MSU Professor Becomes Fourth Recipient of Society of Toxicology Undergraduate Educator Award

Reston, Va.; March 17, 2014 — Michigan State University’s William D. Atchison, PhD, has won the 2014 Society of Toxicology (SOT) Undergraduate Educator Award. Since 2011, SOT, a professional association of more than 7,700 toxicologists, has annually recognized an outstanding educator in the toxicology field with this award, which is made possible with funding by the SOT Endowment Fund. Dr. Atchison will be formally presented with his peer-nominated award at SOT’s 53rd Annual Meeting and ToxExpo in Phoenix, Ariz., on March 23, 2014.

“Undergraduate education, with a special emphasis on undergraduate research education for under-represented minority students, has always been one of Dr. Atchison’s professional as well as personal passions,” says nominator R. James Kirkpatrick, PhD. “Arguably, this an area where Dr. Atchison has made very significant and impactful contributions.”

SOT recognizes Dr. Atchison, an associate dean for research and graduate studies for MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, for his numerous contributions to student success in toxicology through work that includes:

- His dedication to diversity in undergraduate students through his work with the University of Puerto Rico to develop and establish an NIH and NINDS-funded R25-Diversity Education grant that has given 40 Latino students the chance to enter toxicological studies since its formation in 2005. Nineteen of these have gone on to PhD programs in the biomedical sciences, with six in areas directly related to toxicology. He was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates grant to permit first-time research experiences for undergraduates.
- His training of 17 PhD students, 6 graduate students, and more than 100 undergraduate students during his teaching tenure.
- His promotion of undergraduates, especially those of underrepresented minorities, at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting and affiliated educational activities. He has been responsible for training six Pfizer SOT Undergraduate Student Travel Award winners and two SOT Perry J. Gehring Diversity Student Travel Award winners. More than 20 of his
students have presented abstracts at the meeting and participated in the Undergraduate Education Program.

Dr. Atchison is also an accomplished professional in his field, with his research resulting in more than 95 articles in peer-reviewed literature and 14 book chapters.

Dr. Atchison received his BS in molecular biology, MS in pharmacology, and PhD in pharmacology from the University of Wisconsin. His PhD advisor, Dr. Richard E. Peterson, is the 2014 recipient of the SOT Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award.

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**About SOT**

Founded in 1961, the Society of Toxicology (SOT) is a professional and scholarly organization of more than 7,700 scientists from academic institutions, government, and industry representing the great variety of individuals who practice toxicology in the US and abroad. SOT is committed to creating a safer and healthier world by advancing the science of toxicology. The Society promotes the acquisition and utilization of knowledge in toxicology, aids in the protection of public health, and has a strong commitment to education in toxicology and to the recruitment of students and new members into the profession. For more information about SOT and toxicology, visit the Society online at [www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org), follow us on Twitter [@SOToxicology](http://twitter.com/SOToxicology), and like us on Facebook.

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