

THE FOURTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 2008–2009

The Society held a successful Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Salt Palace Convention Center with 6,200 toxicologists from 23 countries in attendance. Nearly 18 percent of attendees were international participants. More than 1,800 scientific presentations were made and there was an 18.5 percent increase in the number of sessions presented. Attendees had a choice of attending 26 symposiums, 22 platform sessions, 99 poster sessions, 11 round tables, and 21 workshops. Over 2400 abstracts were presented, including more than 80 late breaking abstracts. SOT continued to use a thematic program with sessions on Cell Signaling, Gene-Environment Interactions, Metabolic Disease, Mitochondrial Basis for Disease, Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century, and Translational Toxicology. Nobel Laureate Ferid Murad delivered the Plenary Lecture and Professor Sir Phillip Cohen delivered the MRC Lecture. A record number of exhibitors (351) participated in the ToxExpo and there were more than 75 scientists who were involved in the organization and presentation of 13 Continuing Education courses that drew 2,500 attendees.

The year also was important in terms of strategic activities for the organization. During 2010, SOT implemented a Global Strategy. The overall mission of the strategy was to have SOT become a global forum for novel discoveries, strengthening global partnerships, and strengthening and deepening member engagement to address global needs. SOT asked that existing committees and groups implement aspects of the global strategy that fit their mission. The Society also made \$6,000 available in matching funds to support the efforts of Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups in global collaboration. Additionally, SOT implemented the Global ToxScholar Program, which provides funding for toxicology career presentations internationally. Up to \$1,250 in funding was made available for speakers traveling to developing countries so they could meet with undergraduate and graduate students to encourage pursuit of careers in toxicology.

In other areas, SOT took a large technological leap by launching ToXchange, a member networking tool that gives members the chance to collaborate via communities and exchange documents and information. The networking platform also allows SOT to blog and to make major announcements to select groups. Members are able to post information about themselves as well as photos, bios, and *Curriculum Vitae*. The launch of the online CE courses provided a mechanism to ensure that more toxicologists have access to SOT educational programs. SOT and the National Library of Medicine showcased the first module of ToxLearn, which is a multimodule web-based learning tool providing an introduction to fundamental toxicology principles and concepts.

In other action, SOT made a number of presentations to lawmakers on Capitol Hill and formed a special task force to oversee legislation on the Toxic Substances Control Act, a 30-year old statute that mandated the way in which the US Environmental Protection Agency regulated chemicals in the US. The SOT initiated the Congressional Science Leadership Award on Capitol Hill and made a presentation to Congressman David Price (D-NC) and Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), each of whom had consistently supported legislation that was based on sound scientific principles. This initiative went a long way to helping SOT gain the recognition the Society wanted on Capitol Hill. The SOT Council met the

Commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration in an effort to establish a partnership with the federal agency and to engage the administrator, Dr. Margaret Hamburg, in policymaking activities involving toxicology. The Society sponsored a Human Health and Disease Prevention Summit that included several national and international organizations. Participants explored ways in which the groups might collaborate and to strengthen relations with sister organizations.

SOT made a number of bylaws changes including: A new membership category was added—Emeritus. Emeritus members who were previously full members retained their voting rights. In addition, the Scientific Program Committee was expanded and the President of SOT was given authority to appoint three additional leaders to this Committee. The Education Committee changed from and elected to an appointed committee.

A Stem Cell Specialty Section was founded in 2010 and the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section celebrated its 25-year anniversary. The Endowment Fund Board approved and Council ratified the John Doull Student Award Fund.

In 2010, there were 135 available positions on in the Job Bank system during the Annual Meeting. Of those positions, 19 were with SOT Corporate Affiliates, 68 were with corporations, and 38 were with government, academic and nonprofit companies. In terms of job seekers at the Annual Meeting, there were approximately 180 members of SOT who had created a job bank profile in the 3 months prior to the Annual Meeting, as well as 34 paying nonmembers, 14 of whom were professionals, 6 were postdocs, and the remaining 14 were students. There were also Additionally in 2010, the Society of Toxicology welcomed 811 new members, including 301 Full, 134 Associate, 128 Postdoctoral, and 248 Student members, making the total membership 6,724.