

Division of Chemical Toxicology Program at the American Chemical Society National Meeting: Celebrating 25 Years!



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The Division of Chemical Toxicology (TOXI) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) sponsored its 25th anniversary symposium at the ACS National Meeting in August 2021. This hybrid meeting was held in person in Atlanta, GA, as well as virtually. TOXI was founded in 1996 by Richard “Dick” Loeppky (1937–2012) as a forum for the discussion of research in chemical toxicology under the auspices of the ACS. Dick was a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Missouri and was interested in a variety of nitrosamine and *N*-nitroso toxicants that alkylate DNA or are bioactivated during enzyme detoxification, acting as broad-scale environmental carcinogens. Larry Marnett was also instrumental in the founding of the division. Larry is a Dean of Basic Sciences at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry and Chemistry, and several years before the creation of the division, Larry established the journal, *Chemical Research in Toxicology* (CRT). There has always been a strong cooperation in building the community of Chemical Toxicologists between the TOXI division and CRT that continues to be impactful.

The first meeting of the Chemical Toxicology Division at the ACS National Meeting in Orlando, FL in 1996 included symposia on toxins and carcinogens, DNA damage, endocrine disruptors, and mass spectrometry methods to examine toxicants and carcinogens. The division regularly engages academic, government, and industrial scientists to offer programs directed at their respective needs, interests, and specialties. Research among division members is varied and strongly multidisciplinary, ranging from computational and synthetic chemistry to proteomics and metabolomics, drug discovery, drug metabolism and mechanisms of action, bioinformatics, bioanalytical chemistry, nanobio interactions, and molecular epidemiology, acting to inform society of potential toxicants, characterize toxicological pathways, and develop and validate assays for testing and surveillance.

The mission of TOXI is to empower scientific exchange and collaboration to advance knowledge in chemistry and toxicology to positively impact society and sustainability. TOXI provides a forum for communicating research in chemical toxicology, encourages research in chemical mechanisms of toxicity, and facilitates connections with others in areas of mutual scientific interest. It also aims to advance professional development of scientists at all levels by sponsoring career development events and recognizing the work of early career scientists. The members within TOXI support younger students and postdoc members of the division through ample speaking opportunities at the ACS National

Meeting, student travel awards, direct mentoring initiatives, and close collaboration with CRT in supporting submissions from student awardees to write ToxWatch and Letter to the Editor content summarizing symposia from the ACS meeting and getting involved in the publications process.

The TOXI program at the 2021 ACS National Meeting was organized around the theme of biological consequences of environmental exposures. The program included four thematic symposia:

- (1) Thinking outside the well: Novel assays in drug discovery and development, copromoted with the Division of Medicinal Chemistry
- (2) Harnessing the microbiome for disease prevention & therapy
- (3) Toxicants and cellular aging, cosponsored with the Division of Biological Chemistry
- (4) TOXI at 25: Chemical Toxicology Division 25th anniversary symposium

TOXI at 25 featured former and current division chairs and leaders within the division who provided both a historical perspective and reflections on personal experiences as well as consideration of future directions of the field. The speakers in this session included F. Peter Guengerich, Nicholas Geacintov, Lisa Peterson, Stephen Hecht, Shana Sturla, and Natalia Tretyakova.

As TOXI turns the page on the first 25 years, we are actively looking forward to the next 25 years and beyond. The fundamental topics and principles within the division remain at the forefront and are highly relevant, with their importance for society having become more and more evident. The tools and techniques are increasingly multidisciplinary and multidimensional. The combination of vast amounts of quantitative toxicology data and surveillance will continue to be integrated with mechanistic studies to better understand the impact of a broad scope of toxicants on human health and the environment for the betterment of the world.

We hope to see you in Chicago, IL at the 2022 Fall ACS National meeting of the Chemical Toxicology Division; updates are available at <http://www.acschemtox.org>.

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Penny J. Beuning  orcid.org/0000-0002-7770-022X
Michael A. Trakselis  orcid.org/0000-0001-7054-8475

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Complete contact information is available at:

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Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the ACS.