



STC NEWS

October 2020

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2020

**Connecting the dots: from benchtop to
evaluating health and environmental risk**

Nov 30 – Dec 2, 2020

<https://stcweb.ca/symposium/>

2020 STC Virtual Learning Event Updates

The STC board is committed to providing a secured virtual platform to disseminate innovative research in toxicology so we are pleased to inform that the planning of our 52nd annual symposium as a **Virtual Learning Event** on **Dec. 1st and 2nd, 2020** is going well! For details, please visit: <https://stcweb.ca/symposium/>

Our theme this year is ***Connecting the dots: from benchtop to evaluating health and environmental risk***, with two focused learning sessions: (I) sensitization and (II) metal toxicity. The sessions include presentations on mechanisms of toxicity and practical aspects of evaluating human/environmental risk.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Nicole Kleinstreuer

NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM)
Lecture topic: ***The CompTox Continuum: Communication, Collaboration, and Confidence***

The event will also feature lectures from our 2020 awardees, **Dr. Rekha Mehta** (Health Canada) and **Dr. Isabelle Plante** (INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier).

Trainee sessions for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows include selected oral presentations.

Registrants of all accepted abstracts will be invited to share their latest data through a **virtual poster platform**. Trainee awards for best presentations are being planned, thanks to our sponsors.

Registration includes newly planned **virtual satellite sessions** on focussed topics: (I) Lead products: *In vitro* electrophysiology techniques for preclinical predictability of central nervous system adversities (Charles River Laboratories). (II) Cannabis: Science and regulation (Health Canada).

Registration and deadlines

The Virtual Learning Event is slated on **December 1st and 2nd, 2020** from **1:00-5:00 pm** North America Eastern Standard Time (EST). The STC Annual Business Meeting is scheduled on **November 30th, 2020** from **1:00 -3:00 pm** EST. Please see the [preliminary programme](http://www.stcweb.ca) at www.stcweb.ca for details.

Registration is MANDATORY by the last deadline (below) to virtually participate in all the sessions, including the satellite sessions. **Registration fees** have been significantly reduced and admittance is free for student members. Details can be found at <https://stcweb.ca/symposium/>

Important deadlines

Abstract submission	October 20 th , 2020
Early bird registration	October 20 th , 2020
Last day of registration	November 27 th , 2020

Plaa and Henderson Awards

The STC is honoured to announce the awards for 2020. **The Gabriel A. Plaa Award** is being conferred to **Dr. Rekha Mehta** (Health Canada, Ottawa, ON) for her outstanding and sustained contributions to the science of toxicology in Canada and to the STC.

Dr. Rekha Mehta, Ph.D. holds both Bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees in biochemistry from the University of London (UK). Moving to Canada, she joined the Ontario Cancer Institute at the University of Toronto (1981-84) and subsequently joined Health Canada as a Research Scientist in the Food Directorate. In 1992, Dr. Mehta took research administrative responsibilities as a Section Head in Health Canada, and successively became the Chief/Research Manager of the Regulatory Toxicology Research Division in 2000. Out of her 36 years with the Federal Government, including 20 years as the Research Manager of a team of over 25 research scientists/staff/trainees, Dr. Mehta spearheaded the Division through reorganizations, strategic plans, and spending/staffing reforms. Dr. Mehta's contribution to toxicology is marked by the development and application of biomarkers for the early detection of carcinogenic and genotoxic effects of natural/synthetic food additives, chemical contaminants and genetically modified (GM) or novel foods, as well as the modulation of such adverse effects by nutrients using both rodent and non-human primate models. Dr. Mehta serves as an Editorial Board Member of the journal *Cancer Letters*. She has served on international scientific expert committees, including the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) NanoRelease Food Additive Working Group, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's CIHR-Best Brains Exchange, the Halifax Project/Getting to Know Cancer: Environmental Exposure Task Group, and the OECD Test Guidelines Task Group. She is a Regular Member of the STC, the American Association for Cancer Research, and the Society of Toxicology (USA).



Dr. Mehta has retired from her tenure in Health Canada and continues to engage actively as an Emeritus in toxicology and chemical carcinogenesis and with the STC.

Don't miss Dr. Mehta's lecture at our annual symposium on **December 1st from 4:15-5:00 pm EST**.

The V.E. Henderson Award is being bestowed to **Dr. Isabelle Plante** (INRS- Centre Armand Frappier Santé et Biotechnologie, Laval, QC) for her significant contribution to the discipline of toxicology in Canada.

Dr. Isabelle Plante, Ph.D. is an associate professor at the INRS- Centre Armand Frappier Santé et Biotechnologie and co-director of the Intersectorial Centre for Endocrine Disruptors Analysis (CIAPE-ICEDA). Having obtained her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biology at the INRS- Centre Armand Frappier Santé et Biotechnologie, under the co-supervision of Drs. Michel Charbonneau and Daniel Cyr, Dr. Plante later joined the Laird laboratory at Western University as a postdoctoral fellow. Her current research, funded by NSERC, CIHR, FRQS, FCI, SRC and the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation, aims to determine the role of cell-cell interactions during breast development, and how their dysregulation, by endocrine disruptors or other mechanisms, can affect breast organogenesis and promote cancer. Dr. Plante is committed to translating her findings to lay audiences and was featured in the documentary “Toxic Beauty” on chemicals found in cosmetics. Dr. Plante has also been a long-time advocate of the STC, having been a student member from 2000 and a regular member in 2012, and has helped organize many of the annual symposia. She is currently a member of the STC programme committee and will be its chair for the 2021 symposium. For more information on Dr. Plante, please visit: <https://inrs.ca/en/research/professors/isabelle-plante/>



Don't miss Dr. Plante's lecture at our annual symposium on **December 2nd from 1:00-1:45 pm EST.**

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