

ONLINE



Communiqué

Spring Issue 2010

President's Message



*President
Michael P.
Holsapple*

SOT held another very successful Annual Meeting, March 7–11, 2010, in Salt Lake City, Utah. In spite of concerns about the potential impact of our challenging economy, this year's meeting, our 49th, attracted nearly 6,200 attendees, which ranks fifth in attendance when compared to all of our annual meetings to date. We saw an increase of 18.5% in the number of sessions presented with over 2,400 scientific presentations. We also had a record number of exhibitors, including an impressive increase in the number of first-time exhibitors. These levels of participation surpassed all of our expectations.

The thematic approach to our Annual Meeting continued to receive considerable praise in 2010. The themes of Cell Signaling, Gene-Environment Interactions, Metabolic Disease, Mitochondrial Basis of Disease, Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century, and Translational Toxicology helped shape the symposia, workshops, roundtables, and informational sessions, as well as our Continuing Education (CE) Program, which also reflected two CE target areas, Biologicals and Cytokine Biology. Our CE Committee put together an excellent series of courses that were well-attended and our Scientific Program Committee (SPC) worked diligently to construct a program that was exciting and that served as an excellent indication of the strength, breadth, and depth of our science. I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of the individual members of the Society who contributed to make the 49th Annual Meeting such a success.

The thematic approach to our Annual Meeting is just one illustration of the diversity of research ongoing within the Society, and the impact we are having in important scientific areas. The significance of our efforts is also underscored by how well much of the cutting-edge toxicological research being conducted by our membership is aligned with the research pursuits of Nobel Laureate **Ferid Murad** and **Sir Philip Cohen**, who delivered the Plenary Opening and Keynote Medical Research Council (MRC) Lectures, respectively. Both of these outstanding scientists were recognized during the Annual Meeting with SOT Honorary Membership. We also continued a tradition started last year in recognizing outstanding scientific contributions by our own members. **Kenneth E. McMartin** received the Translational Impact Award, and **Richard S. Paules** received the Leading

Edge in Basic Science Award. The strength of our membership was also reflected in this year's Meet the Directors series, where presentations about emerging trends in toxicology research and funding opportunities were given by **Linda S. Birnbaum**, Director of NIEHS and NTP, **William Slikker, Jr.**, Director, U.S. FDA/NCTR, and **Harold Zenick**, Director, U.S. EPA/NHEERL.

As I write this message, I know that many of you are already preparing for the next SOT Annual Meeting, which will take place March 6–10, 2011, in our nation's capital (and my home town!!), Washington, D.C. Once again, we will have themes for our Annual Meeting: Emerging Global Public Health Issues, Environment and Disease, Global Air Quality and Human Health, Integration of Toxicological and Epidemiological Evidence to Understand Human Risk, Novel Approaches to Preclinical Safety Assessment: Bridging the Gap Between Discovery and the Clinic Through Translational Toxicology, and Toxicity Testing: State of the Science and Strategies to Improve Public Health; as well as CE target areas: Cardiovascular Toxicology, Epigenetic Mechanisms, and Systems Biology. Hopefully, many of you have already submitted proposals aligned with those themes and target areas.

We look forward to this meeting, which will be our 50th Anniversary. The stage is set for this incredible milestone...and the 50th Year Anniversary SOT Task Force (FAST) is well on its way in planning our celebration. I will provide opportunities in the year ahead to increase your anticipation of and preparation for this very special internationally recognized scientific event.

Over the next year I also will communicate more about the Society's efforts to fully implement our [Strategic Plan](#), established in 2008, which was designed to carry us through 2011 and was reviewed and extended through 2012. As we approach the last years of the current SOT Strategic Plan, the 2010–2011 Council will review progress toward each of the Strategic Priorities and will develop a "report card" as a start to updating our plan. As typified in some of the themes for the 50th Annual Meeting, we will work to fully implement our Global Strategy in 2010–2012. This year, we also will remain committed to expanding and deepening member engagement through the implementation of 21st century communications tools, such as [ToXchange](#). We will also continue to improve membership engagement through the efforts of a Council Subcommittee on Scientific Position Papers. The members of this subcommittee have recognized that the Society must be able to offer its learned opinion on controversial issues with a balanced perspective and that failure to adopt a procedure for accomplishing this goal may marginalize SOT as an authoritative organization.

Before I close, I want to thank the SOT Councilors whose terms have ended for their exemplary service, including **Kenneth S. Ramos**, **Martin A. Philbert**, **Patricia E. Ganey**, and **Ronald N. Hines**, and welcome to the Council **William Slikker, Jr.**, **John B. Morris**, **Donald A. Fox**, and **Michael P. Waalkes**. I will certainly miss the contributions of the outgoing Council members and I look forward to working with the new members of Council. The Society is truly blessed to have these kinds of individuals be willing to give up their personal time to serve in such important leadership positions.

Michael P. Holsapple
2010–2011 SOT President

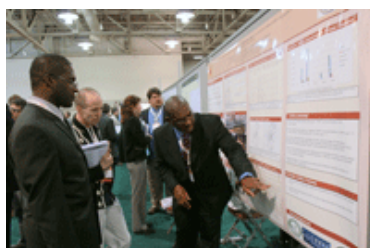
Annual Meeting

SOT Members from around the Globe Convened in Salt Lake City—International Participation Continues to Grow

The 49th SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ attracted nearly 6,200 attendees from around the globe, with a record of 18% international participants. As the economy begins to recover, tough decisions regarding meeting attendance is still the rule. Nonetheless, the SOT Annual Meeting continues to grow as the preferred scientific venue for toxicologists. When the Society held its 2003 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, there were 5,300 attendees. In sheer numbers alone this is a clear demonstration of the importance of the SOT Annual Meeting to those involved in toxicology and related sciences.



For the 2010 Annual Meeting the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) selected the themes of Cell Signaling, Gene-Environment Interactions, Metabolic Disease, Mitochondrial Basis of Disease, Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century, and Translational Toxicology.



With significant input from the SOT Specialty Sections, Special Interest Groups, and Committees, the program was structured into more than 210 sessions that included both featured and special lectures, which accounted for more than 2,400 abstracts being presented. In addition, over 75 scientists were involved in the organization and presentation of 13 Continuing Education (CE) courses that drew 2,500 attendees.

Below are some comments received in response to the SOT 2010 Annual Meeting Survey:

*“The meeting was excellent,” said SOT Past President **Linda S. Birnbaum**, “I can say SOT is my scientific home.”*

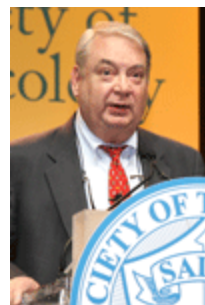
“The best meeting existing on the basis of science, education, and networking.”

“The SOT meeting is something that I look forward to attending every year...overall the SOT meeting is on target to provide what I need.”

“SOT 2010 was one of the best meetings I have attended. The content was relevant, themes were interesting, poster and exhibitor layout was convenient, and CE courses were informative.”

The meeting began with Nobel Laureate **Ferid Murad**, (*on left*) Director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine and **John S. Dunn**, Distinguished Chair in Physiology and Medicine at the University of

Texas, who presented the Opening Plenary Lecture, “Discovery of Nitric Oxide and Cyclic GMP Cell Signaling and Their Role in Drug Development.” **Sir Philip Cohen**, (*on right*) the Founder and Co-Director of the Division of Signal Transduction Therapy, the UK’s largest collaboration between a basic science research institution and the pharmaceutical industry, delivered the Keynote Medical Research Council (MRC) Lecture, “The Interplay between Phosphorylation and Ubiquitination in Regulating the Innate Immune System.” As noted in SOT President Holsapple’s message, **Drs. Murad and Cohen** were awarded Honorary Membership in the Society of Toxicology.



A highlight of the meeting was the launch of [ToXchange](#), the SOT member network, with 500 attendees visiting the Resource Pavilion to have their photos taken and to update their member profiles. Since every member already has a ToXchange profile, we encourage you to update your with a photo and *Curriculum Vitae*. During the coming year, ToXchange will offer a continuous roll-out of new features and functionalities. For instance, the Communities features of ToXchange

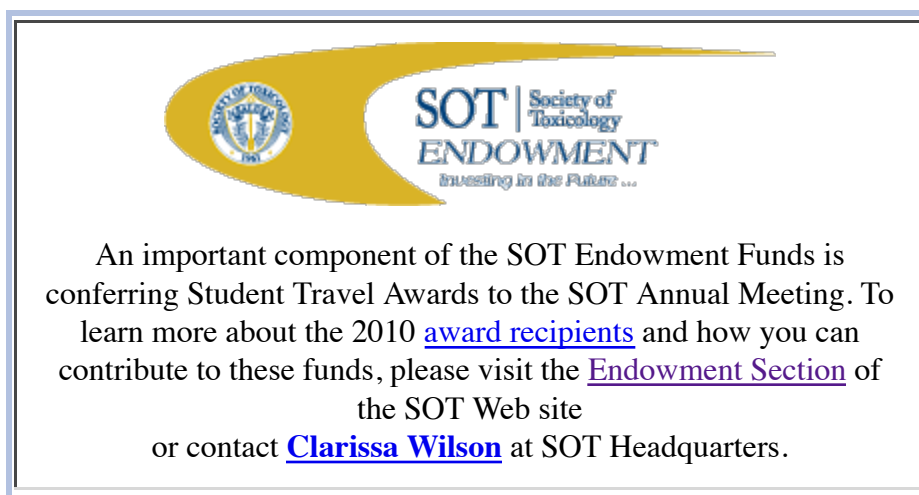
have just been released and offer Council, Committees, Task Forces, Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections. Each community has its own homepage within the site in order to share and communicate with other members and the home page includes tools for announcement and discussion forums, file libraries, and calendars.

This article and SOT President **Michael P. Holsapple’s** message have provided brief snapshots of the meeting. For additional information, please visit the Annual Meeting section of this newsletter as well as the [SOT 49th Annual Meeting Photo Gallery](#) posted on ToXchange.

Preparations are underway for the SOT 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and ToXexpo™, March 6–10, 2011, in Washington, D.C. You are encouraged to visit the [50th Anniversary Web site](#) for an overview of the Society’s history, celebrating 50 years of service to science. The Society is actively preparing for the 2011 Annual Meeting and the process for proposal submission was completed. For 2011 the SPC identified six themes and the CE Committee identified three target areas that will highlight ground-breaking areas of research, new and exciting toxicological developments, cross-cutting activities in support of science, technology, and education.

These six themes for the 2011 Annual Meeting are Emerging Global Public Health Issues, Environment and Disease, Global Air Quality and Human Health, Integration of Toxicological and Epidemiological Evidence to Understand Human Risk, Novel Approaches to Preclinical Safety Assessment: Bridging the Gap between Discovery and the Clinic through Translational Toxicology, and Toxicity Testing: State of Science and Strategies to Improve Public Health. The three CE target areas are Cardiovascular Toxicology, Epigenetic Mechanisms, and Systems Biology.

The list of tentatively accepted sessions will be displayed on the 2011 Annual Meeting Web site in early June.



NIEHS and NTP Provided Live Updates at the SOT 49th Annual Meeting

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and National Toxicology Program (NTP) provided LIVE updates *via* a non-interactive blog and Twitter feed throughout the SOT 49th Annual Meeting. NIEHS and NTP Director **Linda S. Birnbaum** welcomed scientists on-site as well as those unable to attend to follow the sessions and programs presented from March 7–11, 2010. **Dr. Birnbaum** offered information and insights, primarily related to NIEHS presentations and the research of NIEHS grantees, as well as other sessions of interest. Featured commentaries were provided by many SOT Members and SOT President **Cheryl Lyn Walker** was among the first to provide these real-time reports. She previewed sessions to come (e.g., Plenary Opening and MRC Lectures) and encouraged attendees to visit the ToxExpo™ Exhibit Hall to see the cutting-edge products and services.

The March 6 LIVE update featured the SOT Undergraduate Education Program sessions that attracted students from across the country. The blog commentary noted that for many, this program was “their first taste of toxicology. If these vibrant budding researchers are any indication of the future, the field of toxicology is in good hands indeed!”

Examples of the postings are provided below:

- On March 7, **Ray Tice** provided updates between CE courses he was taking (Mitochondrial Toxicity and Nuclear Receptors) and described areas of interest he would pursue during the Annual Meeting, “My focus this week is on identifying strategies (pathways, assays) useful for NTP’s high throughput screening program and our Tox21 (Toxicology in the 21st Century) collaboration with the NIH Chemical Genomics Center and U.S. EPA’s National Center for Computational Toxicology.”
- On March 8, commentaries were provided by **Nigel Walker**, councilor of the Nanotoxicology Specialty Section, and **Richard Paules**, recipient of the 2010 Leading Edge in Basic Science

Award.

- From March 9–11, Specialty Section Programs and Special Interest Group activities were highlighted. These events included the 25th Anniversary of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section and the Women in Toxicology SIG Mentoring Award presentation to **Curtis D. Klaassen**. For more than 30 years, **Dr. Klaassen**, 1990–1991 SOT President, has been instrumental in building the future of toxicology. Moreover, the second year of the NIH Brown Bag Lunch and Resource Room was highlighted as an event that “must not be missed.”
- On March 12, during **Dr. Birnbaum’s** Farewell Message, she extended her congratulations to **Dr. Paules** on his award and to **Michael P. Waalkes** of NIEHS on his election to the SOT Council. Moreover, she recognized NIEHS Postdoctoral Fellows [Xueqian \(Shirley\) Wang](#) and [Bret Bessac](#). **Dr. Wang** received first-place awards for her Annual Meeting Poster from the [American Association of Chinese in Toxicology](#) and the [Neurotoxicology Specialty Section](#), and **Dr. Bessac** was among those honored for Best Postdoctoral Publication by the [Postdoctoral Assembly](#). Highlights of the LIVE Updates of the SOT Annual Meeting are featured in the April 2010 issue of *Environmental Factors*, the Online Source for NIEHS News.

SOT has downloaded these LIVE updates, which although now static, include summaries and photos that may be of interest to you. To obtain these updates, please contact [SOT Headquarters](#).

SOT Now Offers CE Courses On-Line!

The Society of Toxicology announces the launch of the [Continuing Education \(CE\) Courses On-Line](#) program. With the changing economy, it is more important than ever to keep your skills sharp, learn new techniques, and stay competitive in your field. SOT is dedicated to providing such opportunities and resources to the scientific community. In order to facilitate professional development beyond the Annual Meeting, as well as a low-cost alternative to those who are unable to attend, the CE Committee is proud to introduce a pilot program to release CE courses on-line through the SOT Web site.

Two excellent 2009 courses were recorded and are now available through the SOT Web site. These courses are:

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

For more information on these courses, or to [register](#), please visit the CE section of the SOT Web site. Once registered, access is unlimited for 30 days from date of purchase and is linked through your member account. If you are not already signed in, you will be asked to log in using your username and password.

Stay tuned for more on-line courses *coming soon* from the SOT 2010 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah!

Dedicated Volunteers Spearhead Development of CE Courses at the Annual Meeting

Submitted by the Continuing Education Committee

The Continuing Education (CE) Committee would like to extend its appreciation and thanks to everyone who participated in the 2010 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, this year. Over 75 dedicated scientists came together to present and organize these excellent courses, along with 38 on-site volunteers. Registration was approximately 2,500 for the 13 classes that were offered!

The high number of registrants reflected the interesting and varied course offerings and the hard work and efforts put in by the speakers, course chairs, and CE Committee course liaisons. The CE Committee would like to thank the course chairs and the speakers, who generously contributed their time in organizing these courses and preparing presentations and course handouts.

Special thanks goes to our graduate student and postdoc volunteers, listed below, whose participation and assistance on-site were important in helping to keep the courses running smoothly, and SOT staff members who quietly took care of the myriad of details involved in planning and executing this program.

2010 CE Graduate Student and Postdoc Volunteers

Adriana Arita	Indira Jutooru	Erin Romero
Ofek Bar-Ilan	Narae Lee	Yogesh Saini
Melissa Barker	Betina Lew	Rick Salisbury
Ayse Basak-Engin	Anne Loccisano	Sandeep Sreevalsan
Fanny Casado-Pena	Veronica Mackey	David Szabo
Gayathri Chadalapaka	Lauren Markell	Karen Thomas
Enrique Fuentes-Mattei	Chad Moore	Vikrant Vijay
Aaron Fullerton	Satya Pathi	Mark Walters
Sarah Gilpin	Katie Paul	Jessica Weems
Anne Gilson	Jessica Placido	Kong Meng Xiong
Glenn Gookin	Robyn Poerschke	Xi Yang
Dan Hochman	Sindhura Ramasahayam	Xiaochu Zhang
Louisa Hooven	Cassie Rice	

The high-quality educational courses that are presented at the SOT Annual Meetings come directly from our members. The CE Committee appreciates new and interesting ideas for courses from the membership, and continued member involvement is vital to the success of this program.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make this year's program such a great success!

SOT Undergraduate Program Hosts Future Toxicologists

Submitted by Adrian Nanez, CDI Chair

The Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) is please to announce a very successful 2010 Undergraduate Education Program (UEP) at the SOT Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The CDI hosted 35 undergraduate students from groups that are underrepresented in the sciences, 13 from institutions that receive low federal STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) funding, and 6 undergraduate faculty. These participants came from across the country. Their introduction to toxicology started on Saturday evening with lectures from **Craig Marcus** and **Nathan Cherrington**. The night continued with the presentation of the second Perry J. Gehring Diversity Travel Award to **Nygerma Dangleben**, University of California, Berkeley. Her poster was entitled, "Investigating beta-defensin-1 down-regulation in arsenic toxicity." This award is for a student who participated in the program and is presenting a poster at a subsequent meeting.

Vicente Santa Cruz led a memorial recognizing **Mary Kanz**, a longstanding friend and contributor to the CDI, who passed away in June of 2009. The opening night celebration concluded as UEP alumni, current students, and CDI friends participated in the 2nd Annual UEP Reunion. The CDI would like to welcome any SOT members who have participated in the UEP as a student or volunteer to join us at the 2011 UEP Reunion, which will be the Saturday night before the SOT 2011 Annual Meeting.



Adrian Nanez (left) presents the Perry J. Gehring Diversity Student Travel Award to Nygerma Dangleben.



The program participants learned about various areas within toxicology through a special selection of posters.

The pool of applicants for the 2010 UEP boasted some of the brightest students from across the country, a few of whom were already presenting abstracts. The program was kicked off Sunday morning by the annual welcome from the SOT President **Cheryl Lyn Walker**. **Judy Zelikoff** followed with an eye-opening look into the effects of maternal smoke exposure that was complemented by **Lou Trombetta's** examination of the consequences of metals and biocides on the environment. **Martin A. Philbert** provided a glimpse into the potential use of nanoparticles in neurologic cancer and **Lauren Aleksunes** finished the morning session by involving the students in an interactive case study in toxicology.

For an informal opportunity to explore graduate school, this year the students were broken up into groups and given an "insider's perspective" as provided by graduate students and academic advisors including **Robert A. Roth**, **Katherine Squibb**, **Charlene A. McQueen**, **Michael Coronado**, **Enrique Fuentes-Mattei**, **Vanesa De La Rosa**, and **Natalie Johnson**. Students were then given the opportunity to meet future mentors during a recruiting session with Academic Toxicology Program Directors and Internship sponsors.

Also participating in the Sunday portion of the program were the Pfizer Undergraduate Travel Award recipients and other undergraduate students registered for the meeting. Graduate student, postdoctoral, peer, and toxicologist mentors were important throughout the program in providing cohesion to and informal discussion within the student groups. CDI Member and Program Alumna, **Jennifer L. Rayner** coordinated the mentors and peer mentors. **William D. Atchison**, **Mary Ann Smith**, and **Antonio T. Baines** organized a special breakout session for the undergraduate faculty advisors.



Antonio T. Baines (center), an alumna of the UEP, was one of the mentors and presenters for the program.

On the final day of the UEP, students were treated to a stirring Plenary Opening Lecture by Nobel Laureate **Ferid Murad** who stayed after for an impromptu meet and greet session. **Julio C. Davila** organized a special poster session for this group. As always the program concluded with plenty of photos, goodbyes, and the promise of newly burgeoning careers in toxicology.

On behalf of the CDI, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, participants, and SOT staff for making the 2010 UEP a success. See you next year in Washington, D.C.!

Interest High in Tips for Research Funding at Salt Lake City Meeting



Carol Shreffler (at left) and James Patrick Mastin (far right) were among the NIH staff at the Brown Bag Lunch.

The SOT Research Funding Committee hosted two events at the SOT Annual Meeting to facilitate interactions of toxicologists with National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and Center for Scientific Review (CSR) staff. The committee also endorsed a session that included tips for grant funding for undergraduate educators. Slides from these presentations are posted on the Research Funding Information Web site.

The [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Brown Bag Lunch](#) was “standing room only” until additional chairs were quickly brought in for the crowd of more than 100 people. **Michael Humble** and **Janice Allen** of Division of Extramural Research & Training presented a briefing “The Science Review Process.” Then 13 NIEHS program officers, seated at the various tables, were kept engaged in answering questions from the lunch attendees far past the closing time for the session.

The NIH Resource Room was open from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM Tuesday and Wednesday of the meeting. NIEHS Officers and CSR Staff were available on a scheduled basis for appointments to discuss grant opportunities and scientific review one-on-one. Drop-ins were also welcomed as time permitted.

The Research Funding Committee endorsed the [Seeking Funding for Undergraduate Research](#) session

that was sponsored by the Education Committee and chaired by **Joan Tarloff** and **Vanessa A. Fitsanakis**. The session included talks from staff from NIEHS and National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as **Eli V. Hestermann** relating his experiences with an Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) grant.



*Joel Pounds,
2008–2010
Chair, Research
Funding
Committee*

Plans are underway for a NIH Brown Bag Lunch and the Resource Room at the next Annual Meeting in March 2011. Both will include representatives from a broad range of federal agencies. In the meantime, we encourage you to glean insights from the [Research Funding Information](#) on-line.

Postdoctoral Assembly Highlights at the Annual Meeting

*Submitted by **Betina Lew** (PDA Chair, 2009–2010)*

The Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) sponsored several events targeting postdocs and early career members during the SOT 49th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ in Salt Lake City, Utah. All of the PDA-Sponsored events were extremely well-attended and successful.

The PDA Luncheon took place on Tuesday afternoon with about 150 postdocs present to meet old friends, make new friends, and enjoy a wonderful complimentary lunch in a friendly environment. **Betina Lew**, 2009–2010 chair, opened the session. SOT Past President **George Corcoran** provided a warm and inspiring speech to the attendees. The incoming Chair, **Sarah Champion**, welcomed the new officers and summarized the future plans. During the luncheon three SOT postdocs (**Bret F. Bessac**, Yale University School of Medicine; **Manabu Nukaya**, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and **Nicholas M. Radio**, Cellumen) were awarded the 4th annual Best Postdoctoral Publication Award. Each awardee received an engraved plaque and a monetary prize. Several SOT Council members and postdoc representatives for the Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups served as Ambassadors for the tables, encouraging conversation. A fun and dynamic raffle was conducted with door prizes donated from generous sponsors.



*Career Session Speaker
Kristen Keefe, **Betina Lew**,
and **Enrique Fuentes-Mattei***



*Betina Lew presents plaques to the 2010 Best Postdoctoral Paper Award Recipients
(l to r) Nicholas Radio, Manabu Nukaya, and Bret Bessac.*

The PDA and the Student Advisory Council (SAC) jointly sponsored a symposium session entitled “MAP Kinase Signaling: A Common Target Eliciting Unique Tissue Responses.” The session was chaired by **Haitian Lu** (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI) and co-chaired by **Sarah Champion** (Brown University, Providence, RI). This is the second year that the PDA has sponsored a scientific session that featured an innovative approach, with all of the talks presented by toxicology postdocs and students. The speakers were **Stephanie Lahousse** (NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC), **Ruijin Zheng** (Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ), **Heather Klintworth** (University of Washington, Seattle, WA), **Wei Tan** (Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS), and **Colin North** (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI). All of the presenters did an excellent job in communicating their research, presenting their achievements, and representing their laboratories. The session addressed one of the 2010 meeting themes by highlighting the role of MAP Kinases in toxicologically-relevant tissue alterations.

In addition to the scientific session, the PDA sponsored a Career Development seminar [“Where Do I Go Now? Rational Career Development Planning for Early-Career Scientists.”](#) This session, endorsed by the SAC and Career Resource and Development (CRAD) Committee, was chaired by **Betina Lew** (University of Rochester, Rochester, NY) and co-chaired by **Amy Wang** (U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC). The turnout for the session was excellent with more than 200 attendees, the majority of whom were early-career scientists (less than 5 years of toxicology experience). Speakers were experts in career development from diverse career sectors and included **Kristen Keefe** (University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT), **Douglas Wolf** (U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC), **Lori Conlan** (NIH, Bethesda, MD), **James Popp** (Stratoxon LLC, Lancaster, PA), and **Carol Shreffler** (NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC). At the end of the individual talks, the speakers answered questions during a panel discussion.

The PDA had an extremely productive meeting with a number of successful and well-attended events. We are thankful for the exceptional work done by the outgoing members of the PDA Board (**Betina Lew**, Chair for 2009–2010; **Sarah Champion**, Vice-Chair; **Alison Harrill**, Secretary; **Patrick Shaw**, Treasurer; **Lauren Aleksunes**, Councilor; **Patricia E. Ganey**, Council Liaison, and **Betty Eidemiller**, SOT Staff Liaison).



Some of the incoming and outgoing PDA Officers, including front row: Michele La Merrill, Betina Lew, Lauren Aleksunes, and Alison Harrill; back row: Marie Fortin, Michael P. Waalkes, and Sarah Campion

We congratulate and welcome the incoming officers, who include **Sarah Campion**, Chair, **Michele LaMerrill**, Vice-Chair, **Vijay Kale**, Secretary, **Marie Fortin**, Treasurer, **Anne Loccisano**, Councilor, and **Michael P. Waalkes**, Council Contact.

Details about PDA officers, Regional Chapter, Specialty Section, and Special Interest Group representatives as well as links to other resources such as career seminars are found in the [PDA Scholars](#) section of the SOT Web site.

SAC Continues to Advance SOT's Strategic Plan to Enhance Student Experience in the Society: 2009–2010 Highlights

Submitted by Erica M. Sparkenbaugh, outgoing SAC President and RC/SIG-GC Chairperson; Sheppard A. Martin, outgoing SAC Secretary-Treasurer and SS-GC Chairperson

Strategic Overview

One of the major goals of the Student Advisory Council (SAC) is to play an integral role in advancing SOT's Strategic Plan. 2009–2010 Members of SAC include President **Erica M. Sparkenbaugh**, President-Elect **Haitian Lu**, Secretary-Treasurer **Sheppard A. Martin**, Secretary-Treasurer-Elect **Ofek Bar-Ilan**, and Members **Daniel J. Hochman** and **Erica N. Rogers**, who have been working diligently to help SAC continue our goals towards the [SOT Strategic Plan](#). The objectives that the SAC set as highest priority include



increasing scientific impact, building for the future of toxicology, expanding and deepening member engagement, and strengthening organizational effectiveness. We are working with specific objectives that are encompassed by these goals to further enhance the student services we provide. We have accomplished a number of milestones already, including recognizing contributions of student members *via* the Outstanding Leadership Award, retooling of the Student Event Planner for the Annual Meeting to include a Specialty Section, Regional Chapter, or Special Interest Group specific list of events that improve the visibility of each group, and conducting surveys that allow student members to provide us with useful feedback on areas where we have met their needs as well as recommendations for program enrichment. We continue to submit scientific session proposals, manage the Lunch with an Expert (LWAE) program, and host the popular Student/Postdoc Mixer event. The SAC also has begun work on a new initiative to offer a webinar series this year covering topics related to career development and networking with expert speakers.

SAC Business Meeting

Outstanding Leadership Award

The SAC's success is the result of hard work from each graduate student representative. To recognize the contribution of graduate student representatives who go beyond their expected duties, proactively identifying student needs, and using innovative methods to improve students experience in SOT, the SAC established the Outstanding Leadership Award. This year we recognized **Erica N. Rogers**, **Haitian Lu**, and **Prasad Krishnan** as outstanding leaders within the Graduate Committees. **Mrs. Rogers** was recognized for her contributions to the Ohio Valley Regional Chapter by creating a Summer Student Meeting; **Mr. Lu** for his outstanding work with the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section overseeing the Student Mixer and volunteering to serve on additional task forces and committees; and **Mr. Krishnan** for his efforts in support of the [Association of Scientists of Indian Origin](#) (ASIO) by assisting in the organization of the Fall 2009 ASIO Newsletter as well as their Lunch and Learn program. These three representatives did a great job promoting the research and interests of students within SOT! Other examples of activities that enhanced student improvement in the SOT Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups are found in the [Regional Chapter Best Practices Document](#).



SAC President Erica M. Sparkenbaugh presents awards to the 2010 Outstanding Leadership Award Recipients (l to r) Erica N. Rogers, Prasad Krishnan, and Haitian Lu.

SAC/PDA Joint Research Symposium Session

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) collaborated with the Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) to develop the symposium titled “MAP Kinase Signaling: A Common Target Eliciting Unique Tissue Responses” for the 2010 Annual Meeting. **Sarah Champion** from PDA (*at right in photo*) and **Haitian Lu** from SAC (*on left*) chaired this session. Planning for another joint symposium to be held at the SOT 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ in Washington, D.C. is currently underway.



Regional Chapter/Special Interest Group Graduate Committee



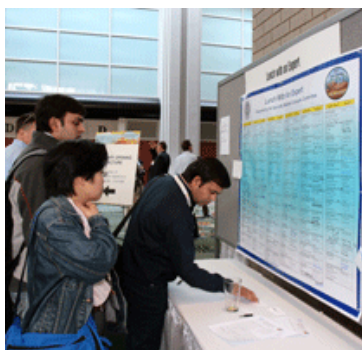
Students and Postdocs mingle at the SAC-hosted Mixer

The Regional Chapter/Special Interest Group Graduate Committee (RC/SIG-GC) was responsible for the organization of the Student/Postdoc Mixer and developing the 2010 Annual Meeting Student Event Planner. The Mixer was a success yet again with more than 350 students and postdocs attending this function, thanks to the hard work of team members **Ofek Bar-Ilan, Prasad Krishnan, Parissa Solaimani, Enrique Fuentes-Mattei, and Sarah Gilpin**. On top of our normal annual projects, the RC/SIG-GC put together a [Regional Chapter Best Practices Document](#) to help graduate student representatives better serve their respective Regional Chapters and Special Interest Groups. We

also created a Regional Chapter contact list, so that chapters can contact all of the undergraduate and graduate programs in toxicology and related fields to advertise events within their region, in order to increase membership and participation in SOT.

This year the 2010 Annual Meeting Student Event Planner was also redeveloped to include announcements of Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups events on-line and in a print version to more effectively support student member interests, especially as first-time attendees, as they navigate the Annual Meeting. Members of both SAC and the Graduate Committees assisted in the production of this document, including **Erica M. Sparkenbaugh, Sheppard A. Martin, Aaron Fullerton, and David Szabo**.

Specialty Section Graduate Committee



The Specialty Section Graduate Committee (SS-GC) organized the LWAE program for the 2010 Annual Meeting. This program provides student participants with a great opportunity to network and gain insights from seasoned toxicologists. The LWAE program was another great success this year, with nearly 90 Experts volunteering to meet over 120 students during the Annual Meeting. We greatly appreciate and thank the Experts for their continuous support for the program. SS-GC representatives took the initiative to introduce LWAE to new students and encouraged their participation in the program. The LWAE team members (**Haitian Lu, David Szabo, Glenn Gookin, Andy Monnot, and Arunkumar Asaithambi**) worked hard in matching the

Students are encouraged to sign up on-site using the LWAE Meeting Board.

students and Experts, establishing communication between the students and their Experts, and facilitating the event at the SOT 2010 Annual Meeting.

RC/SIG-GC and SS-GC Elect New Officers

New officers were elected for the RC/SIG-GC and the SS-GC during the SOT 2010 Annual Meeting. The incoming RC/SIG-GC officers include **Ofek Bar-Ilan**, Chairperson, **Jessica Placido**, Chairperson-Elect, and **Mike Berg**, Secretary. Incoming SS-GC officers include **Haitian Lu**, Chairperson, **Thomas Simones**, Chairperson-Elect, and **Mike Borland**, Secretary. New officers for the Student Advisory Council, which is composed of the officers of the two Graduate Committees, are **Haitian Lu**, President, and **Ofek Bar-Ilan**, Secretary-Treasurer.



*2009–2010 SAC Officers: (l to r)
Erica N. Rogers (Secretary), **Haitian Lu** (President-Elect),
Ofek Bar-Ilan (Secretary-Treasurer-Elect),
Erica M. Sparkenbaugh (President), **Sheppard A. Martin**
(Secretary-Treasurer), **Patricia E. Ganey** (Council Contact),
and **Mike Borland** (incoming 2010–2011 SAC Member).*

We are proud to serve the SOT community, and sincerely thank **Patricia E. Ganey** and our SOT Staff Liaison **Dylan Amerine** for their outstanding guidance and support. We are grateful for the continuous support and encouragement from **Cheryl Lyn Walker** and the SOT Council members.

Annual Meeting Lost and Found

At the conclusion of the 2010 SOT Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, several items remained unclaimed in the SOT Headquarters office lost and found. These items include two pairs of glasses,

four memory sticks (jump drives), one laser pointer, one 3-bead earring, a pencil case, a black fleece, three scarves, one black glove, a small black zippered portfolio, and a Black Hills gold wedding ring engraved with 1-27-01. To reclaim these items, please contact [SOT Headquarters](#).



SOT Is Planning an Extraordinary 50th Anniversary Celebration—Mark Your Calendar!

SOT's 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ will be held March 6–10, 2011, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. Special events are planned, including a March 8 celebration that will capture the sights and sounds of 1961, the year SOT was established. Consider the [50th Anniversary Web site](#) your “go-to resource” for information on this celebration over the next months as well as a repository of historic highlights that will evoke cherished memories for you. It is fitting that the symphonic grandeur of the “1812 Overture” is used as the introductory fanfare on this Anniversary Web site constructed for “Celebrating 50 Years in Service of Science”—a landmark!

Visit the 50th Anniversary Web site and view the series of [Commemorative Posters](#) that pay tribute to all 50 SOT Presidents, salute the recipients of major awards, and recognize SOT's dynamic development and growth. In addition to these posters, an Anniversary Book and Mentor Tree will be added to this Web site. Many of the SOT Committees and Task Forces, Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interests Groups have designated strategic activities aligned with the 50th Anniversary. This is sure to be a celebration that you will remember in the years ahead.

You can demonstrate your commitment to SOT by joining us at the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ and by serving as a host for the March 8 [Celebration Event](#). Hosts sponsor the entertainment, food or drink at the special event. For more information about the special hosting opportunities, go to the 50th Anniversary Web site or contact [Clarissa Wilson](#).

SOT 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting Sponsorship Opportunities Are Available

The SOT Annual Meeting is the largest scientific meeting of toxicologists in the world and the 50th Anniversary Meeting is sure to draw a record-breaking number of attendees. Becoming a sponsor of this important event demonstrates your organization's commitment to SOT's mission of “creating a

safer and healthier world by advancing the science of toxicology.” The Society appreciates the generous contributions of the [49th Annual Meeting Sponsors](#).

There are many opportunities to become a sponsor for the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting to be held March 6–10, 2011, in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Being a sponsor provides an opportunity for better name recognition of your organization among SOT members and the Annual Meeting attendees and helps keep registration fees low, enabling the Society to attract nearly 7,000 scientists from academia, industry, and government—at all stages of their careers—and from around the globe. Many of these attendees are directly involved in the application of toxicology and related sciences to human health and disease prevention. Four levels of sponsorship are offered, with the higher levels providing greater visibility for your organization. The categories are indicated below as follows:

- Diamond (\$10,000 and more)
- Platinum (\$5,000–\$9,999)
- Gold (\$2,500–\$4,999)
- Silver (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Acknowledgement signs, on which sponsors are grouped by the level of sponsorship, will be displayed prominently on-site. In addition, sponsors will be recognized in the *Preliminary Program*, *Program*, the pre- and post-meeting newsletters, *ToxExpo™ Directory*, on the [SOT Annual Meeting Web site](#), and in the PowerPoint presentation shown in each session room. In appreciation for this contribution, Annual Meeting Sponsors are invited to attend the SOT President’s Reception.

Your sponsorship also will help offset the cost of functions such as the Minority Student Program, Undergraduate Program, K–12 and other Public Outreach activities, Student/Postdoctoral Scholar Events, Continuing Education Program, refreshments, and the Welcoming Reception. If you are interested in SOT Sponsorship, contact [Liz Kasabian](#) at 703.435.3115 ext. 1454.

SOT News

Nominate an Outstanding Toxicologist: Web Site Open for 2011 Award Nominations July 1–October 9

The Awards Committee encourages you to nominate a deserving scientist for an SOT 2011 Award. Criteria for awards presented at the Annual Meeting, as well awards conferred by other SOT groups, is available on the [Awards and Fellowship](#) section of the SOT Web site.

Nominations will be accepted on the SOT Web site beginning July 1, 2010. For many SOT Awards, a sponsor and seconder, who are full members of SOT, must submit a nomination using the Awards Nomination on-line form. The submission process allows for easy upload of supporting letters that describe the candidate’s achievements and a *curriculum vitae*.

Graduate Travel Support Eligibility

Doctoral students intending to apply this Fall for Graduate Travel Support through the Graduate Fellowship should submit their SOT [Membership Applications](#) in advance of the September 1 deadline in order to be eligible.

The deadline for the Colgate-Palmolive Awards for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods is June 15. These applications are also accepted October 9 and February 15. Graduate student applicants should submit a proposal for funding of a training experience in *in vitro* or alternatives methodology to enhance their thesis or dissertation research.

***ToxSci* and Postdoc Best Paper Awards**

The Board of Publications Award for the Best Paper in *Toxicological Sciences* is presented to the author(s) of the best paper published in the official SOT publication during a 12-month period, terminating with the June issue of the calendar year preceding the Annual Meeting at which the award is presented.

The Postdoctoral Assembly seeks nominations of papers for the Best Postdoctoral Publication Award. Eligible papers are published from June 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, and are based on work the author did while in a formal postdoctoral position. The application and nomination form are found on the [Awards and Fellowships](#) section of the SOT Web site.

Regional Chapter, Specialty Section, Special Interest Group, and Endowment Awards

The SOT Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups confer a number of awards, principally to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Deadlines and criteria for these awards vary and are listed on the [Awards and Fellowships](#) section of the SOT Web site.

Graduate Advisors—SOT Student Members Are Eligible for Travel Support and Reduced Annual Meeting Registration Fees

Mentors should encourage students to apply for SOT Membership before September 1. Graduate students must be members of SOT and in a doctoral program to receive 2011 SOT Graduate Travel Support. Also, students accepted as members will be eligible to register for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. (March 6–10, 2011) at the lower member rate.

The SOT [Membership Application](#) on-line is convenient and the only certification required for student membership is one letter from the student's research advisor or director of graduate studies. Students with questions about membership can e-mail [Membership Services](#).

John Doull Endowment Fund Established

The [John Doull Student Award Fund](#) has been established as a Specific Purpose Fund to be administered by the Risk Assessment Specialty Section to provide awards to either postdoctoral fellows or graduate students. **Dennis Paustenbach** initiated this fund to recognize **John Doull's** illustrious career in toxicology with more than 50 years of productive contributions to teaching, research, and the application of toxicological principles to safety evaluation in the support and enhancement of public health.

Particularly noteworthy has been his leadership in promulgating a most authoritative source of toxicological principles presented in the serial publication of *Casarett and Doull's Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons*.

Dr. Doull is trained and experienced as both a physician and a scientist. He received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and his M.D. from the University of Chicago. For more than 40 years he has been a member of the faculty at the University of Kansas where he is currently Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology and Toxicology. **Dr. Doull** has helped train many young and aspiring toxicologists in the sound fundamental principles and applications of toxicology to real-world toxicological issues involving both human health and the environment. In addition, he has served as a role model, mentor, colleague, and friend to many scientists in the field of toxicology, including **Dr. Paustenbach**.

Dr. Doull is a Charter Member of SOT, the Society's 26th President (1986–1987), and the first recipient of the SOT Endowment Fund Founders Award (2008).

PNATF Reports on Professional Needs Assessment Survey Results—CE Input Highlighted

Submitted by Mary Beth Genter, PNATF, Chair

The Professional Needs Assessment Task Force (PNATF) led an effort to develop and administer the Professional Needs Assessment Survey to identify key areas where the Society can assist members in addressing the long-term needs of the profession. Initially, input for the survey design was provided by the Career Resource and Development (CRAD) Committee. Further input was solicited from the Continuing Education (CE), Education, Membership, and Research Funding Committees. The survey design and execution were conducted in conjunction with the recently-formed SOT Data Task Force.

The Professional Needs Assessment Survey was open to SOT members (Full, Associate, and Postdoctoral) from October 15 to October 31, 2009, and was completed by 660 SOT members (14%). Although all respondents did not indicate employment sectors, the majority did so: 283 industry, 124 academia, 109 government, 36 contract research laboratories, and 77 consultants. Of the respondents, 581 hold doctoral degrees (e.g., Ph.D., D. Phil, M.D., D.V.M.). In terms of gender, 401 males and 249 females provided responses to this survey. Responses by membership type were 487 Full, 143 Associate, and 28 Postdocs.

A recurring issue that was reflected in the respondents' answers was the desire/need for more career development and CE opportunities. Therefore, while input was received on many other topics, herein we will summarize the input received about the CE needs of SOT members.

Many survey respondents (444) indicated that the CE courses are valuable for learning new material in their field. About half of the respondents find the courses valuable to learn new material as well as new information in a related field. In addition, numerous respondents suggested that the CE courses offered at the Annual Meeting could also be offered on-line (for a fee for those who did not attend the course in person). It was also suggested that CE course content could be provided on thumb drives to avoid having to print and bind booklets. A few respondents commented that the courses are priced competitively but require an additional day of Annual Meeting attendance.

When survey respondents were asked to provide information on CE course content that would encourage CE course registration, some of the topics provided are as follows (number of respondents indicated in parentheses): regulatory toxicology guidelines—where can one get the basics? (338); development of new skills (328); maintenance of scientific and technical skills (276); global regulations (243); consulting (211); and science writing (167).

Many respondents re-emphasized interest in maintaining and enhancing technical skills, such as the following: methods of searching for toxicology data (opportunity for recurring CE course, perhaps every 3 years, as this is an ongoing need and resources change frequently); risk communication; management and budgeting skills; and drug development.

The majority of respondents are pleased with the current CE activities. Many respondents indicated that CE should be provided throughout the year, and that SOT should be a leader in providing webinar courses. In addition to encouraging on-line options, respondents suggested other methods of implementation: 1) SOT should consider recording symposia, hot topics sessions (e.g., those presented by U.S. FDA), and plenary lectures, which could then be made available on-line or on thumb drives; 2) SOT should become involved in more hands-on technical training; 3) SOT should partner with other organizations in developing CE opportunities (e.g., American College of Toxicology, American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi, Society for Risk Analysis, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Regional Chapters; industry [some respondents indicated that current CE activities have too much academic focus]); 4) Regional Chapters Annual Meeting slide presentations could be made available on the SOT Web site for all members to access; 5) It is clear from the responses that SOT members want/need more regulatory training, both domestic and international, and some of these sessions are typically filled at capacity at the Annual Meeting. Could these sessions be repeated during the Annual Meeting—or recorded and made available on the SOT Web site?; 6) Another suggestion was for a session similar to the SOT/Eurotox Debate, perhaps as a Q&A session, to deal with practical regulatory issues (with questions submitted in advance, so that a panel could provide practical real-life examples)?; and 7) Finally, respondents suggested that the SOT *Communiqué* Newsletter could contain more scientific content.

PNATF plans to provide further details of this survey, as well as the findings of the upcoming Job Market Survey, at the SOT 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and ToxExpo™ in Washington, D.C.

ToXchange Corner

It's time for change...ToXchange.

Since its launch at the 2010 SOT Annual Meeting, ToXchange, the professional, private, and secure network for SOT members, has rolled out a multitude of new features and functionalities.



SOT members may log into ToXchange directly from the Members/Scientists page of the SOT Web site or directly at www.toxchange.org. Once logged in, members may view their own unique profile and “MyPage.” Every SOT member already has a profile and their own MyPage set up for them in ToXchange—this is the ToXchange difference! You do not need to “start from scratch” to set up your MyPage, it’s already there. You can easily customize it by uploading a picture, adding your *curriculum vitae* (CV), adding links to other social media sites such as LinkedIn, and much, much more.

In a recent letter, SOT President **Michael Holsapple** endorsed participation in ToXchange to all SOT members: “If you are already active on ToXchange and have uploaded a profile picture, CV, and/or customized your MyPage, I thank you for your early participation. If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to take just ten minutes or so to do so.” Once SOT members experience the easy-to-customize functions of ToXchange, **Dr. Holsapple** noted, “you will want to return to ToXchange often to easily communicate with colleagues and share information.”

Log in to ToXchange today at www.toxchange.org to:

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

The community features of ToXchange are now available for all Committees, Task Forces, Subcommittees, Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups to use. Each community has its own homepage within the site in order to share and communicate with other members and that includes tools for announcements and discussion forums, file libraries, and calendars. Just log in to ToXchange and go to “My Groups” to begin your active participation.

Join the community of SOT ToXchange networkers today and begin collaborating right away.

Council Reviews Position Paper Survey Results and Outlines

Next Steps

Submitted by the SOT Council Position Paper Subcommittee

Background

SOT implemented its current Strategic Plan in 2008 with one of the major Strategic Goals to “Advocate for the Value of Toxicology.” Council has discussed numerous ways to empower the membership to communicate to legislators, the media, and the public about complex scientific issues, in order to facilitate the Society’s ability to achieve this strategic goal. One mechanism is to develop “position papers.” However, this has been limited due to the diverse membership of SOT and the cumbersome process involved in achieving consensus. The SOT Council recently re-visited this issue as a result of a series of proactive efforts initiated last year.

Knowledge-Based Decision Process

In keeping with Council’s process for making strategic decisions through a knowledge-based process, Council surveyed the membership in March 2010 to determine the opinion of SOT members about how SOT might be able to offer its learned opinion on controversial issues. The survey was distributed to 6,866 SOT members and 1,106 members responded (16% response rate). The respondent pattern was similar to other SOT surveys in terms of member type, employment sector, and years of experience. The highest proportion of responders had 20+ years of experience in toxicology. The regulatory and safety evaluation and risk assessment sub-disciplines of toxicology provided the most respondents.

Survey Results

Seven core questions were asked and answered. These included whether SOT should develop “position statements,” whether SOT can develop well-balanced, scientifically supported “position papers,” and whether SOT should devise a process for developing original “positions statements.” Approximately 80% strongly agreed or agreed that SOT should develop “position papers.” More than 260 text comments were submitted with many reinforcing support for the initiative, while others expressed caution.

Next Steps

The survey results were thoroughly reviewed and discussed during the May Council meeting. It was decided to continue forward with the knowledge-based decision process. It was clear from the responses that while the word “balanced” was viewed by the membership as a favorable characteristic of these papers, the word “position” generated concerns. Council talked in detail about the difference, noting that an issue statement is a short and balanced presentation of the science and related issues, including the critical knowledge gaps, and may not necessarily conclude with a consensus viewpoint on the issue. As a result, Council adopted the term “issue statements” for these balanced presentations. Since the survey was only an initial step in the process, additional information will be collected over the next few months prior to final deliberations by Council.

**Update Your Contact Information by June 15 for the SOT
Membership Directory**

It is more important than ever to make sure that your SOT member information is accurate as SOT is preparing to print its 2010–2011 *Membership Directory*. Please check now to see that all demographic information, your member join date, and your title are correct and current (e.g., Graduate Student, Postdoctoral Fellow, Associate Professor, Research Director). Please be sure that your primary address is correct and is indicated as your preferred mailing address. You can enter multiple addresses, so make sure that each address type is marked appropriately (e.g., Business, Delivery, or Home). Please note that your degrees and certifications can be entered in the order you prefer.

[View or Edit Your Membership Information.](#)

Edits completed by June 15 will be included in the print version of the 2010–2011 *Membership Directory*. This information also displays in your profile in ToXchange. If you have any questions, please contact [Membership Services](#) by e-mail or by phone at 703.438.3115.

Any time you need contact information for SOT members, the most up-to-date source is the [Membership Directory on-line](#). If your contact information changes, please make the necessary updates to your member record. SOT would like to ensure that the information available for each member is accurate so that communications from SOT Headquarters and other members are received.

The Education Committee is Hard at Work to Increase Support for Toxicology Education at All Levels

Activities related to undergraduates and undergraduate educators have been prime strategic objectives for the Education Committee. Based on results of a needs survey sent to academics last Fall, the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee has organized work groups to tackle projects related to enhancing undergraduate toxicology education and providing resources to educators to support toxicology teaching and student research. At the SOT 2010 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, undergraduate faculty met to hear updates on the work of the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee, volunteer for specific work groups, and provide feedback. The work groups are chaired by members of the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee as follows: Resource Collection — **Mindy Reynolds**, Networking — **Sue Ford**, Workshops — **Teresa Dodd-Butera**, Newsletter — **Sara Heggland**, and Funding Opportunities — **Wesley Gray**.

Several undergraduate educators displayed posters related to education and outreach. A similar educational poster session is planned for next year, and we encourage those who are interested to contact [Teresa Dodd-Butera](#) and submit an abstract in October.

In an Education Committee sponsored workshop, faculty had the opportunity to explore sources for funding of undergraduate research. The session was organized by **Joan Tarloff** and Sue Ford and included speakers from the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, as well as **Eli Hestermann**, who spoke about his experience with the Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) grants. The session slides are available for "[Seeking Funding for Undergraduate Research.](#)"

As a measure of success, undergraduate students are becoming an increasing presence at the SOT Annual Meetings, with 140 registered in 2010. Forty-eight students were supported through the

Undergraduate Education Program sponsored by the Committee on Diversity Initiatives. Several institutions arranged funding to bring a number of undergraduates, many of whom presented posters. In addition, Pfizer supported the attendance of 5 outstanding undergraduate researchers through their Undergraduate Travel Awards. The Education Committee reminds research mentors that these highly competitive awards provide full support to attend the meeting, numerous functions at the meeting, and presentation of the student's work. The application deadline for 2011 Pfizer Awards is October 9.

In addition to providing educational resources for undergraduates, the Education Committee has been part of the development of an [on-line toxicology tutorial](#) with the National Library of Medicine (NLM ToxTutor). The first module of ToxLearn on basic toxicological principles, available [on-line](#), has already been used by many individuals and even corporations for employee training. In response to suggestions from corporate users who wish to document training, an option to receive a certificate upon completion of the entire module is being developed. The ToxLearn Work Group is completing a second module on toxic mechanisms and is well into development on a third module focused on carcinogenesis.

Finally, the K-12 Task Force is once again part of the Education Committee. During the past year, the Task Force, led by **Maureen Gwinn**, has worked to develop a strategic plan and initiatives that will develop programs to capture the interest of young, developing scientists and make them aware of toxicology. This is SOT's part in the national initiative to increase student interest in the sciences and maintain that interest so that the pipeline of those seeking careers in science and toxicology continues. The K-12 Task Force presented some of their strategic plans to Regional Chapter officers at the 2010 Annual Meeting and anticipates working closely with the Chapters to bring awareness of what toxicologists do and toxicology as a career to the community level.

SOT K-12 Outreach at Events in the Greater Washington, D.C. Area: STEM in Spring and EPA@40

*Submitted by **Maureen Gwinn**, Education Committee K-12 Task Force, Chair*

Even if you don't live near Washington, D.C., there may be events locally and regionally where you, your company or department, and/or your Regional Chapter can share the excitement of science and a bit about toxicology with kids. **Maureen Gwinn**, Chair of the SOT Education Committee K-12 Task Force, is involved in many community-oriented science activities and shares two recent experiences and some information about how you can also become involved.



Continuing the relationship with the Baltimore, Maryland, community forged during the SOT K-12 event in March 2009, **Dr. Gwinn** and **Joanna Matheson** led a four-hour hands-on activity at the Port Discovery Children's Museum on April 2, 2010, as part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in Spring annual event. Both this and the event described next involved Baggie Science, an activity that is easy to do for large groups of kids in multiple age ranges, uses household materials, and kids really

Joanna Matheson shows science is fun at the Port Discovery STEM event.

enjoy it. Baggie Science was designed for the yearly Science Day event with Girl Scouts sponsored by SOT and is used to discuss chemical mixtures and the effect of chemicals in different media. The experiment can be found on the [Paracelsus Outside the Classroom](#) page within the K–12 Outreach section of the SOT Web site.

Port Discovery always welcomes volunteers bringing ideas and activities to the children in a way that makes education fun. Although there are many opportunities at the Museum year-round, two main scientific opportunities include STEM in Spring held in April, and Freaky Friday Science Labs held from June through September. Port Discovery is full of energized and enthusiastic staff and kids, so any activity you choose to do is sure to be a hit. For more information on Port Discovery Children’s Museum opportunities, please contact [Nora Moynihan](#) or [Jennifer Sparks](#).

Increasing outreach in the Washington, D.C., area, **Dr. Gwinn** performed the same hands-on activity as part of this year’s celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the first Earth Day on the National Mall (April 24–25, 2010). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) included a tent for highlighting its work in the 40 years since its inception in 1970. The event pulled together exhibitions and hands-on activities from various offices under the headings of U.S. EPA Administrator **Lisa P. Jackson’s** main initiatives, including *Assuring the Safety of Chemicals*, *Environmental Justice*, *Cleaning up Our Communities*, and *Protecting America’s Waters*, to name a few.



Photo taken by Rin-rin Yu.

Maureen Gwinn talks about chemical reactions as students feel temperature changes in the bag in “Baggie Science.”

As part of the Assuring the Safety of Chemicals display, **Dr. Gwinn** and other members of the Office of Research and Development were on hand. The Baggie Science experiment was estimated to have been performed over 600 times for close to 3,000 participants, all of whom received laboratory goggles and a quick discussion about safety first when performing an experiment.



Starting the experiment with a demonstration of what happens when all four materials were mixed together in a sandwich bag (baking soda, rock salt, phenol red, and water), kids and adults alike were asked to help us with an experiment to determine what caused the reactions in the sandwich bag. The scientific process was briefly described, and each of the participants performed the experiment as part of a team.

U.S EPA volunteers Kacee Deener, Samantha Jones, and Linda Tuxen show students how different chemicals react at EPA@40.

This experiment was used as a hands-on activity for most people or as a demonstration only for those with less interest or time. Participants of all ages enjoyed the activity, and learned about chemical mixtures, endothermic and exothermic reactions, as well as chemical hazards. The experimental protocol was made available to all interested *via* e-mail following the event, and was sent to over 75

interested parents, teachers, troop leaders, and scientists.

We also are planning the K–12 event that will provide open admission to a science museum near the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C., on March 6, 2011.

One of the most rewarding aspects of these activities is seeing the faces of the kids when they watch the mixture change colors, or the bag fill up with gas. Kids and parents alike are often amazed that three simple chemicals can lead to that reaction, and kids that may say they don't like science when they walk up to the table think differently when they leave.

Continuing in the efforts of National Lab Day, I encourage everyone with an interest in promoting science to kids to check out the [K–12](#) section of the SOT Web site for ideas and protocols, or contact either your Regional Chapter or [Maureen Gwinn](#) for brainstorming of other ideas. This activity and others will be performed again on the National Mall on October 24–25, 2010, for the [U.S. Science & Engineering Festival](#). Many communities are hosting [satellite events](#), so check the list and join in for an event near you. Other opportunities for involvement include projects on the [National Lab Day Web site](#), [Sally Ride Science Festivals](#), and events at campuses and science museums.

Undergraduate Campus Visit Funding Available

This is a great time to organize Fall visits to undergraduate campuses to make toxicology career presentations. The [ToxScholar and Guest Lecturer](#) programs provide travel funding for SOT scientists so that undergraduates who might not ever think about careers in toxicology can learn about the diversity of career opportunities in the discipline. Up to \$500 reimbursement is available. The Education Committee administers the ToxScholar Program and the Committee on Diversity Initiatives coordinates the Guest Lecturer Program, which is targeted to schools with high proportions of students who come from groups that are under-represented in the sciences.

Need inspiration? [Reports](#) of previous campus visits showcase the many ways these funds have been used, from supporting a graduate student/scientist team, an individual speaker, hosting a panel discussion, or participating in a career fair. Begin now to consider which institutions serving undergraduates in your region that you will target, make contact with a faculty member, and [submit your application](#) for funding. Applications are accepted at any time.

As **Stephen Lasley** said after a visit to Northwestern College of Orange City, Iowa, “Students and faculty were very pleased with my visit, very happy that someone would come speak to them concerning careers in science.” You too can help build for the future of toxicology.

SOT Postdocs Represented at National Postdoctoral Assembly Meeting by Sarah Champion

Sarah Champion, 2010–2011 Chair of the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA), attended the 8th Annual Meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) from March 12–14 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The conference was hosted by several Philadelphia area institutions, with the sessions being held at the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The NPA

Annual Meeting is the only national venue dedicated to the postdoctoral community. The mission of the NPA is to advance the U.S. research enterprise by maximizing the effectiveness of the research community and enhancing the quality of the postdoctoral experience for all participants.

The meeting opened with a welcome from **Stacy Gelhaus**, the current Chair of the NPA Board of Directors, who highlighted some of the recent work and accomplishments of the NPA. She also recognized **President Obama's** 2011 budget increase in the amount allocated to National Research Service Award (NRSA) training stipends (6% increase), which recognizes the important and essential contribution of new scientists to the U.S. research enterprise. The first ever Ewing Kauffman Foundation Postdoctoral Entrepreneur Awards were then presented by **Sandra Miller**, Director of Advancing Innovation at the Kauffman Foundation, to **Stephen W. Turner**, Chief Technology Officer of Pacific Biosciences, and **Antonio R. Webb**, Co-Founder, Senior Scientist, and Lead Development Engineer of VesselTek.

The keynote address of the meeting was given by **Francis Collins**, Director of the National Institutes of Health. He spoke about his previous work on human globin gene expression and his experience as a postdoctoral scholar. He commended the NPA for its work and initiatives, including the development of the NPA Core Competencies and its support of international postdoctoral scholars. During his [inspirational address](#) he informed the postdoctoral scholars in the audience that “You are a larger force than you realize in terms of influencing the decision-makers.”

More details about this meeting will be found in an article in the [Spring Post-y](#), the PDA newsletter.

SOT Members Receive ATS Designation and Recertification

Fourteen SOT Members were certified as Fellows of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS) in between March 2009–May 2010. The new fellows are **Laura Andrews, David Basketter, Joy A. Cavagnaro, Michael Lee Cunningham, James D. Green, Kenneth L. Hastings, Saber M. Hussain, Hartmut Jaeschke, Kyle L. Kolaja, Michael C. Madden, Gerhard J. Nohynek, Lorenz R. Rhomberg, Christopher Teaf, Cheryl Lyn Walker, and Errol Zeiger**. During that same timeframe, ATS Fellows who have demonstrated their continued commitment to ATS by seeking and attaining recertification are **William J. Brock, John J. Clary, Michael J. Derelanko, John M. DeSesso, Lawrence D. Fechter, Bruce A. Fowler, Terry T. Martinez, Donald Mattison, Harihara M. Mehendale, Nancy A. Monteiro-Riviere, Dennis J. Paustenbach, and James L. Schardein**.

Member Spotlight

Eye on CDI

“Eye on CDI” is a feature recognizing scientists who participated in the SOT Undergraduate Education Program (UEP) and have continued in biomedical research related careers. The program is sponsored by the Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI). In this issue of the *Communiqué*, we recognize:

Donald Kirkpatrick



Current Position: Scientist, Department of Protein Chemistry, Genentech

CDI UEP for Minority Students Honoree: 1997

Education:

1998: B.S. in Biochemistry, University of Oklahoma

2003: Ph.D. University of Arizona

2003–2007: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University

...The CDI program opened my eyes to the opportunities that existed in research science and connected me with the first of several mentors who have guided me along that path. For the next two summers at Searle and Monsanto, I worked as an intern in the lab with **Julio Davila** and his colleagues to study drug metabolism during an exciting period when the company's new COX2-inhibitor, celecoxib, was about to reach the market. [Read more...](#)

Adrian Nanez



Current Position: Scientist, Discovery Toxicology, Amgen, Inc.

CDI UEP for Minority Students Honoree: 2000

Education:

2002: B.S. in Microbiology, University of Texas at Austin

2007: Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, University of Louisville

2007–2008: Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Texas MD Anderson

...I applied to the 2000 UEP in Philadelphia...As it turned out the connections made during that brief two day introduction to toxicology helped nurture my career as a toxicologist.

...In 2008, I was nominated CDI Chair thus allowing me to give back to the program that changed my life...Through the leadership of those before me and those to come, the CDI will continue to nurture the careers of budding toxicologists and will continue to strengthen and diversify the pipeline of young talent to the field of toxicology. [Read full article...](#)

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Albert N. Booth

Dean E. Carter

Arthur R. Gregory
John P. Van Miller
Robert W. West

Dean E. Carter

Submitted by A. Jay Gandolfi and I. Glenn Sipes

Dean E. Carter, our esteemed scientific colleague and friend, passed away on May 21, 2010, from complications of a recent surgery. **Dean** was the first official hire of the Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program established at the University of Arizona in the early 1970s. He laid an excellent foundation upon which this program has thrived. His dedication to teaching and his focus on excellence have left a lasting impression on the several hundred graduate students associated with the program.

Dean was born in Pontiac, Michigan, in 1942. He received his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from University of California, Riverside, and a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Arizona. Following his doctoral training, **Dean** was employed as a Research Chemist with Shell Development Company and as a chemistry Instructor at Merritt College in Oakland, California. In 1973 **Dean** returned to Tucson as a Research Fellow in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. A year later he became an Assistant Professor in the newly established Toxicology Program and served as its Associate Director from 1973–1982. In 1982 the Toxicology Program was incorporated into the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, College of Pharmacy, and **Dean's** titles were transferred to that Department. He was promoted to Professor in Pharmacology and Toxicology in 1987.

Throughout his career, **Dean** was known as a demanding teacher who constantly challenged his students in the classroom and in the laboratory. His primary course, Analytical Toxicology, is remembered by many past graduate students as the course “where they grew up.” They realized they were being trained to be professional, independent-thinking scientists. For his many teaching accomplishments, **Dean** was honored with the Society of Toxicology Education Award in 1992.

Dean's research program at the University of Arizona was continually funded by federal, state, foundation, and industrial sources throughout his career. His research resulted in over 100 peer-reviewed publications along with 10 books or book chapters. The Web-based toxicology textbook that he co-authored, *Toxicologia Ambiental*, receives over 50,000 “hits” per month from Spanish-speaking countries.

Throughout his career **Dean** served on a variety of national and society committees. Of note was his Presidency of the SOT Metals Specialty Section as well as Presidency of the SOT Mountain West Regional Chapter. He served as a grant reviewer for various agencies and was chair of the Toxicology Study Section for the National Institutes of Health.

Building off his doctoral research in metal chelates, **Dean** established a strong metals toxicology

research program. This program has become known world-wide for its many contributions to our knowledge of arsenic disposition and toxicity. In 2008, **Dean** received the Achievement Award from the SOT Metals Specialty Section for his career accomplishments in metals toxicology.

Rather than rest on his laurels, when the NIEHS Superfund Program was initiated, **Dean** was successful in uniting the environmental toxicology and environmental scientists at the University of Arizona into an attack on environmental problems facing Arizona. The NIEHS-sponsored Superfund Program evolved to include 13 departments and 5 colleges. Today, it continues to flourish and is an outstanding model for interdisciplinary research at the University of Arizona and beyond.

Dean had a long-time interest in Mexico. Always a builder and collaborator, **Dean** bridged his interests in toxicology with the common environmental problems present in the Southwest USA and Mexico. Again, his vision led to the establishment of a unique “outreach program” to Mexico. It has resulted in numerous interactions between Mexican and U.S. scientists as well as the training of Mexican students and professionals in toxicology/risk assessment. **Dean’s** efforts laid the groundwork for establishment of a U.S.-Mexico Binational Center of Environmental Studies and Toxicology.

This gentle man had a remarkable career that enriched the lives of so many. He will forever be remembered by all of us for his accomplishments, his sage advice, his foresight, and his friendship.

John P. Van Miller



Dr. **John P. Van Miller** died unexpectedly on Monday, April 12, 2010, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He was born on June 11, 1949, to **Doris (LaTour) Van Miller** and **Louis Van Miller Jr.** in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Dr. Miller was a graduate of Green Bay West High School in 1967, and received his B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. He went on to receive his Masters and Ph.D. in Pathology from University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He married **Mary Dachelet** on February 14, 1970. They resided in Madison, Wisconsin, for a number of years where he worked in research at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The couple moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where **Dr. Miller** was Director of the Bushy Run Research Center for Union Carbide Corporation for many years. They later moved to Danbury, Connecticut, where he worked as a toxicologist for Union Carbide. In 2001, they moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, where he was Vice President of Toxicology Regulatory Services, an independent consulting firm.

Dr. Miller was an avid runner but his real joy was on the golf course, where he spent many hours working on his game, predominately on the courses of Glenmore and Spring Creek. The people who knew and loved him will always miss him.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; his daughter, **Kim Van Miller** and her significant other, **Michael**

Heffner, of Blacksburg, Virginia; his mother, **Doris**; and his brother, **James Van Miller** and his wife, **Carolyn**, of Green Bay. He was preceded in death by his father, **Louis**; and son, **Sean**.

Regional Chapter, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups

Are You Interested in Stem Cells and Stem Cell Toxicology? — Plan to Join the Proposed New Specialty Section for the Society of Toxicology

Are you interested in learning about a proposed new Specialty Section for Stem Cell Toxicology? All SOT members are invited to join the proposed new Stem Cells Specialty Section. Initial discussions will be focused on the formation of an organizational committee representing academia, government, industry, and the private sector to do the groundwork to establish this Specialty Section.

The objectives of this proposed Stem Cells Specialty Section are to promote an exchange of information among academic, government, industry, clinical, and preclinical researchers in stem cell toxicology, including:

- To serve as the focal point for the interaction of SOT members interested in stem cells and stem cell toxicology;
- To provide a forum for the interaction of toxicologists and other professionals involved in stem cell toxicity/toxicology studies;
- To advocate the development of the most appropriate, sound science-based guidelines for stem cell toxicology *in vitro* and *in vivo*;
- To organize programs and educational activities that emphasize new developments, discoveries, and issues in stem cells and stem cell toxicology;
- To relate the developments in stem cell research to the activities of SOT to stimulate interest and growth in stem cells as it relates to the general science of toxicology; and
- To provide a liaison with other professional organizations such as the American Association for Cancer Research, International Society for Stem Cell Research, etc.

Exchange of information will be promoted through annual business meetings, sponsorship of sessions/workshops for the SOT Annual Meeting, and liaisons with other professional organizations. Communications will be facilitated by use of the Internet. Student awards will be provided to encourage new scientists in the field of stem cell toxicology. For further information, please contact [Erik Tokar](#) or [Michael P. Waalkes](#).

Salt Lake City ELSI Reception Speaker Addresses Chemical Exposures in Military

Submitted by John Norman, ELSI Vice President-Elect

During the SOT 49th Annual Meeting, the Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (ELSI) Specialty Section held its invariably well-attended annual reception. This year, ELSI invited the National Security

Reporter for the *Salt Lake Tribune* and Executive Director of the Newfourth Organization, **Matthew D. LaPlante**. As a veteran and war correspondent, **Mr. LaPlante's** talk, entitled "Sickened by Service," provided a unique perspective of the environmental and health challenges that confront the military.

Historically, **Mr. LaPlante** pointed out, the health and environmental challenges faced by the military were due to chemical weapons exposure and casual disposal of decommissioned weapons. Efforts are underway by the U.S. Armed Forces to incinerate its stockpile of chemical weapons; however, the same cannot be said about chemical weapons in other parts of the world. Gulf War Veterans exposed to residual chemicals weapons can display a multi-symptom illness termed Gulf War Syndrome. More recently, the health hazards associated with the open-air disposal burn pits used in Iraq and Afghanistan have been linked to illness among those who served. He urged current and future toxicologists to research the effects that these exposures have so as to better understand and prevent future illness to our men and women in the Armed Forces.

The presentation by **Mr. LaPlante** was well received by the audience, who asked many insightful questions after the presentation. ELSI would like to thank him for speaking at the reception.

Highlights of Regional Chapter Annual Meetings

Southern California Regional Chapter Annual Meeting Focuses on Safety Biomarkers

The Southern California Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (SCSOT) held its Annual Meeting on October 1, 2009. This year's event took place on the campus of Allergan, Inc., in Irvine, California. The theme of the meeting was "Safety Biomarkers: Recent Progress and Current Initiatives." Similar to previous meetings, a number of speakers from both academia and industry contributed their time and expertise to make the meeting a huge success. A number of biomarkers specific to a given organ system were presented including those proposed to be important in liver, kidney, and the immune system. In certain cases such as kidney, the ability to translate preclinical biomarkers to clinical application was also featured. The meeting also focused on the challenges faced in development of new biomarkers. Metabolomics, an emerging area of the 'Omics technology, was presented in detail as was the problem of addressing species specific biomarkers. Another exciting part of the Annual Meeting was the continued success of our students' contribution. Students from area schools including University of California, Los Angeles, San Diego State, and University of California, Irvine, presented either an oral or poster overview of their own research. Cash prizes were awarded to the top students in each category. The SCSOT President **Michelle Horner** stated, "I could not have been more pleased with the quality of the science presented by our speakers and student presenters as well as the wonderful venue and sponsor contributions. The meeting was truly a success."



(l to r) *Aida Sacaan, Parissa Solaimani, Husam Younis, Jacob Jabbour, Aya Westbrook, Glenn Gookin, and Greg Stevens*

Each year the SCSOT Annual Meeting provides a springboard to the SOT Annual Meeting due to its timely occurrence in the Fall and provides a nice opportunity for local students to publicize their work in a small meeting format.

North Carolina Regional Chapter Holds Annual Meeting on “Genomics and the Toxic Response”

Submitted by Michael Hughes, NCSOT Secretary-Treasurer

The North Carolina Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (NCSOT) held its annual Spring Meeting on March 3, 2010, at the Research Triangle Park campus of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. About 80 people attended the meeting with the theme “Genomics and the Toxic Response.” The speakers were **Alison Harrill**, of The Hamner Institute (“Predicting and Understanding Adverse Drug Reactions from Mouse to Man using Novel Genetic and *In Silico* Tools”) and **Ivan Rusyn**, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (“Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: Is *In Vitro* Testing Faster, Cheaper, Informative?”). About two dozen posters, including many that were later shown at the SOT 2010 Annual Meeting, were displayed by members and guests. The annual student poster competition was held at the meeting. The student award winners were **Mikuli Breen** (North Carolina State University), **Samantha Snow** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and **Shannon O’Shea** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

Science News

NIH CSR Works to Enhance Grant Review Process

For the past several years, SOT has been working collaboratively with officials at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Center for Scientific Review (CSR) to find better ways to improve the review process for toxicology-related grant applications. In 2008, The CSR set up a pilot trial called the Systematic Injury by Environment Exposure (SIEE) Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) as part of the Digestive Sciences Integrative Review Group (IRG). After just a few review cycles, this special emphasis panel was discontinued. As an alternative, the CSR has developed a plan to ensure more efficient clustering of toxicology applications in study sections with sufficient number of toxicologists

as “standing” members, who can review toxicology and non-toxicology applications. Also, CSR will continue to recruit *ad hoc* reviewers to provide expertise in areas of toxicological sciences that are not adequately covered by their standing members. CSR also has indicated that the study section guidelines are under continuous revisions, reflective of changes and trends in scientific directions, including the toxicological sciences.

To deal with more complex and multidisciplinary grant applications, the CSR developed a two-stage panel process this past winter. Under this system, CSR may invite 2,000 scientists to serve on its first panel named the “College of CSR Reviewers.” These reviewers act as first-stage expert reviewers and may provide written analysis for up to 12 applications a year. A second panel takes these written comments into consideration when they evaluate the applications and assign final priority scores. This process emulates a two-stage editorial board review process for research articles.

Several SOT members have already been approached to serve on the College of CSR Reviewers. SOT is now [soliciting nominations](#) (including self-nominations) of toxicologists who might serve on the College of Reviewers. Submit the information on the [nomination form](#) to [Betty Eidemiller](#). The Research Funding Committee will forward the list to SOT Council for review and submission to CSR for consideration. We appreciate your assistance with this effort.

SOT will continue to monitor the process and work of the CSR to ensure that toxicologists are fairly represented on the various study panels and to promote funding of toxicology proposals.

Gordon Research Conference: Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity—Save the Date!

Submitted by Ruth A. Roberts, Chair and Daniel D. Petersen, Vice-Chair

The SOT is pleased to sponsor the 2011 Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity, which will present cutting-edge mechanistic toxicological research underpinning key innovations in environmental, pharmaceutical, and industrial sciences and heralds an exciting period in the quest to predict and circumvent adverse drug and toxicant reactions. The meeting will be held at the Proctor Academy in Andover, New Hampshire, on August 7–12, 2011.

The conference will feature a wide range of topics, such as inflammation and repair/adaptation, non-coding mRNAs, epigenomics, hepatotoxicity, neuroinflammatory diseases, and individual susceptibility/adaptation together with new models of *in silico* and *in vivo* predictive toxicology. The conference will bring together a collection of investigators who are at the forefront of their field, and will provide opportunities for junior scientists and graduate students to present their work in poster format and exchange ideas with leaders in the field. Some poster presenters will be selected for short talks. The collegial atmosphere of this conference, with programmed discussion sessions as well as opportunities for informal gatherings in the afternoons and evenings, provides an avenue for scientists from different disciplines to brainstorm and promotes cross-disciplinary collaborations in the various research areas represented. Visit the [GRC Web site](#) to get information about registration, deadlines, and the meeting program.

[Gordon Research Conference Flyer—Save the Date!](#) 

[Visit the SOT Calendar Events for all upcoming SOT Sponsored Meetings.](#)

Position Advertisement(s)

Texas Tech University Assistantships—The Institute of Environmental and Human Health

The Department of Environmental Toxicology and The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH), Texas Tech University, has up to four positions available for Ph.D. students who are interested in research that lies at the interface of environmental, ecological, and human health sciences. These competitive assistantships offer generous support along with a tuition allowance, with the specific area of research to be determined based on applicant and faculty interest. Interested students are encouraged to peruse the [TIEHH Web site](#) to find information regarding ongoing research areas. Information regarding the application process can be found on the [Web site](#).

[Visit the SOT Job Bank for Additional Positions Listings](#)