own set of elected officers that include a Secretary, Chairperson-elect, and Chairperson. In addition, all members of the GC Executive Boards serve as the officers of the SAC, for a total of six members. The positions of SAC President and SAC Secretary-Treasurer are held by the Chairpersons of the RC-GC and SS-GC, with the positions alternating between groups every year. The duties of the SAC officers are to communicate directly with SOT Council, construct and manage the budget for student committees, and maintain communication between the two Graduate Committees. Listed below are the student officers for the current year:

RC-GC: **Pat Shaw**, Chairperson and SAC chairperson
 Kristina DeSmet, Chairperson-Elect
 Patricia Gillespie, Secretary

SS-GC: **Alison Hege**, Chairperson and SAC Secretary-Treasurer
 Thomas Kannanayakal, Chairperson-Elect
 Elizabeth Vancza, Secretary

Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Mixer

At the SOT Annual Meeting, the Student Advisory Council hosts an opportunity for students and postdoctoral fellows to gather, to meet new colleagues, and to reestablish relationships in an informal atmosphere. Complimentary tickets are obtained by registering for this event on the [Annual Meeting Registration Form](#). Please encourage all students to attend this event. The mixer is a great opportunity to discuss joining Specialty Sections with representatives, network with fellow students, and learn how to get more involved in SOT. In addition to free food at the event, raffle prizes will be drawn and distributed at the event.

Lunch with an Expert

This event is an informal gathering of a small group of students and a Toxicology Expert. Sign up at the [Lunch with an Expert](#) Web site. The groups are matched by research interests and the Expert for each group identifies a time and place to assemble. This is a great opportunity for students to network with more senior toxicologists and to ask questions of experts in the field. Participation of both students and experts is encouraged.

An example of student leadership

The Regional Chapter student representative from the South Central Chapter (SCC-SOT), **Prasad Krishnan**, has worked diligently over the past several months to increase student membership within SCC-SOT. The SCC-SOT regional meeting was held on the 27th and 28th of September. They had an unprecedented turn out, with more than 100 participants from about 13 institutions.

At the meeting, five undergraduates received travel awards while several other undergraduates participated. The SCC-SOT has worked hard to increase participation from the universities in the area and has seen an increase in membership. Prasad's efforts to increase student participation within the SCC-SOT have really made a difference in the short time he has been a student representative.

Prasad is but one excellent example of how student leadership and hard work can make a difference within the SOT. Other student representatives have similar stories of leadership within SOT, and all of the student representatives invest a lot of time and effort to improve the experiences of students in SOT.

U.S. Labor Department Seeks Input to Describe Molecular and Cellular Biologists

The U.S. Department of Labor now is defining the job task description for Molecular and Cellular Biologists and is requesting input from scientists with experience in this discipline. They are willing to compensate \$40 to those selected for a survey. For additional information and to participate, download the [CMB Description](#).

Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups

Central States Regional Chapter Holds Successful Meeting at University of Iowa: Alma Mater of Six SOT Presidents

This year's meeting of the Central States Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (CS-SOT) was held September 20–21. Each year the meeting is organized at the home institution of the CS-SOT president and for **Gabriele Ludewig**, it is the University of Iowa, Iowa City. Moreover, the meeting place provided the opportunity to celebrate the new UI Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Human Toxicology.



SOT Past President Curt Klaasen
returns to his alma mater.

UI had a very successful toxicology program within the Department of Pharmacology in the 1970s and 1980s. This program was the training home for no less than 6 Presidents of the SOT, i.e., **R.L. "Bob" Dixon, Jim Gibson, Jerry Hook, Curt Klaassen, Mike**

McClain, and **Ken Wallace**. In addition, **Gabriel L. (Gabbie) Plaa**, a faculty member in the program, was also later elected President of SOT. Many other former toxicology students and postdocs at UI have served in other key toxicology functions, such as editors of toxicology journals, leaders of toxicology training programs; note especially **James P. (Jim) Kehrer** and **Bernie Schwetz**, to name two.

It was certainly a celebration of the growth and strength of the Central States Regional SOT Chapter. Participants came in 7 vans from Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC), and another 4 carloads arrived from University of Nebraska Medical Center (NMC), Iowa State University (ISU), and Kansas State Institute (KSI) sent representatives. In addition, participants came from the Iowa Public Health Department and industry (Bayer Crop Science), and two of our invited guests were from Minnesota. Nearly 40 participants from UI brought the total number attending to about 100.

The meeting began Thursday evening with a dinner in the beautiful glass-paneled atrium of the Medical Education and Research Facility (MERF). Following dinner was an hour of poster viewing. Most of the 52 excellent posters showed the research accomplishments of students and postdoctoral fellows, who competed for six travel awards for best poster presentation. Lively discussions with enthusiastic students and postdocs reverberated through the atrium. But the Thursday activities did not end there. Students and postdocs met at the Old Capitol Brew Works to enjoy the local beer and to get to know their peers in our chapter. **Jennifer Rees** (UI), the student SAC representative of the chapter, had organized this highly appreciated opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences.

Friday started early with breakfast for the participants and an officers meeting for Gabriele Ludwig (president, UI), **Hartmut Jaeschke** (vice-president and president elect, KUMC), **Yvonne Wan** (past president, KUMC), and **Jon Doorn** (treasurer, UI), and the councilors **Annelise Nguyen** (KSU) and **Grace Guo** (KUMC). **Rick Pleus** (Intertox Inc) and **Deon van der Merwe** (KSU) could not be present.

The general meeting opened with a welcome from the UI Vice President of Research, **Meredith Hay**. Knowing that **John Doull and his wife Vera** were in the audience, Dr. Hay brought her copy of Casarett and Doull's Toxicology for Dr. Doull to autograph, which he gladly did. Also present was the current editor of this bible of toxicology, Curt Klaassen, alumnus of the previous UI toxicology program (and proof of its influence).

Plans had been for the first speaker to be UI alumnus and former president of the SOT Ken Wallace, who unfortunately was prevented from attending by weather-related problems. His lecture, *Resurrecting the Central States Regional Chapter—A larger step from a large footprint*, will be presented at another occasion.



Featured speaker John Bucher and Central States Regional Chapter President Gabriele Ludwig.

The lectures began instead with another UI alumnus, **John Bucher**, Associate Director of the National Toxicology Program (NTP), who presented thought-provoking information on *The NTP and Toxicology of the 21st Century*. Following Dr. Bucher, presentations were delivered by **Patrick Hannah** (U of MN), *Arylamine N-Acetyltransferase: Inactivation by Reactive Oxygen Metabolites of Environmental Arylamines*; Dr. Guo (KUMC), *Interaction of the flame retardants, PBDEs, with xenobiotic nuclear receptors and transporters*; and Dr. Doorn (UI), *Impairment of Dopamine catabolism via production of oxidative stress yields elevated levels of a reactive and toxic intermediate*. These lectures were followed by a pasta lunch buffet and another opportunity for poster viewing. After Dr. Guo's lecture, students Ms. Rees (UI) and **Scott Reisman** (KUMC) moderated six student talks, presented by **Bingxuan Wang** (UI), Pengli Bu (KUMC), **Matt McNeill** (UI), **Yue Cui** (KUMC), **Leena Chaudhuri** (UI), and **Zhong Ye** (ISU).



Larry W. Robertson (right), is the recipient of this year's John Doull Award (pictured on left).

A highlight of the afternoon was the awarding of this year's John Doull Award to **Larry W. Robertson** (UI). Dr. Robertson was honored for his many years of research, which he described in his talk *Toxicity of halogenated hydrocarbons: signaling or metabolism, or both?* Also recognized was his academic and scientific service to the

University of Kentucky Graduate Center for Toxicology, the Ohio–Valley SOT Regional Chapter, and since 2003, the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at UI, where he has re-established the historic toxicology program as a new Interdisciplinary Graduate Program In Human Toxicology with the support of the College of Public Health and the Graduate College.

Meanwhile the poster judges, **Michael Duffel** and **Hans Lehmler** (UI), **Lora Arnold** and **Jason Glanzer** (UNMC), and **Bryan Copple** and **Hong Lu** (KUMC), had made their difficult decisions, and the meeting ended with the announcement of the travel award winners: Yue Cui (KUMC), **Erin M. Gagan** (UI), **Maxwell A. Gyamfi** (KUMC), **Venkatesha Venkatasubbaiah** (UI), **Li Yang** (UNMC), **Yueming Zhu** (UI) for Best Poster, and Yue Cui (KUMC) for Best Oral Presentation.

Dr. Wallace's prediction that this would be an important meeting historically for the CS-SOT was proven true: the strength of the toxicology programs in Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska; the enthusiasm of the students, postdocs, and faculty; the strong support from university administration, industry (with generous donations), and state governments—all were visible at the meeting and promise a bright future for the Central States Regional Chapter of the SOT.

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists SIG Participates in International Outreach

Representatives of the Society of Toxicology Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists (HOTS) Special Interest Group (SIG) participated in a meeting of the Ibero-American Network of Toxicología and Chemical Safety RITSQ as part of the XI International Congress of Toxicology, Montreal, Canada, in July 2007. The network includes representatives from Central and South America and provided an opportunity for the HOTS SIG to engage in international outreach to stimulate new growth in toxicological issues related to the Hispanic community. These types of activities are central to the mission of the SIG to provide a forum for networking, education, and recognition of achievement. For more information, visit the [HOTS Web site](#).

To increase the diversity and inclusiveness of the Society, SOT promotes and facilitates the formation of SIG organizations that are comprised of SOT members with a common ethnicity, country of origin, or gender.

Watching Washington

RALA Committee Co-Sponsors Workshop on "Taking the Politics Out of Science"



SOT Members comprised the panel including (from left to right), John Doull, Roger McClelland, and George Gray.



Approximately 130 legislators gained insights into how science can inform decision making.

The SOT Regulatory Affairs and Legislative Assistance (RALA) Committee was one of the co-sponsors of a December 6 workshop held in Washington, DC, entitled "Taking the Politics Out of Science." Attended by 130 state legislators, the workshop was organized by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Three SOT members were the featured presenters: Past SOT Presidents **John Doull**, University of Kansas Medical Center, and **Roger McClelland**, Toxicology & Human Health Risk Analysis, as well as **George Gray**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator for Research and Development and EPA Science Advisor. RALA Committee Chair **Dalnd**

Juberg is a member of the ALEC Environmental Health Work Group that organized this event. The purpose of the workshop was to confront one of the dominant topics in today's increasingly complex information age—when it comes to evaluating a topic of environmental or human health concern, how can legislators use science to do the right thing?

Specifically, this workshop was organized to provide information to state legislators who are confronted with scientific reports, particularly in the human health and environmental policy areas, which purport to offer evidence in support of, or in opposition to, pending legislation. Dr. Doull delivered an overview of toxicology in his presentation, "Is It Safe?" by describing the 100 year evolution of this discipline from a branch of pharmacology. He explained that toxicologists identify and characterize potential adverse impacts and use this information to make predictions and answer questions about safety. "And it is these predictions and answers that you folks use to develop the regulations and laws that protect our environment and human



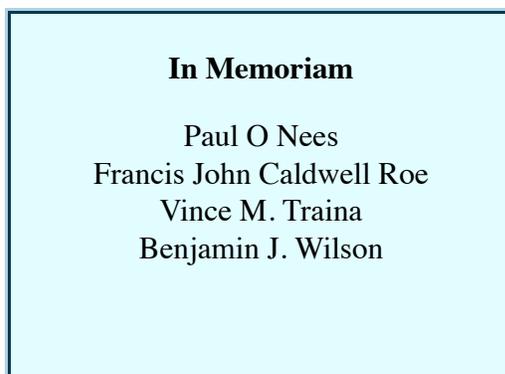
SOT RALA Committee Co-Sponsored Workshop in Washington, DC

health," he stated.

Dr. McClellans presentation addressed "Legislation, Policy, and Science: Awkward Partners in Setting Health Standards." He noted that standards should be informed by science but science alone cannot set standards and he described the important role of judgment in this decision-making process. For these state officials, Dr. Gray described the scientific offices of the EPA and the impact of the work of nearly 2,000 scientists on the regulatory decisions implemented through the 10 regional offices of this agency. He expressed his understanding of the challenges faced by these legislators who receive public and media pressure to make decisions on health and environmental issues that could clarified by scientific information.

This workshop provided an opportunity to increase the visibility of SOT and its role as a key resource to the legislative community, at the state as well as the national level. ALEC is a bipartisan membership association for conservative lawmakers who share a common belief in limited government, free markets, federalism, and individual liberty.

In Memoriam



Dr. Vince M. Traina

Dr. Vince M. Traina passed away on September 24, 2007 at his home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Traina was born in Long Island, New York, in 1943. He received his education at Saint Benedicts Preparatory School in Newark, New Jersey and at Rutgers University, where he earned B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in 1965, 1970, and 1973. He began his career in 1966 in the Department of Toxicology at the Squibb Institute in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and in 1974 accepted a position of Manager of Toxicology for the Pharmaceuticals Division of the CIBA-GEIGY Corporation in Summit, New Jersey. In 1979, he was promoted to Associate Director of Toxicology and Pathology, and in 1982, was appointed Director of Pharmaceuticals Toxicology. In 1981, he was named a Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology. He joined Targacept, a biopharmaceutical company located in Winston-Salem, in 2002 as Director, Safety Assessment. He was a member of the Environmental Mutagen Society, The American College of Toxicology, and the Society of Toxicology. Vince is

survived by two daughters and a son.

Pamella Smith Binkely

Pamella Smith Binkely, 62, the daughter of the late Carl Smith and Tee Smith, passed away suddenly on October 31. The family has asked that any donations be made to the Carl Smith Mechanisms Fund and be sent to SOT Headquarters.

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health, seeks a senior toxicologist for the MDPH/BEH Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP). This individual will supervise the Environmental Health Assessment Unit in the program. Projects in this unit include public health assessments related to state or federal hazardous waste sites; evaluation of potential health effects from exposures to pesticides; responding to chemical emergencies; conducting exposure assessment

studies (e.g., biomonitoring); and providing technical support to other BEH programs, e.g., relative to food contamination or issues related to childhood lead poisoning prevention. The individual will directly supervise one Environmental Analyst III and indirectly supervise one Environmental Analyst II and interns. The individual will also represent the program and bureau at public meetings, as needed, as well as at inter-agency meetings. The individual will also conduct evaluations of pesticide applications/information in support of MDPH's role on the state Pesticide Board and the Pesticide Board Subcommittee.

The ETP is responsible for a wide variety of environmental health investigations and has fast-paced and multi-faceted projects. It also provides technical support to the other nine BEH programs. The MDPH/BEH is located in downtown Boston and accessible by all public transportation options, including the MBTA, the commuter rail, and water taxis. The salary range for this position is \$55,384.94 to \$74,208.16. Interested candidates should contact [Martha Steele](#), deputy director, MDPH/BEH, by January 11, 2008.

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