



Then and Now: Interviews with IUTOX Notables

This column features past travel award winners of ICT and CTDC meetings, RASS and RAW trainings, and recipients of SOT/SOT Endowment/AstraZeneca/IUTOX travel awards. True to its mission, IUTOX has consistently raised and awarded funds for junior and senior scientists to participate in international toxicology meetings and to receive training and education to increase their skills and knowledge in risk assessment. A great number of recipients have gone on to contribute to the field of toxicology in significant ways in colleges and universities, private industry, and scientific communities on a local, regional, national and international level. If you are a past recipient of an IUTOX sponsored travel award or risk assessment training, we want to hear from you. Please contact the Secretariat iutoxhq@iutox.org with your "Then and Now" success story!

Interviewer: Donna Breskin



Name: Tania Sawada, Ph.D.

1. In what years did you participate in the IUTOX Risk Assessment Summer School (RASS) and Latin America Risk Assessment Workshop (LARAW) meetings?
RASS in 2006 and LARAW in 2013.
2. IUTOX: What degree(s) do you hold and from which institution(s)?
Ph.D. Toxicology and Toxicological analysis at USP (University of São Paulo), School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brazil
3. IUTOX: What is your current job title?
Project Manager of Radical Innovation - Phytotherapics
4. IUTOX: What is the focus of your work?
Development of new Herbal Drug Preparation to supply the Pharmaceutical Industry
5. IUTOX: Is toxicology a growing field in your country?
Yes, its been growing a lot in the last 5 years.
6. IUTOX: How many colleges and universities in your country offer toxicology coursework? In what departments or degree programs are toxicology classes taught?
In São Paulo, the best universities like USP, UNICAMP and UNIFESP offer undergraduate toxicology classes, as well as postgraduate courses such as Toxicology, Toxicological Analysis, Public Health, Medical Toxicology at Pharmacy School.

7. IUTOX: What advice do you have for young toxicologists entering the field today?

Toxicology is applied in many areas, it's important to know in which area of toxicology you would like to perform. In the Pharmaceutical Industry, which is my current field of work, the experience in preclinical studies is essential.

10. IUTOX: Did your attendance at the RASS and LARAW trainings afford you any special opportunities or exposure to the toxicology community that wouldn't otherwise have been available to you?

Attending RASS in 2006 made me understand some of the risk assessments and the huge differences between developed and underdeveloped countries concerning risks of human exposure. Also, the different ways educational institutions and regulatory agencies manage the risk of human exposure in each country. Knowledge sharing among students and tutors was certainly one of the highlights of the RASS training.

At the LARAW in 2013, I had the opportunity to meet toxicologists working in Brazil and share a great amount of experiences and knowledge. The interaction with tutors, and the opportunity to learn about tools applied in risk assessment were also a very enriching experience.