

THE FIFTIETH YEAR OF THE SOCIETY 2010–2011

The 50th Anniversary SOT Annual Meeting that was held in Washington, DC exceeded all expectations. The Meeting attracted 8,100 attendees from around the globe, with 21 percent being international participants. The meeting was held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. The program was structured into more than 210 sessions that included both featured and special lectures, which accounted for more than 3,000 abstracts being presented. ToxExpo™ experienced considerable growth in 2011, with 365 exhibiting companies.

Additional events and activities were planned throughout the Annual Meeting to celebrate the Society's 50th Anniversary. For example, the 50th Anniversary Member Celebration Meeting provided highlights of the history and growth of the Society over the past 50 years, recognizing the members who were responsible for the Society's successes. Plenary lectures included "NIH Vision" by Lawrence Tabak, Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health, "Increasing the Prestige of Regulatory Sciences" by Margaret Hamburg, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, "Cellular Responses to DNA Damage: New Molecular Insights and New Approaches for Cancer Therapy" by Stephen P. Jackson, The Gurdon Institute and Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, and "US Environmental Protection Agency Vision" by Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, US EPA. SOT produced a deluxe 50th Anniversary book that featured many significant events and people who helped significantly to advance the field of toxicology. A Benchmarks in Toxicology Banner was created in collaboration with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The banner showcased the outstanding scientific benchmarks that advanced the field of toxicology. SOT's Celebration Event was an entertaining evening of dancing and merriment. The decades keepsake brochure, *Fifty Years of Impact*, provided a snapshot of significant global historical events for over the course of the past 50 years. The historical Photo Gallery was created as an online slide show of historical pictures. The Landmarks Program, which was launched that year, paid tribute to the National Academy of Science, in whose offices the founding of the Society on March 4, 1961 was discussed. Other fun events included the Past Presidents 5K Fun Run and the 50th Anniversary Silent Auction. All events helped to commemorate the Society's achievements. Committees, Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups were invited to contribute items to the Time Capsule, which will be opened in 2036. The 2011 impact factor for *Toxicological Sciences (ToxSci)* was 5.093 (up from 4.814), making *ToxSci* the 3rd most-cited journal in toxicology in a category of 77 behind two review journals. The Annual Meeting marked many achievements in the field of toxicology with awards given at the SOT Annual Meeting. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R-IL) received the SOT 2011 Congressional Science Leadership.

The Education Summit Organizing Team held a two-day seminar to help SOT determine how best to train aspiring toxicologists for their careers, whether in academia, industry, government, or in other employment areas. Toxicologists from all over the country gathered in Baltimore to develop recommendations to improve toxicology education and training for students at the undergraduate through the postdoctoral level. As a result of this meeting, a final report from the Summit was widely disseminated.

A number of important changes to the SOT Bylaws were included in the ballot including extending the term of each Councilor to a three-year term instead of a two-year term. The 2011 SOT Ballot also changed the number of Councilors from four to six. Changes to the number of members on the Endowment Fund Board and the term of the Treasurer on the Endowment Fund Board were also approved. Two more Named endowment funds were established in 2011: the Sheldon D. Murphy Memorial Fund and the Neurotoxicology Fellowship Award Fund.

The name of the Student Advisory Council (SAC) changed to Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC). The two SAC groups were combined and the GSLC is now comprised of Graduate Student Representatives from Regional Chapters (RC), Special Interest Groups (SIG), and Specialty Sections (SS). In response to feedback from a Communiqué readership survey, the distribution of the Communiqué was made more timely via a blog format, which allow members to read articles on an ongoing basis.

The SOT Council appointed a ToXchange Task Force to promote and increase usage among the membership.

In 2011, the Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section, the Mechanisms Specialty Section, and the Metals Specialty Section celebrated 30 years, and the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section turned 25. The North Carolina Regional Chapter commemorated its' 30th anniversary in the spring.

At the 2011 Annual Meeting there were 147 positions available for job seekers. Of that number, 13 were positions available with SOT Corporate Affiliates, 46 were available with Government, Academic, and Non-profit organizations. Finally, the remaining 86 positions were with corporations. There were 190 job seekers present who were members of SOT, and 54 nonmember job seekers, of whom 25 were professionals, 15 were postdocs, and 14 were students.