



Scientific Liaison Coalition (SLC) Annual Report *July 2020-June 2021*

SLC Mission

The mission of the Scientific Liaison Coalition (SLC) is to improve and enhance human and environmental health by promoting and strengthening scientific partnerships and expanding the reach of member societies.

The primary guiding principle of the SLC is that greater collaboration between scientists across sectors (academia, industry, government) and disciplines advances the science that can be used to directly improve public and environmental health.

The SLC realizes its mission as an active and flexible coalition of scientific, biomedical, and health-based societies by 1) working collaboratively on cutting-edge webinars, conferences, and scientific symposia, and continuing education courses at scientific meetings; and 2) cross-promoting science of mutual interest among SLC member organizations.

Organizations interested in joining the SLC may contact Virginia Hawkins, vhawkins@aim-hq.com, 703.438.3115 ext. 1660.

<https://www.toxicology.org/slc.asp>



Message from the Chair

The Science Liaison Coalition (SLC) is thriving in large part due to the addition of several new societies, active and productive working groups, and engaged representatives from our member societies. The vigor of the SLC would not have been possible without the contributions of those who previously served as Chair and laid a strong foundation from which the current success has grown.

The monthly SLC teleconference meetings have recently incorporated including a brief 3-minute update from 2-3 individual member societies per meeting on a rotating basis; this is in addition to updates from four active working groups (Big Data, Gene Editing, Occupational Exposures, and Science & Risk Communication). The Science & Risk Communication group has also undertaken updating the SLC website content and format to be more interactive and sustainable. The SLC also continues its support of the Future Tox series of meetings with Future Tox V scheduled to occur in November 2021 after being delayed due to the global pandemic.

Looking to the future, the SLC and its member societies have learned, as a matter of necessity, valuable lessons on how to better construct active engagement using virtual platforms. Many of those lessons are anticipated to become part of meeting planning for both virtual and in-person events, with the inevitability of more hybrid events. I see better coordination between societies and research organizations as another worthy goal for the SLC in addressing cross-cutting topics (e.g., Using Big Data with application of FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable – data principles). If we can properly sequence activities and events where mutual interests exist, we can expedite overall progress for the scientific enterprise with lower costs for each contributor.

Finally, I am optimistic for the future of the SLC and for its ability to better serve member societies, in service to commonly held scientific principles and the pursuit of knowledge.

Best regards,

George M. Woodall, Jr., PhD
Chair (2021-2022), Science Liaison Coalition



Membership

The SLC is composed of scientific and biomedical organizations which seek to promote the mission stated above. Annual dues are as follows:

Yearly Participation Dues Levels:

\$250 for Organizations with up to 250 Members

\$1,000 for Organizations with more than 250 but less than 1,000 Members

\$2,000 for Organizations with more than 1,000 but less than 5,000 Members

\$3,000 for Organizations with more than 5,000 Members

Dues for organizations whose memberships are not based on individuals are negotiated annually and may include non-monetary contributions.

Benefits of membership include:

- Networking at the organizational and individual levels across diverse scientific societies
- Enhanced volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Free live webinars for members
- Reduced registration rates at select conferences and meetings



SLC Accomplishments and Activities, June 2020-July 2021

Virtual Roundtable: Recent Experiences Planning Virtual Scientific Meetings

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact SLC member societies throughout the year. Most member societies quickly pivoted to virtual delivery of their annual scientific conferences, courses, and other offerings. The SLC was in a unique position to share lessons learned in the first wave of this transition in a timely virtual roundtable on December 2, 2020.

The roundtable was facilitated by Anne H. Chappelle, PhD, DABT, and the panelists were Kirk L. Cumpston, DO, President of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology; Elise Madison Lewis, PhD, President of the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention; and Lawrence D. Sloan, CAE, CEO of the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

In this facilitated roundtable, panelists shared their experiences in transitioning from the traditional 'in person' scientific meeting to a virtual experience, including discussion of:

- Criteria that were used for virtual platform selection and agenda planning
- How essential meeting components (e.g. networking, poster sessions, vendor exhibits) were addressed
- Key learnings when planning and executing this format
- Current thinking regarding the ongoing impact of the pandemic on scientific meetings in 2021

A recording of the roundtable as well as all past SLC webinars are available on the SLC website: <https://www.toxicology.org/slc.asp>



SLC Accomplishments and Activities, June 2020-July 2021

FutureTox V

The SOT FutureTox series focuses on building the road for 21st-century toxicology and risk assessment practices, utilizing *in vitro* data and *in silico* models for predictive toxicology, and taking the high-throughput risk assessment paradigm forward to address challenges in implementing the emerging big-data toolbox for risk assessment and regulatory decision-making.

The proposal for ***FutureTox V: New Technologies to Evaluate Organ-Specific Effects for Drugs and Chemicals*** resulted from SLC discussions. The conference is being co-chaired by SLC At-Large Member Dr. Tom Knudsen; the roster of organizers includes SLC At-Large Member Dr. Donna Mendrick and STP representative on the SLC Dr. Kevin McDorman; and Dr. George Woodall, SLC Incoming Chair and Big Data Workgroup leader, is chairing a breakout session. Originally planned to take place November 18-19, 2020, at the Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this conference will now take place as an in-person or hybrid event in November 2021. Members of SLC member societies will be able to register at a reduced rate.

SLC Collaboration and Networking

Ten full SLC conference calls were convened throughout the year to foster ongoing communication and to generate ideas for future initiatives.

There were four active topical workgroups during this period: Big Data, Gene-Editing, Occupational Exposures, and Science and Risk Communication.

The SLC did not convene for its annual face-to-face meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent change to virtual format of the Society of Toxicology 2021 annual meeting.

From May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021, Anne Chappelle served as Chair. On May 1, 2021, George Woodall assumed the one-year Chair role, and Linda Roberts began a one-year term as Incoming Chair.



**PARTNERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES WITH THE GOAL
OF IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH
THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

SLC Leadership as of May 2021

**George M. Woodall, Jr., Chair
Linda G. Roberts, Incoming Chair
Anne H. Chappelle, Past Chair**

SLC Member Societies as of July 2021

**American Academy of Clinical
Toxicology**

American College of Toxicology

**American Industrial Hygiene
Association**

British Occupational Hygiene Society

**Developmental Neurotoxicology
Society**

**Environmental Mutagenesis and
Genomics Society**

EUROTOX

International Union of Toxicology

North American 3Rs Collaborative

Safety Pharmacology Society

**Society for Birth Defects Research and
Prevention**

Society of Toxicologic Pathology

Society of Toxicology

The Toxicology Forum

At-Large Representatives