President’s Message

To those of you who live north of the Equator, I hope that all of you have had an enjoyable summer! To those of you who live south of the Equator, I hope there was great snow for those members who are skiers and riders! We continue to make strides to becoming a more global organization. The Global Strategy Task Force under the leadership of Ruth A. Roberts has launched a **Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program (GSSEP)** that will be piloted in Africa and Latin America. A professor from each region will be selected to come to the SOT Annual Meeting and be paired with a U.S. university professor. The goal is to have the professor from a developing country visit a U.S. university department for several weeks and bring back what they have learned to strengthen their toxicology program. SOT offers a number of other global initiatives; membership, SOT Annual Meeting and Continuing Education on-line discounts for scientists from developing countries, travel awards to regional and SOT meetings, and much more. Additional details can be found on the [SOT Global Initiatives Web page](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp).

This is also the time of the year when the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) reviews session submissions and develops the program for the next SOT Annual Meeting. The Chair William Slikker, Jr., Co-chair Lois D. Lehman-McKeeman, and the SPC members greatly appreciate the enthusiasm of the membership in developing broad-ranging topics for symposia, workshops, and roundtables for the meeting. More than 168 proposals were received and 68 were accepted for the scientific program and 13 for continuing education sessions (48% overall acceptance rate). For every proposal that was not accepted, the SPC reviewed the proposal as a committee and provided specific feedback for the authors. We are excited to announce that the Annual Meeting in San Francisco will open with a plenary talk by Leroy Hood, President and Co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle, Washington. He is a pioneer in systems approaches to biology and medicine. Due to its popularity, we are institutionalizing the “Meet the Directors” session as a regular part of our scientific program that will be co-chaired by the SOT Vice President and Vice President-elect and rotated across the government organizations. I am looking forward to a great scientific meeting with the added benefit of being held in a beautiful city (biased as it is my home town) known for its Anchor Steam beer,
sourdough bread, cioppino, and See’s candy!

As I noted in my first message, SOT Council has drafted the Strategic Plan for 2012–2015 and has begun the process of seeking membership input. You have received a copy of this plan via e-mail soliciting your feedback. In addition, we are asking Committees, Task Forces, and Component Groups leadership to identify 2–3 Strategic Objectives that they would like to champion over the 2012–2015 time frame. Council will review this input in September for incorporation into the Strategic Plan and make committee assignments for the Strategic Objectives. As part of strengthening our organizational effectiveness, Council has recommended increasing the Councilor term from two to three years. This has many benefits, but chiefly it is a realization of the steep learning curve that occurs during the first year on Council. This recommendation will require a By-laws change and approval by membership. Council also has spent considerable time discussing the aspirational goals for the four General Purpose Funds in the Endowment Fund. This feedback will be used by the Endowment Fund Board, led by Norbert E. Kaminski, to develop marketing plans for these funds as well as to determine the ultimate financial goals of the Endowment Fund. On Thursday morning of the Annual Meeting, Drs. Kaminski and Lehman-McKeeman will co-lead an issues session on the Endowment Fund. I encourage you to attend this Issues Session and provide your input!

I wanted to highlight a few activities that align with our strategy to “Increase the Recognition of Toxicology.” Because of the formation of the Scientific Liaison Coalition (SLC), SOT joined six other scientific societies in supporting the rewriting of agency rules to allow government scientists to fully participate in their professional society’s leadership. The SLC provides a mechanism for societies to share common interests and increase influence on critical scientific issues. I also want to thank the leadership and members of the Drug Discovery Toxicology (Craig E. Thomas); Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (John P. Norman); Immunotoxicology (Rodney R. Dietert), In Vitro and Alternative Methods (Vincent A. Murphy), Occupational and Public Health (Michael E. Ottlinger, Michael Christopher Madden); and, Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology (Edward W. Carney, Bruce K. Beyer, Kamin Johnson, Yvonne Dao Hoang, Jodi A. Flaws, Warren G. Foster, Jeffrey S. Moffit, and Alan Hoberman) Specialty Sections that commented on the National Institutes of Health Eunice Kennedy National Institute of Child Health & Human Development Shriver White Papers and Councilor Judith T. Zellikoff who coordinated comments to the agency. These activities strengthen the recognition of our Society as a valuable resource to government agencies. Lastly, I want to thank the Education Committee (K–12 Subcommittee and the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee) and Committee on Diversity Initiatives for the creation of the Career Opportunities in Toxicology brochure. These are just a few examples that illustrate the engagement of our Society members. For that, I thank all of you!

Speaking of Toxicological Sciences, the 2010 journal impact factor was recently released, and our journal increased to 5.093 (from 4.814 in 2009, 4.443 in 2008, and 3.814 in 2007), and is now ranked 3rd out of 77 relevant journals in toxicology. Please join me in conveying our thanks and appreciation to Lois, her staff, and the members of the editorial board for a job well done. We also need to welcome our new editor, Mike Cunningham, and look forward to watching Mike lead our journal to new heights!

Jon C. Cook
2011–2012 SOT President
Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program
Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program

The Society of Toxicology is offering $15,000 USD funding each for:

- 1 senior scientist from Africa and
- 1 senior scientist either South or Central America

to participate in a four-week partnership program between a developing country and U.S.-based academic institution.

The principal goal is to increase capacity in the developing country through strengthening toxicology within the university and the country.

U.S. host scientists also are asked to apply.

Submission Deadline: October 9
Eligibility criteria and applications: www.toxicology.org/ms/gssep.asp

2012–2015 Strategic Planning Process Is Well Underway
Thanks to Member Involvement

We have reached the next stage in the strategic planning process and have sought and received your feedback on the draft 2012–2015 Strategic Plan. SOT appreciates the involvement of our members in shaping the future of our Society.

The development of a robust and meaningful strategic plan requires your involvement! Here is a recap of our activities so far:

- Last year, SOT Council reviewed progress on the SOT 2008–2012 Strategic Plan. SOT Council compiled a report of the accomplishments between 2008–2011 for the Society’s review and input. We appreciate the efforts of SOT leaders, Committees, Task Forces, and Component Groups who so effectively employed the strategic approach and made great strides towards these goals.
- In April, we solicited your input on the future direction of our Society. We also appreciate the attention the Strategic Report received and we studied the large number of comments you provided. These sharpened our insight into the concerns and priorities of the membership as we devised the plan for the next three years.
- In May, Council conducted a strategic planning session and drafted the map and priorities.
- In June, Council formed writing teams around the Strategic Plan Strategic Priorities and Objectives.
- In July, the draft report was revised by Council.
- We solicited member comments from July 25 to August 31.
- Committees, Component Groups, and Task Forces were asked to identify 2–3 key Strategic Objectives that align with their charge by August 31.

Here are the next steps:

- At the fall meeting, Council will assess the member comments and assign key Strategic Objectives that will be a focus of the Committees, Component Groups, and Task Forces.
- Between October and December, Committees, Component Groups, and Task Forces will draft tactics and metrics for their key Strategic Objectives.
- In January, Council will review the metrics and tactics and provide recommendations to the Committees, Component Groups, and Task Forces.
- In March, Committees, Component Groups, and Task Forces will align tactics and budget proposals for 2012–2013 cycle.

The Communiqué will provide you with updates during the Strategic Review process and beyond.

SOT Communiqué Readership Survey—Your Input is Essential to Guide our Planning

During this period of Strategic Planning for the Society, we are seeking your response to a brief number of questions to determine how best to communicate with you and all the SOT members. We
are particularly interested in knowing what information is of most importance to you and areas that you feel should be strengthened. We will be reporting the results of the survey in the Winter Issue of the *Communiqué* and planned next steps. Thank you in advance for helping us to enhance our communications to you. We are seeking opportunities for expanding two-way communication and this is another step in that direction. Please complete the [SOT *Communiqué* Readership Survey on ToXchange](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp) at your earliest convenience. The survey will remain open until October 14.

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**ToxSci Impact Factor at 5.093 and Mobile Version Available**

The Society is pleased to announce that the 2010 impact factor for *Toxicological Sciences (ToxSci)* is 5.093 (up from 4.814) and our journal is now ranked the 3rd most-cited journal in toxicology in a category of 77 behind two review journals. This is a great achievement and clear recognition of the commitment of the 2010–2011 Editor-in-Chief Lois D. Lehman-McKeeman and the esteemed editorial board and their dedication to rigorous review. The new 2012 Editor-in-Chief Michael Lee Cunningham is committed to the continued success of the journal. SOT is proud of the journal’s significant contribution to increasing the scientific impact of toxicology on human health and disease prevention. Moreover, your access to the journal has been increased as a mobile version of *ToxSci* is now available on the *ToxSci* Web site (the link may look a bit odd on a regular computer screen). The mobile-optimized site currently supports iOS (iPhone and iPod Touch), Blackberry, and Android smartphones, with support for the Symbian operating system and Windows Mobile coming soon. Access is also available via a specific QR code. Among the benefits provided by this new mobile interface are the following:

- Quick access to current and archived journal content,
- A quick search facility,
- An “e-mail me this article” feature allowing users to send themselves a quickly looked up reference for later, more convenient viewing, and
- Users logging in via an institution’s WiFi service on their smartphone will be able to access content to which that institution subscribes.

This innovation provides an added benefit to users with low bandwidth Web connections, for example in developing countries, who will now have a faster and simpler route to current journal content.

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**Society of Toxicology Award Nominations Sought**

**2012 Awards Deadline Fast Approaching…Don’t Wait to Nominate!**

Applications and Nominations for SOT Awards and Sponsored Awards to Be Presented at the 2012 SOT Annual Meeting Are Due by October 9, 2011.

The Awards Committee encourages you to [nominate a deserving colleague for a 2012 SOT Award](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp). No doubt you know someone who deserves special recognition for his or her work and you can play an important role in assuring the recognition of these accomplishments. Please take this opportunity to
nominate a deserving colleague or colleagues for one or more of the SOT Awards. SOT presents many prestigious awards to both members and non-members alike—from the Merit and Achievement Awards to the Translational Impact and Leading Edge in Basic Science Award. Criteria for individual awards, including nomination and application details, are available on the Awards and Fellowships section of the SOT Web site.

Most of the prestigious SOT Awards require two nominations for the award by colleagues who are Full members of the Society. Both letters of nomination should provide documentation and descriptions of career highlights for the nominee and his or her significant contributions to toxicology. The curriculum vitae (CV) of the nominee should also be included. Both letters of nomination and the nominee’s CV may be uploaded on the SOT Awards and Fellowships on-line nomination and application site. Simply go to “Awards and Fellowships” from the “Services” bar on the main menu, and select the appropriate award from the complete award listing.

Nominations for the SOT 2012 Awards are open through October 9, 2011. But why wait to nominate? The on-line nomination system is open now so you can begin the process today to be sure you get your nomination completed by the deadline.

There are also many Regional Chapter, Specialty Section, Special Interest Group, and sponsored awards for which all members may submit applications. Many of these awards are meant specifically for graduate students to travel to the Annual Meeting—such as the SOT Graduate Student Awards—as well as to further postdoctoral research, such as the Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in In Vitro Toxicology. Please see the complete list of sponsored awards and encourage students, postdocs, or colleagues to apply.

You may also want to review the Historical Listing of SOT Award Recipients for previous winners of both SOT and sponsored awards.

SOT Awards requiring Nomination by Two Full Members of the Society

- Achievement Award, first awarded 1967
- Arnold J. Lehman Award, first awarded 1980
- Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award, first awarded 2001
- Education Award, first awarded 1975
- Enhancement of Animal Welfare Award, first awarded 2000
- Founders Award,* first awarded 2008
- Leading Edge in Basic Science Award, first awarded 2009
- Merit Award, first awarded 1966
- Public Communications Award, first awarded 1994
- Translational Impact Award, first awarded 2009
- Undergraduate Educator Award,* first awarded 2010—allows self-nomination as well as nomination by one Full member of the Society with letter of support from a campus administrative official

*Sponsored by the SOT Endowment Fund

Sponsored Awards Accepting Applications On-Line
AstraZeneca Traveling Lectureship Award
Colgate-Palmolive Awards for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods
Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternative Research
Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in *In Vitro* Toxicology
Graduate Student Fellowship—Novartis Award
Pfizer Undergraduate Student Travel Awards
Syngenta Fellowship Award in Human Health Applications of New Technologies

Please see the [Awards and Fellowships](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp) section of the SOT Web site for a complete listing of awards offered.

Recipients will be recognized at the special Awards Ceremony at the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, and many awards provide plaques and stipends. Award recipients are listed in the annual *Membership Directory, Program*, and on the [SOT Web site](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp).

**Please note:** Several awards, including the SOT Graduate Student Travel Support Awards, require that the applicant submit an abstract for the meeting. All abstracts for the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting are to be submitted on-line by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on October 3, 2011.

Most SOT student awards require that the applicant is a Student member or has completed an application for membership, so research mentors should encourage students to apply immediately.

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**Undergraduate Student Annual Meeting Travel Funding Opportunities Available**

If an undergraduate student has participated in research in your laboratory, or if you know an undergraduate who might consider a biomedical research career, please encourage her or him to apply for SOT awards for undergraduates. There are four relevant funding opportunities that provide support for travel and lodging and access to special activities at the SOT Annual Meeting. Specific criteria for each of these funding opportunities are described below. Complete information and applications are accessed at the [Resources for Undergraduate Students](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp) Web page.

**Pfizer Undergraduate Travel Award**

Five students are supported by this award selected by the Education Committee based on the quality of the abstract submitted for the meeting, the candidate’s academic record, and recommendation from the mentor.

**Minority Travel Award**

Students who are from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in the sciences are selected based on their academic record and statements from the applicant and their advisor. These students may be new to the field of toxicology or may have engaged in toxicology research. They participate in the Saturday–Monday Undergraduate Education Program at the start of the Annual Meeting.
Committee on Diversity Initiatives selects these recipients.

**Perry J. Gehring Diversity Travel Award**

Students who 1) received the Minority Undergraduate Travel Award within the last three years and 2) are submitting an abstract for the meeting can apply for this travel award and special recognition. The Committee on Diversity Initiatives selects the outstanding applicant.

**Travel Award for Students from Underserved Institutions**

The Committee on Diversity Initiatives also selects students who are from institutions that receive less than $15 million federal funding in science, technology, and math. Applicants may be new to toxicology or have experience in the field. These students participate in the Undergraduate Education Program Saturday through Monday at the start of the Annual Meeting.

Undergraduate student participation in the SOT Annual Meeting is on the increase. We encourage you to help engage undergraduates in toxicology and to bolster this trend. Attending the SOT Annual Meeting is a great way to build enthusiasm for graduate school in toxicology. For further information contact Betty Eidemiller.

Undergraduate students register for the meeting at no cost using the mail/fax registration form. Any undergraduate who registers for the meeting can register for the Sunday portion of the Undergraduate Program.

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**Request for Nominations for the 2012–2013 Congressional Science Leadership Award—October 9 Deadline**

SOT holds that the support and use of sound science by Congress is vital to the safety and health of all Americans. SOT has presented five separate awards for the past few years and plans to confer this honor each year to a deserving Member of Congress. Information about this award is provided below.

Assist us by submitting your nomination of one or more Members of the Congress to receive the 2012 Congressional Science Leadership Award. Please send your nomination to Martha Lindauer by the close of business on October 9, 2011. Your nomination needs to include:

1. Name of Member of Congress
2. Basis for Nomination (100 words maximum)

Thank you for supporting SOT and sound science.

George B. Corcoran
*Chair, Congressional Task Force 2009–2012*
SOT Congressional Science Leadership Award

Purpose—To provide recognition of a congressional leader who demonstrates reliance upon sound science in effective decision-making related to protecting or advancing the health and safety of people, animals, and the environment.

Criteria—A congressional leader who meets one or more of the following:

1. has consistently pursued public policy or decision-making relating to health and safety that is based upon sound scientific principles;
2. has demonstrated dedication to advancing legislation for the protection of people, animals, and environmental health that is based upon sound scientific principles; and
3. has recognized and supports scientific research that increases knowledge and advances protection of people, animal, and environmental health.

SOT PDA 2012 Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards

Submitted by Enrique Fuentes-Mattei, Vice Chair, SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA)

The work of postdoctoral trainees advances new discoveries and knowledge to address the important questions in toxicological sciences. Every year the PDA of SOT is very proud to recognize the outstanding toxicological research published by postdoctoral members of SOT. In this way the PDA recognizes the important role of postdoctoral fellows in toxicology.

The PDA is pleased to announce the 2012 Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards (BPPA). These awards recognize very talented and outstanding postdoctoral researchers who have recently published exceptional papers in the field of toxicology as a result of the work conducted during the postdoctoral research experience. The PDA encourages all SOT members to identify and nominate postdoctoral scholars who have contributed to the advancement of toxicology and have their novel findings published in peer-reviewed papers (on-line, in print, or in press).

The PDA Board in collaboration with a special committee containing appropriate scientific expertise will review all applications. The review process follows the National Institutes of Health conflict-of-interest policy, confidentiality, and nondisclosure policies. Three awards, each consisting of a plaque and $100 cash, will be presented at the PDA Luncheon during the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting.

Further information and application materials for these awards can be found on the Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards page. For any questions, please contact Enrique Fuentes-Mattei.

Eligibility for 2012 Nominations

- The research reported in the paper was conducted while the applicant was engaged in a
postdoctoral research experience

- Member of SOT or membership application submitted by award application deadline
- First author on a peer-reviewed paper published on-line, in print, or in press, between June 1, 2010, and September 30, 2011
- Application supported by letter from the research advisor
- Only one paper may be submitted by each applicant
- Leaders of the PDA are eligible but applicants will not participate in the award determination

Applications are due by 12:00 MIDNIGHT Eastern Standard Time on October 9, 2011.

ToXchange Corner

Raise Your Profile in the Society! Update Your ToXchange Profile!

Did you know that you have a personal “MyPage” on ToXchange—the private and secure SOT member network for all members in the Society? If you haven’t updated it recently, you may want to now.

If you are running for office in your Regional Chapter (RC), Specialty Section (SS), or Special Interest Group (SIG), it’s a great way for the members in your component groups to see your profile, including a current picture and your curriculum vitae (CV). Why not update these today?

Additionally, if you will be applying for an SOT Award or any of the myriad of awards offered by RCs, SSs, or SIGs, take the time to upload your CV to the ToXchange member CV site so you know that your CV is readily accessible. It is also a very convenient way for a colleague to include your CV in a nomination for an award when your CV is posted on ToXchange. Make sure you’re being recognized! Post a photo and your CV today.

Finally, having your most updated member profile data and demographic information (gender, ethnicity, primary research area, etc.) will allow SOT to accurately assess the needs of members and receive critical funding that support our activities and objectives. You can feel comfortable providing personal information as SOT reports demographic membership information in the aggregate only and you can choose what information to share with others in ToXchange using the visibility settings on your MyPage.

Here’s how you can do so:

Updating Your Profile

1. Log in to ToXchange directly or by selecting the “ToXchange” button on the Scientists/Members page of the SOT Web site. (To make your return to ToXchange easy, bookmark the site!)
2. From the ToXchange homepage either click on the “Update Your Profile” button on the right or scroll over “My Options” at the top of the page and click on “My Profile.” You now will be on
your Profile page that you can update.

3. From your Profile page, click on “Edit ToXchange Profile” to add more detail to your ToXchange MyPage (this is the page that all SOT members can view). Update your ToXchange Profile by adding the following information where indicated:
   - Research funding source
   - Membership in other societies
   - Year of Ph.D.
   - Ph.D. institution
   - Name of your Ph.D. mentor
   - Date of birth
   - Biography
   - User signature

4. Click “OK” to accept all updates and the “Accept Changes Now” button on your Profile page to activate your updates.

5. From your Profile page, click on “Update SOT Profile” to edit your contact information. When you are finished updating, select “Save” and return to your Profile page on ToXchange to further update your Profile.

6. From your Profile page, click on “Picture” then “Update Picture” to add your picture to your profile. You can easily browse and select a “head shot” or profile a picture to do so.

**Customize Your MyPage**

Edit Visibility Settings in the User Detail Section:

The visibility settings give you control over which fields are available for other users to view. You can choose to hide certain fields or information that you do not wish to share with other users on the site.

1. From the MyPage window, scroll over the Actions button and select Edit Visibility Settings.
2. In the Edit Visibility Settings window, choose show or hide next to each field to indicate if you want the field shown or hidden.
3. Click the “OK” button.

**Add Your *Curriculum Vitae* to the Members CV File!**

1. From the Members CV page, select “Search” in the line under the orange navigation bar. You will then be able to search by:
   - Full-Text search terms—keywords or terms appearing in other members CVs and descriptions will help you find these members
   - Categories/Topics
   - Communities—from all Committees to Specialty Sections
   - Posting Group
   - Document Type—such as CV/Resume

2. To add your CV to the member CVs site on ToXchange, simply click on “Member CVs” in the orange navigation bar and select “Add File” (you will want to have the most up-to-date version of your CV available to upload). Fill in the title of your CV and a brief description (i.e., biosketch), set the Category/Topic to member CVs and the document type to “CV/Resume,”
click “Add” to upload your CV and “OK” to finish.

Subscribe to YOUR Membership Forum Discussion(s) on ToXchange and Join the Discussion

- Go to your “Community” home site(s) on ToXchange. If you are a member of a RC, SS, or SIG, or serve on a committee or task force, you are a part of that group’s community and may participate in their private discussions;
- In the Forum section, click on the “Discussions” headline;
- On the “Discussions” page, click on the “Subscribe” button at right.

Once subscribed, any member may begin a discussion thread or respond to an ongoing discussion—and every comment is captured right on the site for fast and easy future reference.

Log into ToXchange today to:

- Access your Profile and MyPage—as an SOT member you already have a Profile and MyPage set up for you to easily update
- Update your Profile/MyPage with a profile picture—the first step in customizing your MyPage
- Upload your CV to the Members CV site—the next step in enhancing your discoverability by colleagues
- Search for SOT Members—via a powerful, enhanced Membership Directory
- Communicate and collaborate via YOUR community sites—subscribe to your Community Forum Discussions
- Update contact links to other social networking sites, such as LinkedIn or Facebook

SOT Endowment Fund Building for the Future
SOT Endowment Fund Contributors Help Foster the Growth
Contributors to the SOT Endowment Fund are helping to build for the future of toxicology by providing long-term financial support to enable the Society to fulfill its mission, now and in the years to come. In the SOT 2011–2012 fiscal year, the Education, International Activities, SOT Strategic Priorities, and the Student Travel Endowment Funds, as well as both the Harry W. Hays and Sheldon D. Murphy Memorial Funds, are financially contributing to four SOT initiatives that address one or more of the Society’s strategic key objectives.

Undergraduate Educator Award

During the 50th Anniversary Year Annual Meeting, the first Undergraduate Educator Award was conferred to Joan B. Tarloff. This award was established to recognize the efforts to increase the pipeline of future toxicologist and will be funded via the Endowment Education Fund.

SOT/Endowment Fund/IUTOX Travel Fellowships

As part of our strengthening global participation, the International Activities Fund and the SOT Strategic Priorities Fund will provide financial assistance for two scientists from a country where toxicology is underrepresented to travel to the SOT Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. The principal goal is to increase capacity in the developing country through strengthening toxicology within the university and the country. The International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) will administer the award review process.

Student Travel to SOT Annual Meeting

Hundreds of students, many of them now leaders in SOT, attended their first SOT meeting by winning a student travel award funded by the Society. From the early days of SOT to the present, it has been understood that such participation is essential to “building for the future of toxicology.” There is no substitute for the excitement of being among the first to hear presentations of cutting-edge science delivered to a gathering of the best in the field. Likewise, the importance of engaging in face-to-face discussions with experts and peers in one’s area of interest cannot be underestimated. As it did in 2011, the Endowment Student Travel Fund will provide funding for an additional 10 students, who might not otherwise have found funding, to participate in the San Francisco 2012 Annual Meeting.

To become an Endowment Fund contributor and enjoy the fulfillment of knowing that you are helping to build for the future of toxicology, please visit the Endowment Fund Section of the SOT Web site. You can make a difference in the lives of toxicologists by your generous support. Add your name to the Honor Roll of Contributors.

Advancing the Science of Toxicology for Human Health and Disease Prevention—PPTOX III

The Prenatal Programming and Toxicology (PPTOX III) international conference will be held in
Paris, France, over the dates of May 14–16, 2012. Fetal and early postnatal development constitutes the most vulnerable time period of human life in regards to adverse effects of environmental hazards. Subtle effects during development can lead to functional deficits and increased disease risk later in life. This hypothesis, which states that environmental exposures lead to altered programming and thereby to increased susceptibility to disease/dysfunction later in life, has gathered much support from both experimental and epidemiological studies. The SOT Strategic Priorities Endowment Fund will provide funding for at least two students to participate in this meeting where global experts in this evolving area of research will be gathered.

Toxicology Education Summit Slated for October 20–21

SOT is convening the Toxicology Education Summit in Baltimore, Maryland, October 20–21. With toxicology and careers in toxicology undergoing rapid and dramatic changes as new discoveries, technologies, and hazards advance at a blinding rate in a rapidly evolving global climate, the importance of training and retraining for these conditions is obvious. As the leader in positioning toxicology and our members for the future, the Society will conduct this significant discussion of toxicology educational needs with the goal of identifying strategic initiatives for supporting the educational priorities of all developing and professional toxicologists.

These demands must be met with new paradigms for multidisciplinary, technologically complex, and collaborative approaches that require advanced and continued education in toxicology and associated
disciplines. This requires paradigm shifts in educational programs that both support development and training of the modern toxicologist and allows retraining of the midcareer professional to keep pace and sustain careers in industry, government, and academia. Connecting across disciplines is also important to integrate toxicology into related fields such as chemistry, pharmacology, health and environmental sciences, and engineering.

The SOT Education Committee, Career Resource and Development Committee, and the Professional Needs Assessment Task Force are organizing the 2011 Toxicology Educational Summit. Chaired by Aaron Barchowsky, the Education Summit Organizing Team also includes Gary P. Carlson, Mary Beth Genter, Hisham K. Hamadeh, Stephen H. Safe, and Courtney E.W. Sulentic. About 50 participants have been invited to attend. This diverse group represents segments of the SOT membership including toxicologists employed in academia, industry, and government, as well as at different career stages, and other important constituencies outside SOT.

The Summit will include a plenary lecture by Jame S. Bus. Presentations in the focus areas, including speakers Sally Rockey (NIH-DERT), Carol Shreffler (NIEHS), Paul Anastas (U.S. EPA), and others, will provide stimulating insight for the breakout groups, who will tackle sets of questions to develop recommendations. The concluding panel discussion at 2:00 PM, October 20, 2011, will be broadcast to include participation of interested toxicologists who are not able to attend in person. More information is found at Toxicology Education Summit Web page.

Recommendations from the Toxicology Education Summit will be disseminated to a wide audience through a white paper in Toxicological Sciences, a roundtable at the 2012 Annual Meeting, and through other mechanisms. Outcomes will include the development of strategic plans for SOT to advance educational programming in toxicology that focuses on the critical needs identified in the Summit. Recommendations will be developed for academia, industry, government agencies, and other professional groups for toxicological curricular content and modalities that will enhance the training and retraining of toxicologists and also advance the understanding and practice of toxicology by those in disciplines and professions outside of toxicology.

NIH Regional Seminar Travel Award Scores High Marks

Last year, members of SOT’s Research Funding Committee implemented a new initiative to help the SOT achieve its strategic objective of securing increased funding for research and training by establishing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Regional Seminar Travel Award. The new award helps new investigators at institutions without a major infrastructure for grant administrative support. Last year, two investigators received this award and traveled to NIH Regional Seminars to learn more about grant writing and the ins and outs of grant submission and review at NIH.

Jun Gao of the Los Alamos National Laboratory traveled to the April NIH Regional Seminar in Scottsdale, Arizona. According to Dr. Gao, after attending the three-day session the grant writing process is no longer “a black box.” He reported that because of his experience there, he has greatly enhanced his ability to write successful proposals. NIH program managers talked in depth about how to find the grant opportunities, making early contact with program officers for the specific grants before the applicant starts to write, finding innovative, well-respected mentors and collaborators to
make a strong research team, proposing the best and most creative ideas, preparing the application, and making the submission. Dr. Gao is confident after attending the workshop that he can submit a successful grant application.

Yunfeng Zhao of Louisiana State University attended NIH’s second Regional Seminar in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and like Dr. Gao, found the experience to be enlightening. “I found this extremely helpful, since I could talk to a program official face-to-face for a long period of time. I had several questions answered that included how to select the right Study Section and how to talk to the program official if the priority score is not within the fundable range, and I also learned about some useful tools and other electronic resources that NIH has for investigators.” Dr. Zhao attended all the sessions for investigators and learned how to define the career state of the grant applicant, how to find the right funding mechanism, initiate the first contact with the NIH grant officials, write a grant proposal, find the right study section, how to contact grant officials, what happens post grant review, how to revise a grant proposal, and how to manage grants. During the seminar, Dr. Zhao also learned that the average age for the first R01 awardees is 42. Female R01 awardees account for less than 30 percent of the recipients, and the overall success rate for all NIH grant applications is 20 percent.

The Research Funding Committee is continuing this effort this year and hopes to attract more nominees. The next deadline for applications for 2012 NIH Regional Seminar Travel Awards is February 15, 2012; the application is available on the Awards and Fellowships page. Find more information on the NIH Regional Seminars page.

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**SOT Past President Kenneth S. Ramos to Represent Toxicology at Annual Biomedical Conference for Minority Students**

Kenneth S. Ramos, 2008–2009 President of SOT, will be the featured speaker sponsored by the Society of Toxicology at the 11th Annual Biomedical Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) November 10, 2011, in St. Louis, Missouri. His talk is entitled “A Tale of LINEs: Epigenetic Reactivation of L1 Retrotransposon by DNA Damaging Agents.”

The participation of SOT as a sponsor of this meeting is an important strategy to introduce toxicology to students who might not otherwise be aware of career opportunities in the field. The Committee on Diversity Initiatives also hosts an exhibit booth at ABRCMS. SOT recognizes the importance of reaching undergraduates who are interested in science to support recruitment for toxicology graduate programs.

ABRCMS is the largest professional conference for biomedical and behavioral students, including mathematics. It attracts about 1,700 undergraduate students, 400 graduate students and postdoctoral scientists, and 1,200 faculty, program directors, and administrators. Sponsored by NIH-MARC, the conference is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, including mathematics, and provide faculty mentors and advisors with resources for facilitating students’ success.
Other SOT members who have been SOT-sponsored presenters at the conference include Martin A. Philbert, José E. Manautou, and Myrtle A. Davis.

Redesigned Toxicology Career Brochures Available

Although electronic communications rule, SOT still receives many requests for toxicology career brochures. We now have a fresh version to distribute. The Education Committee, including members of the Education K–12 and Undergraduate Subcommittees, in conjunction with the Committee for Diversity Initiatives, has put together a colorful brochure for recruitment of high school and undergraduate students. The brochure uses images of everyday situations to draw attention to a frequently unheralded science discipline that helps keep people, pets, and the environment safe. For undergraduate audiences, an insert is added to the brochure to provide information about SOT undergraduate travel award programs.

If you are making a classroom visit, doing a career presentation, or going to a meeting where these brochures can be displayed, please request printed copies from Betty Eidemiller and help recruit students to careers in toxicology.

- [SOT Career Brochure](#)
- [Undergraduate Travel Award Insert](#)

Toxicology Scholar, Guest Lecturer in Toxicology, and Global Toxicology Scholar Programs—Help Recruit Students to Toxicology

What do the University of West Indies, University of Central Missouri, Franklin College, University of California, Berkeley, and Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru have in common? The answer is that SOT members took the initiative in 2011 to visit these institutions and encourage students to think about a career in toxicology. Travel assistance was provided by one of three SOT programs that fund visits of toxicologists to expand awareness of toxicology and promote toxicology careers through interactions with undergraduate students.

We’ve all seen data about the reduction in interest in science among undergraduates. Here is something that you can do personally. The Education Committee and Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) encourage you to make contact with a local institution or your undergraduate alma mater to arrange for a campus visit, and then apply for funding. Applications for the [Toxicology Scholar Program](#) and [Guest Lecturer in Toxicology Program](#) are accepted at anytime, but with limited funding available, applicants should apply early. Applications for the [Global Toxicology Scholar](#)
Program are due by October 14, 2011. A letter from the contact at the institution to be visited is a required part of all applications.

**Toxicology Scholar Program**

Many undergraduates do not have the opportunity to learn about toxicology careers, especially on campuses that do not offer toxicology in their curricula. The Education Committee will provide up to $500 for allowable costs related to these Toxicology Scholar presentations at U.S. colleges and universities. Such visits require cooperation of a faculty person at the campus to be visited (campus host) so that the appropriate student audience may convene. Selective liberal arts colleges and regional universities are examples of appropriate campuses for these visits. The format of the visit (formal presentation, informal discussion, or a combination) is at the discretion of the campus host and the visitors. Provision of matching funds from the Regional Chapter (RC), the academic institutions involved, or the business employing the visitor(s) is encouraged.

- [Toxicology Scholar and Guest Lecturer Flyer](#)
- [Toxicology Scholar and Guest Lecturer Application](#)

**Global Toxicology Scholar Program**

The Education Committee solicits proposals for funding visits of toxicologists to developing nations to expand awareness of toxicology and promote toxicology careers through interaction of toxicologists with undergraduate and graduate students. Up to $1,250 funding is available per request. Applicants are encouraged to seek matching funding from partners, whether an SOT Special Interest Group, employer, or host institution. Applications are due by October 14, 2011. A letter from the contact at the institution to be visited is required, and letters from sponsoring partner(s) should be included as part of the application. We especially welcome applications for visits to countries on the SOT Developing Nation list.

- [Global Toxicology Scholar Flyer](#)
- [Global Toxicology Scholar Application](#)
- [Countries of Special Interest](#)

**Guest Lecturer in Toxicology Program**

In an effort to increase diversity and inclusiveness of SOT, the CDI has developed the Guest Lecturer in Toxicology Program initiative. The CDI will fund travel costs for toxicologists (minority or not) to visit target undergraduate institutions (student body predominantly minority or groups otherwise underrepresented in the sciences) in the U.S. to present lectures and career information. In general, the speakers will give a one-hour lecture on their research topic or a general toxicology talk geared towards an audience with a broad background. Up to seven travel awards at no more than $500 each will be awarded, with reimbursement following SOT policy.

Individuals working with Regional Chapters are especially encouraged to apply! Such visits are opportunities to recruit participation in Regional Chapter meetings as well as the Undergraduate
Education Program at the SOT Annual Meeting.

- [Toxicology Scholar and Guest Lecturer Flyer](#)
- [Toxicology Scholar and Guest Lecturer Application](#)

Resources Available

For all three programs, SOT will send career brochures to the speakers to distribute to students/faculty at their visit. Other resources, including the [Introduction to Toxicology slide set](#), are available on-line.

Reports

After the visit, the speaker submits the reimbursement form and a trip Report to SOT. The latter allows the sponsoring committee to assess impact and provides information that is helpful for others planning campus visits. The following link accesses information about previous career presentations supported by the ToxScholar and Guest Lecturer programs. Look here for tips on how to make a successful campus visit.

- [Report Form](#)
- [Speaker Reports](#)

Other Career Visits

In addition, we would like information about visits made by SOT members without requests for travel support. Please send a brief paragraph with details of your toxicology career awareness efforts to [Betty Eidemiller](mailto:).

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**Fall 2011 PDA Career Webinar: K99-R00 Grants**

*Submitted by the PDA Executive Board*

As part of the Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) mission, the PDA Board prepares web-based seminars to disseminate career-focused information not only to the postdoctoral membership but also for early career scientists and graduate students. Recent PDA hosted webinars are archived on the PDA [Activities and Resources](#) page and include *From Graduate Student to Postdoc: Insight Across Career Paths*, *From Postdoc to Permanent Position: A Panel Discussion for Non-U.S. Citizen Early Scientists*, and *Toxicology Outside of Academia: A World of Opportunities*.

The PDA is pleased to announce the second webinar in 2011, which is entitled *K99-R00 Grants: Tips from the NIEHS Administrator, the Reviewer, and the Grantee*, which will be held at 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, October 31.

The goal of this webinar is to provide strategic information to SOT postdocs about grant writing and, more specifically, about the K99-R00 pathway to independence grants. The PDA assembled a three-person panel that encompasses three different outlooks on the processes and steps involved in such a
grant; Michael C. Humble, an NIEHS administrator, José E. Manautou, a study section member, and Patrick Allard, a K99-R00 grantee. Each speaker will provide information from their own point of view from the essential components of receiving a K99-R00 to the pitfalls to avoid. Finally, plenty of time will be allocated to Q&A in order to allow further elaboration on questions.

The webinars chaired by Marie Chantale Fortin and Michele La Merrill.

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**Many Postdoctoral Representatives in Action throughout SOT**

*Submitted by Larissa Williams, Councilor, Postdoctoral Assembly*

Postdocs are an integral part of the leadership in many Regional Chapters (RC), Specialty Sections (SS), and Special Interest Groups (SIG). They are part of planning and carrying out meetings, making award selections, and increasing visibility for their RC, SS, or SIG to other toxicologists and the greater community.

Many RCs are gearing up for their fall meetings and also have reported on some events that have taken place in the last year. Christy Marie Powers reports that the **North Carolina Regional Chapter Annual Meeting** will be held at NIEHS on September 22 and will focus on “Epigenetics and Toxicology.” The meeting will feature a career panel of local representatives to give advice on a range of career paths. Postdocs are encouraged to apply for the President’s Award for Research Competition. In an effort to reach out to more graduate students and postdocs, the National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) has embraced social networking sites; find them on ToXchange, Facebook, and twitter (@SOTNCAC). The **National Capital Area Chapter 2011 Fall Symposium** will be held at the National Library of Medicine on September 29 and will focus on the role of toxicology in green chemistry. Marie Bourgeois reports the **Southeastern Chapter Regional Meeting** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, in late October. Postdocs are encouraged to submit abstracts for the meeting, as they will be considered for best oral and poster presentation. Courtney D. Kozul-Horvath reports the **Northeast Regional Chapter Annual Meeting** will be held on October 14 at Biogen Idec in Cambridge, Massachusetts, focusing on mechanisms of toxicology—basic and applied. Jing Liu reports that the **Ohio Valley RC Annual Meeting** will be held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio on September 23. Additionally, there was a summer student/postdoc meeting at the University of Louisville in August that included a session on how to give a poster presentation. Wesley Edward Smith reports that the **Pacific Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting** will be at Bonneville Hotsprings, Oregon, on October 6–8. The meeting will include topics with the overarching theme of “The Art and Science of Research Translation in Toxicology.” There also is an ongoing effort to continue a popular and successful “work-shadow” event started at last year’s chapter meeting. The Northern California RC has had an exciting and productive year, which included an extremely well-attended spring meeting at University of California Berkeley. At this meeting postdocs were able to participate in their ongoing “Chat with an Expert” (formerly known as “Lunch with an Expert”) program. NorCal also is actively developing its outreach activities, and last October held the first career building social to connect postdocs and other young scientists with veteran toxicologists. The upcoming fall meeting will focus on the application of stem cells to toxicology. Jason L. Blum reports that in May the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology (MASOT) held its semi-annual regional meeting at the Woodbridge Hilton in New Jersey. At this meeting, MASOT marked its 30th anniversary. The
meeting entitled “MASOT at 30: Toxicology Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” was attended by 94 members (which included 54 trainee members, 35 Full members, and 5 speakers). The speakers presented talks on the history of MASOT itself as well as the history, current state of the art, and future directions of the fields of immunotoxicology and neurotoxicology, and how molecular evolution is occurring in the area of environmental toxicology. They also had their annual student poster contest.

Several SS encourage work in their area by providing awards for postdocs in their area of expertise. The SS that report awards include In Vitro and Alternative Methods, Carcinogenesis, Dermal Toxicology, Drug Discovery Toxicology, Mechanisms, Biological Modeling, Biotechnology, Cardiovascular Toxicology, Comparative and Veterinary, Ethical, Legal and Social Issues, Immunotoxicology, Inhalation and Respiratory, Medical Device, Metals, Molecular Biology, Nanotoxicology, Neurotoxicology, Occupational and Public Health, Regulatory and Safety Evaluation, Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology, Risk Assessment, and Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology. Descriptions of these and other SOT awards are found on the Awards and Fellowships page.

In addition to the awards that are available to postdocs, postdoc representatives from these SS report some very exciting outreach to their own community and beyond. The Stem Cells SS has developed a stem cell course for the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting. The Risk Assessment SS (RASS) had a well attended panel discussion at the 2011 Annual Meeting entitled “A Journey from the Red to Silver Book: Are We There Yet?” which offered a historical and predictive view on where we have been and where we are going in chemical risk assessment. To facilitate networking between RASS student and postdoctoral members with potential mentors and employers, the RASS postdoctoral and student representatives, Anne Elizabeth Loccisano and David Taylor Szabo, organized the first successful “Meet and Greet” session at their reception, which RASS has adopted for future SOT receptions. Xianglu Han, the postdoc representative for the Mixtures SS, says that he has been contributing new ideas about promoting awareness of issues related to mixtures in the toxicological community via regular phone conferences among the Mixtures section committee members. Lauren Mordasky Markell, the postdoctoral representative for the Dermal Toxicology SS (DTSS), has been working with the communications committee for their SS to disseminate important information regarding DTSS activities and awards for their biannual newletters. She also has helped create a pamphlet describing the benefits of DTSS membership to increase student and postdoc involvement. Chidozie Amuzie for the 2011 Annual Meeting made a poster that summarized the subdiscipline of toxicology and exploratory pathology to obtain greater visibility in the toxicology community. Dr. Amuzie also wrote a “trainee’s perspective” for current and future trainees of the Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology SS. Natalie Malek Johnson, the first postdoc representative for the Food Safety SS (FS3), is encouraging other postdocs whose research relates to food to join the FS3. Yvonne Dao Hoang reports that the Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology SS provided comments on the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development scientific vision papers to help identify ways to advance transdisciplinary research and foster career development. The Occupational and Public Health SS reports that they had a successful reception at the SOT Annual Meeting where John Howard, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), gave a dynamic presentation titled “OSHA and NIOSH at 40: Where Do We Go from Here?” All SS encourage you to join and can be found on the SS Web site.
Lastly, Kristy Robin Kutanzi from the Women in Toxicology (WIT) SIG reports that the group has an annual award for which the details are listed on their Web site. Additionally, the WIT Web site is also a useful resource for women in SOT to aid career development and includes information about mentoring, examples of successful women in science, life-work balance, and more. They also encourage members to get involved with community discussion threads on ToXchange, enabling the sharing of ideas, protocols, and upcoming events while building camaraderie in the field of toxicology.

It is my hope that many more postdocs become involved in these diverse groups throughout SOT and apply for their awards. Additionally, there are still several vacancies for postdoc representatives for component groups; RCs: Lake Ontario, Midwest, Mountain West, Northland; SSs: Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues, Medical Device, Ocular Toxicology; SIGs: Korean Toxicologists Association in America, and Toxicologists of African Origin. Clinical and Translational Toxicology SS currently has three Interim Officers and is not yet at the stage of appointing representatives. Please contact the president of the group of interest or Larissa Williams for more information.

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**SAC to GSLC: New Year, New Name, New Structure**

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) is excited to announce the new name for the committee comprised of Graduate Student Representatives from Regional Chapters (RC), Special Interest Groups (SIG), and Specialty Sections (SS): The Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC). Effective this year, structural changes were made to the governing body to make GSLC a more functional committee. Instead of having two separate Graduate Committees for planning graduate student activities throughout the year, the RC/SIG Graduate Committee and the Specialty Section Graduate Committee, SAC leaders during the 2010–2011 term thought the graduate student committees should be broken down into groups that suit the needs of graduate student members more productively.

Under the restructure, GSLC will include three Subcommittees that replace the previous SAC Graduate Committees: Communications, Professional Development, and Programming. Each of these Subcommittees will be made up of student representatives that carry out certain functions and responsibilities through task forces. For example, the Communications Subcommittee is in charge of student newsletter publishing and written student communications for the Society; Professional Development is in charge of creating webinars and developing the joint graduate student and postdoc scientific session proposal for the SOT Annual Meeting every year; Programming is in charge of preparing for the Annual Meeting events by organizing the Student/Postdoc Mixer, the “Chat with an Expert” Program (formerly known as “Lunch with an Expert”), and any other Annual Meeting events.

GSLC representatives from RC, SIG, and SS will be placed into the subcommittees via a selection process coordinated by the GSLC Executive Board.

The GSLC Executive Board is a five-member Executive Board made up of the GSLC Chair, the GSLC Secretary, and three subcommittee chairpersons. Each subcommittee also will have a secretary, but the subcommittee secretaries do not serve on the GSLC Executive Board.
Communication with the full GSLC and within the subcommittees will be primarily through ToXchange. Instead of having separate meetings for RC/SIG and SS Graduate Committees, as was the case under the previous structure, large meetings (one at the Annual Meeting and several teleconferences throughout the year) will be held for the entire GSLC. Additionally, the subcommittees will have their own smaller meetings as needed, and task forces will be formed under the subcommittees to handle various assignments (as an example, for the Programming Subcommittee, one task force will be assigned to the “Chat with an Expert” planning, while another task force will be assigned to the Student/Postdoc Mixer planning).

Component group graduate student representative travel funding to the SOT Annual Meeting will remain the same. Complete information on GSLC and the restructure can be found on the GSLC section of the SOT Web site.

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**CE Speaker Bureau Available for Regional Chapter Presentations**

The Continuing Education (CE) Committee would like to congratulate the scientists who were appointed to the Speaker Bureau following the SOT 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting:

- Gary I. Chellman
- Marc E. Gillespie
- John C. Lipscomb
- Carolyn J. Mattingly
- R. Dustan Sarazan
- Jane Ellen Simmons
- Donald G. Stump

We also would like to thank the following scientists for offering their services to the Speaker Bureau since 2009:

- Kim Boekelheide
- Garry Buettner
- James S. Bus
- Jeanine L. Bussiere
- Deborah A. Cory-Slechta
- Nancy E. Everds
- Ian Kimber

The CE Speaker Bureau is comprised of scientists who have made outstanding presentations during a recent CE Course at the SOT Annual Meeting. Selected by the CE Committee based upon course evaluations, these speakers participate in the Bureau for two years. Regional Chapters are encouraged to invite one of these dynamic speakers to their meetings and SOT provides travel support funding.

However, these funds are limited and evaluated on a quarterly basis, so it is important to put your request in early. Please contact Marcia Lawson for more information and to submit your request.
SOT Expands the On-Line CE Course Program

SOT and the Continuing Education (CE) Committee are pleased to announce the release of the 15 CE courses from the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. to the on-line CE program. The program now includes a total of 21 on-line courses! In addition, transcriptions are available for select courses.

As a special offer, student and postdoctoral members of SOT receive free access to the courses. Additionally, scientists in developing countries are encouraged to register for the courses, and may be eligible for free access. Contact SOT Headquarters for more information.

2009 Courses

- Stress As a Confounding Factor in Toxicology Studies (Basic)
- Translation of Safety Biomarkers in Drug Discovery and Development (Advanced)

2010 Courses

- Assessment of Ocular Toxicity in Toxicology Studies Conducted for Regulatory Purposes (Basic)
- Comparative Biology of the Lung (Basic)
- Mitochondrial Toxicity: Animal Models and Screening Methods in Drug Development (Basic)
- Segment-Specific Renal Pathology for the Non-Pathologist (Basic)

2011 Courses

- Current Non-Clinical Strategies and Methods for Evaluating Drug-Induced Cardiovascular Toxicity (Basic)
- Epigenetics in Toxicology: Introduction, Mechanistic Understanding, and Applications in Safety Assessment (Basic)
- New Technologies and Approaches in Genetic Toxicology and Their Expanding Role in General Toxicology (Basic)
- Protecting Human Health: Use of Toxicological and Epidemiological Data in Determining Safe Levels for Human Exposure (Basic)
- Quantitative In Vitro to In Vivo Extrapolation: The Essential Element of In Vitro Assay Based Risk Assessment (Basic)
- Toxicology and Risk Assessment of Chemical Mixtures (Basic)

On-line CE courses offer a great, low-cost way for professional development, enabling you to stay current in toxicology on your own time schedule. Courses are not limited to SOT members. Perhaps
Increase Your Participation in SOT: Volunteer

Opportunities Include the 51st Anniversary Annual Meeting

There are many ways to increase your involvement in the Society by volunteering to help with programs and activities that are of particular interest to you by using the Volunteer Form. Volunteers are the heart of the Society. Our strength is the result of the time and effort provided by SOT members. For example, you can offer your assistance at the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, March 11–15, 2012. You will find volunteer opportunities that are the right fit of you, whether you can commit a year, a month, or a day. For example, you may decide to host an undergraduate student, serve as a toxicology expert during an informal graduate student lunch, promote the Society’s programs and activities at the SOT Pavilion, or offer to be a greeter. Moreover, you might be asked to serve on an SOT Committee or Task Force, or work on a project as an ad hoc member. Leadership reviews these volunteer submissions when selecting members for appointment or nomination to elected positions. Learn more about any of the SOT Committees and Task Forces.

If you volunteered previously, know that not every volunteer can be placed where they request. However, please indicate your interest on the Volunteer Form this year to reaffirm your willingness to serve. In addition, please contact the leadership of your Regional Chapter, Special Interest Group, or Specialty Section to find out how you can become more involved in those groups.

Seeking Undergraduate Educator Volunteers

The Undergraduate Education Subcommittee is seeking interested members to assist with activities related to the instruction of undergraduate toxicology.

The SOT Education Subcommittee Undergraduate Education Resources Work Group is gathering toxicology Web resource materials for instructor use. To date, some resources such as syllabi, lectures, lab activities, and assessment tools have been gathered; however, the resources must be supplemented and organized.

The goals for this work group during the coming year are (1) to finalize the criteria for submission for materials; (2) determine the criteria and the mechanism for the review of submitted materials; (3) determine accessibility to the resources; and (4) solicit material from educators in the field of toxicology.

If you are interested in aiding in the effort to enhance the educational resources available for the teaching of toxicology, please contact Mindy Reynolds.

In addition, we also are asking for volunteers to aid in projects focused on networking, workshops,
newsletter, and funding opportunities. These work groups are chaired by members of the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee as follows: Networking—Sue Ford, Workshops—Teresa Dodd-Butera, Newsletter—Sara Heggland, and Funding Opportunities—Wesley Gray. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the respective chair for more information.

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**Employers—Advertise in the *Communiqué* and in the On-Line Job Bank to Attract the Excellent Candidates You Are Seeking**

We appreciate the employers who rely on the SOT [Job Bank](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp) on-line and have instituted a new benefit to help you reach the candidates who will be the best fit for your employment position and add value to your organization.

To add greater impact to your search for the best candidates in the field, we encourage you to consider advertising in the SOT quarterly newsletter, the *Communiqué*, which is sent to more than 7,000 members of the Society via an e-mail blast and posted on the SOT Web site. If you place a position advertisement in both the Job Bank and in the newsletter, your position will be featured in a newsletter article highlighting these career opportunities. The article will help guide the reader to seek your specific employment position in the newsletter and Job Bank on-line. You have turned to SOT to find the best in the field and this additional cost-effective outreach should help you reach that objective. We think you will greatly enhance the impact of your search for the best applicant and attract the pool of candidates you are seeking. The cost of the newsletter employment position advertisement is $400 for the first 100 words and $1.00 (one dollar) for each additional word. Based on our Web site readership reports, we know that these posted Position Advertisements are among the most viewed Web pages. The Special Issue of the newsletter is disseminated in both print and on-line formats and showcases the SOT Annual Meeting each year. We consider the print version a keepsake issue and [special rates apply](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp). The deadlines for placing ads are October 5, December 7, April 5, and August 3.

**Current employment positions on-line include the following:**

- Senior Research Investigator, U.S. based pharmaceutical company
- Senior Technical Associate, U.S. based consumer product company
- Senior level positions in academia and with contract research organizations


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**Member Spotlight**

**Michael Aschner—2011 SOT Merit Award Recipient**

When notified that I was the recipient of the 2011 SOT Merit Award, I felt humbled and surprised. Knowing several of the previous awardees, including my postdoctoral mentor, Tom Clarkson, I felt
undeserving of the honor bestowed upon me. With the pressure of the impending address to the Society at the SOT Annual Meeting, I began to reflect back at my 30-year career in toxicology and I quickly came to the realization that the most important single ingredient to success as a scientist was, and remains, the people with whom I daily share the love and passion for science. It started with terrific role-models and mentorship by Patty Rodier and Tom Clarkson during my pre and postdoctoral studies, respectively. Since then, I have been surrounded by wonderful, inquisitive, and enthusiastic colleagues, students, and staff (too numerous to name). Together, we have taken many scientific steps and a few missteps, yet these always led us in a stimulating and often fruitful direction. While experiencing failures and inexplicable results are an inherent consequence of scientific endeavors, we never lost our enthusiasm for discovery and knowing something that no one else knew at that moment in time. A philosophy we ascribed to from the onset was to pursue innovative research, characterizing molecular mechanisms of methylmercury neurotoxicity, particularly in glial cells, a class of cells in search of respect (I termed them at the time the Rodney Dangerfield’s of the brain). Our work focused on a “non-neuronocentric” theory of neurotoxicity with an emphasis on understanding the role glial cells play in modulating the neurotoxicity of organometals and other compounds. Over the years this evolved to retooling our methodological repertoire, incorporating new platforms for experimentation, such as *C. elegans*, MRI, ’omics, and recognition of the importance of translational research and partnerships across disciplines to make advances in neurodegenerative disorders. I often reminded my students, however, that methods and tools are just a means to an end; their use must be driven by a hypothesis-driven query or the end result is contrived and unfocused.

In addition to the research, I have been enriched by teaching, mostly to graduate and postdoctoral students. This reward is a reflection on their commitment, hard work, inquisitiveness, and passion for science. Seeing them excel in their various jobs, becoming independent leaders in their respective fields is the ultimate reward for me.

In my address to the Society at the SOT 2011 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., celebrating the 50th Anniversary, I chose the title “Neurotoxicology Goes Global: Scientific Collaboration and Mentorship.” In a fascinating book, *The World is Flat*, the New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman demystified the global scene unfolding before our eyes at the dawn of the 21st century, translating complex policy and economic issues into simple facts and explaining how they will impact countries, companies, communities, and each of us as individuals. Toxicology must also adapt to this new dawn, as technological shifts and access to information and education have effectively leveled the global playing field. It is our responsibility and privilege as leaders in the field to embrace this opportunity for international collaboration and information sharing, for exchange of ideas and of trainees, and go global with our science. Finally, as scientists it is our obligation to convey our findings in the lab to the lay public, elected officials, and policy makers, communicating accurately, precisely, and unambiguously our findings. This part of our role as objective scientists has not only been deeply satisfying and gratifying for me, but also a responsibility about which I have felt strongly.
Eye on CDI

Ebany J. Martinez-Finley
Year attended Undergraduate Education Program: 2005

Current Position: Postdoctoral Fellow, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Education:
2005: B.S. Biology, B.S. Spanish, University of New Mexico 
2010: Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences, concentrations Neurosciences/Toxicology, University of New Mexico School of Medicine

Ebany J. Martinez-Finley’s road to toxicology began in college at the University of New Mexico (UNM). As she pursued her biology degree, she looked for a means to conduct research in any form. Her first job was working on a research study on the cervical health histories of Hispanic women at the Epidemiology and Cancer Control Center under the supervision of Jan Gaylord-Vanslyke. She then did a summer fellowship at the New Mexico Department of Health where, through attendance at conventions concerning pertinent public health issues, her eyes were opened to the need for basic research to be translational and have a basis in the needs of the community. At this point she realized that she belonged in the laboratory, so she found a position in a neurosciences laboratory under the supervision of Daniel Savage. In his laboratory, Dr. Martinez-Finely worked on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and it was here that she found her niche. She really enjoyed studying the brain, finding it to be the most interesting of all the organs. It was during the last semester of her undergraduate education that she was introduced to toxicology and SOT. Craig Marcus, then a professor at UNM, gave a presentation about SOT and invited the class to apply for the meeting. She applied, was invited to attend and the rest is history. After learning a great deal about toxicology at the meeting, her interests were piqued and she enrolled in graduate school, pursuing a program in toxicology.

During her graduate career she was co-mentored by Andrea Allan and Jim Liu. Her dissertation examined the effect of moderate exposure to arsenic (As) during the perinatal period on learning and memory behavior in adolescence. The project resulted in three first-authored publications, the first reported learning and memory deficits and elevated stress levels produced by exposure to environmentally relevant concentrations of As (50ppb) (Martinez, 2008). The second reported the impact of As-exposure on other stress axis parameters known to mediate memory behavior (Martinez-Finley, 2009), and the third reported the dramatic downstream effect of the altered stress axis (Martinez-Finley, 2011). Dr. Martinez-Finley was supported by a fellowship from Pfizer and an F31 NRSA and was the recipient of four grants funded by the NM legislature. During this period, she received several awards for travel and oral presentations of her work and she served as a teaching assistant for pharmacy and medical students and taught an undergraduate health sciences lab. While she had experienced many facets of research by this point, she had yet to explore toxicology from the industry perspective so she took an internship at Pfizer under the direction of Tiffini Brabham. Her project assessed ways to characterize drug-induced neuropathy through behavioral analysis.

After graduation, Dr. Martinez-Finley moved to Nashville to start postdoctoral work in the lab of Michael Aschner at Vanderbilt. Her research is focused on methylmercury toxicity and
neurodegeneration. She currently serves as the Junior Co-chair for the Postdoctoral Association at Vanderbilt and as the Secretary for the Postdoctoral Assembly of SOT.

To read about other recognized outstanding toxicologists, please see the [Eye on CDI Web page](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp).

**SOT Charter Member Herbert E. Christensen Describes the Vital Role of SOT Over the Past 50 Years**

This is the second article featuring one of SOT’s charter members, Herbert E. Christensen, D.Sc., M.P.H. To listen to excerpts of this interview, please visit the [50th Anniversary Web site](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp).

During an interview in April 2011, Herbert E. Christensen provided his perspective on the role of the Society in elevating an appreciation of and recognition for the discipline of toxicology. He noted that prior to the founding of the Society in 1961, it was not possible to obtain a Ph.D. in toxicology at the University of California, as it was not acknowledged as a distinct field by academicians there. “My mentor, Charles H. Hine, M.D., Ph.D., (also a Charter member of SOT) at the University of California (Berkeley and San Francisco), tried to establish an advanced degree in toxicology at the University of California, but was unsuccessful at that time. Therefore, this did not occur during the three years after World War II in which I earned two masters degrees, one in pharmacology and one in public health, at this institution,” he stated. Dr. Christensen returned to active service with the Army in 1951 at the Edgewood Arsenal during the Korean War. In 1955 he was sent by the Army to Cincinnati for his Doctor of Science degree in Industrial Health at the University of Cincinnati.

According to Dr. Christensen, over the past five decades, SOT has helped to further the field of toxicology nationally and internationally. “At the time SOT was established, there was no other organization that was focused on this field. Thus, throughout my career, I have found my association with SOT members invaluable,” he noted. Dr. Christensen served in the U.S. Army as a forensic and analytical toxicologist examining the toxicity of chemicals for military use. He also worked on aircraft accidents and the space program. Moreover, his career also included work with the Western Regional Research Laboratory, in industry, at the University of North Carolina, and at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health where he was the Deputy Director of the Division of Research and Standards Development. He developed the Toxic Substances List, which he then changed to The Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances. He was loaned to the the United Nations Environment Program, in Geneva, Switzerland, where he developed the International Registry of Potentially Toxic Chemicals.

Through the Society he was able to meet scientists from around the world with similar interests in applying toxicologic principles to understanding the potentially adverse effects of substances that
could negatively impact human health. “The members of the Society were a close knit group that helped forward the field and lifted the profession of being a toxicologist,” he said. “It was clear to us that by examining chemicals for their safety we were preventing adverse impacts and facilitating the appropriate use of these substances. I worked on the insect repellent that is known commercially as OFF to assure its safe and effective use,” he recalled. He also participated in the development of safe louse powders for the use of the troops in Vietnam.

During the interview he spoke of the steady advancement of the discipline of toxicology as the methodology became more consistent and precise. He remarked that the Society fostered this progress by helping with the development of best practices: “SOT meetings and member interactions enhanced our understanding of cutting-edge advancements in risk assessment methodologies.” Dr. Christensen expressed his confidence that the Society will continue to play an important role in the 21st century in advancing scientific understanding, particularly related to nanotoxicology. He found the Society to be of great importance to him and he is certain that scientists now and in the future will benefit greatly from involvement with the Society of Toxicology.

SOT Past President Frederick Oehme Receives Distinguished Career Award

Frederick W. Oehme was named the 2011 E.R. Frank Award recipient at the 73rd Annual Conference for Veterinarians on June 5, 2011. He is a member of the faculty at Kansas State, Manhattan, Kansas. The E.R. Frank Award is presented to a faculty member who displays the same professional essence as Dr. Frank, who was a longtime faculty member in equine surgery and a K-State alumnus. Nominees must have at least a 15-year relationship with the college, possess a noteworthy record of service, and display an unassuming and unpretentious manner throughout their careers.

“The E.R. Frank Award has always held a special significance for me,” Dr. Oehme said. “When I was recruited in 1959 by Dr. E.J. Frick to join the K-State faculty, one of the bonuses was to train in large animal surgery with Dr. Frank. For me, the past decades have been a continuing learning experience—and I trust my input has contributed to the learning and development of the 52 classes of students I’ve had the privilege of instructing. It has allowed me to be a part of the ongoing legacy of Dr. E.R. Frank and to the surgical and clinical standards he established so many years ago.”

Dr. Oehme, who was born in Leitzig, Germany, earned his bachelor’s degree and D.V.M. in 1958 from Cornell University. He received his master’s degree in toxicology and medicine from Kansas State University in 1962. Dr. Oehme has a degree in pathology from Justus Liebig University located in Giessen, Germany. He also earned a Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of Missouri in 1969.

He has been an active leader of many professional organizations. He is a diplomate for the American Board of Toxicology and the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology. He was the 1984–1985 President of the Society of Toxicology as well as the President of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology, the World Federation of Clinical Toxicology, and Poison Control Centers. Dr. Oehme served as a fellow for the American Academy of Veterinary and Comparative Toxicology, and is a
Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences.

In Memoriam

Honorary SOT Member Findlay E. Russell

Findlay E. Russell, M.D., Ph.D. was made an Honorary member of the Society of Toxicology in 2000 for his many years of research on venoms and his long career as a medical toxicologist.

Dr. Russell received his medical degree from Loma Linda University in 1952 after serving as an Army medic in World War II. By 1953 he was already publishing studies on the venom of stingrays and continued to study the venoms of many species throughout his career. He is the author of over 120 peer-reviewed publications and countless chapters on venoms in medical, pharmacological, and toxicological texts.

He was a Fulbright Scholar, a visiting professor at universities throughout the world, and a consultant for the World Health Organization, Doctors Without Borders, and the National Science Foundation. He received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from the University of Santa Barbara in 1989.

Dr. Russell came to the University of Arizona (UA) College Of Pharmacy in 1981 after serving as Professor of neurology, biology, and physiology at the University of Southern California and Director of the Laboratory of Neurological Research and Venom Poisoning Center at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. During his years at the University of Arizona, Dr. Russell was known for his wit, his passion for steam engines and vintage cars, and his collections of spiders, scorpions, and rattlesnakes.

In 1992, the UA College of Pharmacy established the Findlay E. Russell Distinguished Citizen Award in his honor and named him the first recipient. The annual award acknowledges scientific contributions by College of Pharmacy investigators who are not alumni of the college.

Dr. Russell was actively writing and researching every day into his 90th year when he decided to slow down.

Submitted by A. Jay Gandolfi, Ph.D., 2007 recipient of the Findlay E. Russell Distinguished Citizen Award.
**Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups**

**SOT RC, SS, and SIGs Connect During Leadership WebEx Meetings**

In May and June, SOT Council Contacts Secretary Peter L. Goering (Regional Chapters), Secretary-elect Judith T. Zelikoff (Specialty Sections), and Councilor John C. Lipscomb (Special Interest Groups) and members from the SOT Headquarters Staff presented a series of web-based leadership meetings offering advice, tips, and the tools the Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections’ leadership need to conduct business for their respective groups and develop and implement the long-term strategic goals and initiatives underway by SOT. Topics covered included ToXchange Fundamentals, Financial Reports, Awards, Annual Meeting Receptions, By-laws updates, and more. Recordings of these WebEx presentations are available on the [Leadership Connection Webinars 2011 Web page](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp) (accessible via the Leadership Community site on ToXchange).

Highlights of the discussion include:

- Annual Reports
- By-Laws Updates
- Student and Postdoctoral Representatives

Regional Chapter and Special Interest Groups should contact Kelly Roberts and Specialty Sections should contact Kimberly von Brook.

**Are You Interested in Clinical and Translational Toxicology? — Join the SOT New Specialty Section**

Are you interested in learning about the new Specialty Section (SS) for Clinical and Translational Toxicology? All SOT members are invited to join the new Clinical and Translational Toxicology Specialty Section (CTTSS) and to attend the first meeting of the SS on Wednesday evening, March 14, 2012, at the 51st SOT Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

The CTTSS will provide a forum within the SOT where members interested in the impact of pharmaceuticals, chemicals, plants, fungi, toxic terrestrial and marine animals on human health can share their state-of-the-art knowledge and propose new approaches for the treatment of these exposures, based on an understanding of their mechanisms of toxicity.

The CTTSS is committed to improving the management of human poisoning by using a translational approach that links molecular mechanisms to rational therapy and then stimulates clinicians to make novel observations about the nature of poisoning, which in turn will lead to further molecular or cellular studies. In addition, the CTTSS will stimulate discussion on the optimal regimens for
treatment based on a detailed understanding of the toxicokinetics and toxicodynamics of the agent involved and the pharmacology and adverse effects of the proposed treatment.

The CTTSS will provide a unique nexus at the SOT meetings for presentations and discussions on human toxicology. The SS also will strive to assist the Society in giving voice to those issues in human toxicology that are deemed to deserve greater recognition and attention among the collective membership and beyond.

The objectives of the CTTSS are to:

1. To serve as the focal point for the interaction of SOT members interested in clinical and translational toxicology and to stimulate new interest among SOT members in all aspects of human toxicology.
2. To increase awareness among Society members of the impact of acute and chronic poisoning as seen in clinical practice; to highlight shortfalls in the available diagnostic and treatment methods, especially therapeutic interventions; to identify uncertainty in regards to the pathogenic processes in some intoxications, and to stimulate research that will enhance the diagnosis and treatment of patients with acute or chronic poisoning.
3. To act as a resource for the Society in the area of human toxicology.
4. To develop, propose, and sponsor state-of-the-art symposia, workshops, and continuing education courses at the SOT Annual Meeting in order to emphasize the latest developments and issues in clinical and translational toxicology.

For further information, please contact Allister Vale, Interim President, or Kenneth McMartin, Interim Vice President.

SOT Regional Chapter Support for K–12 Education Outreach: NCAC Sponsored Girl Scout Science Day Continues to be a Success!

Submitted by Maureen R. Gwinn and Tara Hiltke

For the past four years, the National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) of SOT has supported an annual event to bring science to Girl Scouts in the NCAC region. This support has been both financial as well as encouraging SOT members to become involved in this activity as part of a career panel and in helping to perform hands-on scientific activities with the Girl Scouts throughout the event. The success of this event in the past few years is demonstrated by the fact that it has gone from a one-day event, to being a three-day event over two weekends, with each weekend including a Friday night career panel, and all-day hands-on activity Science Day on Saturday.

The 5th Annual Girl Scout Nation’s Capital Science Day on November 13, 19, and 20, 2010, was organized by the Girl Scouts Council Nation’s Capital Service Unit 37-7, and more than 400 girls participated, a record high! This event introduces scientific terms and ideas to Brownies (grades 2–3), Juniors (grades 4–5), Cadettes (grades 6–8), Seniors (9–10), and Ambassadors (11–12) with hands-on experimental protocols. Experimental protocols are designed to be performed by a group of 10–12 girls in 20–30 minutes, and will soon be available on the SOT K–12 Web site. As in past years, experiments are led by older (cadettes and up) Girl Scouts with the assistance of adult volunteers,
including troop “moms” and “dads” and area scientists. All participating Girl Scouts rotate through four to six experiments depending on their age group and the theme their troop has selected. This year, Brownies earned either a Chemistry Try-It or a Science in Action Try-It while the Juniors earned either a Science Sleuth badge or a Science Discovery badge. This is the third year we were able to add a component to expose the Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors to multiple aspects of science and earn an Exploring Science Interest Project (IP) badge. For the past three years, the IP for the teens has been a new exposure, the first year Chemistry, the second year Nanobiology, and this past year Microbiology. Each year the teen Science Day reaches capacity, and next year we are hoping to add an additional night to increase the number of teens which can participate.

For the third year in a row, Mary Stapleton of Towson University (TU) Baltimore, Maryland partnered with us by supplying materials and volunteers to assist in performing experiments with the Brownies and Juniors. Dr. Stapleton along with her colleagues also performed the Natural Products Laboratory for the teen Girl Scout program.

For the Exploring Science IP, the Cadets performed more technical experiments in a Friday night session. Again with the assistance of TU and area scientists, the older Girl Scouts went through an experiment on the toxic effects of natural products. The purpose of this activity was to learn which natural products have antimicrobial effects (i.e., kill bacteria). Natural products are often used to develop preventative medicines, and discussion focused on the role of beneficial uses of natural toxicity. Further, a final rotation was designed to expose the participants to career paths in the sciences. Area scientist in the fields of medicine, nursing, pathology, and risk assessment discussed with them their career path and experiences. Experiments and panel discussions were led by area scientists from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

As in past years, the evaluations from volunteers and participants alike demonstrated that Science Day was a great success. This event continues to be a success in part due to the support of the NCAC SOT sponsorship and that of partners from area organizations (UT, MDBio, CPSC, U.S. EPA), and can be used as a good model for other Regional Chapter involvement in K-12 outreach.

*Experimental protocols are available upon request.*

**Northern California SOT Brings a Career Workshop to University of California-Davis**
Submitted by Karen Riveles and Tao Wang

In Northern California region, we have many toxicologists from industry, government (e.g., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)), and academia. We also have several schools with outstanding toxicology programs, such as University of California-Davis, UC-Berkeley, UC-Santa Cruz, and so on. The NorCal SOT is committed to connect these two groups and help students prepare for future careers in the toxicology field, ultimately to build for the future of toxicology.

Besides continuing to sponsor and provide speakers to the “Practical Toxicology” course at UC-Berkeley with help from the ToxScholar Program, in January 2011, the NorCal SOT hosted an educational outreach workshop at UC-Davis. A commitment to education and mentoring is a part of the core mission of the NorCal SOT and this workshop, “Toxicology Related Career Options,” was designed to allow students to learn from, and interact with, professionals in toxicology-related careers. With 79 students/postdoctoral fellows and 16 toxicology professionals in attendance, the event was a great success! The student/postdoctoral attendees largely represented the two UC Davis toxicology programs; the undergraduate environmental toxicology program and the graduate pharmacology and toxicology program. There were also participants from biological sciences, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, environmental sciences, and environmental policy, among others. Several students from the Toxicology Student Association at UC-Berkeley also attended the workshop.

The workshop was formatted as a two-part event. An initial 60-minute program consisted of panelists, representing toxicology-related careers in academia, pharmaceuticals, government, and consulting, answering a variety of questions regarding their respective careers. We were fortunate to have as our panelists Tao Wang of Novartis, George Clemens of Rigel, Kent Pinkerton of UC Davis, Susan A. Rice, a private consultant, Ijaz Jamall, a consultant with Risk-Based Decisions, George Alexeiff of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and Karen Steinmetz of Stanford Research Institute (SRI), as well as, Karen Riveles of OEHHA as emcee. These panelists answered pre-determined questions on educational backgrounds, internships, and involvement in professional societies or other organizations that led to careers in toxicology. The second half of the program was an informal mixer with students. Some 16 toxicology professionals were in attendance and mingled with the students, sharing their experiences and answering questions for over an hour and a half. Both the panelists and professionals offered advice to students currently preparing for careers in toxicology. The professionals and students, undergraduate and graduate alike, found the workshop to be a very successful and beneficial outreach event.

NorCal SOT is currently soliciting professionals in all stages of their careers within the chapter membership, and building up a speaker pool to participate in future outreach events. Our next stop is UC-Santa Cruz campus!

Annual Meeting & ToxExpo™
2012 Plenary Lecture: SOT Welcomes a Pioneer

At this time, the Society has confirmed the participation of Leroy Hood as the Opening Plenary Lecturer. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Hood back to celebrate our 51st Annual Meeting; he delivered the Society’s 1998 Medical Research Council (MRC) lecture entitled “Genes and Genomes: Deciphering the Periodic Table of Life.”

Dr. Hood is a renowned scientist and pioneer in systems biology and medicine. While at Caltech, Dr. Hood, along with his colleagues, developed the DNA sequencer and synthesizer and the protein synthesizer and sequencer—four instruments that paved the way for the successful mapping of the human genome.

His accomplishments are many including the concept of the 4Ps in medicine—Predictive, Preventive, Personalized, and Participatory—which lead to his receipt of this year’s prestigious Russ Prize, awarded by the Academy of Engineering (2011).

In addition to his impressive accomplishments, he is a co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB) in Seattle, Washington. ISB was established to address the greatest challenge of 21st century science—understanding biological complexity. Since its founding in 2000, ISB has been a pioneering source of new knowledge, innovative technologies and computational tools, and creative ways of understanding, conducting, and communicating science. ISB is catalyzing fundamental paradigm changes in how the life sciences and medicine are practiced globally.

SOT Annual Meeting Abstract Submissions Due by October 3

You are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at the Society of Toxicology’s 51st Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, March 11–15, 2012. The SOT Annual Meeting is the largest toxicology meeting and exhibition in the world, with an expected attendance of more than 7,400 scientists from academia, government, and industry from various countries around the globe.
Each year, with assistance from several SOT groups including the Specialty Sections and Special Interest Groups that share in the responsibility for review of the SOT Annual Meeting proposals, an impressive program is developed that provides attendees with an opportunity to learn about emerging fields, and gain access to cutting edge research in the field of toxicology.

The deadline for electronic submission is October 3, 2011. The fee for submission is $50. Submissions can be entered on-line until 11:59 PM (Eastern Standard Time) on October 3, 2011.

Please visit the SOT Web site’s Call for Annual Meeting Platform and Poster Abstract Submissions page for additional information and instructions for submitting an abstract. While you’re there, take a moment to review the Scientific Sessions and Continuing Education Courses available for the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Volunteer to Chair an SOT Platform or Poster Session

We’d like to invite you to consider volunteering to serve as chairperson for the poster and platform sessions that will be programmed.

Listed below are the categories in which authors can submit their abstracts. During the Scientific Program Committee’s review, these broad session topics are broken down into sub-topics related to these categories. As per SOT policy, there will be two chairpersons for each platform session, and each poster session can have either one or two chairpersons. Chairpersons for platform sessions require that at least one chair be an SOT member.

If you are interested in volunteering to chair a session, please visit the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting Web site to review the Session Chairperson Guidelines. To volunteer to serve as a SOT session chairperson, please send David Rossé an e-mail noting your areas of interest from the list of categories below. If selected, you will be sent an invitation in late October requesting your assistance.

Category List

The categories listed below are used by the Scientific Program Committee to group abstracts focusing on similar subjects as well as for session programming.

- Alternatives to Mammalian Models
- Animal Models
- Autoimmunity
- Bioinformatics
- Biological Modeling
- Biomarkers
- Biotransformation/Cytochrome P450
- Carcinogenesis
- Cardiovascular Toxicology/Hemodynamics
- Cell Death/Apoptosis
- Chemical and Biological Weapons
- Immunotoxicity
- Inflammation and Disease
- Inhalants and Cardiopulmonary
- Kidney
- Liver
- Medical Devices
- Metals
- Mixtures
- Nanotoxicology
- Natural Products
- Neurodegenerative Disease
Ordering 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting Photos

A picture speaks a 1000 words. SOT is pleased to announce that prints from the SOT 2011 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. can be purchased from Convention Photo by Joe Orlando, Inc. The photos are displayed on the SOT Web site, but all orders will be handled directly by Convention Photo. Simply visit the Annual Meeting Convention Center Photos page and download any low resolution image you would like to have.

Enjoy more pictures by visiting the 50th Anniversary Web site and take a moment to read one of the three special compilations of articles that cover a vast array of history about the Society, the toxicologists, and the science of toxicology. By no means do these vignettes cover the entire history of the Society of Toxicology or science of toxicology, but they will give everyone a flavor of the rich history that makes up this dynamic and ever changing scientific discipline. Please contact SOT Headquarters if you would like to have a hard copy of our 50th Anniversary publication, “The Society of Toxicology: The First Fifty Years,” which we will be happy to ship to you free-of-charge. You are encouraged to share your memories of recent and past SOT meetings by posting photos and captions in the Historical Photo Gallery.

Now Is the Time to Book Your Ancillary Meetings and Hospitality Suites—Deadline December 16
All requests for hospitality suites and Ancillary Meetings must be approved by SOT Headquarters. To reserve a meeting room, please complete the [Ancillary Meeting Space Request Form](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp) on-line. Ancillary functions may only be hosted by SOT Affiliates, exhibitors, or organizations affiliated with SOT. Hospitality suites and Ancillary Meeting space books fast. Send your request now.

**No hospitality functions or Ancillary Meetings may be scheduled during the following SOT events:**

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<td>Sunday, March 11</td>
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<td>Monday, March 12</td>
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The hotels are not permitted to book meeting space without the authorization from SOT.

The very foundation of the Society is to create a safer, healthier world by advancing the science of toxicology. To this end, the Society reserves the right to deny an Ancillary Meeting request from any organization whose goals, or past actions, are deemed counterproductive to those of the Society of Toxicology.

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**For Ease and Convenience—Take Advantage of SOT’s Housing Bureau Reservation System for the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ in San Francisco, California**

We’re excited about the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ and want to help make your planning easy and convenient. Book a room through the [SOT Housing Bureau Reservation System](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp). Take advantage of the discounted room rates that SOT has obtained from the official hotels that we have contracts with. By doing so, you can avoid hassles should the hotel you have reservations with overbook rooms or misplace your reservation.
SOT understands that you may want to book your reservation outside the block of rooms that SOT has, but doing so has a direct impact on the Society. Not using the SOT Housing Bureau Reservation System decreases the money available to the Society to carry out its long-term goals and may cause SOT to have to pay attrition fees for rooms that are not reserved through our room block. When you don’t use the SOT Housing Bureau Reservation System, SOT does not have reliable usage data to help assess future needs. This information is critical when it comes to selecting future locations that can accommodate meeting attendees.

Please mark your calendar now for the San Francisco meeting, March 11–15, 2012. Select your housing early. Receive the benefit of first-rate accommodations and convenience by using the SOT Housing Bureau Reservation System.

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**Education Committee Encourages Abstract Submissions for the Education, Ethics, Legal, and Social Issues Category**

The SOT Annual Meeting is the opportunity to share the best in toxicological science, but also to feature activities away from the lab bench that advance the science. As scientists we also acknowledge the impact of toxicology relative to scientific, ethical, legal, and social issues, and the importance of education related to toxicology at the SOT Annual Meeting. The Education Committee, Undergraduate Education Subcommittee, and K–12 Subcommittee are encouraging toxicologists to contribute abstracts for the topic “Education, Ethics, Legal, and Social Issues.” In March 2011, we had numerous posters and a stimulating poster session, and we are planning for a repeat at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Toxicologists can provide insight and scholarly information that may not be a result of hypothesis-driven experimentation. For example, you might use innovative teaching methods with demonstrated successful outcomes, or perhaps you have a model outreach program to share. Lessons learned in developing model outreach programs with accompanying theoretical and applied techniques for success would enrich the educational experience at the upcoming meeting. Community and campus partnerships that contribute to learning about and application of toxicology in the context of social and public health provide another example of appropriate submissions.

For this type of abstract, the impact on the practice of toxicology, risk assessment, education, or public health will be described. Subject matter that fosters discourse relevant to the evolution and improvement of the field of toxicology and toxicological education is encouraged. In the abstract, implications for stakeholders will be articulated. The purpose, research methods, and assessment approach should be described, with an explicit summary of either qualitative or quantitative findings and conclusions. Care should be taken to distinguish between statements that are based on documented facts rather than opinions. A literature review or descriptive background materials are not sufficient content for a poster. Remember that the abstract submission deadline is October 3.

For further information or to discuss your potential abstract, contact [Teresa Dodd-Butera](mailto:) of the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee or [Daniel E. Arretia](mailto:) of the K–12 Subcommittee.
CE Committee Highlights Target Areas in 2012

After a review of many quality proposals, the Continuing Education (CE) Committee selected 13 courses for presentation in San Francisco. A complete list of the 2012 courses is available on the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting Web site.

In addition to the themes selected by the Scientific Program Committee, the CE Committee designated two specific Target Areas to highlight in the 2012 courses. Several course proposals were accepted that were aligned with these thematic and target areas. The 2012 Target Areas are as follows:

**Drug Metabolism**

Xenobiotic metabolism (e.g., metabolic enzymes and drug transporters) is central to chemical disposition, and this field has made considerable advances in recent years. The application of advanced *in silico* technologies to more accurately predict compound fate, the incorporation of systems biology and “omics” approaches to understand the impact of chemicals in an organism, and the identification of new gene product families that contribute to drug disposition may be presented.

**Noncoding RNAs and Their Role in Biology and Toxicology**

Small, medium, and long noncoding RNAs have been identified in many species including humans. Their functions are still not fully understood, but are becoming increasingly recognized as important factors in physiology, xenobiotic sensitivity, and disease. This theme encourages presentations that will provide in-depth instruction on noncoding RNAs, including what they are and how they function, their effects on xenobiotic sensitivity and disposition, their importance in disease risks and phenotypes, and their relevance to toxicological research.

The SOT greatly appreciates the effort that goes into proposal development, course organization, and presentation. CE courses are carefully selected to provide fundamental and state-of-the-art content in important areas of toxicology, presented by excellent and knowledgeable speakers, targeted to provide useful information whether attendees are in industry, academia, consulting, or any other employment sector. SOT CE courses are a low-cost and convenient way to keep your skills sharp, increase your expertise, or brush up on information in related fields. Take advantage of this fantastic opportunity that your professional society provides for you. Review the CE courses for 2012 in San Francisco and choose the ones that are right for you!

The CE Committee is finalizing new Target Areas to highlight for the 52nd Annual Meeting in 2013. Look for additional details on the SOT Web site as they become available. It is not too early to organize a proposal and recruit speakers! Please remember that the proposal deadline for courses for 2013 in San Antonio will closely follow the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting.

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**Apply for Graduate Student Awards and Volunteer Positions at the 51st Annual Meeting!**
The Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) is gearing up for another great year of serving the graduate students of the Society of Toxicology. We’d like to encourage all students to submit an abstract for the 2012 Annual Meeting—the deadline is October 3, 2011! When you submit an abstract, don’t forget to apply for SOT awards and for awards in your Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups. The deadline for applications for Graduate Travel Support for the 51st SOT Annual Meeting, the Novartis Graduate Fellowship, the Syngenta Fellowship Award in Human Health Applications of New Technologies, and the Colgate-Palmolive Awards for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods is October 9, 2011.

There are many great graduate student opportunities at the Annual Meeting, including “Chat with an Expert” (formerly known as “Lunch with an Expert”) and the Student/Postdoc Mixer. The GSLC has teamed up with the Postdoctoral Assembly to co-sponsor a scientific Symposium session for the fourth Annual Meeting in a row, where research by postdocs and graduate students will be presented and highlighted. We’re also working hard to develop webinars throughout the year! More information on student resources and events can be found on the Graduate Students Section of the SOT Web site.

If you are interested in more networking opportunities at the Annual Meeting, there are many volunteer positions available. Students can volunteer to assist with a Continuing Education course, which means they can attend that course for free! Additionally, student volunteers are needed to act as Peer Mentors in the Undergraduate Program beginning Saturday before the meeting starts. These are great opportunities to interact with SOT Leadership and meet your peers. Also, you can arrive early to explore all that San Francisco has to offer!

As always, if you have any questions about student membership or suggestions for new programming, please contact the GSLC Chair Jessica R. Placido, or GSLC Secretary, Kevin Michael Beggs. We are always looking for ways we can serve the students of SOT!

ToxExpo™ 2012—Exhibitor Referrals Welcome!

ToxExpo.com—One-stop shopping for the Toxicologist

ToxExpo™ is the Toxicology profession’s largest trade show of its kind anywhere, and the on-line resource for scientific products and services at ToxExpo.com. Searchable by company name or product/service category, this invaluable resource is at your fingertips 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

As SOT members know, ToxExpo™ is the trade show held in conjunction with SOT’s Annual Meeting. What you may not realize is that you can play a vital role in the success of ToxExpo™! SOT members are on the front lines of research, and often encounter (and even aid in the development of) new technology. Any new vendors that you interact with are potential exhibitors for ToxExpo™.
Support SOT, and your new vendors, by letting them know that having a presence at ToxExpo™ is a phenomenal opportunity for them to gain exposure to more than 7,000 of the world’s leading scientists, executives, regulators, and decision-makers all gathered under one roof!

The show is **80% sold**, so urge your vendors to sign up **now** for a premier spot at ToxExpo™ 2012 and be a part of the largest gathering of industry, governmental, and academic toxicologists in the world. Members can send exhibitor referrals to the **SOT Exhibits Department**; just let us know the company name and any contact information you may have, and we’ll take it from there!

The Society of Toxicology’s 51st Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ will be held at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, California, March 11–15, 2012, with ToxExpo™ dates of March 12–14 2012. ToxExpo™ 2012 provides a unique opportunity for attendees to see the latest in cutting-edge technology and services under one roof, and attend the SOT Annual Meeting where they can participate in scientific sessions on the latest developments in toxicology research.

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**Exhibitor and Sponsor Hosted Sessions Offered at SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™**

Exhibitor and Sponsor Hosted Sessions are commercially supported educational sessions held in conjunction with the 51st SOT Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. These sessions are open to all meeting attendees. Companies who are exhibiting at the SOT 2012 Annual Meeting or those that are Annual Meeting Sponsors may submit an application to host a session. Please e-mail **SOT Exhibits Department** to receive an application.

Hosted sessions offer a great opportunity for SOT/ToxExpo™ Exhibitors and Sponsors to provide detailed information about products and services to meeting attendees. These one-hour sessions will be held at the Moscone Convention Center on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; March 12–14, 2012. For more information, please visit the **ToxExpo™ Web site**, or contact the **SOT Exhibits Department**.

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**SOT Affiliates Provide Support and Reap Benefits**

Because SOT is an individual membership Society, an SOT Affiliate category has been established for private, public, and not-for-profit organizations that wish to contribute to SOT’s success toward “creating a safer and healthier world by advancing the science of toxicology.”

For a contribution of $2,500, a group may join other SOT Affiliates who have provided support to the Society in reaching its strategic objectives.

In appreciation for this support, SOT Affiliates receive:

- Access to member-restricted information on the SOT Web site.
- Three complimentary job postings and reduced rates for all other Career Resource and
Development Job Bank services.
- Complimentary Annual Meeting registration for one attendee.
- Prominent listing on the SOT Web site, in the SOT Membership Directory, and Annual Meeting signage and materials, including the Preliminary Program and final Program.
- SOT Member Publications, including Annual Meeting information and the quarterly newsletter, Communiqué.
- Complimentary room rental for one meeting at the SOT Annual Meeting when requested using an SOT Ancillary Meeting Form.
- Electronic and print subscriptions to the SOT official journal, Toxicological Sciences.

Affiliate benefits are for a one-year period, from October to October, and can be renewed each year. For more information about becoming an SOT Affiliate, visit the SOT Web site or contact Marcia Lawson.

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**Science News**

**Scientific Liaison Coalition to Hold September 13 Meeting**

The Scientific Liaison Coalition is holding its third face-to-face meeting on Tuesday, September 13. The purpose of the meeting is to determine the key topic areas likely to be the focus of coalition activities in the 2012 and beyond. Three topic groups have been convened and are discussing initiatives related to the following:

- New Risk-Based Standards—High Throughput Testing in Regulatory Decision-Making,
- The Metabolic Syndrome As a Risk Factor for Injury by Environmental Exposures—and Exposure to Environmental Agent Injuries As a Risk Factor for Metabolic Syndrome; and
- Epigenetics and Developmental Programming of Cells: Their Relationship to Environmentally-Induced Disease.

To date the members of the coalition include the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT), American Chemical Society, American College of Medical Toxicology, American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, Endocrine Society, Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS), International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics, Safety Pharmacology Society (SPS), Society for Risk Analysis, Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR), Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP), Society of Toxicology (SOT), and the Teratology Society (TS).

Seven of the societies submitted a letter written in support of the proposed rule exemption and amendment under 18 U.S.C. 208(b)(2) (RIN 3209-AA09) regarding the leadership role of federal employees in societies. The signatures included AACT, EMS, SPS, SSR, SOT, STP, and TS. A report of this September 2011 meeting will be included in the Winter Issue of the Communiqué.

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**AAALAC Adopts New Position Statements on the 8th Edition**
to the *Guide*

The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International’s Council on Accreditation has adopted new Position Statements to address several points in the 8th edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (NRC 2011) that required interpretation for institutions participating in AAALAC’s accreditation program. The points address: Selecting the Appropriate Standard(s) for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals; Cage or Pen Space; Social Housing; The Attending Veterinarian and Veterinary Care (this updates and replaces the existing Position Statement on Adequate Veterinary Care); Safety Requirements for Walk-In Cage/Rack Washers and Bulk Sterilizers; and Definition of “Laboratory Animals” (this updates and replaces the existing Position Statement on this subject). To view the new statements see the [AAALAC Web site](http://www.aaalac.org).

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**Stem Cell Case Dismissed in Federal Court**

In late July, a Federal District Court Judge Royce Lamberth dismissed the claims that were made previously by two adult stem cell researchers. The judge also dismissed the suit the two researchers brought to bar federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research and ruled that the National Institutes of Health did not violate the Administrative Procedures Act in issuing the National Institutes of Health Stem Cell Guidelines.

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**Antonio Scarpa Announces His Resignation**

Antonio Scarpa, Director of the Center for Scientific Review, has announced his resignation, which will take effect in early September. Dr. Scarpa left Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and joined the National Institutes of Health in July 2005. While serving as the Director, Dr. Scarpa made several changes to the peer review system.

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**SOT Members Receive Discounts for Other Society Journals—Free HERA July/August Issue Download Available For Limited Time**

SOT Members are eligible to receive discounted subscription rates for the following journals: *Reproductive Toxicology, Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology*, and *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment (HERA)*. A free download of the July/August issue of HERA that explores the benefits and drawbacks of a new risk management paradigm *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment (HERA)* is available until October 31, 2011. For additional information about this member benefit, please visit the [Discounts for other Society Journals](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/pub/sf11/sf11_fullversion.asp) page.
SOT Speaks Out on New Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

In a July 26, 2011, letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committees shortly before Congress adjourned for the summer recess, the SOT Council appealed to the Members of Congress to qualify NIH Director Francis S. Collins’ comments from a “Commentary” that was published in the *Science Translational Medicine* journal about the merits of the proposed National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). SOT President Jon C. Cook explained that, “We recognize the impact of a focused effort on translational sciences, but our endorsement is qualified because there needs to be greater emphasis placed on the inclusion of basic and applied toxicology research in the conceptualization, formation, and practices of NCATS.” Dr. Collins had noted in his July 6 statement that, “NCATS’ mission is to catalyze the generation of innovative methods and technologies that will enhance the development, testing, and implementation of diagnostics, therapeutics, and devices across a wide range of human diseases and conditions.”

Dr. Cook also pointed out that “although preclinical toxicology is highlighted as a key area for NCATS, we have two concerns about the “Commentary” as it relates to toxicology. First, the statement that ‘animal testing to predict human safety is a long-standing, but not always reliable practice in translation science’ is misleading.” As noted in the reference for the “Commentary,” “the conventional approach of experimental pharmacology together with repeat-dose toxicity studies of up to one month’s duration predicts adverse events in first dose to human studies with reasonable success.” The SOT President also pointed out that “there is an over-reliance on new and not yet validated *in vitro* cell-based approaches, which form the basis of the NIH-U.S. EPA-U.S. FDA Tox 21 consortium that are proposed for assessment of human drug safety. These concerns are especially important in areas such as developmental toxicology, immunotoxicology, reproductive toxicology, neurotoxicology, and drug disposition.” Dr. Cook concluded by stating that “SOT recognizes the potential impact that NCATS can have in advancing translational science to facilitate the discovery and development of important new approaches in biomedical research to assess and improve human health. We also firmly believe that toxicology is vital to this effort for advancing translational science and protecting human health.”

The House Appropriations Committee was to hold a mark-up session on the budget for NIH and other agencies, but the hearing was postponed. The Senate Committee on Appropriations also is due to hold a mark-up session, but those will not be held until sometime in the current session of Congress.

SOT Takes Proactive Approach During NICHD Scientific Visioning Process

The *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is undertaking an extensive process using external partners to identify the next decade’s most promising scientific opportunities across the Institute’s diverse research areas. As a first step, the Institute
identified a series of themes in an attempt to capture their broad-based research portfolio and then held a series of workshops last winter to facilitate focused discussions on the scientific opportunities and needs related to each Vision theme. White papers, produced at the conclusion of the workshops, formed the foundation for the draft scientific Vision Statement.

Working as a partner with NICHD, SOT volunteered to review the draft white papers and provide feedback as part of the public comment process. SOT leadership sought help from the organization’s Specialty Sections, and within two weeks, a number of Specialty Sections responded including, Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues, Drug Discovery Toxicology, Occupational and Public Health, In Vitro and Alternative Methods, Immunotoxicology, and Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology. A total of 14 toxicologists took time to read the documents and prepared extensive written comments, which were synthesized and submitted to the NICHD on June 10, 2011. The toxicologists who aided in this effort were: Bruce K. Beyer, Edward W. Carney, Rodney R. Dietert, Jodi A. Flaws, Warren G. Foster, Alan Hoberman, Yvonne Dao Hoang, Kamin Johnson, Michael Christopher Madden, Jeffrey S. Moffit, Vincent A. Murphy, John P. Norman, Michael E. Ottlinger, and Craig E. Thomas. According to Judith T. Zelikoff, Council member and Chairperson of the SOT NICHD Government Liaison Group, “This was a first. We made an appeal and were overwhelmed with detailed comments and recommendations for future research. The process worked beautifully and everyone who participated should be proud of their contributions.”

NICHD officials wrote to SOT and thanked the Society for its “detailed comments. They are useful, and we appreciate the Society taking the time to offer feedback.” Following the submission of comments, NICHD held a large conference this summer to gather more input on the draft Vision Statement. Then, NICHD will undertake an internal review this fall to obtain additional feedback. By the end of the year, the NICHD hopes to complete the final version of the scientific Vision Statement at which time it will be published and distributed to stakeholders to stimulate future research activities.

In other activities related to the NICHD, Susan J. Borghoff, 2009–2011 SOT Council member and past Chairperson of the NICHD Government Liaison group, established a successful partnership with NICHD to further the Institute’s goals and explore paths through which SOT can collaborate to enhance SOT’s mission and that of the Institute. Through the efforts of Dr. Borghoff and the Working Group, NICHD Deputy Director Yvonne Maddox participated in the Meet the Director series during the SOT 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™. The SOT NICHD Working Group hopes to continue this activity in 2012.

SOT Commits to Assisting in Strengthening IRIS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has announced plans to strengthen the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). In a release issued on July 12, 2011, Dr. Paul Anastas said, “Decision makers rely on the IRIS Program for accessible, science-based health assessments of environmental contaminants. Further strengthening of the IRIS program is part of U.S. EPA’s commitment to continuous improvement and ensuring we use the best possible science to protect human health and the environment.”
The improvements that U.S. EPA announced today include the following:

- U.S. EPA will create a new peer consultation step early in the development of major IRIS assessments to enhance the input of the scientific community.
- IRIS assessment documents will be shorter, clearer and more visual, concise and transparent. Documents will be edited to eliminate inconsistencies and address redundancies and will include more graphical and tabular representations of the data.
- U.S. EPA will evaluate and describe the strengths and weaknesses of critical studies in a more uniform way.

The IRIS system is a human assessment program that evaluates quantitative and qualitative risk information on effects that may result from exposure to environmental contaminants. The program was created by U.S. EPA in 1985 to develop consensus opinions about the health effects that may result from chronic exposure to various substances in the environment. The database contains information that can be used to support hazard identification and dose-response evaluation, the first two steps of the risk assessment process. The cornerstone of the program is a collection of searchable documents that describe the health effects of individual substances and that contain descriptive and quantitative information for both cancer and non-cancer endpoints.

There are more than 540 chemicals currently in the IRIS database that include critical information about how these chemicals impact human health.

In response to this announcement, SOT leadership has conveyed its commitment to help U.S. EPA achieve its goal of providing an even stronger IRIS program. SOT currently has a government liaison group that is engaged with U.S. EPA representatives to enhance U.S. EPA’s mission of protecting public health and the environment.

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**Position Advertisement(s)**

**Advanced Scientist in Drug Safety**

The Department of Pharmaceutical Biosciences within The Faculty of Pharmacy at Uppsala University is growing and is looking for a scientist to create a Research Program in Drug Safety Science, with a focus on advanced research.

The Faculty has a long tradition and several of its research programs enjoy worldwide reputation. As the sole Faculty of Pharmacy in Sweden, the faculty is part of the disciplinary domain of Medicine and Pharmacy at Uppsala University, consisting of two faculties comprising twelve departments and about one third of the university.

Current safety research at the Department of Pharmaceutical Biosciences focuses on developmental toxicology, bioactivation and toxicity, neurotoxicology, genetic toxicology as well as drug dependency. In the initial phase of recruitment the Faculty is open in regards to the direction of the future research program in Drug Safety Science. One possible research direction of interest at the
faculties could focus on mechanisms of adverse effects, because mechanistic understanding is essential for improving safety assessment. Research focusing on mechanism-based risk assessment or more clinically directed research, such as pharmacovigilance would also be of interest.

There is no formal decision within the Faculty to form a new research program, but the outcome of our present survey of candidates will help in our future action. If of interest to you, we ask for a Letter of Interest, including your curriculum vitae. We will keep it strictly confidential.

Send e-mails to Marianne Danersund (with the subject line “Letter of Interest”).

For more information contact Lennart Dencker.

Visit the SOT Job Bank for Additional Position Listings