For Immediate Release

Toxicologists Explore Health Problems Associated with Arsenic Exposure at Special Regional Symposium in Salt Lake City

Reston, VA (February 23, 2010)—A panel of experts from the toxicological sciences will address potential public health problems posed by arsenic exposures in the Rocky Mountain region during the Society of Toxicology's 49th Annual Meeting, which is being held March 7–11, 2010 at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City.

This topic was chosen for the Salt Lake City meeting due to importance of arsenic contamination from mining activities in the Rocky Mountain Region. Panelists will describe the potential public health problems posed by arsenic exposures, and then consider how toxicological sciences can contribute to a better understanding and characterization of how arsenic causes those problems and the associated risks. Chronic, low-level exposure to arsenic has been linked to increased risks of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

The symposium is co-chaired by Dr. Aaron Barchowsky of the University of Pittsburgh and Richard Vaillancourt of the University of Arizona. Dr. Susan Griffin, a senior toxicologist with the U.S. EPA's Region 8 Office in Denver, will describe the current conditions of arsenic exposures in the region and then Dr. Sean Hays of Summit Toxicology consulting firm will follow with a description of biological monitoring efforts of arsenic in urine by the Rocky Mountain Biomonitoring Consortium. The presenters will then explore the possible mechanisms of how arsenic may be causing these effects, using a broad range of different study types including cell culture studies of molecular pathways, and studies in laboratory mice and in humans. This information will be integrated together to gain new insights on the risk of arsenic exposures. The Co-chairs will present information on the effects of arsenic generally on the body and in the liver. Dr. Barchowky will discuss how exposures in mice result in altered liver function which may have important implications for the diseases in question. Dr. Vaillancourt will present how arsenic affects glucose transport processes which may be important to the development of diabetes. Additional experts include Dr. Ana Navas-Acien of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD who will present the human evidence for cardiovascular and

diabetes associated with low-level arsenic exposures. Dr. Jingbo Pi of the Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, NC will discuss potential mechanisms for arsenic effects on cells in the pancreas associated with Type 2 diabetes, and Dr. Koren Mann of McGill University in Montreal, Canada will discuss mechanisms by which arsenic may cause atherosclerosis.

The Society of Toxicology's 49th annual gathering brings together an estimated 6,500 researchers and regulators from universities, government, and industry. Throughout the week, workshops and poster sessions will provide up-to-the minute research and analysis on subjects with bearing on disease, human and animal health, occupational safety, and many related issues. Presenters are respected professionals in a wide range of fields, including human medicine, biotechnology, carcinogenesis, epidemiology, public health, food safety, genetic toxicology, immunotoxicology, infusion toxicology, inhalation, *in vitro*, nano particles, neutrotoxicology, occupational health, pathology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacology, regulatory, risk assessment, reproductive and developmental toxicology, and veterinary medicine.

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Editor's Note: Reporters who are interested in attending this session or any other sessions that are scheduled during the five-day event can contact Martha Lindauer at (703) 438-3115 or her call at (703) 505-3351. Her e-mail is Martha@toxicology .org. For more information about the Annual Meeting see http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2010/