



Texas A&M University Faculty of Toxicology News & Reviews

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Gulf Coast SOT Meeting

The annual Gulf Coast Chapter Society of Toxicology meeting was hosted by the Texas A&M University Faculty of Toxicology at the Bush Presidential Conference Center and the TAMU Student Recreation Center in the late fall. Several Faculty of Toxicology graduate students submitted abstracts and presented platform presentations or posters. In the platform presentation competition, **Kevin Kerzee** placed second, **Emely Castro-Rivera** placed third and both **Shawna Lemke** and **Kim Miller** received honorable mention. For their Poster Presentations, **Weili Wang** placed first, **Fan Wang** placed second, and both **Renqin Duan** and **Wen Xie** received honorable mention. Congratulations to these students and their mentors (**Drs. Tim Phillips, Ken Ramos** and **Steve Safe**). A complete list of GCSOT presentations begins on page 2.

In addition to 79 presentations by both graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from Gulf Coast institutions, the conference began with a mini symposium on Developmental Toxicology. **Dr. Rick Finnell** of Texas A&M University spoke on "Developmental Toxicology," Dr. Anne Sweeney of the University of Texas School of Public Health

discussed "Developmental Effects of PCBs and PBBs," and Dr. Andy Hendrickx of the University of California-Davis presented "Use of Animal Models for Developmental Toxicity."

The banquet keynote address by Dr. Rick Hertzberg, USEPA-Atlanta, focused on "Bridging the Gap from Animal Models to Human Studies."

The final session featured a symposium on Careers in Toxicology which was chaired by **Dr. Ken Ramos** and included the following panel members: Dr. Rick Hertzberg, USEPA; **Dr. Rick Finnell**, Texas A&M University; **Dr. Carol Holtzapple**, USDA; and **Dr. Karl Markiewicz**, DuPont Environmental Remediation Services. This session was well attended and provided students and postdoctoral fellows with an excellent overview of toxicology job opportunities and challenges.

The success of our 1997 GCSOT meeting was due to the efforts of the Organizing Committee (particularly **Dr. K.C. Donnelly** and **Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni**), **Kim Daniel** and **Jody Burrows**.

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Superfund News

The Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP) has completed another hectic and productive year in which the participating faculty and students published 36 papers and made innumerable presentations at conferences and symposia. **Dr. K.C. Donnelly** and other members of the program have continued their interactions with Environmental Protection Agency regional staff in Dallas. These have been highly fruitful exchanges and **Dr. Donnelly** was

accompanied by **Drs. Beth Anderson** and **Brad Blackard** who are NIEHS staff associated with the SBRP. Members of the Texas A&M SBRP have been meeting with numerous faculty to develop new concepts and linkages with other programs focused on toxic chemical mixtures. These include **Drs. Rick Finnell, Robin Autenrieth** and **Jim Bonner**. Development of new interactive programs has already been initiated and these new interactions should augur well for our grant renewal.

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