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Minorities have traditionally been underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. This is especially notable in disciplines that require graduate level training, such as toxicology. The Society of Toxicology has made significant efforts to interest minorities in toxicology by introducing the discipline to undergraduates. The outreach program, showed evidence of success. About 150 people, a "standing room only" crowd, attended the Educational Program for Minority Students. At another session a number of minority scientists and graduate students presented posters of their research results to an audience of interested toxicologists, employers, and minority undergraduates. The provided opportunity for the audience to note the wide variety of speciality areas in toxicology in which minorities work and study. Interaction of the Society of Toxicology with travel awardees was continued after the annual meeting. By review of the program through use of a questionnaire. Further contact between SOT and these advisors is being maintained by placing them on the mailing list for the SOT Newsletter.

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RESEARCH IN TOXICOLOGY PRESENTED BY AND FOR MINORITIES

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FINAL REPORT



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RESEARCH IN TOXICOLOGY PRESENTED BY AND FOR MINORITIES

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research provided funds that were used to support the travel to the Society of Toxicology 1991 annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, of 9 scientists that serve as advisors to minority undergraduates. Undergraduates whom they advise wished to attend the Society of Toxicology annual meeting in order to learn more about toxicology as a career choice; the advisors were provided support to attend this meeting so they could learn about toxicology and serve as better advisors for these students. The advising scientists, minorities themselves, are key individuals who support and encourage their students to explore their options. It is these individuals to whom the minority undergraduate science majors strongly relate. And it is these individuals who would provide the strongest support to students choosing toxicology. The science advisors who attended the 1991 Society of Toxicology meeting were very enthusiastic about the programs that were presented and this enthusiasm was passed to their students. They took every opportunity to interact with the toxicologists at both formal and informal sessions.

Minorities have traditionally been underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. This is especially notable in disciplines that require graduate level training, such as toxicology. It is toxicology, however, that should be of great interest to minorities because they comprise a relatively large proportion of soldiers, farm workers, beauticians, factory workers and warehouse employees, which puts them at greater risk for occupational and environmental exposure to toxicants. In addition, minorities are also more likely to live in high demographic areas and it is in such areas that exposure to toxic waste and environmental hazards are highest. For minorities, then, toxicology is a relevant scientific discipline.

The Society of Toxicology has made significant efforts to interest minorities in toxicology by introducing the discipline to undergraduates and others during special sessions at the annual meeting. The outreach program, as conducted at the SOT meeting in Dallas, showed evidence of success. About 150 people, a "standing room only" crowd, attended the Educational Program for Minority Students, at which time the discipline of toxicology was introduced. Among the attendees were Society of Toxicology members who are also members of minority groups, as this provided an opportunity for them to interact with the minority students and their advisors. After the formal session disbanded, smaller discussion groups remained in the room until the hotel management requested that discussions be continued elsewhere. At another session a number of minority scientists and graduate students presented posters of their research results to an audience of interested toxicologists, employers, and minority undergraduates. The session provided opportunity for the audience to note the wide variety of speciality areas in toxicology in which minorities work and study. Over 200 of the 3000 registrants at the 1991 Society of Toxicology meeting attended this session, at which 30 posters were displayed.

Interaction of the Society of Toxicology with travel awardees was continued after the annual meeting. Initially this was done by inviting the advisors whose travel had been supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific

Research, as well as the minority undergraduates who attended the annual meeting and the toxicologists who served as mentors to review the program through use of a questionnaire. The scientists serving as undergraduate advisors were especially complimentary of the program.

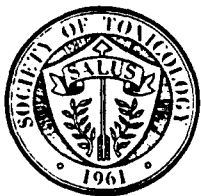
Further contact between SOT and these advisors is being maintained by placing them on the mailing list for the SOT Newsletter, which contained several articles over the past year about this program.

The individuals whose travel to the 1991 Society of Toxicology meeting was supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research were: Dr. Hart Spiller, Fisk University, Nashville; Dr. Paul Goldstein, University of Texas at El-Paso; Dr. Harpal Singh, Savannah State College; Dr. Phillip W. Archer, Virginia State University, Peterburg VA; Dr. Raman C. Murthy, Central State University, Wilberforce Ohio; Dr. Syed Naqvi, South University, Baton Rouge; Dr. Vernon G. Archer Sr., Jackson State University; Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Jackson State University; and Dr. Braulio Jimenez, University of Puerto Rico.

The funds provided airfare (\$3500); 1-2 nights at the hotel in which the meeting was held (\$1000); ground transportation and 1 day per diem (\$450) and partial cost of The Toxicologist, the official program of the SOT meeting (\$50). The Society of Toxicology provided office support, including the making of plane and hotel reservations, and waived registration fees for these participants.

Attachments to this report include:

- (1) The questionnaire sent to travel awardees after the meeting, including a summary of the responses.
- (2) A letter from a scientist that was supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.
- (3) Item from the Society of Toxicology Newsletter, May/June 1991, p 3



Society of Toxicology

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8 March 1991

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to: Student travel award winners, *28 of 49 responded*
Advisors of undergraduate science majors, *6 of 9 responded*
Toxicologist Host/Mentors for undergraduate science majors *9 of 12 responded*

from: The Society of Toxicology Education Committee

Please take a moment to provide the Education Committee with your input about the special programs that were included at the recent annual meeting of the Society of Toxicology in Dallas. This questionnaire may be sent directly to the SOT office by folding it in thirds, using a staple, and mailing it to the address on the back of the second page. Please reply by May 20.

The following scale may be used to rate the programs:

- 5 = outstanding
- 4 = excellent
- 3 = good
- 2 = fair
- 1 = poor

Please feel free to provide written comments as well.

1. Overall impression of the program whereby undergraduate science majors and advisers were brought to the annual meeting, provided with host/mentors, introduced to toxicology, at the Educational Program for Minority Students, provided with opportunity to view what toxicologists do at the Poster Session, and given opportunity to meet graduate students and toxicologists at the Student Luncheon:

Rating:	5	4	3	2	1	Total responses
Comments: Mentors	1	6	1	1		9
Advisors	3	3				6
Students	19	7		1		27

2. The Educational Program presented on Monday afternoon:

Rating:	5	4	3	2	1	
Comments: Mentors	4	2	3			9
Advisors	4	1				5
Students	12	14	2			28

3. The special poster session and its capability to provide an overview of toxicology:

Rating:	5	4	3	2	1	
Comments: Mentors	1	3	3	1		8
Advisors	3	2				5
Students	10	12	5			27

4. The host/mentor program:

Rating:	5	4	3	2	1	
Comments: Mentors	1	5	3			9
Advisors	4	1	1			6
Students	13	11	3	1		28

5. Other parts of the scientific meeting you attended as part of this program:

	5	4	3	2	1	Total
Rating:						
Comments: Mentors		5	1			6
Advisors	3	1				4
Students	7	15	4			26

6. Arrangements for housing (Anatole hotel) and special provisions for food (the pizza at the Educational Program, the breakfast at the poster session, the student luncheon):

	5	4	3	2	1	Total
Rating						
Comments: Mentors	3	1	2			6
Advisors	5	1				6
Students	14	11	3			28

7. Travel arrangements:

	5	4	3	2	1	Total
Rating						
Comments: Mentors		1	2			3
Advisors	5	1				6
Students	11	17				26

8. Advertisements and opportunity to hear about the Society of Toxicology programs that were planned for the annual meeting.

	5	4	3	2	1	Total
Rating						
Comments: Mentors	1	2	2	1		6
Advisors	2	1	3			6
Students	7	15	4			26

8. What parts of this program should be retained for next year?

Keep what was done, with expansion of time at meeting
Mentors - 8; Advisors - 8; Students - 16

9. What parts of this program should be improved for next year? What suggestions would you have for improvement?

Provide guide through poster session
Organize for better initial contacts

10. What was your role in the SOT special program?

- undergraduate student
 advisor of undergraduate science students
 toxicologist host/mentor

Name (optional) _____



The University of Texas at El Paso

Department of Biological Sciences

Dear M. Ehrlich,

March 19, 1991

I have enclosed the questionnaire. I think the SOT Educational Program was by far the finest I have been involved with. My students came back to UTEP very enthusiastic about the future. In addition, I have since received two letters from other professors who are interested in our students for their program.

I would like to thank you for all your efforts.

In addition, if you need me for any planning sessions or other aspects of your program, I would be very interested in working with you.

Best regards,

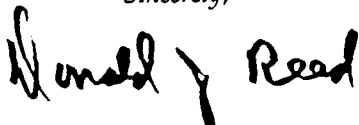
Paul Goldstein, Ph.D.



In closing, I would like to thank the members for their participation in and support of the activities of the Society. The willingness of so many members to give of their time and talents is truly exceptional. Possibly, our main limitation as a Society may be that of meeting the goals envisioned and initiated. Your participation in identifying such goals in the coming year is strongly urged, and I hope to continue to hear from many of you.

Best wishes to each of you, and my thanks for the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to an exciting and productive year.

Sincerely,



Don Reed

Airline Ticket Winners

The winner of two round-trip tickets on American Airlines, chosen at the Annual Business Meeting, was: **Robert L. Bronaugh, Ph.D.**, Division of Toxicology, USFDA. The winner of two round-trip tickets on Delta Airlines, selected from the Annual Meeting attendees using the SOT discounted travel program, was: **James C. Lamb, IV, Ph.D.**, Jellinek, Schwartz, Connolly & Freshman.

Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Award for *In Vitro* Toxicology

Dr. Salvatore DeSalva of the Colgate-Palmolive Company presented the Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Award for *in vitro* toxicology at the annual meeting. The 1991 award of \$33,500 annually for two years was awarded to **Anne Walsh, Ph.D.**, Albany Medical College, Albany, NY. Three finalists for this award were selected from a field of 12 candidates. Honorable mention certificates for their impressive credentials were provided to **Dr. Fran Cook-Boldin** from Columbia University and **Dr. Laureen MacEachern** from Rutgers University. Through the Society of Toxicology, The Colgate-Palmolive Company sponsors this postdoctoral fellowship for research in an aspect of *in vitro* toxicology, especially research that may contribute to *in vitro* alternatives to animal safety studies.

SOT Membership Application Deadline Change

In the recent balloting process, the membership overwhelmingly voted to change the deadlines for membership applications from January 1 and July 1 to April 1 and September 1. This change will go into effect immediately, making the next application deadline **September 1, 1991**. Contact SOT Headquarters for revised application forms.

Minority Programs at Dallas Meeting

The Society of Toxicology Education Committee initiated a new endeavor when 46 minority undergraduate science majors and 9 science advisors received travel awards to attend the 1991 Annual Meeting in Dallas. These individuals were chosen in an effort to encourage their choice of toxicology as a career. While at the meeting, awardees attended the Educational Program for Minority Students, at which time the discipline of toxicology was introduced by **Harihara Mehendale** of the University of Mississippi, and the process of obtaining an education in toxicology was described by **Faye Calhoun** of NIH. **Robert D'Amato** of Procter & Gamble served as host, and **Marion Ehrich**, Chair, Education Committee, served as moderator. Among others providing additional remarks were: **Claude McGowan**, **Marcus Isard**, **Cecil Brownie**, and **Ricardo Rodriguez**. Over 150 individuals attended the Educational Program for Minority Students. In addition to travel awardees, the audience included undergraduates and science advisors from 12 area colleges and universities, as well as other individuals interested in toxicology education.

While in Dallas, travel awardees also attended the Poster Session for Minority Students, which provided an overview of research in toxicology. This session was conducted by scientists who volunteered to present their work at this special session, in addition to the regular session to which their work was assigned. Over 30 posters were displayed and over 300 people attended. Refreshments were provided by **Eli Lilly & Co.** Travel awardees also attended exhibits and other scientific sessions.

During their stay in Dallas, the travel awardees were hosted by toxicologists who volunteered for this important aspect of the program. These individuals included: **George B. Corcoran** of the University of New Mexico; **Patrick I. Eacho** of Eli Lilly & Co.; **Richard Dudek** of Monsanto Co.; **Yolanda Banks** of the USEPA; **Kimberly Treinen** of NIEHS; **Randolph B. Sleet** of Research Triangle Institute; **Harold Zenick** of the USEPA; **Zachary A. Wong** of Chevron; **Sidney Green** of the USFDA; **Claude McGowan** of Exxon; **Ethel Cormier** of Procter & Gamble; **Robert G. Meeks** of the University of Alabama; and **David W. Cragin** of Exxon.

Comments and suggestions on the 1991 program are encouraged, as the Education Committee plans a similar effort in 1992.

Thank You!

The Society of Toxicology expresses its gratitude to the following companies who contributed funds for the 30th Anniversary activities at the Dallas Annual Meeting:

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