

Society of Toxicology conference brings toxicology community together

By Robin Mackar

As a prelude to the hundreds of science talks that will be given during this year's Society of Toxicology (SOT) conference, NIEHS and SOT will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) during the [53rd annual meeting of SOT](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/am2014/), (http://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/am2014/) March 23-27, at the Phoenix Convention Center.

The signing

(<http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2014/socialevents.asp>) will occur Sunday afternoon, March 23. Shortly after NIEHS and NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., talks to undergraduates about career opportunities in toxicology, she will meet up with SOT president Lois Lehman-McKeeman, Ph.D., and SOT council members to officially sign the MOU.

Afterwards, NIEHS and NTP staff will join conference proceedings, leading or attending the abundance of science talks, poster sessions, and awards that will occur at the meeting.



Program highlights for NIEHS and NTP

The cornerstone for the upcoming conference will be exhibit booth 1129, which will provide visitors with all the information they want to know about NIEHS and NTP.

Some of the highlighted events that NIEHS will participate in at SOT include:

- [A Conversation with the Director of NIEHS](http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2014/specsess.asp), (http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2014/specsess.asp) Monday, March 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. This special symposium will provide an informal venue for meeting attendees to have a candid and open discussion with the director concerning the direction and scientific priorities of NIEHS, as well as funding opportunities.
- Informational Session on Leadership in Science: Skills and Styles, Wednesday, March 26, 4:30 p.m. This session will include presentations by Birnbaum and other key leaders from government, academia, industry, and consulting. The speakers will discuss some of the core skills and styles required to be an effective leader.

Research funding information

Program and review staff from the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training will be available in the research funding information room, Room 127A, Monday, March 24, and Tuesday, March 25, for individual conversations with attendees interested in grant opportunities. New investigators are encouraged to stop by.

A brown bag luncheon, focusing on strategies for submitting successful grants, will be held Tuesday, March 25, at noon. Panelists will talk about the grant submission process, provide advice on how to submit a potentially successful grant, and offer tips about how to make a submission stand out. Additionally, SOT will be hosting webinar discussions about funding opportunities all day on Wednesday, March 26, allowing participants to hear from program staff unable to attend SOT.

Exhibitor Sessions

Two exhibitor sessions are planned for this year's SOT.

On Monday, March 24, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., NTP will share information about its newest resource, the [NTP Nonneoplastic Lesion Atlas](http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/nnl/index.htm).

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The atlas is a searchable, Web-based tool containing thousands of high quality images and guidelines for diagnosis of nonneoplastic lesions in rodent models. NTP pathologist [Mark Cesta, D.V.M., Ph.D.](#), will also be conducting tutorials on the atlas at the NIEHS exhibit booth on Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Also, [Allen Dearry, Ph.D.](#), NIEHS Office of Scientific Information Management director, will lead a session on Monday, March 24, from 2:15-3:15 p.m., that will focus on "Advancing Environmental Health Data Sharing and Analysis."

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