



Communiqué

Winter Issue 2015

SOT News

SOT President's Message



President Peter L. Goering

As I write this message, it is unseasonably warm in the US mid-Atlantic region, but there are still plenty of reminders that the holiday season is upon us. Before the year soon draws to a close, I wanted to share with you that your SOT Council has been working hard in 2015 (and that will not change in the coming year).

Every year, SOT Council keeps a close eye on the strategic plan as part of an ongoing, evergreen implementation process, but it also dedicates a significant amount of time to focus on a specific aspect of the plan. This year, SOT Council examined the SOT's programs and activities in career advancement, recruitment, and education (CARE) to guide the implementation of key objectives of the [2015–2018 Strategic Plan](#). One of the SOT's three strategic priorities for 2015–2018 is to Develop and Support Toxicologists to Capitalize on Future Opportunities. Two strategic objectives within this priority are to (1) Clarify/communicate the evolving roles and skill sets for toxicologists, and (2) Promote the recruitment, education, and development of a diverse and creative community of toxicologists.

To help the SOT fulfill these strategic objectives, Council identified the following goals:

- Increase education in toxicological sciences,
- Increase member engagement with mentorship at all career stages to advance careers in toxicology and strengthen the discipline, and
- Increase opportunities for training in skills that promote career advancement.

Using these goals as a guide, the year-long evaluation of CARE-related activities and programs, in which the Society invests significant resources, focused on the following considerations:

- Identifying new ways to accomplish an activity more effectively,
- Minimizing overlap and redundancy pertaining to similar activities across committees,
- Identifying what is working well and where improvements could be achieved, and
- Determining if SOT should be involved in the activity, especially if another organization is doing it better.

Council appreciates the strong efforts and commitments of the CARE-related committees: Education Committee, Committee on Diversity Initiatives, Career Resource and Development Committee, Postdoctoral Assembly, and Graduate Student Leadership Committee, and also recognizes the many benefits that each committee's activities bring to building for the future of toxicology and SOT. I am pleased to report that the systematic review of CARE-related programs and activities reconfirmed the value that many of these efforts produce for the membership and other constituents. Further, Council identified opportunities to enhance some ongoing activities and changes in priorities for

other endeavors. In the coming months, Council will work with the CARE-related committees to begin implementation of these priorities and opportunities. As these initiatives are incorporated into the committees' workflow, blogs will be shared with the membership.

The Society continues to enhance the impact and relevance of toxicology with key audiences, an important part of our new strategic plan, by fine tuning our communications activities. This year, SOT Council refined the process for developing Issue Statements. Based on feedback from SOT members, Council formed an Issue Statement Review (ISR) Task Force to assess the SOT Statement Procedure. As part of this process, the ISR Task Force developed a new additional means for SOT members and groups to communicate topics of importance in toxicology to external audiences: Express Statements, replacing Tox Topics that were developed by the former Communications Committee.

With Express Statements, SOT members and groups are encouraged to develop short statements that discuss recent news, issues, and/or other activities that impact the understanding of toxicology. Issue Statements remain a means for communicating larger, longer-standing issues in the field. Any member, or non-member, can suggest topics for Issue and Express Statements and work on helping create them. For more information about SOT Statements, please visit the [SOT website](#).

Beyond developing the process for Express Statements, the ISR Task Force engaged relevant Specialty Sections and Special Interest Groups to review the existing menu of Issue Statements and Tox Topics, making recommendations to SOT Council to retire, retain, or update them as needed. Moving forward, these groups will continue to make these recommendations by retaining ownership of these documents and reviewing them every year for accuracy and relevance. To continue the evergreen process of implementing the strategic plan over the next three to four years, SOT Council will continue, as needed, to refine additional communications activities and develop new strategies, as communications remains a priority for the Society. Members are always welcome to suggest new ways to improve our efforts.

Another SOT strategic objective is to foster interactions with toxicologists around the globe, including scientific exchange, education, and training. I was honored to be able to help represent SOT at the 9th Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries (CTDC) held November 7–10 in the city of Natal, Brazil. This triennial conference was held in conjunction with the XIX Brazilian Congress of Toxicology, and the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) and the Brazilian Society of Toxicology (SBTox) collaborated to organize a superb meeting. Close to 400 attendees from 38 countries had the opportunity to listen to and engage with scientists from five continents in numerous scientific sessions each day. The scientific program spanned a range of toxicological topics, from molecular toxicology to issues of water and soil quality to risk assessment. A special networking session was held to discuss how best to use technology to both promote the science of toxicology and to share educational and training resources across the world's time zones. The CTDC provided an important opportunity for many scientists from around the world to discuss pressing environmental and occupational health issues, especially those facing developing countries and Latin America in particular. I was strongly encouraged by the very high number of graduate and undergraduate students in attendance—their enthusiasm for their research was evident at their poster presentations each day.

After Brazil, my attention has shifted to the upcoming SOT Annual Meeting in New Orleans in March 2016. By all accounts, this meeting will be a good time that should not to be missed. I remind you that we again will be treated to an outstanding scientific program highlighting the breadth of toxicology as well as the latest advances; opportunities for networking and continuing education; celebrating member accomplishments; access to the largest expo of instrumentation, research supplies, and services; reunions with old friends and prospects for meeting new folks; and a meeting location full of culture, cuisine, and music. I am looking forward to seeing you in the Crescent City. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

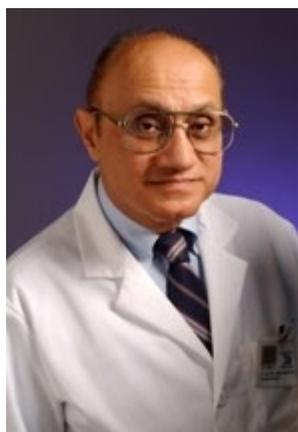
In these final weeks of 2015, I wish for all of you a special time of reflection and meaningful celebrations with family and friends, and to begin dreaming and planning for 2016.

Peter L. Goering

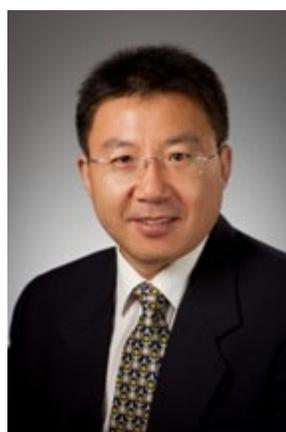
SOT 2015–2016 President

Duke and Texas Tech to Host 2016 Global Senior Scholars

The Society of Toxicology Education Committee is pleased to announce the selection of the Hosts for the 2016 Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program (GSSEP). Mohamed Abou-Donia, Duke University Medical Center, will be hosting Wafa Hassen from the Department of Cellular Physiology and Toxicology at the High Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir, Tunisia, and Weimin Gao, Texas Tech University, will host Oladipo Ademuyiwa, from the Federal University of Agriculture in Abeokuta, Nigeria. SOT provides funding for the Scholars to attend the SOT Annual Meeting, and both Scholars have submitted abstracts. GSSEP funding also supports the extended exchange visit to the campuses of the Hosts as well as travel funding for the Hosts to visit the campus of the Scholars during the next year.



Mohamed Abou-Donia



Weimin Gao



Wafa Hassen



Oladipo Ademuyiwa

Dr. Abou-Donia is the Director of the Neurotoxicology Laboratory at Duke University Medical Center. Work in his laboratory is directed toward understanding the basic mechanism by which chemicals, e.g., pesticides, solvents, industrial chemicals, heavy metals, drugs, and nerve agents, adversely affect the nervous system. Recently, he has been engaged in research to define nervous system injury resulting from occupational exposure to chemicals. He has extensive international experience, including a 2004 Fulbright Award to study the impact of pesticides on the environment in Egypt. His research has impacted public policy initiatives to regulate environmental and occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals. Also, he teaches a variety of toxicology-related courses to medical and graduate students.

Dr. Hassen's research focuses on mechanisms of myeloma drug resistance and human disease related to mycotoxins in food. The possibility of pesticide contamination and adverse effects on health is an important problem in Tunisia and of interest to faculty in her department. This and other shared teaching and research interests will be the basis of a fruitful exchange.

Dr. Gao is Associate Chair, Department of Environmental Toxicology, in the Institute of Environmental and Human

Health at Texas Tech University. The department/institute has a well-established research program in the areas of molecular toxicology, analytical toxicology, ecotoxicology, aquatic toxicology, and human health. In addition, a graduate research program is taught by faculty with expertise in molecular toxicology, analytical toxicology, human health, and other areas. Dr. Gao and other faculty are involved in global outreach and collaborative research in environmental contaminants and human health.

The research in Dr. Ademuyiwa's department focuses on the mechanistic bases of the effects of xenobiotics on cellular metabolism in both humans and animals, particularly metals with potential occupational and environmental exposure such as lead, arsenic, cadmium, and mercury. These studies match with those at Texas Tech that include the environmental fate and toxic effects of some metals and thus provide a possible area of collaboration. The Federal University of Agriculture does not currently have a curriculum in toxicology so learning about the program at Texas Tech will be valuable.

This is the fifth year for the GSSEP. The primary goal of the GSSEP is to increase toxicology capacity in developing countries by providing professional opportunities for scientists through relationships supported by SOT. The Scholars who are selected are expected to build on this opportunity by strengthening toxicology within their universities and countries. Information about the previous exchanges is found on the GSSEP [website](#). We encourage all potential Scholar and Host applicants to visit the website. The next deadline for Scholar applications is June 15, 2016.

SOT Exhibits at the 2015 SACNAS Meeting

by Vanessa De La Rosa

The [Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science \(SACNAS\)](#) held their 42nd Annual Conference October 29–31, 2015, in Washington, DC. The conference attracted over 4,000 undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The conference theme was “Diversity in STEM” and this was echoed throughout all of the conference programming that included scientific presentations, professional development sessions, cultural activities, and featured keynotes from prominent leaders in STEM across academia, government, policy, and industry.



Pictured above are Vanessa De La Rosa (left) and Ofelia Olivero (right) at the SOT Booth.

The Society of Toxicology was among the exhibitors at this meeting with a booth organized by the Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI). At the SOT booth, members including Vanessa De La Rosa, Noe Galvan, Adrian Nanez, Ofelia Olivero, and Jennifer Rayner, as well as CDI Staff Liaison Rachel Woodson, discussed research interests and

careers paths in toxicology with attendees. Students learned about the many undergraduate opportunities available through SOT, such as the Undergraduate Diversity Program and the option to become an [SOT Undergraduate Student Affiliate](#).

SOT members also were featured speakers in the session entitled “Pick Your Poison! Careers in Toxicology.” Session chairs Drs. De La Rosa and Galvan led a panel exploring career opportunities in the field of toxicology, strategies for pursuing a successful career in toxicology, and the need for diversity in the field of toxicology.

Carl C. Smith Mechanisms Award Fund Supports Students for over 30 Years

by Mathew Bogdanffy, 2015–2016 Chair, SOT Endowment Fund Board



Carl Smith and his wife Thelma had a vision that rewarding excellence in graduate toxicology research would promote the science and foster the growth of students through financial stipends to be put toward research and travel to the SOT Annual Meeting. More than 30 years later, the [Carl C. Smith Award](#), which is aligned with the Mechanisms Specialty Section and is among the most successful of the named SOT Endowment Funds with more than \$100,000 in net assets, has provided financial stipends to more than 39 graduate students. In fact, in 2015 alone the fund provided awards to 9 talented graduate students. And the award recipients have a history of leadership and accomplishment.

Nikita Joshi, a PhD student at Michigan State University, received the Carl C. Smith Award in 2015. “Receiving the prestigious Carl C Smith award has truly been the highlight of my graduate student career. The award not only helped support my travel to the annual SOT meeting, but it also pushed me to write a high caliber manuscript to be reviewed by experts in the field of mechanistic toxicology. Receiving the award was a learning experience about how to succeed in my career.” Nikita demonstrates the engagement and dedication common to many award recipients and is the Michigan Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Student Leadership Committee.

The long line of accomplished recipients extends back to the earliest days of the award. Jon C. Cook, SOT President (2011–2012) was the 1984 recipient. “Receiving the Carl C. Smith Award was one of the most memorable moments of my graduate career. The recognition helped reinforce my interest in mechanistic toxicology, inspired my involvement in SOT, and eventually my service as Endowment Fund Board Chair and ultimately SOT President. Recalling how important the award was to me in my early career, I became a contributor to the Carl C. Smith Award and have helped create other student awards.”

The Carl C. Smith award exemplifies the results that can be gained by long-term contributions from impassioned colleagues. Please consider your career, how you have benefited from the SOT, and [make a contribution](#) to the SOT Endowment Fund.

Many past recipients of the Carl C. Smith Student awards are now key participants in the activities of the Society of Toxicology.

SOT FutureTox III Attracts Scientists from Around the Globe



Three hundred scientists from around the globe participated in the SOT FutureTox III Bridges for Translation, Transforming 21st Century Science into Risk Assessment and Regulatory Decision-Making conference. Held November 19–20, 2015, this international congress drew scientists from across the United States and around the globe, including from Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland. This meeting was conceived by the [Scientific Liaison Coalition](#) and was organized under the auspices of the SOT Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) Conferences Committee.



Networking and discussion of Tox21 and its applications

SOT 2015–2016 President Peter L. Goering noted in his message to attendees, “Building on the successful outcomes of two earlier conferences, FutureTox (2012) and FutureTox II (2014), FutureTox III brings together distinguished experts and attendees from academia, industry, and government. We are continuing our journey across the “bridge of translation” by capitalizing on the scientific breakthroughs in high-throughput *in vitro* data collection and *in silico* models to advance the risk assessment paradigm.”



Jim Jones



Maurice Whelan

The conference Keynote Speakers provided their perspectives on this topic to kick-off this two-day meeting. Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, addressed “Agency Perspective on 21st Century Approaches in Regulatory Decisions” and Maurice Whelan, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy, “High Throughput Risk Assessment—What’s It Good For?”



Over 80 posters of new and emerging science presented

This international congress included platform presentations, 100 abstracts, more than 80 posters, and lively breakout sessions on Drug Development, Identifying Endocrine Active Chemicals for Environmental Health Protection Using Pathways-Based Approaches for Screening and Testing, TSCA Reform, and Impact on Global Harmonization. The Poster Reception was a highlight of the meeting and provided the opportunity to honor graduate students and postdoctoral scholars who explored diverse scientific areas related to this overarching topic.

The FutureTox III Organizing Committee was chaired by Daland R. Juberg, Dow AgroSciences. Thomas B. Knudsen, US Environmental Protection Agency, served as the co-chair and other members included Richard A. Becker, American Chemistry Council; Elaine M. Faustman, University of Washington; Suzanne Compton Fitzpatrick, US Food and Drug Administration; John R. “Jack” Fowle III, Science to Inform; Thomas Hartung, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing; Ronald N. Hines, US Environmental Protection Agency; Douglas A. Keller, Sanofi; Emmanuel Lemazurier, INERIS-Chronic Risk Division, John C. Lipscomb, US Environmental Protection Agency; Donna Mendrick, US Food and Drug Administration; Raymond R. Tice, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (retired); David Watson, Lhasa Limited; Alison Harrill, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, CCT Committee Liaison; and George P. Daston, Procter & Gamble Company, SOT Council Contact. Based on the results of the meeting survey, there is great interest in a follow-up meeting.

SOT Website: Customizable Features

We hope you are enjoying the new SOT website and have taken the time to explore it over the last few months. As you may have discovered, the new site has some features customized for SOT members to enhance your site experience.

We want to make sure all members are aware of these new features, so we’ve pulled together a quick guide to the new elements.

Members-Only Homepage

There is an exclusive SOT members-only homepage that is available by logging into the SOT site using the blue “Login” button in the upper right-hand corner of the site. The login for the website is the same as the login you use to access your membership information and to access ToXchange. The custom content on the members homepage includes:

- Links to the Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections to which you individually belong.
- Links to your ToXchange page and the searchable membership directory on ToXchange.
- An expanded upcoming events calendar, which allows you to hover over a specific day and view the events taking place at that time. We encourage all SOT members to submit toxicology-related events and meetings to the calendar using the [event submission form](#).

Customizable Navigation Bar

When you are logged into the website, a special blue box titled “My Links” appears in the main orange navigation bar

across the top of every page. By clicking, “Quick Add” under this box, you can paste in the links of the webpages on the site that you visit most frequently and these then will appear as options under “My Links,” allowing you quick access to your most visited or favorite pages.

Quick Access to Your SOT Account Information

When you are logged into the site, you will notice a circle appear in the upper right-hand corner of the site with a person silhouette. If you click on this icon, you are given the option to “View Profile.” This button takes you to your Member Profile page, where you can access your contact information, ToXchange profile page, update the “My Links” links, access your membership card, renew your membership, and more.

We hope these new features provide a benefit to you and enhance your web experience. If you have any questions or comments about the information outlined here or about the SOT website, please do not hesitate to [contact our membership services team](#).

SOT Complies with Sarbanes-Oxley Whistleblower Provisions

The American Competitiveness and Corporate Accountability Act of 2002, popularly known as Sarbanes-Oxley, introduced significant governance standards that apply to publicly traded companies and nonprofits. One of the Sarbanes-Oxley provisions that applies to nonprofits such as the Society of Toxicology (SOT) is for whistleblower protection. You may have noticed the following at the bottom of the [Contact SOT web page](#).

To anonymously report suspected criminal activity or illegal or unethical conduct by SOT staff or leadership, call the Navex toll-free fraud hotline at 800.826.6762.

SOT requires that its leadership and members conduct their duties and responsibilities in accordance with high ethical standards and in compliance with the Society’s [Code of Ethics](#) and [Conflict of Interest Policies](#).

The Society, through Association Innovation and Management, Inc. (AIM), is fully committed to providing a workplace that is open to and fosters communications concerning all aspects of its organization and operations, including compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; regulations; rules; and ordinances related to corporate or financial misconduct and fraud.

If you suspect any criminal activity or illegal or unethical behavior by SOT leadership, members, or staff, please call the toll-free hotline number provided above. Calls regarding personnel issues will be reported to AIM Human Resources, financial and management questions will go to the SOT Treasurer, and quality of service and misuse of property issues will be referred to the SOT President.

Member News:

SOT Members Austin and Ramos Elected to National Academy of Medicine

The Society of Toxicology is pleased to announce that two SOT members have been elected to the National Academy of Medicine, formerly the Institute of Medicine. The recipients are Christopher Austin, AB, MD, and Kenneth S. Ramos, MD, PhD, PharmB, ATS. Dr. Austin is the Director of the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland, and Dr. Ramos is the Associate Vice President for Precision Health Sciences, Professor of Medicine, at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Dr. Austin joined SOT in 2011. Dr. Ramos joined SOT in 1983 and served in many leadership positions including as SOT 2008–2009 President.



Christopher Austin



Kenneth S. Ramos

As NAM notes, “Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.” For additional information about the distinguished careers of these scientists, please refer to the biographical information for Dr. Austin on the [NIH NCATS](#) website and for Dr. Ramos on the [UAHS website](#).

Additional SOT Member Accomplishments are listed on the [SOT website](#).

Myrtle Davis Receives 2015 NIH Director’s Award



Myrtle Davis, DVM, PhD, ATS, was recently selected by Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director, to receive a 2015 NIH Director’s Award for outstanding accomplishments and leadership. She received this award as a member of the NIH Microphysiological Systems (Tissue Chip) Program Project Team, nominated by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. The award was given to the team in recognition of outstanding contributions managing and providing oversight to the Microphysiological Systems Program, recognized world-wide as innovative technology in therapy development and disease modeling. This award was presented at the annual 2015 NIH Director’s Awards Ceremony.

Dr. Davis has been an active member who joined SOT in 1992. She is an SOT Councilor and has served on the Communications, Education, Nominating, and Scientific Program Committees and the Committee on Diversity Initiatives. Dr. Davis also is a member of the National Capital Area Regional Chapter and several Specialty Sections.

Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections:

Upcoming Component Groups Awards: RC, SIG, and SS

In addition to the Society of Toxicology awards presented at the Awards Ceremony each year, the Regional Chapters (RC), Special Interest Groups (SIG), and Specialty Sections (SS) of the SOT confer a number of awards throughout the year to recognize the achievements of toxicologists, particularly graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Awards with deadlines through January 31, 2016, are provided below.

Please consider applying for any of these awards as appropriate and/or informing a qualified student, postdoctoral scholar, or colleague about these honors. For full details and contact information for each award, please go to the [SOT Awards webpage](#) on the SOT website where you may select a specific award from the complete awards listing or search for awards based on selected award criteria.

Regional Chapter

Award

Deadline

Southern California	Graduate Student Travel Award	January 1, 2016
Northern California	Graduate Student Achievement Award	January 15, 2016
Northern California	Postdoctoral Achievement Award	January 15, 2016
Northern California	Undergraduate Student Travel Award	January 15, 2016
Allegheny-Erie	Travel Award	January 31, 2016
Northeast	Student Travel Award	January 31, 2016
Special Interest Group	Award	Deadline
Korean Toxicologists Association in America	Young Soo Choi Student Scholarship Award	January 10, 2016
Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists	Distinguished Toxicologist Award	January 12, 2016
Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists	Travel Award	January 12, 2016
Korean Toxicologists Association in America	Best Presentations by Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Trainee Award	January 31, 2016
Toxicologists of African Origin	Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Awards	January 31, 2016
Toxicologists of African Origin	Graduate Student Research Awards	January 31, 2016
Specialty Section	Award	Deadline
Occupational and Public Health	Best Abstract Award	December 22, 2015
Comparative and Veterinary	Student Travel Award	December 30, 2015
Clinical and Translational Toxicology	Graduate Students Travel Award	December 31, 2015
Clinical and Translational Toxicology	Postdoctoral Fellows Travel Award	December 31, 2015
Mechanisms	Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award*	December 31, 2015
Ocular Toxicology	Career Achievement Award	December 31, 2015
Risk Assessment	Best Overall Abstract Award	December 31, 2015
Risk Assessment	Best Published Paper Advancing the Science of Risk Assessment Award	December 31, 2015
Risk Assessment	Best Published Paper Demonstrating an Application of Risk Assessment Award	December 31, 2015
Risk Assessment	John Doull Award*	December 31, 2015
Risk Assessment	Perry J. Gehring Best Graduate Student Abstract Award*	December 31, 2015
Risk Assessment	Perry J. Gehring Best Postdoctoral Fellow Abstract Award*	December 31, 2015
	Risk Assessment SS Trainee Travel	

Risk Assessment	Award	December 31, 2015
Risk Assessment	Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award*	December 31, 2015
Mechanisms	Career Achievement Award	January 1, 2016
Mechanisms	Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award*	January 1, 2016
Nanotoxicology	Best Publication Award	January 1, 2016
Nanotoxicology	Outstanding Graduate Student Award	January 1, 2016
Nanotoxicology	Outstanding Postdoctoral Award	January 1, 2016
Medical Device and Combination Product	Best Overall Abstract Award	January 4, 2016
Medical Device and Combination Product	Best Published Paper Award	January 4, 2016
Medical Device and Combination Product	Student Travel Award	January 4, 2016
Biological Modeling	Best Paper Award	January 10, 2016
Comparative and Veterinary	Roger O. McClellan Student Award*	January 14, 2016
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology	Charles River Travel Award	January 14, 2016
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology	Roger O. McClellan Student Award*	January 14, 2016
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology	STP Student Award	January 14, 2016
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology	Travel Award	January 14, 2016
Biotechnology	Best Paper Award	January 15, 2016
Biotechnology	Career Achievement in Biotechnology Award	January 15, 2016
Biotechnology	Outstanding Young Investigator Award	January 15, 2016
Biotechnology	Student Achievement Award	January 15, 2016
Cardiovascular Toxicology	Impact Award	January 15, 2016
Cardiovascular Toxicology	Trainee Travel Award	January 15, 2016
Immunotoxicology	VOS Lifetime Career Achievement Award in Immunotoxicology	January 15, 2016
Immunotoxicology	Best Paper of the Year Award	January 15, 2016
Immunotoxicology	Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee Award	January 15, 2016
Immunotoxicology	Best Presentation by a Student Award	January 15, 2016
Immunotoxicology	Young Investigator Travel Award	January 15, 2016
Immunotoxicology	Outstanding Senior Immunotoxicologist Award	January 15, 2016

Immunotoxicology	Outstanding Young Immunotoxicologist Award	January 15, 2016
<i>In Vitro</i> and Alternative Methods	MB Research Award	January 15, 2016
<i>In Vitro</i> and Alternative Methods	Student Award	January 15, 2016
Inhalation and Respiratory	Career Achievement Award	January 15, 2016
Inhalation and Respiratory	Mary Amdur Student Award*	January 15, 2016
Inhalation and Respiratory	Postdoctoral Award	January 15, 2016
Inhalation and Respiratory	Student Award	January 15, 2016
Inhalation and Respiratory	Young Investigator Award	January 15, 2016
Occupational and Public Health	Best Manuscript Award	January 16, 2016
Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Student Awards	January 31, 2016
Inhalation and Respiratory	Paper of the Year Award	January 18, 2016
Biological Modeling	Perry J. Gehring Student Award*	January 23, 2016
Stem Cells	Excellence in Research Awards	January 29, 2016
Dermal Toxicology	"Paper of the Year" Award	January 31, 2016
Dermal Toxicology	Battelle Student Research Award	January 31, 2016
Dermal Toxicology	Informa Healthcare Award	January 31, 2016
Dermal Toxicology	Postdoctoral Award	January 31, 2016
Dermal Toxicology	Student and Postdoctoral Travel Grants	January 31, 2016
Metals	Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Awards	January 31, 2016
Mixtures	Best Student/Postdoc Abstract Awards	January 31, 2016
Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology	Best Reproductive/Developmental Toxicology Paper in Toxicological Sciences	January 31, 2016

* Indicates award funded through the SOT Endowment Fund. Full details can be found on the [Endowment Fund website](#).

Announcing the Third Annual ToXchange Profile Picture Contest: Your Component Group Could Win!

Last week, SOT announced the third annual ToXchange profile picture contest! This profile picture contest benefits the component groups: Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections. The goal is to be the component group with the highest percentage of its members with uploaded or updated profile pictures by the New Year.

Component groups with the highest percentage of member profile pictures posted by January 1, 2016, will receive an award stipend of \$500 as travel support funds to the SOT Annual Meeting—to be dispersed at the discretion of the component group.

As component groups vary in the number of members, there are three levels to the competition as follows:

- A) Component Groups with up to 150 members
- B) Component Groups with 151–300 members
- C) Component Groups with more than 300 members

In addition to the award stipend for travel support to the SOT 55th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, the winning component groups will be recognized in the *Communiqué* blog.

WIT SIG Creates More Awards After Successfully Launching a New Endowment Fund

by Tao Wang, MD, PhD, DABT, President of Women in Toxicology Special Interest Group

In May 2014, the Society of Toxicology Women in Toxicology (WIT) Special Interest Group started a fundraising campaign for our new “Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award Endowment Fund.” This award was inspired and initiated by a generous donation of \$8,000 from the estate of Ms. Anne Wolven Garrett. The fund’s initial goal was to raise \$25,000 within three years in order to receive the SOT match and to become a permanently vested endowment fund with a fund balance of \$50,000.

With the generosity of our contributors and the dollar-to-dollar matching from the SOT, we have raised over \$93,000 in little more than 1 year!! The immediate effect is that WIT now receives dividends from this SOT Endowment Fund to award our budding scientists! The first Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award(s) will be presented at the 2016 SOT Annual Meeting in New Orleans. In future years, the endowment will provide WIT with a consistent source of funding to support our mission. Details about the award and application process are available on the [WIT website](#).

The WIT Executive Committee would like to thank the individuals listed below for their generous contributions. We would especially like to mention and thank **Dr. Jacqueline Smith** and **Dr. Jerry Hook** for their significant contributions that helped to push this WIT Endowment Fund over the threshold! When we expressed our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Smith and Dr. Hook and asked them why they decided to contribute to the WIT Endowment Fund, Dr. Smith told us that she and Dr. Hook had the pleasure of sitting in on the WIT business meeting at the 2015 SOT Annual Meeting, and they were extremely impressed by WIT’s accomplishments and strategies for facilitating the recognition and careers of more women in toxicology.

Dr. Smith and Dr. Hook had an extensive [interview](#) with the SOT Headquarters after making their donation. In the [interview](#), they spoke about their motivation for donating to specific funds. Dr. Hook also expressed that “*Helping promote the visibility of women in toxicology and the Society is one of the things I am most proud of accomplishing during my time as SOT President. This contribution will help continue the Society’s commitment to and support of female toxicologists.*”

[View contributors to the Celebrating Women in Toxicology Endowment Fund.](#)

From Women in Toxicology SIG: How to Make a Long Distance Mentoring Relationship Work

by Kristina Chadwick, PhD, DABT and Jessica Sapiro, MS

Kristina (mentor) and Jessica (mentee) have participated in a long distance mentoring relationship for the past 3½ years after being paired through the [SOT Mentor Match Program](#). Mentoring is a professional and personal development activity between a more experienced individual (mentor) and less experienced individual (mentee). From a real world “been there done that” perspective, a mentor helps guide a mentee in reaching his or her career goals and aspirations. Mentoring is a relationship sharing common traits with many other types of relationships (i.e., respect, vulnerability and establishment of trust, authenticity, and strong communication). This relationship is one that typically involves a long-term ongoing commitment and a genuine investment in the accomplishment of the desired goals and well-being of the other person.

This is different from an average networking contact that could be associated with introductions and communication as necessary. A mentor and mentee typically develop strong chemistry over time such that a real exchange of information becomes shared. In this relationship, both people have roles and responsibilities to fulfill, whereas, with a networking contact, no commitment is generally required. With the advancement of technology, mentoring meetings do not need to occur in person, although periodic face-to-face interaction is helpful in advancing the goals and strengthening the connection. The following tips are based on our experience that have contributed to making our relationship successful.

- **Fully commit to the relationship:** A successful mentoring relationship requires a small, but ongoing, commitment of time and effort from both the mentor and mentee. Both a mentor and mentee need to have a strong desire to make the relationship work and show it through actions (on time/engaged for phone calls, avoiding canceling meetings, following through on action items).
- **Strong communication:** Especially with mentoring from a distance, excellent verbal communication is essential. Without body language, it is impossible to visually read the other person, so keen listening skills are critical. During our first conversation, which was by phone, we mutually agreed upon the means and frequency of communication. Phone and email work well for our long distance communication, but other avenues such as Skype or chat rooms can work too. We talk on the phone approximately every 4–6 weeks (request initiated by Jessica, the mentee) and supplement with email when needed. But, we both make ourselves available if something comes up that needs to be discussed sooner.
- **Trust:** Of utmost importance to the mentoring relationship is trust. While much of the interaction tends to be routine and not especially sensitive in nature, it is important for the partners to feel that what is shared remains within the partnership. Discussion and advice can be better tailored when all the details and concerns are on the table; the participants need to trust each other to know that sensitive matters will not be shared outside of the relationship. The “what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas” philosophy applies well in a mentoring relationship.
- **Take ownership of your mentoring relationship:** As a mentee, you are seeking advice and input from your mentor so you need to take the lead in the relationship. Seek out a mentor (through the [Mentor Match Program](#), your advisor, and/or manager). Once you have established a relationship make sure to keep it going—scheduling/requesting meetings is not the responsibility of the mentor but of the mentee. The mentee should be driving the relationship in the direction of where they would like advice and/or assistance. Some advisors and managers serve in a mentoring capacity for their students or subordinates. An “outside” mentor who does not have supervisory authority can provide a different perspective and help you clarify thoughts and aspirations. Although Jessica had specific goals for the relationship (some have been met and others still in progress), she has furthered her development in many additional ways as a result of asking questions, actively listening and reflecting, and making decisions and putting them into action.
- **Do not be afraid to ask your mentor for help:** Although your mentor is likely a very busy professional and may be very senior, they cannot help you if you do not ask. Mentors look forward to discussions with mentees and will give of themselves to motivated and determined mentees who want to learn and grow. It is normal to feel somewhat nervous and think that you are taking valuable time away from your mentor’s daily activities, but it will get easier over time.
- **If at first it does not work, try again:** Sometimes people just do not mesh, perhaps it is personality differences or lack of time commitment by the mentor to meet the needs of the mentee. Do not discard the whole idea of a mentor; try a different one or two. Likewise, the mentoring partnership is not a life-long commitment and can last for a few months or several years, but at some point the relationship will end. Some relationships are focused more on specific long term professional development goals while others are geared at a specific event (prelims, first job search, mid-career change, etc.). It is perfectly reasonable to have a fit-for-purpose mentor. You work

together for a limited period of time and then go your separate ways. This does not mean you cannot still reach out to them on a less frequent basis to get their thoughts or start a new mentoring relationship with someone else based on your current needs. Overtime, in a strong mentoring relationship in which a deep connection may form, you will likely develop a strong amount of trust in your mentor and truly believe in the advice they share even if you feel some reservation as the action will take you out of your comfort zone. But, always remember to evaluate the advice and make your own decision.

Our mentoring relationship has been mutually beneficial for both of us; it is a two-way street. I (Kristina) really enjoy mentoring, I strive to apply the learnings that I have gained through my education and career to help others. I like to think of it as “what would I have liked to know when I was in their shoes?” But I also learn from the mentees as well. What are their concerns, what does the future hold for a young scientist, how are their minds working? I find that mentoring helps me be both a better manager and mentee myself, as I too have a mentor. Some specifics in my (Jessica) growth through this relationship include enhancement of communication skills, strategies in working with challenging individuals, gaining a greater level of confidence, and developing thicker skin as a rising scientist. It has been a fun, rewarding, and enriching experience! We hope that all of you consider participating in a mentoring relationship as a mentor, mentee, or both. It is well worth your time and effort as the outcomes can be endless!

In Memoriam

John Autian

John Autian, former Dean of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy and renowned materials science toxicologist, died on September 4, 2015 at the age of 91. Dr. Autian was born August 20, 1924, of Armenian immigrant parents, Armenouhi Khastian, sole family survivor of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, and Zaker Autian (last name believed to have been Haroutunian but mistakenly recorded as Autian during US Immigration processing), in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He grew up in the Wissinoming district of northeast Philadelphia, attended Frankford High School, and was outstanding in track. During the Second World War, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the US Army and served on active duty for a period of three years. Two of those years were served in the Pacific Theater of Operations with his unit being one of the first to land in Japan at the end of the war.

After returning home, he received his BS (1950) in Pharmacy from Temple University and both his MS (1952) and PhD (1954) in Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Maryland. After receiving his PhD, he served as a faculty member at Temple, the University of Maryland, and the University of Michigan, before moving on to the University of Texas as an Associate Professor. While at Texas, Dr. Autian established and directed the Drug-Plastic Research Laboratory, focusing on the safety evaluation of plastics in pharmacy practice; this research center was the first of its kind in the US.

In 1967, he was appointed Professor at the University of Tennessee in the Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. During this time, he founded the Materials Science Toxicology Research Laboratory within the UT Medical Center and served as its Director while also serving on the faculty of the Colleges of Pharmacy and Dentistry. He was later appointed Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Dean of the Graduate School/Vice Chancellor for Research. He retired from the University in 1986 but remained active as a toxicology consultant in biomaterials research and as a proponent of toxicology education in undergraduate and graduate training programs worldwide.

He accepted a professorship at Texas A&M University in 1986, and in 1987, Dr. Autian became a Senior Science Advisor to a joint US– Saudi Arabian program to help enhance research and graduate training. As a result of this collaboration, he helped establish an environmental toxicology laboratory in Saudi Arabia. During his career, he authored or coauthored over 200 scientific publications in the fields of pharmacology, toxicology, and biomedical materials and contributed to 18 textbooks, including chapters on plastics toxicology in the early editions of Casarett & Doull’s *Toxicology, the Basic Science of Poisons*.

For his pioneering work with phthalate esters and polymers, he is considered the “Father of Plastics Toxicology,” and

became a founding member of the Society of Biomaterials, receiving their highest honor, The Clemson Award, in 1978. Dr. Autian also established an annual “Toxicology Education Award” through his Forum for the Advancement of Toxicology consortium. The Society of Toxicology took over the award after several years, and very fittingly, recognized Dr. Autian’s efforts in toxicology education by presenting him the award in 1988. The award was a special recognition for Dr. Autian, who after 31 years in academia, had mentored countless students, postdoctoral associates, and junior collaborators in the art and science of toxicology.

In later years, Dr. Autian spent his time and resources in efforts to help bring biomedical research to Memphis, and in inner-city community service. He traveled extensively to promote education and science and made several trips to Armenia to help in relief efforts after devastating earthquakes and regional conflicts. He was known for his boundless energy and enthusiasm for helping those less fortunate, for his humility, and his generosity. All who knew him appreciated his quick wit, humor, and self-deprecating antics, which often surfaced unexpectedly during his technical presentations and quite expectedly at family gatherings. He was an avid runner and fitness enthusiast, who loved boxing, wrestling, and football. Most of all, he was treasured by his family as an inspirational figure who never lost sight of his humble beginnings. He cared deeply for his family, his Armenian heritage, and humanity.

Dr. John Autian was married to Ginny Langford. In addition to Ginny, he is survived by their son John Zaker “Zak”, daughter-in law Jennifer, and grandson Tyler Christian, of Roswell, Georgia. Other family members include nieces Karen Swartz and Jamie Ward, nephews John Kapeghian and Jerry Sweeney, and several great nieces and nephews.

Barbara H. Neal

Barbara H. Neal, DABT, a full member of the Society of Toxicology and an active member of the Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section, died on Monday October 19, 2015. She was Senior Managing Scientist in Exponent’s Health Sciences Center for Toxicology and Mechanistic Biology. Ms. Neal was a board-certified toxicologist with over 30 years of professional experience, specializing in reproductive biology and endocrine toxicology. She was an expert in toxicological issues that affect crop protection chemicals and industrial chemicals, and she had experience with pre-clinical studies of medical devices and pharmaceuticals. She developed overall product testing strategies; designed, monitored, and interpreted multiple regulatory toxicological studies; and reviewed hundreds of regulatory and non-regulatory studies of potential developmental, reproductive, neurological, and endocrine-disrupting effects relevant to human health and environmental risk assessment.

Many would recognize Barbara by her laugh, often in response to her own jokes, which could be heard at numerous SOT meetings. She was well-known to her SOT friends as a critical thinker with a quick wit. She will be missed by those of us blessed to have worked with her for several decades.

Paul E. Thomas

The Society of Toxicology has learned of the passing of Paul E. Thomas on November 15, 2015. Dr. Thomas was on the faculty of The Joint Graduate Program in Toxicology, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey. He joined the Society in 2003 and was a member of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regional Chapters and the Carcinogenesis and Mechanisms Specialty Sections.

Annual Meeting & ToxExpo

It’s Time to Bookmark the SOT 2016 Annual Meeting Website



In just four months, many of you will be en route to the SOT 2016 Annual Meeting, March 13–17, 2016, in New Orleans, Louisiana. You will want to visit the [Annual Meeting website](#) frequently in the weeks and days leading to the meeting. Begin by reading the [message from SOT 2015–2016 President Peter L. Goering](#) that provides an overview this meeting, which is the largest gathering of toxicologists in the world. Dr. Goering announces “that this year’s meeting contains an exciting twist to our familiar program, as we will be featuring five talented and cutting-edge scientists through two plenary sessions, one each on Monday and Tuesday, and the Medical Research Council keynote on Wednesday. This new format allows you more access to emerging scientific knowledge. Our goal is to provide a forum for novel discoveries and approaches related to toxicology and to facilitate the advancement of toxicology by fostering the integration of toxicology with other biomedical disciplines. Through these endeavors, we are working towards fulfilling our mission of creating a safer and healthier world by advancing the science and increasing the impact of toxicology.”

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

SOT 2016 Annual Meeting, New Orleans: An International Invitation to Attend

Scientists from around the world are invited to register for the [55th Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting, March 13–17, 2016](#). Please note that individual invitations are not required for attendance. Because the meetings are open scientific events, SOT extends an invitation to all interested individuals to attend.

Visa Information

If your travels require a visa, the US is advising visa applicants to apply at least three to four months in advance of their travel date. We request that you contact the United States Consulate/Embassy and Currency Exchange in your own country regarding documentation and necessary information for your visit to the United States.

The Society of Toxicology 55th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo has been registered with the [International Visitors Office of The National Academies](#). If you have any problems regarding your visa applications, please report your case to them by completing their [online questionnaire](#). To help them identify your case, please include the name of our Meeting (Society of Toxicology 55th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo) in the “Purpose of Visit” field on the questionnaire. The International Visitors Office can submit inquiries to the US Department of State about the status of visa applications that have been pending for 21 days or more. If you have any questions, please contact visas@nas.edu.

If for visa purposes you need a formal invitation letter, you may request an invitation by sending your name, address, and fax number to the [SOT Registration Department](#). If you have been accepted to make a presentation at the meeting, please include the name and date of your presentation. You will need to make your own hotel reservations and register for the meeting. If you need assistance, please contact the SOT Registration Department at tel: 703.438.3115, fax: 703.438.3113, or email [SOT Headquarters](#).

Below are sources of information to help you obtain a visa:

- [Travel.State.Gov](#)

A website designed with you in mind about current visa policies and procedures.

- [International Visitors Office of The National Academies](#)

For additional visa information, contact the International Visitors Office (IVO) of the National Academies of the Sciences at the above website. This should serve as a visa resource for all visiting scientists and scholars traveling to the United States. Additionally, a survey is available that can be used to assist future travelers with the visa process.

- **Make an Appointment**

To visit the US Embassy or Consulate, make sure you ask if there are any fees required. Most fees must be paid before your appointment. Wait times for appointments may be longer than in the past. Schedule the appointment as soon as possible. Information on Visa wait times can be found at the [US Department of State website](#).

- **Get Your Documents Ready**

Organize passport, applications, documents to support the application with employment details (reason for travel along with financial status), and proof of payment of fees.

- **Submit Your Application**

Send your application and passport along with supporting documents to the United States Embassy or Consulate.

- **Start Early**

Additional reviews may be required. This could add an additional four to six weeks to the processing time.

Congratulations to the 2016 SOT Award Recipients!

The Society of Toxicology is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 SOT Awards who will be formally honored at the awards ceremony during the [Society's 55th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 13–17, 2016. These honorees will be recognized alongside the previously announced [SOT Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program awardees](#) and the still to be announced SOT/SOT Endowment Fund/IUTOX Travel Award recipients.

The 2016 SOT Award recipients are as follows:

SOT Honorary Membership

Raymond B. Nagle, MD, PhD, University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, Tucson, Arizona

SOT Achievement Award

Lauren Aleksunes, PharmD, PhD, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey

SOT Arnold J. Lehman Award

Alan Boobis, OBE, BSc, PhD, FSB, FBTS, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

SOT Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award

I. Glenn Sipes, PhD, ATS, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

SOT Education Award

Kenneth Reuhl, PhD, DABT, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey

John Wise Sr., PhD, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

SOT Enhancement of Animal Welfare Award

Warren Casey, PhD, DABT, NIH, Durham, North Carolina

SOT Founders Award

Richard Adamson, PhD, TPN Associates LLC, Walpole, Massachusetts

SOT Leading Edge in Basic Science Award

Cheryl Lyn Walker, PhD, ATS, Texas A&M Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Houston, Texas

SOT Merit Award

Melvin Andersen, PhD, DABT, CIH, ATS, The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

SOT Public Communications Award

Steven Gilbert, PhD, DABT, Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders, Seattle, Washington

Gary Ginsberg, PhD, Connecticut Department of Public Health, Hartford, Connecticut

SOT Translational Impact Award

Richard Beger, MS, PhD, US FDA-NCTR, Jefferson, Arkansas

SOT Translational/Bridging Travel Award

Mohamed Salama, MD, PhD, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt

SOT Undergraduate Educator Award

Antonio Baines, BS, PhD, North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina

SOT Board of Publications Best Paper in Toxicological Sciences Award

“A Systems Biology Approach Utilizing a Mouse Diversity Panel Identifies Genetic Differences Influencing Isoniazid-Induced Microvesicular Steatosis” (*Toxicological Sciences*, 2014, 140(2) 481–492); Authors: **Rachel J. Church, Hong Wu, Merrie Mosedale, Susan J. Sumner, Wimal Pathmasiri, Catherine L. Kurtz, Matthew T. Pletcher, John S. Eaddy, Karamjeet Pandher, Monica Singer, Ameesha Batheja, Paul B. Watkins, Karissa Adkins, and Alison H. Harrill**

SOT Undergraduate Intern Travel Award

Jessica Ray, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Pfizer SOT Undergraduate Student Travel Award

Sarah Burnett, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

James M. Ding, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Benjamin Alan Elser, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Emily B. Fabyanic, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

Laura Fisch, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

Eduardo Aztlán González, University of California Davis, Davis, California

Mina Huerta, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Haydee M. Jacobs, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts

Rachael A. McMinimy, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Danyelle B. Osowskib, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Lizabeth Perez-Castro, University of Puerto Rico at Cayey, Gurabo, Puerto Rico

Jiwon Seo, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, New York

Carolyn Anne Smith, United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut

Stephanie N. Thiedeb, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

Nancy Ly Tran, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine

Jamie Weimer, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky

Colgate-Palmolive Grant for Alternative Research

David Pamies, MD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland

Lei Yin, PhD, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Colgate-Palmolive Award for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods

Shih-Yu Chang, MS, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Tshepo Moto, BS, MPH, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in In Vitro Toxicology

Katherine Dunnick, PhD, The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences, Durham, North Carolina

Syngenta Fellowship Award in Human Health Applications of New Technologies

Thomas Luechtefeld, BS, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland

Congratulations to all of the awardees. Stay tuned to the *Communiqué*, as we will be highlighting individual recipients between now and the SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo.

Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award Fund Set for First Awardee

by Mathew Bogdanffy, 2015–2016 Chair, SOT Endowment Fund Board

Established in May 2014, the [Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award Endowment Fund](#) is sponsored by the Women in Toxicology Special Interest Group (WIT SIG) and was inspired by the generosity of Ms. Anne Wolven Garrett, one of the early women leaders in toxicology and the first to be active in SOT leadership. Following a generous donation from Ms. Wolven Garrett's estate, the WIT fund has grown remarkably to almost \$95,000 and now is established as a permanent fund. The purpose of the award is to recognize and encourage women who are in the early stages of developing their career in the field of toxicology.

Said Tao Wang, President of the [WIT SIG](#), “The Women in Toxicology Special Interest Group is so very grateful to the many women and men who have donated so generously to this endowment fund. This year, we look forward to presenting the very first award during the 2016 Annual Meeting. We are certain the memory of Ms. Wolven Garrett will be prominent during the award ceremony at the WIT reception and look forward to the celebration! We encourage interested applicants to visit the SOT website to learn about this and many other Endowment Fund awards. The Endowment Funds are making opportunities available to women and many other colleagues in SOT.”

2016 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award Recipients



by Gabriel Knudsen, PDA Vice Chair

The Postdoctoral Assembly Executive Board is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award! The BPPA recognizes talented postdoctoral researchers who have recently published papers in the field of toxicology as a result of their work conducted during their postdoctoral research experience. The awards will be presented at the PDA Luncheon during the SOT 2016 Annual Meeting in March. Each award recipient will receive \$250 and a plaque recognizing their achievement.

Alicia Bolt, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, **Tungsten Targets the Tumor Microenvironment to Enhance Breast Cancer Metastasis**, *Toxicological Sciences*, 2015, 143(1):165–177.

Her advisor Koren Mann says of this paper “Very little is known regarding the toxicities of tungsten. I believe this is a truly important paper that begins to dissect mechanisms for an understudied metal exposure.”

Pamela Noyes, Chevron Energy Technology Company, **Advanced Morphological-Behavioral Test Platform Reveals Neurodevelopmental Defects in Embryonic Zebrafish Exposed to Comprehensive Suite of Halogenated and**

Organophosphate Flame Retardants, *Toxicological Sciences*, 2015, 145(1): 177–195.

Her advisor Robert Tanguay says “Although well established flame retardant chemical use has increased globally, there remain enormous gaps regarding the potential risk that these compounds pose to humans. These studies were novel, comprehensive, and provide a number of new findings that will influence toxicologists, chemical manufacturers, and regulators concerned about flame retardant chemicals.”

Pei-Li Yao, Pennsylvania State University, **Inhibition of Testicular Embryonal Carcinoma Cell Tumorigenicity by Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor- β/δ - and Retinoic Acid Receptor-Dependent Mechanisms**, *Oncotarget*, 2015 Jul, DOI: 0.18632/Oncotarget.5415.

Her advisor Jeffrey M. Peters says “Dr. Yao demonstrated outstanding independence on this manuscript. Collectively, results from this study will have a large impact in the field, and hence it is not surprising that it was accepted with solid reviews in a relatively high impact journal.”

Congratulations to each of the awardees. These papers and the others submitted demonstrate the important research that is conducted during postdoctoral studies.

Poster Tours for Trainees: Guide Sign Up Now Open

In conjunction with the SOT Annual Meeting, the Postdoctoral Assembly conducts a unique onsite activity for graduate students and postdocs called the Poster Tours for Trainees. This event is returning for its fifth year to the 2016 SOT Annual Meeting! The PDA is currently requesting Full and Associate SOT members to [sign up as guides](#) to lead a poster tour this year.

In previous years, Poster Tours received an overwhelmingly positive response as they continue to provide graduate students and postdocs with an opportunity to shadow an expert toxicologist and take part in critical evaluation of cutting-edge toxicology methods and research findings in a field of their choosing. This event also provides an outstanding mentoring and networking opportunity for guides, postdoctoral scientists, and graduate students.

To coordinate the selection of times and topics, guides can go to the [Annual Meeting website](#) for an overview of the schedule of poster sessions. As a part of the sign up, guides will select the times (Monday through Wednesday) and topics they wish to cover with a group of trainees. Graduate students and postdoctoral scientists will then sign up for a one-hour guided poster tour with an expert toxicologist in an area of interest.

The PDA is asking guides to:

- Visit a minimum of three posters with your tour group.
- Share why you wanted to visit each poster.
- Discuss the next steps in that body of research with the tour group and the presenter.
- Ask the presenter questions that help illustrate outstanding features of the work.
- Discuss the components that participants may value in the chosen poster.
- Introduce the participants to expert colleagues as you network with them along the way.
- Feel free to offer career and networking advice to participants.

Now is your time to participate in this event—sharing expertise, networking, and advice on research and careers. Please volunteer one hour of your time to show trainees the posters you would like to visit during the SOT Annual Meeting in New Orleans. [Guides may sign up from now to January 9, 2016.](#)

2016 CE Course PM12 Offers Unique Approaches to Safety Assessment

by Tim MacLachlan and Joy Cavagnaro, Chairpersons of the upcoming 2016 Continuing Education (CE) course, "Unique Approaches to Safety Assessment of Gene, Cell, and Nucleic Acid-Based Therapies"

This 2016 SOT Annual Meeting CE Course will address the regulatory, scientific, and strategic inputs required to support the safe use of such advanced therapies in initial clinical trials and beyond and will feature speakers from both industry and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The platforms used for therapeutic treatment of disease have been greatly expanding over the last decade beyond the standard small molecule approaches and the now widespread use of proteins and monoclonal antibodies. The prospect of gene therapy began several decades ago with the promise that malfunctioning genes could be simply replaced, but was stunted in its growth with several notable safety events in the clinic. Now gene therapy is making a furious comeback, with several industry and academic groups employing various technologies and racing to catch up.

Cell therapy has experienced similar peaks and valleys in interest, with stem cells touted as a platform able to replace entire damaged organ systems. Multiple variants of what one would call a cell therapy now are in development ranging from treatment with fully differentiated somatic cells to naïve cells able to grow and differentiate *in vivo*. A combination of gene and cell therapy approaches is used in the widely popular T cell immunotherapy approaches for cancer treatment where cells are modified *ex vivo* to target tumors after reintroduction to the patient. Considering the potency of T cells, it is not surprising that safety concerns have limited their target profile.

Finally, the concept of knocking down expression of gene expression has gained significant momentum with the introduction of therapeutic RNA interference and most recently with gene editing via a variety of methods. All of these "advanced therapy" platforms require very unique approaches outside of the standards defined by internationally accepted guidance for preclinical safety assessment.

To view a listing of all 2016 CE courses, visit the [SOT 2016 Annual Meeting website](#).

To register, also visit [SOT 2016 Annual Meeting website](#).

Science News

ToxSci December 2015 Issue OnLine: New Features Added



The December 2015, Vol. 148, No.2 issue of *Toxicological Sciences (ToxSci)* is now available [online](#). To have the email Table of Contents (eTOC) delivered to you as well as Advance Access notification of the latest papers and research in *ToxSci* as soon as these articles are accepted and posted to the website, register [online](#).

ToxSci Editor-in-Chief Gary W. Miller notes in this issue: "We continually strive to make *Toxicological Sciences* as useful to our readers as possible. Recently, we have added several new features to the journal, including article-level analytics from Altmetrics and funding source linkage with FundRef.

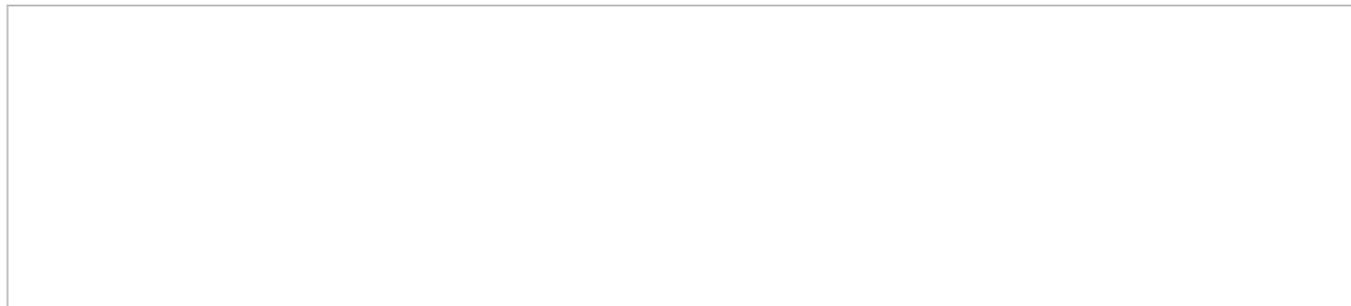
While many are familiar with Altmetrics analysis of social media, reference sites, and media outlets, it also provides information on how many times the abstract has been viewed and how many times the article has been downloaded. These exciting new features notwithstanding, I encourage readers to look inside *ToxSci* for the best original research in the field of toxicology."

Please also Look Inside *ToxSci* to read the "Editor's Highlights" prepared by the Associate Editors B. Bhaskar Gollapudi ([Benchmark Doses and Micronucleus Test Data](#)), Marc Pallardy ([Dioxin and Immunoglobulin Regulation](#)), Robert L. Tanguay ([TCDD and Gut Immune Cell Depletion](#)), and Ronald N. Hines ([High-Resolution Metabolomics and](#)

[the Exposome](#)).

The mission of *ToxSci*, the official journal of the Society of Toxicology, is to publish the most influential research in the field of toxicology.

SLC Industry Perspective on Biomarkers Webinar Now Available for Viewing



The Scientific Liaison Coalition (SLC) October 28, 2015, Industry Perspective on Biomarkers webinar, The Use of Biomarkers in Clinical Development of Novel Drugs, is now available for viewing under the Webinar section of the [SLC website](#). Gene Marcantonio, MD, PhD, Associate Vice President, Translational Pharmacology at Merck Research Laboratories (MRL), provided an overview of how biomarkers are used in clinical trials in the pharmaceutical industry. Most of the discussion focused on fit for purpose biomarkers developed in order to make critical decisions in early drug development. He also discussed the role of target engagement markers to set dose ranges in order to build adequate clinical safety margins. Furthermore, the role of these target engagement markers in determining the level of engagement necessary to translate from a preclinical proof of concept (POC) into a clinical POC study is discussed. Dr. Marcantonio joined MRL in 2007 and has been involved in the early clinical development of a number of compounds in multiple disease areas and now is the lead for Infectious Diseases and Vaccines as well as for Immunology.

The mission of the SLC is “improving the ability of societies to partner with other domestic and international organizations that have objectives consistent with the goal of increasing the impact of the science of toxicology to improve public health” by

- Strengthening partnerships among scientific- and health-based organizations to increase awareness of the impact of toxicology and related subjects on human health; and
- Functioning as a means to enhance cooperation among societies as equals with the goal of accomplishing tasks benefitting human health and disease prevention through joint and several shared activities.

For more information on the SLC, please contact [Marcia Lawson](#).

NIH Announces Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes Program

An October 20, 2015 notice in the Federal Register ([NOT-OD-16-015](#)) announced the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Plans for the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program.

Following the closure of the National Children’s Study in fiscal year (FY) 2015, Francis Collins, the NIH Director, emphasized the importance of and need for research addressing the links between the environment and child health and development. A working group of NIH staff with expertise in these areas was established and input was sought from the community through multiple mechanisms, including a Request for Information, roundtable meetings, webinars, and a

feedback blog.

Informed by the feedback received, the new program for FY 2016—Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO)—continues to leverage investments made in extant programs, while providing the flexibility to investigate key questions of interest at the intersection of environmental health and pediatric research. NIH will support multiple synergistic, longitudinal studies using extant maternal/pediatric cohorts that represent a broad range of environmental exposures (e.g., physical, chemical, biological, behavioral, social).

All longitudinal studies will collect a standardized, targeted set of data (Core Elements), such as demographics, normative development, patient/person reported outcomes (PRO), environmental exposures, and genetic influences. The studies will focus on four key pediatric outcomes (Focus Areas)—upper and lower airway; obesity; pre-, peri-, and postnatal outcomes; and neurodevelopment.

Basic mechanistic studies that can only be done using human cohorts will be an important aspect of the ECHO program. An additional, but significant, element is an IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network. This network also will leverage the existing IDeA infrastructure by embedding clinical trials experts at IDeA state locations and facilitating their partnership with other academic institutions.

The NIH will explore a variety of options to support the development of relevant ECHO program components: cohort sites, a coordinating center, a data analysis center, a genetics core, a PRO core, and IDeA data coordination and operating center and research sites. Interested entities with expertise and insights into the four Focus Areas and Core Elements are encouraged to watch the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts for further information. Please direct all inquiries to: Email: NIHKidsandEnvironment@nih.gov.

Implementing Rigor and Transparency in NIH & AHRQ Career Development Award Applications

On October 13, 2015, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued a notice ([NOT-OD-16-012](#)) that informs the biomedical research community of updates to application instructions and review language intended to enhance the reproducibility of research findings through increased scientific rigor and transparency.

These updates will take effect for most* Career Development Award applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2016. For research contracts, this policy will be effective for proposals received on/after January 25, 2016, and expected to result in contract awards in Fiscal Year 2017 and beyond.

Updates include:

- Revisions to application guide instructions for preparing your research strategy attachment
- Use of a new “Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources” attachment
- Additional rigor and transparency questions reviewers will be asked to consider when reviewing applications

These updates focus on four areas deemed important for enhancing rigor and transparency:

- (1) the scientific premise forming the basis of the proposed research,
- (2) rigorous experimental design for robust and unbiased results,
- (3) consideration of relevant biological variables, and
- (4) authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources.

The basic principles of rigor and transparency and the four areas of focus apply to the full spectrum of research, from basic to clinical. Investigators will need to consider how all four areas apply to their proposed research. Likewise, reviewers will assess whether these areas have been appropriately addressed by the applicant through revised language defining the peer review criteria.

*Notes & Exceptions:

Career Development Award activity codes excluded from this policy include K02, K05, and K24, as candidates for these awards are expected to have independent, peer reviewed research support at the time the career award is made. Refer to [NOT-OD-16-011](#) for updates to Research grant application instructions and review language. Fellowship and Training grant applications submitted for the May 25, 2016, due date and beyond will include new instructions and review criteria to address this policy.

Research Funding Opportunities:

FDA Minor Use/Minor Species Grant Program: Applications due January 15, 2016

The US Food and Drug Administration announced an open period for applications for grants to support the development of new animal drugs intended for minor species (such as zoo animals, “pocket pets,” and pet birds) or minor uses in major species (horses, dogs, cats, cattle, pigs, turkeys and chickens). This is Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) [#RFA-FD-15-004](#). Applications must be submitted electronically by January 15, 2016, through [Grants.gov](#). The complete Request for Applications is available on the [NIH website](#).

The grant program was established by the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004, and funding was authorized to start after finalization of regulations to implement the Designation provisions of Section 573 of the Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act.

In order to be eligible to apply for a MUMS grant:

- the drug must be on the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine’s (CVM) Office of Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Drug Development (OMUMS) [Designations List](#) under the Minor Use Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004; and
- the grant funding must be used to defray the costs of qualified safety and effectiveness testing expenses associated with the development of the drug for the designated intended use; and
- interested parties must have had a study protocol accepted by CVM’s Office of New Animal Drug Evaluation (ONADE) prior to submitting the grant application.

Qualified studies include those intended to support target animal safety or effectiveness, environmental safety, or human food safety. For human food safety, a separate study to validate an analytical method prior to conduct of an in-life study is eligible for funding, if ONADE has accepted a protocol for the stand-alone method validation study. Certain manufacturing studies as described in the FOA that are supportive of target animal safety or effectiveness also are eligible for funding, with an ONADE-accepted protocol.

Subject to the availability of funds, grants will be available for up to \$100,000 per year for up to two years for routine studies; and up to \$150,000 per year for up to two years for studies of unusual complexity, duration or size. A third year of funding may be available for long-term toxicology studies. Therefore, grants could range from under \$100,000 for a routine study that could be completed in less than a year, to \$300,000 for a complex study requiring two years for completion, to \$450,000 for a long-term toxicology study. An indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs will be allowed if the applicant organization does not have a negotiated Federal indirect cost rate agreement.

Emerging Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R33)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA, [RFA-CA-16-002](#)) solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on the advanced development of emerging molecular or cellular analysis technologies for basic or clinical cancer research. This FOA solicits R33 applications where proof-of-principle for the emerging technology or methodology has been provided with supportive preliminary data demonstrating a novel capability for targeting, probing, or assessing molecular and cellular features of cancer biology. Well-suited applications must offer the potential to accelerate and/or enhance research in the areas of cancer biology, early detection and screening, clinical diagnosis, treatment, control, epidemiology, and/or cancer health disparities. Technologies proposed for development may be intended to have widespread applicability but must be focused on improving molecular and/or cellular characterizations of cancer. Projects proposing to use established technologies where the novelty resides in the biological or clinical question being pursued are not appropriate for this solicitation and will not be reviewed.

This funding opportunity is part of a broader NCI-sponsored Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT) Program.

Key Dates

Posted Date: December 9, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 26, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): 30 days prior to the application due date

Application Due Date(s): February 26, 2016; May 26, 2016; September 26, 2016, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Innovative Molecular and Cellular Analysis Technologies for Basic and Clinical Cancer Research (R21)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA, [RFA-CA-16-001](#)) solicits grant applications proposing exploratory research projects focused on the early-stage development of highly innovative molecular or cellular analysis technologies for basic or clinical cancer research. The emphasis of this FOA is on supporting the development of novel capabilities involving a high degree of technical innovation for targeting, probing, or assessing molecular and cellular features of cancer biology. Well-suited applications must offer the potential to accelerate and/or enhance research in the areas of cancer biology, early detection and screening, clinical diagnosis, treatment, control, epidemiology, and/or cancer health disparities. Technologies proposed for development may be intended to have widespread applicability but must be focused on improving molecular and/or cellular characterizations of cancer.

This funding opportunity is part of a broader NCI-sponsored Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT) Program.

Key Dates

Posted Date: December 9, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 26, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): 30 days prior to the application due date

Application Due Date(s): February 26, 2016; May 26, 2016; September 26, 2016, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant

organization.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

FOA: Pulmonary and Cardiovascular Consequences of Inhaled Nicotine (R01)

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA, [RFA-HL-17-008](#)) is to stimulate mechanistic research on the pathophysiological effects of inhaled nicotine on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems in the context of non-cancer heart and lung diseases. This FOA invites applications that will investigate the effects of nicotine exposure using cellular systems, animal models, and/or humans. Projects must include experiments at the molecular/cellular level as well as experiments at the tissue/organ/whole animal level. Applications should address hypotheses mechanistically linking nicotine-responsive molecular and cellular pathways with clinically relevant outcomes.

Key Dates

Posted Date: November 17, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 29, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date: January 29, 2016

Application Due Date: February 29, 2016, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on this date.

DHHS FOA: Improving Outcomes in Cancer Treatment-Related Cardiotoxicity (R01)

This Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA, [PA-16-035](#)) encourages collaborative applications that will contribute to the identification and characterization of patients at risk of developing cancer treatment-related cardiotoxicity. The primary intent is to mitigate cardiovascular dysfunction while optimizing cancer outcomes. To accomplish this, methods that evaluate cardiac risk prior to treatment and integrate evidence-based cancer treatment regimens with screening, diagnostic, and/or management strategies are sought. Research applications should focus on mitigation/management of adverse effects associated with anti-cancer treatments including: cytotoxic chemotherapies, targeted agents, immunomodulatory therapies, and radiation (that occur during cancer treatment and/or long-term survivorship) as defined by cardiac specific common terminology criteria for adverse events (CTCAE). A Companion Funding Opportunity is [PA-16-036](#), [R21](#) Exploratory/Developmental.

Key Dates

Posted Date: November 17, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 5, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): Not Applicable

Application Due Date(s): [Standard dates](#) apply, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

DHHS FOA: Improving Outcomes in Cancer Treatment-Related Cardiotoxicity (R21)

This Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA, [PA-16-036](#)) encourages collaborative applications that will contribute to the identification and characterization of patients at risk of developing cancer treatment-related cardiotoxicity. The primary intent is to mitigate cardiovascular dysfunction while optimizing cancer outcomes. To accomplish this, methods that evaluate cardiac risk prior to treatment and integrate evidence-based cancer treatment regimens with screening, diagnostic, and/or management strategies are sought. Research applications should focus on mitigation/management of adverse effects associated with anti-cancer treatments including: cytotoxic chemotherapies, targeted agents, immunomodulatory therapies and radiation (that occur during cancer treatment and/or long-term survivorship) as defined by cardiac specific common terminology criteria for adverse events (CTCAE). Companion Funding Opportunity is [PA-16-035](#), [R01](#) Research Project Grant

Key Dates

Posted Date: November 17, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 16, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): Not Applicable

Application Due Date(s): [Standard dates](#) apply, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

NCI Research Specialist Award (R50)

This National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute (NIH NCI) Funding Opportunity Announcement ([PAR-16-025](#)) invites grant applications for the Research Specialist Award (R50) in any area of cancer research. The Research Specialist Award is designed to encourage the development of stable research career opportunities for exceptional scientists who want to pursue research within the context of an existing cancer research program, but not serve as independent investigators. These scientists, such as researchers within a research program, core facility managers, and data scientists, are vital to sustaining the biomedical research enterprise. The Research Specialist Award is intended to provide desirable salaries and sufficient autonomy so that individuals are not solely dependent on grants held by Principal Investigators for career continuity.

Key Dates

Posted Date: November 2, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 9, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): January 9, 2016

Application Due Date: February 9, 2016, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on this date.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Applying Metabolomics to Drive Biomarker Discovery in Symptom Science (R21)

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement ([PA-16-029](#)) is to encourage applications on biomarker discovery that utilize metabolomics approaches to advance the understanding, assessment, and management of symptoms.

Research projects of interest include, but are not limited to, those that address:

- Identification of biomarkers of symptoms, including fatigue, impaired sleep, pain, nausea, dyspnea, and cognitive impairment, using metabolomic approaches
- Application of metabolite profiling and biomarker discovery tools to discriminate symptomatic from asymptomatic individuals, differing symptoms, and/or varying symptoms experienced by individuals with similar conditions/illnesses
- Influence of particular metabolite profiles in combination with genetic variants on symptom risk, management, and response to treatment
- Assessment of biomarkers as gleaned from metabolomic approaches to facilitate personalized health strategies for symptom management

Key Dates:

Posted Date: November 3, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 16, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): Not Applicable

Application Due Date(s): [Standard dates apply](#), by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Outstanding New Environmental Scientist (ONES) Award (R01) Available

This National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), [RFA-ES-15-020](#), provides information about the Outstanding New Environmental Scientist (ONES) Award. The ONES Award is intended to identify the most talented Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) who intend to make a long-term commitment to research in the Environmental Health Sciences and assist them in launching an innovative research program focused on the understanding of environmental exposure effects on people's health.

An essential element of the mission of NIEHS is the support and career promotion of the next generation of exceptionally talented and creative new scientists who will further the understanding of the impact of environmental exposures on human health. The NIEHS supports a number of training and fellowship programs for pre and postdoctoral training, and mentored career development awards for faculty in the early stages of their career development.

The ONES Award is designed to identify the best new biomedical investigators across the spectrum of science supported by the NIEHS (i.e., including basic mechanistic, clinical and population based researchers) and facilitate their establishing a vibrant, independent research program in the environmental health sciences. NIEHS uses this FOA to support the NIEHS goal of assuring a continuing cadre of productive environmental health science investigators.

Key Dates

Posted Date: October 27, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): January 26, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date(s): January 26, 2016; January 28, 2017; January 27, 2018

Application Due Date(s): February 26, 2016; February 28, 2017; February 27, 2018, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

NIH NIDDK FOA: Diabetes Research Centers (P30)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), [RFA-DK-15-026](#), invites applications for Diabetes Research Centers, formerly named Diabetes Endocrinology Research Centers (DERCs) and Diabetes Research and Training Centers (DRTCs). Diabetes Research Centers are designed to support and enhance the national research effort in diabetes, its complications, and related endocrine and metabolic diseases. Diabetes Research Centers support three primary research-related activities: Research Core services, a Pilot and Feasibility (P and F) program, and an Enrichment program. All activities pursued by Diabetes Research Centers are designed to enhance the efficiency, productivity, effectiveness, and multidisciplinary nature of research in Diabetes Research Center topic areas. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Diabetes Research Centers program in 2015 consists of 16 Centers each located at outstanding research institutions with documented programs of excellence in diabetes-related research. General information about this program can be found on the [NIDDK Diabetes Research Centers website](#).

Key Dates

Posted Date: October 6, 2015

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): May 14, 2016

Letter of Intent Due Date: May 14, 2016

Application Due Date: June 14, 2016, by 5:00 pm local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on this date.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Legislative and Regulatory Update

FDA Announces Opening for Consumer Representative on SAB for NCTR

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced an opening for a Consumer Representative on the Science Advisory Board (SAB) for the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR). The SAB NCTR reviews and advises the agency on the establishment, implementation, and evaluation of the research programs and regulatory responsibilities as it relates to NCTR. The Board also will provide an extra-agency review in ensuring that the research programs at NCTR are scientifically sound and pertinent.

FDA is looking for individuals with a consumer affiliation as well as knowledge in the field of related toxicological research. To apply for membership on this board, please visit the [FDA website](#). Additional information about FDA advisory committees is available on the [FDA website](#) as well.

CDC Request for Nominations of Candidates to Serve on BSC, NIOSH

A recent [Federal Register notice](#) announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is soliciting nominations for possible membership on the Board of Scientific Councilors (BSC) of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The BSC, NIOSH consists of 15 experts in fields related to occupational safety and health. The members are selected by the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The board advises the NIOSH Director on occupational safety and health research and prevention programs as well as provides advice on standards of scientific excellence, current needs in the field of occupational safety and health, and the applicability and dissemination of research findings. This advice may take the form of reports or verbal communications to the NIOSH Director during BSC meetings.

Nominations are being sought for individuals who have expertise and qualifications necessary to contribute to the accomplishment of the board's mission. More information is available on the [NIOSH BSC website](#).

Nominees will be selected based on expertise in occupational safety and health fields, such as occupational medicine, occupational nursing, industrial hygiene, occupational safety and health engineering, toxicology, chemistry, safety and health education, ergonomics, epidemiology, biostatistics, and psychology. Members may be invited to serve for terms of two to four years. Selected nominees would begin service on the BSC, NIOSH in January 2017.

Candidates should submit the following items:

- Current curriculum vitae, including complete contact information (name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, email address)
- A letter of recommendation stating the qualifications of the candidate.

Nomination materials must be postmarked by December 21, 2015, and sent to: John Decker, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop E-20, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone 404.498.2500.

NIEHS/NTP is Seeking Nominations for SACATM: Deadline December 31

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)/National Toxicology Program (NTP) is seeking nominations for the federally chartered advisory group, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM). SACATM provides advice to the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (ICCVAM), the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM), and the NIEHS Director on the priorities and activities of ICCVAM and NICEATM. This advice relates to the development, validation, scientific review, regulatory acceptance, implementation, and national and international harmonization of new, revised, and alternative toxicological test methods. Alternative methods are those that reduce, refine (lessen or avoid pain and/or distress), or replace the use of animals in testing. Additional information about SACATM can be found at [NIEHS NTP website](#).

SACATM consists of up to 15 members appointed by the NIEHS Director. The terms for two members will expire in 2016. Please send your nominations by **December 31, 2015** to Dr. Lori White, NTP Office of Liaison, Policy and Review, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD K2-03, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; whitel@niehs.nih.gov.

US FDA Seeks Nominations for Tobacco Products Science Advisory Board

A recent [Federal Register Notice](#) announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requesting nominations for voting members to serve on the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee, Office of Science, Center for Tobacco Products. This committee advises the Commissioner of Food and Drugs or designee in discharging responsibilities related to the regulation of tobacco products. Also, the committee reviews and evaluates safety, dependence, and health issues relating to tobacco products and provides appropriate advice, information, and recommendations to the Commissioner.

FDA seeks to include the views of women and men, members of all racial and ethnic groups, and individuals with and without disabilities on its advisory committees and, therefore, encourages nominations of appropriately qualified candidates from these groups. Nominations received on or before January 15, 2016, will be given first consideration for membership on the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee. Nominations received after January 15, 2016, will be considered for nomination to the committee as later vacancies occur.

All nominations for membership should be sent electronically by logging into the [FDA Advisory Committee Membership Nomination Portal](#) or by mail to Advisory Committee Oversight and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 32, Rm. 5103, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002.

Regarding all nomination questions for membership, the primary contact is Caryn Cohen, Office of Science, Center for Tobacco Products, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Tobacco Products, Document Control Center, Building 71, Rm. G335, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 1.877.287.1373 (choose Option 5), Fax: 240.276.3655, TPSAC@fda.hhs.gov.

Information about becoming a member on an FDA advisory committee can also be obtained by visiting [FDA's website](#).

Michael Lauer Selected as NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research

On September 28, 2015, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis S. Collins announced that Michael S. Lauer is to be the new NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, replacing Sally Rockey. Dr. Lauer served as the Director of the Division of Prevention and Population Science at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) from 2007–2009, and from 2009 to the present, as Director of the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at NHLBI. He was most recently named the NIH Co-Chair for the President's Precision Medicine Initiative. For more information about Dr. Lauer's distinguished career, please visit the [NIH website](#).

NIH Deputy Director Lauer Launches Open Mike Blog

Michael Lauer is the National Institutes of Health Deputy Director for Extramural Research, serving as the principal scientific leader and advisor to the NIH Director on the NIH extramural research program. In October 2015, Dr. Lauer launched the [Extramural Nexus Open Mike Blog](#) with the stated goal of "Helping connect you with the NIH perspective, and helping connect us with yours."

The blog topics are wide ranging from [changes to forms and applications](#) and [proposed changes to human study regulations](#) to [reproducibility of scientific research](#).

The blog is updated frequently and [moderated comments](#) are welcome and posted.

Position Advertisement(s)

National Toxicology Program Announces Open Position

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) is seeking a Toxicologist within the Toxicology Branch headquartered at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The NTP's goals are to (1) provide toxicological evaluations on substances of public health concern, (2) develop and validate improved toxicology methods, (3) develop approaches and generate data to strengthen the science base for risk assessments, and (4) communicate with all stakeholders. The NTP achieves these goals through a highly integrated, cooperative research and testing program carried out through research and development contracts and other support activities. The ideal candidate will have a strong toxicology background with experience in the design, conduct, interpretation, and reporting of *in vivo* GLP toxicity studies. (S)he will also have experience in assembling and leading multidisciplinary teams to accomplish NTP goals and provide expertise for the benefit of the testing program. This position is expected to be posted on the [USAJOBS website](#) on/or around December 1; applications will only be accepted for 10 days via the USAJOBS website.

Living Proof, Inc., Manager, Safety and Regulatory

Living Proof is a technology driven consumer products company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The company was founded by Polaris Venture Partners, professional stylists, and a team of scientists including Dr. Robert Langer, an institute professor at MIT. By assembling world-class scientists from a range of disciplines and leading universities, Living Proof is able to look at everyday concerns from a completely unique, fresh perspective.

Learn about this organization by visiting the [Living Proof website](#).

Living Proof is seeking a Manager, Safety & Regulatory to support R&D activities for new product development in hair care.

Qualifications:

Degree(s) in Toxicology, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, or closely related discipline, with appropriate and sufficient toxicology and regulatory experience.

- Strong background in toxicology and product safety.
- Strong aptitude toward managing the diverse aspects of toxicology programs. Knowledge of US and international regulatory requirements for approval of cosmetic and related consumer products. Proficient in assembling and maintaining EU Cosmetic Product Safety Dossiers.

Major Role/Project Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the review and compliance of the safety of raw materials and finished products, as well as the support of claims related to safety and the review of consumer issues related to the company's products.
- Interfaces with external regulatory groups to help guide preparation of safety and regulatory support documents for regulatory submissions.
- Manages all international regulatory submissions for expansion of product portfolio into existing markets.
- Serves as a technical resource on toxicology and safety, serving in house R&D efforts as well as addressing consumer safety inquiries.
- Works with cross-functional teams and with Director Product Safety/SVP R&D to help manage and integrate product safety and regulatory needs into the strategic plan for the company.

Eligibility to work in the US is required.

Please send a cover letter and resume to: careers@livingproof.com.