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For Immediate Release

SOT and NLM Announce Availability of On-line Toxicology Tutorial

Reston, VA –January 13, 2010 – The Society of Toxicology (SOT) and the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM), a component of the National Institutes of Health, are proud to announce the public release of Module I of ToxLearn, a free, online tutorial covering the fundamentals of toxicology.

ToxLearn is designed for learners with a basic knowledge of undergraduate biology and chemistry. Users of NLM's toxicology databases who would like to get a better grasp on fundamentals in order to better interpret their search retrieval are considered a primary audience, along with other learners. Multiple choice quizzes and abundant graphics enhance the learning experience, as do links to the new edition of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry's *Glossary of Terms Used in Toxicology*. ToxLearn is also useful as a teaching tool for undergraduate students in fields such as toxicology, environmental health, risk assessment, occupational safety and health, etc. Other professional groups, such as physicians, lab technicians, lawyers, and journalists, as well general audiences with an interest in toxicology, will also benefit from ToxLearn.

Module I offers an introduction to toxicology and dose-response. Historical highlights from antiquity to the present set the stage for a look at the research and application aspects of the subject. This model explores how toxicology affects our daily lives with respect to food, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, and consumer products. The module also highlights clinical and forensic toxicology, toxicogenomics, and nanotoxicology, and concludes with explanations of the critical concepts of dose, dose-effect, and dose-response. Most of these subjects will be expanded in future modules.

ToxLearn grew out of an earlier online toxicology training tool called ToxTutor and was upgraded by a distinguished international panel of toxicologists, with Michael Kamrin, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University as primary author. Extensive student beta testing were done and reviewed by the committees of the Society and by the NLM's Specialized Information Services Web team. Future modules are in varying stages of preparation, and will be added when ready in 2010.

For more information about ToxLearn see (<http://toxlearn.nlm.nih.gov>).