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For Immediate Release

**Scientists Explore Role of Environmental Stressors
in the Developmental Origins of Disease**

Reston, VA (December 1, 2009) --- Experts from around the world will gather December 7 - 10 at the Loews Hotel in Miami, Florida, to examine the animal and human data supporting a hypothesis that subtle effects during fetal and postnatal development can lead to functional deficits and increased disease risk later in life.

The objective of the second International Conference on Fetal Programming and Developmental Toxicity (PPToxII), which is titled, "Role of Environmental Stressors in the Developmental Origins of Disease," according to Conference Chairman Jerrold Heindel is to, "examine the animal and human data that supports the hypothesis." Dr. Heindel went on to note that scientists participating in the conference hope to identify some of the mechanisms for the effects and identify research gaps and challenges. Dr. William Slikker, Jr., the co-chair of the conference, pointed out that "Exposure to environmental chemicals during prenatal and early development may affect gene expression and the resulting epigenetic changes may constitute an important mechanism for programming effects."

Topics that will be covered during the four-day meeting include the developmental basis of cancer, national children's studies, obesity/diabetes/metabolic syndrome, developmental basis for immune diseases, developmental origins of reproductive diseases/dysfunctions, developmental origins of neurobehavioral deficits and abnormalities, clinical and industry perspectives, mechanisms and pathways, regulatory challenges and approaches, and transgenerational effects. According to conference organizers there will be several speakers addressing each topic and 50 separate sessions over the course of the four days.

The four-day conference is sponsored by the Society of Toxicology, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, World Health Organization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

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Add One – Scientists Explore Role of Environmental Stressors

the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the European Environment Agency, the National Center for Toxicological Research/FDA, the Superfund Research Program, the National Cancer Institute, National Institute for Environmental Studies, the International Union of Toxicology and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The Society of Toxicology (SOT) is a scientific not-for-profit organization for professionals from around the world who are involved in toxicology. With more than 6,000 members, the Society is working to build the future of toxicology and is dedicated to increasing the scientific impact of toxicology, advocating the value of toxicology and increasing visibility of the organization and members as scientific leaders. For additional information about the Florida conference see http://toxicology.org/ai/meet/cct_pptox_meeting.asp.

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Editor's Note: Reporters who wish to attend the meeting can register at no charge by going to http://toxicology.org/ai/meet/cct_pptox_meeting.asp. If reporters would like to arrange interviews with any of the speakers, please contact Ms. Clarissa Wilson at clarissa@toxicology.org or call her at (703) 963-0528.