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From the President

Dear colleagues and friends,

The HOT is working hard to enhance the areas of scientific excellence.

As such our members submitted proposals to be evaluated by the Program Committee and be part of the final agenda of the SOT Annual Meeting in San Francisco, 2012. Considering how hard and competitive this process is, HOT had some success and as a consequence presentations sponsored by us will be part of the program next year.

Reflecting about that I would like to elaborate on what a *role model* is and how we should be responsible for the one we are being.

Think about your youth, when you look up to people and wanted to be like them. When people were heroes and you look at them with an incredible admiration. Role models are very important figures for everybody, there is not age limitation, gender, race, or anything that prevents anybody to have one or many role models in their lives.

Now, time to think about what type of role model we are. Have you been in situations in which you are told: "I did as you did", or "I thought about you when I chose this path". Clearly somebody is watching, somebody is observing what we say, what we do, how consistent we are in what we say and what we do....



I would like to invite you to reflect about this topic too. To identify mentally, the type of role model you are, for your colleagues and for the future generations that are trying to look up to their heroes.

If we keep giving the good example, if we keep being the pioneers, the ones that move forward the initiatives, the ones that work hard and are honest members of society, the ones that love their jobs and have passion for what they do, do not doubt we will be the role models of many of our people. The best: they will be great models too... Think about the infinite amount of people you can touch and perhaps the many lives you can change just for being a good role model.

Keep working hard

Best

Ofelia A. Olivero, HOT President

Building Bridges Through Toxicology

HOT Sister Organizations



Dr. Jiménez Vélez Recognized For Environmental Work

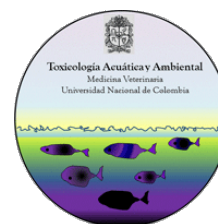
The HOT Board is very happy to announce that Dr. Braulio Jiménez Vélez (HOT Past President 2009-2010) received a 2011 Merck Health Innovation Award for his innovative work contributing to improve health and quality of life in Puerto Rico. The distinction in the Environmental Protection category was awarded for his investigation of the role of Sahara Dust in the exacerbation of asthma and cardiovascular disease in Puerto Rico.



African dust storms move across the Atlantic Ocean to reach the island of Puerto Rico and cause aerosol and particle filled smog, which sometimes becomes very heavy, especially during the summer months (see video animation of this natural phenomena at http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2001/ast26jun_1/). Dr. Jimenez's lab at the Center for Environmental and Toxicology Research of the University of Puerto Rico tries to identify chemical and biological constituents of airborne particles responsible for inducing toxicological and immune responses in the lung, using human bronchial epithelial cell lines as a research model.

The Merck Health Innovation Awards are given Merck Sharp & Dome (I.A.) Corp of Puerto Rico. More information about the 2011 awards is available in their website <http://www.msd.com.pr/>.

| Upcoming Events | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2011 | |
| Jun 22-25 | XVII Congresso Brasileiro do Toxicologia http://www.cbtox.com.br/2011/ |
| July 10-15 | 2011 Gordon Research Conference on Genetic Toxicology http://grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2011&program=gentox |
| July 26-28 | XIX Congreso Español de Toxicología http://www.aetox.com/ |
| Aug 7-12 | Gordon Research Conference on Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2011&program=toxicity |
| Aug 14 | Deadline to apply for Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise http://www.vilcek.org/prizes/creative-promise |
| Aug 21-25 | Eighth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences http://www.wc8.ccac.ca/ |
| Aug 26-Dec 15 | University of Buenos Aires Genotoxicity Course susana_bartolotta@yahoo.com.ar |
| Sep 14-15 | Scientific and Regulatory Issues in Genetic Toxicology http://www.gta-us.org |
| Sep 18-21 | P&G Recruiting Conference FIRST http://facebook.com/PGFIRST |



Trainee Corner: Meet Your Representatives

Hello everyone,

My name is Jorge G. Muñiz Ortiz, Ph.D., the new Postdoctoral Representative for the SOT Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (HOT). I represent the HOT at the Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) an organization made up of postdoctoral scholars and a great resource for scientific growth, networking, and career advancement. If there are any concerns or any questions from the HOT Postdoctoral membership that you would like the PDA to address, please let me know and I will inform the PDA. Please visit the PDA website at www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD.asp to find more information on the organization.

Lastly, I want to let you all know that I welcome any questions/discussion/suggestions you may have. Please feel free to contact me via email at munizortiz.jorge@epa.gov.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Jorge G. Muñiz Ortiz, Ph.D.

Biologist Postdoctoral Fellow, US EPA
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
Genetics and Cellular Toxicology Branch

Dearest Trainees, Students, and Post-Docs,

Let me introduce myself. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Azita Cuevas and I am your newly elected Graduate Student Representative. I'm here to ensure that you **have a voice** within HOT, that you **receive support** as you progress through your degree process, and that you **have access to possible resources** that will assist you along your journey. I am pretty sure, as a fellow graduate student, that you all have joined SOT and subsequently HOT because it offers an excellent forum for networking with peers who share an interest in your area of toxicology, it serves as a venue to showcase your research, and also can be a place to get feedback regarding career and research ideas.

Below I have begun to compile resources, some of the information came from previous HOT officers and is added to information I have found. Clearly the list is a work in progress, so please share any resources that you may know of so I may add them to the list.

For now, I leave you with a few **challenges**:

1. **Contact me with—Suggestions.** I represent you...so please speak up! **HOT is your resource.** (For example, do you need advice on picking a dissertation committee; do you need someone to proof read your document; Traveling and want to connect with toxicology professors/students from nearby universities/laboratories).
2. **Contact me with—News!** If you win awards, have good news, hit major milestones within your programs, know of any job posting/opportunities, or simply want to connect. I would love for us, students, to not only **have a venue for us to truly support one another**, but also **communicate** to our non-student colleagues about **our needs!** (Let's face it, as a student achieves their milestones it, in turn, helps others see the light at the end of the tunnel)!
3. **Contact me to—HELP!** Get **more involved** with HOT. Perhaps contribute something the HOT newsletter.
4. Contact me if—YOU HAVE any questions!

Sincerely your HOT Student Rep,

Azita Cuevas, PhD Candidate

Department of Environmental Health,
New York University School of Medicine



Featured Trainee: Transforming Weaknesses Into Strengths



Ingrid L. Druwe was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, moving to United States with her family when she was 7 years old. Growing up in Chicago, IL, she earned an Associate in Sciences degree from Wilbur Wright Community College, then a Bachelor Sciences degree in Chemistry from Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). She planned simply get a job after completing her undergraduate degree; however her professors at NEIU, and specially professor Dr. Yousef Atallah, a retired toxicologist, encouraged her to apply to graduate school peaking her interest in Toxicology.

Familiar events defined Ingrid initial research interest when she joined the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at University of Arizona. Ingrid got interest in cancer research because her aunt was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Nevertheless, when time came to join a laboratory, she thought "...it would be best for me to join a laboratory where I could gain techniques and expertise under the supervision of a mentor that could refine my strengths and help me build my weaknesses into strengths". With that in mind, she joined the Dr. Richard R. Vaillancourt laboratory.

In Dr. Vaillancourt laboratory Ingrid got interest in environmental toxicology. Her research project is focused on analyzing the molecular mechanism underlying arsenic enhanced insulin resistance. Her research has the potential to have a very high impact in the field of Toxicology for linking environmental contaminants as arsenic, with metabolic diseases, as diabetes. Using the 3T3-L1 adipocyte cell model, Ingrid has found that the exposure of adipocytes, which are insulin responsive cells, to 50 ppb arsenic induces increased inflammatory cytokine release, mainly interleukin-6 (IL-6). Two important points were raised from that result: a) the level of arsenic used is environmentally relevant as humans are sometimes exposed to 50 ppb in drinking water, and b) IL-6 has been shown to stimulate the secretion of the C-Reactive Protein (CRP) from hepatocytes, a protein associated with increased risk for cardiovascular disease (atherosclerosis and hypertension) as well as type 2 diabetes. Therefore, Ingrid next step was to analyze the effect of arsenic on induction of CRP. She found that CRP has the ability to act as a signaling molecule and contribute to the inflammatory metabolic disease state by activating NF- κ B protein. Now she is interested in characterize NF- κ B reporter gene activity in hepatocytes.

This project has given to Ingrid the opportunity to learn many new techniques and honed her research skills, just as she was looking for when she was planning to join a laboratory. Looking back, she made a good decision about continued her scientific career. Ingrid have had various opportunities to write grants and she has learned that she really enjoy scientific writing.

She is committed to her research and is extremely excited about the impact that her work will make in the fields of toxicology and diabetes research. Ingrid long-term goal is to work where she can write and constantly learn new things. She says, "...I am fortunate that I simply love science and find a plethora of research interesting and exciting."

Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise 2012

Each year the Vilcek Foundation awards a \$25,000 unrestricted cash prize to a foreign-born biomedical scientist, 38 or younger, who has made a notable contribution to science in the United States. They also select four finalists, each of whom receives a \$5,000 prize.

Further information on the Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise can be found by visiting www.vilcek.org/prizes/overview/. You will find an on-line application, along with details about the prizes and the Foundation. **The deadline is August 14, 2011.**



Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards

By Enrique Fuentes-Mattei
Postdoctoral Assembly Vice-Chair

The Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) of the Society of Toxicology is pleased to announce the 2012 Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards (BPPA). These awards recognize talented and outstanding postdoctoral researchers who have recently published exceptional papers in the field of toxicology as a result of the work conducted during the postdoctoral research experience. The SOT PDA encourages all SOT members to identify and nominates postdoctoral fellows with an outstanding publication in toxicology.

The PDA Board and a committee containing appropriate scientific expertise will review all applications. The review process always follows the National Institutes of Health (NIH) conflict of interest policy, confidentiality, and nondisclosure policies. Three awards, each consisting of a plaque and a \$100 cash award, will be presented at the PDA Luncheon during the 2012 SOT Annual Meeting.

For further information and application materials for these awards can be found at: <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD-PubAwardAnn.asp>. For any questions, please contact me or email me at: efuentes1@mdanderson.org.

Eligibility for 2012 Nominations

- The research reported in the paper was conducted while the applicant was engaged in a postdoctoral research experience
- Member of SOT or membership application submitted by award application deadline
- First author on a peer-reviewed paper published on-line, in print, or in press, between June 1, 2010, and September 30, 2011
- Application supported by letter from the research advisor
- Only one paper may be submitted by each applicant
- Leaders of the PDA are eligible but applicants will not participate in the award determination

Applications are due by midnight Eastern Standard Time on October 9, 2011.

HOT Member Proposals in the Run for 2012 Meeting

The initial review of SOT 2012 proposals by the Scientific Program Committee is completed and the HOT Board is excited to announce that most of the proposals submitted by HOT members (4 of 6) are moving forward to the next steps. But there is still work to be done, and here is a **reminder of upcoming deadlines and tasks** required for the final acceptance of these proposals (**see detailed instructions in the acceptance email from SOT Headquarters**):

- **July 11th** – Confirm roster of presenters and submit complete contact information for non-SOT members presenters to David Rossè (SOT Headquarters) davidr@toxicology.org
- **Aug 14th** – LAST DAY to resubmit revised overview abstract online (starts July 5th)
- **Aug 12th** – For 80 min session only: send final speaker presentation titles to David

Chairperson Roles and Responsibilities include:

- Share acceptance letter with your speakers
- Provide SOT headquarters (HQ) with the required information (read your acceptance letter carefully)
- Keep SOT HQ and your confirmed speakers updated on any changes to your session

Keep in mind that **another formal review of sessions by the Scientific Program Committee will occur in September** and final decision notices will be sent later that month. Good luck to all!





IV Peruvian Congress of Toxicology

The II Congreso Internacional and IV Congreso Peruano de Toxicología (II International Congress and IV Peruvian Congress of Toxicology) will take place on November 21st to the 23rd, 2011 at the Petro Perú Auditorium in Lima. The Congress is organized by the Escuela Académico-Profesional de Toxicología (EAP de Toxicología, Academic/Professional School of Toxicology http://www.unmsm.edu.pe/farmacia/eap_toxicologia.htm), part of the Pharmacy and Biochemistry Faculty of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos.

The goals of this congress are to promote a multidisciplinary approach to general and environmental toxicology, disseminate information about risks to health and the environment from toxicants, stimulate scientific investigation especially in the area of mechanisms of toxicity, and emphasize the need to prevent, detect and treat intoxications. Some highlights of the preliminary program include:

Roundtables: Health Effects of Environmental Toxicants; Clinical Toxicology and the Information Centers; Food Safety; The Importance of Forensic Toxicology; The Need for a National Institute of Toxicology

Conferences: Environmental Toxicants and Cancer; Environmental Contamination in Peru and Toxicity Prevention; Environmental Legislation; Drug Addiction in Peru; Cicotox as a Center of Toxicity Information; The Need for Municipal Food Toxicology Laboratories

Platform Sessions: Environmental Toxicology; Occupational Toxicology; Clinical Toxicology and Information Centers; Food Toxicology; Forensic and Social Toxicology; Cosmetics and Toxicity

Pre-Congress Courses: Environmental Toxicology; Drug Addiction; Toxicokinetics and Toxicodynamics

If you are an SOT member and would like to participate in the Congress, contact Dr. Erin Hines (Hines.Erin@epamail.epa.gov). Dr. Hines participation in the Congress and other scientific activities in Peru are funded by the SOT Education Committee through the Global Toxicology Scholar Program.

UBA Offers Postgraduate Genotoxicity Course Online

The Virtual Campus of the University of Buenos Aires will offer the online postgraduate course **Ensayos de Genotoxicidad e Interpretación de Datos para la Evaluación de Productos de Uso en Humanos (Genotoxicity Assays and Data Interpretation for the Evaluation of Products for Human Use)**. The course starts on August 26 and ends in December 15, 2011, by **Dr. Marta Ana Carballo**, Mag. Susana Bartolotta, and Dr. Marcela López Nigro.

This is the first online course of its kind offered by a Latin-American university and it is designed for professionals, recent graduates or graduate students in their last year of study in the areas of pharmacy, pharmacology, biochemistry, biology, veterinary and human medicine, agronomy, and related sciences. The course will cover current international guidelines for genotoxicity assays needed for the evaluation of new drugs or consumer products, according to the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH), United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CEE.

For more information or to sign up for the course contact susana_bartolotta@yahoo.com.ar.

Our Sponsors



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2012 HOT-SOT Annual Meeting Sponsors

The Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists (HOT) is a Special Interest Group (SIG) within the Society of Toxicology integrated by professionals of Hispanic origin with expertise in scientific areas associated with Toxicology. HOT membership is diverse representing industrial, academic, governmental, and commercial organizations from the USA and Ibero-America countries. It serves as a focal point for interaction, fellowship, networking, and professional development among Hispanic Toxicologists in the United States and the international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking scientific communities with emphasis in outreach to the Hispanic population and it operates in compliance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please visit our web site at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/hot>.

Corporate sponsorship will help HOT bring together Hispanic Toxicologists in the United States and international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Toxicologists attending the 2010 SOT Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, March 6-10th for interaction, networking, mentoring, and expanding the SOT outreach efforts in global toxicology. Your organization's sponsorship will help sustain HOT's effort to promote scientific excellence in toxicology. HOT offers Travel Awards to support Students and Postdocs in the United States and other countries to offset the cost for presenting their research at the SOT Annual Meeting. HOT activities also include the evening reception and dinner sponsorship and bimonthly publication of our newsletter *Toxenlaces*. Your sponsorship also helps increase your organization visibility to SOT and HOT members, annual meeting attendees, and the international Spanish and Portuguese-speaking scientific communities, and provides opportunities for recruiting young scientist and experienced toxicologists to your company.

There are four levels of sponsorship available, as follows:

HOT Distinction Level 1: Evening Reception Sponsorship, \$1,700 or more

HOT Distinction Level 2: Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Lecture & Luncheon Sponsorship, \$1,200

HOT Distinction Level 3: Student & Postdoctoral Travel Awards Sponsorship, \$800

HOT Distinction Level 4: *Toxenlaces* Publicity Sponsorship, \$500

If you would like to sponsor any of these events of HOT at the 2010 SOT meeting, please send your check payable to "Society of Toxicology Fund for HOT-SIG" and mail to Society of Toxicology Fund, 1821 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 300, Reston, VA 20190. If you have any further questions or need clarification, please email your inquires to Sergio Villalobos, Ph.D. Treasurer, svillalobos@nalco.com

2011 HOT-SOT Annual Meeting Sponsorship Opportunities

HOT Distinction Level 1: *HOT Evening Reception Sponsorship Benefits (\$1,700 or more)*

- Prize drawing box in your booth for a HOT drawing – two prizes awarded. Attendees will drop their business cards at your booth
- Special front-page sponsorship acknowledgement in the February-March 2011 HOT newsletter, *Toxenlaces*, copies available at the Annual Meeting HOT stand
- Acknowledgment of your sponsorship and participation in the HOT Reception Night in a special report about the event in the April-May 2011 *Toxenlaces*, including pictures
- Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the HOT Web site and *Toxenlaces* newsletter (June 2010 through May 2011)
- Five invitations to the HOT Reception Night

HOT Distinction Level 2: *Distinguished Hispanic Toxicologist Lecture or Lunch & Learn Sponsorship Benefits (\$1,200)*

- Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the February-March 2011 HOT newsletter, *Toxenlaces*, copies available at the Annual Meeting HOT stand
- Acknowledgment of your sponsorship and participation in the HOT Reception Night in a special report about the event in the April-May 2011 *Toxenlaces*, including pictures
- Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the HOT Web site and *Toxenlaces* newsletter (June 2010 through May 2011)
- Four invitations to the HOT Reception Night

HOT Distinction Level 3: *Student & Postdoctoral Travel Awards Benefits (\$800)*

- Recognition in the February-March 2011 HOT newsletter, *Toxenlaces*, copies available at the Annual Meeting HOT stand
- Acknowledgment of your sponsorship and participation in the HOT Reception Night in a special report about the event in the April-May 2011 *Toxenlaces*, including pictures
- Special sponsorship acknowledgement in the HOT Web site and *Toxenlaces* newsletter (June 2010 through May 2011)
- Three invitations to the HOT Reception Night

HOT Distinction Level 4: *Toxenlaces Publicity Sponsor Benefits (\$500)*

- Dedicated half-page space to publicize your company's products in the HOT newsletter, *Toxenlaces*, June 2010 through May 2011 issues
- Recognition in the HOT Web site
- Two invitations to the HOT Reception Night

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