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Presentation by Christopher Hadad on October 3 **“Drug Development to Counter Nerve Agent and Pesticide Poisoning”**

Organophosphorus nerve agents and pesticides present significant threats to civilian and military populations, according to Christopher Hadad, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at The Ohio State University. His Torch paper on Thursday, October 3, will discuss his research team's work to develop medical countermeasures against the use of such agents.

“Organophosphorus compounds include the nefarious G and V chemical nerve agents, but more commonly, civilians are exposed to less toxic organophosphorus pesticides,” Christopher explains. These pesticides result “in the same negative toxicological effects and thousands of deaths on an annual basis. After decades of research, no new therapeutics have been realized since the mid-1900s.

“Our research team is focused on developing medical countermeasures against the use of organophosphorus agents, either on the warfighter and on civilians,” he says. “We have worked on a number of different approaches for pre-exposure and post-exposure scenarios, as well as the development of novel methods, including catalytic antibodies, such as a vaccine.”

Biography of Christopher M. Hadad

Christopher Hadad joined the Torch Club last May. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Delaware in 1987 and then completed his Ph.D. as a Hertz Foundation fellow at Yale University. After a post-doctoral fellowship from the National Science Foundation at the University of Colorado, he joined the faculty of The Ohio State University as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1994.

In 2006, Christopher was promoted to full professor. He subsequently was the vice chair for under-graduate studies in the Department of Chemistry from 2006–2011, served the department as the interim chair in 2007, and was associate dean from 2011 to 2014 and then dean from 2014 to 2018 of the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Division of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Christopher's research interests encompass both experimental and computational investigations in a diverse number of areas and has resulted in about 250 peer-reviewed publications. The central feature



**Christopher
Hadad**

of his research group is the exploration of reaction mechanisms in diverse areas, including developing therapeutics against exposure to organophosphorus chemical nerve agents.

Christopher teaches organic chemistry courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level. He also teaches a computational chemistry course in order to educate students on how to use computational chemistry to solve complex research problems. His research group currently includes nine graduate students, three post-doctoral researchers and a large number of undergraduate researchers.

President's Message: What do you like about Torch?

One of the questions people ask when I tell them about Torch Club is "What do you like about Torch?" Sensible enough. So is the answer. "I like the people." The follow-up is equally sensible. "Why do you like the people?" The answer is sensible as well, but doesn't really lend itself to a one-liner.

Our Torch members run the gamut of areas of specialization, of experience, of senses of humor, of any number of skills and characteristics. But if there is one trait we all seem to share, it is curiosity or the desire to learn new things. We just plain like to learn things outside of our areas of specialization. On the whole, I think that is a good thing.

Some of us work or have worked in very specialized areas, digging deeper and deeper into ever more narrow parts of our fields. A willingness to look around outside of our niche sometimes allows us to see the new fact or the interesting idea sitting in the dark corners of someone else's work. That new thing might be just what we needed to pull our own ideas into a new and interesting pattern. It doesn't always work that way of course, but there is still the pleasure of bumping up against another bright and insightful mind.

And that is where Torch comes in. A look at this year's calendar of topics tells you that we have in our group people who know things we don't. And even better, they are happy to tell us about them. What could be better than that? In this world of smaller and smaller sound bites and shorter and shorter attention spans, it is a great comfort to come to a group – to Torch – where we where we can be comfortable without having to check our brains at the door. So welcome to a new year of exploration.

The drink-of-the-month is the Gin Rickey

President Violet Meek has selected the Gin Rickey (or the Bourbon Rickey or even the Vodka Rickey) as Torch Club's drink-of-the-month for October. You can order the drink in the Faculty Club during the conversation hour before the meeting. The drink is made from the spirits, half a lime, and carbonated water dropped over ice. The drink's origin story is it was created initially with bourbon in the 1880s in Washington, D.C., at the behest of Colonel Joe Rickey, a lobbyist from Missouri. Mixed with gin, the cocktail became a worldwide sensation in the 1890s.

According to Wikipedia, Rickey was proud to be the friend of senators, judges and statesmen and an authority on politics, but he felt very much aggrieved that he was famous for giving his name to an alcoholic drink. "The present popularity of the Scotch high ball may possibly lose me my reputation and restore me to my former fame," Rickey said later. "'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished for."



Violet Meek

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach has sent you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on October 3. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 457-5103.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest to attend the meeting and dinner is \$30. A potential member may attend one meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2019-20

October 3, 2019: **“Drug Development to Counter Nerve Agent and Pesticide Poisoning”** by Christopher M. Hadad

November 7, 2019: **“Bernini At St. Peters”** by Susan Warrener Smith

December 5, 2019: **Music for a Midwinter Night** with the Synchronicity Trio

January 9, 2020: **“Places to Go Around the World”** by David A. Hammond

February 6, 2020: **“Milton A. Caniff Seen in the Magic Mirror”** by Robert H. Stevenson

March 5, 2020: Constance-Alexa Oulanoff shares **“Russia’s Cultural Revival of National Traditions”** by Helena Gosilo

April 2, 2020: **“Lofty Aspirations, Humble**

Beginnings: The Early Years of OSU” by Raimund E. Goerler

May 7, 2020: **“What Columbus Invented – And What It Didn’t”** by Joe Blundo

Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation
6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters
6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker
7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive; (614) 292-2262.

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2019-20

President – Violet Meek

President-elect – Susan Warrener Smith

Immediate Past President – Tom Costantiello

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – open

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

Fellowship Chair – Nancy Wardwell

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Tom Costantiello

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Nancy Wardwell (2020)

Director-at-Large Deborah Stevens (2020)

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2021)

Director-at-Large Elizabeth Short (2021)