Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2018 edition of the OPHSS newsletter! We have some exciting things to announce. First, after trying for several years, we have finally succeeded in launching a section in the newsletter featuring the recent publications of our members!

Our members publish ground breaking studies, and we are very happy to bring them to the attention of the entire OPHSS membership (see page 6).

We hope you were able to join us on Monday, October 1, 2018 for the OPHSS-hosted webinar presenting the paper of the year, “Thresholds of Toxicological Concern (TTC) for Occupational Health Risk Assessment.” The speakers were Kannan Krishnan, PhD, DABT, FATS, FCAHS, Directeur scientifique IRSST, Canada, and Sandrine Chebekoue, MSc, PhD Candidate, Université de Montréal, Canada. Both a recording of the webinar and the slides can be accessed by going through the SOT website (see page 2).

Mark your calendars on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 for our annual OPHSS SOT luncheon. We will have our usual delicious box lunch and a speaker from CDC talking about the opioid crisis. We will also announce the winners of the Paper of the Year, Best Abstract – Student Award, Best Manuscript – Postdoctoral Award, and the Travel Award. Finally we will recognize both outgoing and incoming officers. More details on each award and their details are described further in the newsletter (see page 4).

We encourage everyone to get more involved with OPHSS as we gear up for 2019. The best way to get involved with OPHSS is to join us as an officer on the Executive Committee. I can honestly say that being an officer has been a great experience. I have gotten to work with and to know so-much-better a great team of people who are...continued on pg. 2
energetic and motivated, and who work hard for our specialty section. We have three positions open for 2019: Vice President-Elect, Councilor, and Student Representative. Please nominate yourself or someone else, and be a part of our fabulous team! More details are in the newsletter (see page 9).

If you have comments or suggestions, or would like to volunteer for any of our activities, feel free to email any one of us on the Executive Committee.

Leslie Beyer, President  lbeyer@gradientcorp.com

**OPHSS Fall Webinar:**

“Thresholds of Toxicological Concern (TTC) for Occupational Health Risk Assessment”

On October 1, 2018, Dr. Kannan Krishnan (PhD, DABT, FATS, FCAHS, Directeur scientifique IRSST, Canada) presented a webinar entitled “Thresholds of Toxicological Concern (TTC) for Occupational Health Risk Assessment.” This webinar was based on the 2017 OPHSS Paper of the Year Award, “Derivation of Occupational Thresholds of Toxicological Concern for Systemically Acting Noncarcinogenic Organic Chemicals,” authored by Sandrine Chebekoue (MSc, PhD Candidate, Université de Montréal, Canada) and Kannan Krishnan.

Dr. Krishnan has more than 24 years of experience in research and education in occupational health, toxicology and chemical risk and has contributed to over 200 scientific publications on toxicokinetics, PBPK modeling, biomonitoring, and risk assessment methodology including work on chemical mixtures, QSARs, OELs, exposure source allocation factors, and human kinetic adjustment factors.

**Kannan Krishnan** PhD, DABT, FATS, FCAHS, Directeur scientifique IRSST, Canada

During the presentation, Dr. Kannan illustrated how the threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) may be used to derive OELs for data-poor volatile organic chemicals. In addition, he described how the TTC approach may be used for OEL derivation for these chemicals and how this method compares to the traditional approach for OEL determination. The webinar was well attended, interactive, and included time for viewers to ask questions.

Many thanks to our councilor (Adrienne Black), for hosting this well-attended webinar which was a comprehensive and interactive presentation.

A recording of the webinar and presented slides can be found on the OPHSS website here: [http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/ophss/events.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/ophss/events.asp)

(along with other past OPHSS-hosted webinars which may be of interest).
OPHSS Luncheon Announcement

Please join us for the annual OPHSS meeting Luncheon Reception on **Tuesday, March 12, 2017 from 12:00 – 1:30 PM** at the Baltimore Convention Center. The topic for this year’s presentation is The Opioid Epidemic. Room number and guest speaker to be announced in the near future.

OPHSS Sponsored Sessions the 2019 SOT Annual Meeting

Thank you very much to all who submitted proposals for OPHSS Sponsored Sessions at the 2019 SOT Annual Meeting. We received many excellent proposals for Symposiums, Workshops, Informational Sessions, and Historical Highlights.

**The OPHSS Sponsored Sessions are:**

**Workshops**
Monday, March 11, 2019, 9:15 AM-12:00 PM  
Mechanisms and Effects of Diabetogenic Environmental Metals: Type II Diabetes Mellitus and Diabetic Kidney Disease  
Chairperson(s): Dr. Edwards, Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 1:30 PM-4:15 PM  
This is Your Teen Brain on Drugs: In Search of Biomarkers Unique to Dependence Toxicity in Adolescents  
Chairperson(s): Dr. Abby Li, Exponent Inc. Health Sciences, San Francisco, CA

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 8:00 AM-10:45 AM  
Nerve Agent Poisoning: Mechanisms of Toxicity, Recent Releases, Verification, and Innovative Treatment Approaches  
Chairperson(s): Dr. Vale, School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, UK

**Informational Session**
Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 11:00 AM-12:20 PM  
Science at the Nexus of Wildfire Smoke and Public Health  
Chairperson(s): Dr. Gilmour, Environmental Public Health Division, NHEERL/ORD/USEPA

Interested in being on the OPHSS Program Committee? Contact Leslie Beyer (lbeyer@gradientcorp.com)
Apply for an OPHSS Award!

Nominate yourself or a well deserving Toxicologist for an OPHSS award:

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<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>WINNER RECEIVES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Abstract Award</td>
<td>Extended abstract no longer (≤ 1 page) and a letter of support from the advisor outlining the student’s role in the research. <em>Platform or poster presentations are eligible.</em> Deadline: December 31, 2018</td>
<td>Plaque and a $500 monetary award.</td>
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<td>(Student Award)</td>
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<td>Best Manuscript Award</td>
<td>The paper must be published in a peer-reviewed journal during the preceding calendar year; The first author (expected nominee) must be a postdoctoral SOT member during the period of time that the work was being conducted; A nomination letter is also needed. See detailed award information on the OPHSS website. Deadline: December 31, 2018</td>
<td>Plaque and a $500 monetary award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Postdoctoral Award)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper of the Year Award</td>
<td>The paper must be published in a peer-reviewed journal during the year preceding the annual meeting; Papers may be nominated by an Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section member; The subject matter must pertain to occupational, environmental, or public health. See detailed submission information on the OPHSS website. Deadline: December 31, 2018</td>
<td>Plaque at the OPHSS Meeting / Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Travel Award</td>
<td>Applicants must be enrolled in a program leading to a MS, PhD, or related graduate degree, be an SOT member, and a member of the OPHSS and be a co-author of an SOT-accepted abstract related to the field of public and/or occupational health. See detailed award information on the OPHSS website. Deadline: January 15, 2019</td>
<td>OPHSS membership for 1 year and a $500 monetary award.</td>
</tr>
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We are also soliciting OPHSS members who would be interested in judging award submissions. For questions related to either submissions or judging, please contact Michael Peterson (mpeterson@gradientcorp.com) with questions.

Find more detailed information on these awards, on the OPHSS website here: http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/ophss/awards.asp
This month we caught up with Andreas Flueckiger to learn more about his career in the field of Occupational Health and as Head of Occupational Health at Roche:

Dr. Andreas Flueckiger (“Andy”) was born in Bern, Switzerland; attended Medical School in Bern and Basel; received his MD from Basel; held a Postdoc in Occupational Health in Munich; and earned Swiss board certifications in both Internal and Occupational Medicine. After spending over 6 years in residencies in various hospitals to obtain the board certification in internal medicine, Dr. Flueckiger joined Roche in 1986 as an occupational doctor for the Basel plant and he assumed responsibility for global occupational health at Roche soon after. Dr. Flueckiger established Roche’s occupational toxicology (occ tox) committee in 1995 and chaired it until retirement in July 2018. He also served on the Swiss Federal Commission for Air Quality (12 years) and on the Scientific Committee of Ecetoc (European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals, ecetoc.org) for 15 years and on the executive committees of several professional associations (Swiss Society of Occ Med; ICOH Scientific Committee for Occ and Env Health in the Chemical Industry, aka “Medichem”).

What got you interested in your field of toxicology, and what led you to your career in industry?

I accepted the job at Roche to get away from weekend and night duties in order to prepare for going into private practice, got hooked by the fascinating and very multi-disciplinary field and never left. I always had a strong interest in pharmacology and toxicology, and in my job at Roche, it became clear very quickly that there was a need to systematically assess compounds exclusive to the company as a basis for their safe handling at the workplace.

Can you tell us a little about what has been one of the most exciting or rewarding projects you have worked on in your career?

Setting up an occupational health management system for the company that sets strict prescriptive global standards only where necessary (e.g. the OELs) but leaves freedom to the individual sites to achieve strategic goals in due consideration of cultural and legal differences in other areas (e.g. mental health, medical surveillance). I am proud that occ med (my original home turf) was only one of many fields of occ health where I was active. The field of occ health is extremely multi-disciplinary, and to be a credible discussion partner, you have to be interested and gain some knowledge in all of these sister disciplines. And I spent more time on the shop-floor and helping with project work than doing strategic work than I should have according to my core mission.

What about your career (path, experience, professional life) are you most thankful for?

Starting with my childhood at home and then with a year as a high school exchange student in Minnesota, I have been exposed to many cultures and languages and learnt to speak and understand a few of them. This has reinforced my natural curiosity and thanks to this, everything around me has been most interesting and fascinating all the time. Very thankful to the few bosses I have had and who have allowed me to do my job the way I wanted it to do, backing me at all times and having 100% trust and confidence. The opposite of micro-management.

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How do you define success?
To look back, year after year and see that things have improved in all areas that are close to your heart, and to have had fun doing what you have done. Or with the words of a good Guatemalan friend: To have spent your time well. Or to put it a little morbidly: A successful life is if you can say: “If I died today, I would not regret anything and would think that I have had a fulfilled and happy life.”

What advice would you give to students who may be interested in entering the field of industrial toxicology today?
Know what the results of your work are used for and you will understand your clients better. Become interested and knowledgeable in the neighboring disciplines, get basic formal qualifications in one of even several such neighboring fields. And you will have one of the most fascinating jobs in the world.

We always like to end on a personal note. Do you have any hobbies or personal interests you would like to share with us?
Hobbies are family (soon to be a grandfather), hiking, skiing, looking after our house and cabin in the mountains, ensuring ample supply of firewood, swinging the axe and operating the chainsaw.

Thank you, Andy, for being in our Member Spotlight!

**HIGHLIGHT: OPHSS Membership Publications**

Thank you to all of you who submitted your publications! Highlighting them in the OPHSS Newsletter is a great way to increase the impact of your work and to ensure our membership is aware of the current science and literature available to our field.


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If any members have a paper they want considered for the OPHSS POY award, please send it to Adrienne Black by Dec 31st, 2018. (See pg 4 for award details)
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

The following OPHSS Executive Committee member positions are up for election this year:

Vice President-Elect (1 year term)*
Councilor (2 year term)
Student Representative (2 year term)

*Please note, there is also a commitment of 4 years to go through the presidential track (Vice President-Elect, Vice President, President, Past President)

Officer Duties
Vice President-Elect:
• Presides at meetings of the Specialty Section and of the Executive Committee in the absence of the President and Vice President.
• Coordinates, directs, and contributes to the review and selection of recipients for all OPHSS graduate student and post-doctoral awards presented at the annual meeting. Establishes a team to assist with this task.

Councilor:
• Coordinates, directs, and contributes to the review and selection of Best Paper Awards prior to the Annual Meeting. Establishes a team to assist with this task (note – the Councilor on 2nd term will serve as the Chair of this Committee).
• Organizes the webinar associated with paper of the year

Student Representative:
• Represents graduate student interests to OPHSS and provides OPHSS information to graduate students
• Participates in Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) on behalf of OPHSS
• Contributes to the OPHSS newsletter as requested
• Actively recruits new graduate student members into OPHSS
• Designs and develops poster boards for annual student/postdoctoral reception and attends the reception to advertise OPHSS (with help from the Postdoctoral Representative)

If you are interested in running for one of these positions or would like to nominate an OPHSS member, please send a current CV/resume and biosketch (example below) to the OPHSS Secretary/Treasurer, Jessica Graham (jcgraham411@gmail.com).

Sample biosketch:
[Full Name, including degrees and affiliations]
Dr. [Last Name] is a/the [Current position] at [Place of employment], where he/she [Summary of work]. He/She received his/her doctorate in [Field] from [School/University] in [Year] and was a postdoctoral fellow at [Institution] from [Years, i.e. 1995-1998]. Dr. [Last Name] has served on the [Study sections, Panels, etc.] at the [Organization, i.e. NIH, EPA, etc.]. He/She is author/co-author of [Number] [Publications including peer-reviewed articles and/or book chapters, etc.]. He/She has been a member of the SOT since [Year] and has served the SOT in the following capacities: [Offices/positions held].
Get Involved in OPHSS – Serve on a Committee!

We greatly appreciate those who volunteer their time to serve on OPHSS Committees!

We are currently soliciting OPHSS members who would be interested in judging award submissions. For questions related to either submissions or judging, please contact Michael Peterson (mpeterson@gradientcorp.com).

Upcoming Events

In our next issue, we will highlight OPHSS award winners and upcoming events of interest to OPHSS.

• Do you know of an upcoming conference/workshop/seminar or job opening of interest to the OPHSS membership?

Please email the OPHSS Secretary, jcgraham411@gmail.com.

Look Forward to Seeing You in Baltimore!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in OPHSS!