



## **TOXICOLOGY EDUCATION FOUNDATION Fast Facts**

### **MISSION**

The Toxicology Education Foundation (TEF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing public understanding of toxicology through access to objective, science-based information on the safety of chemicals and other agents encountered in daily life.

TEF provides the public with basic information on assessing the safety and risk of environmental and industrial chemicals, drugs, food, and other substances. This knowledge enables people to make informed decisions about potential exposures. We aim to serve a wide audience of people who are seeking answers from the internet, and often finding a baffling array of differing answers.

### **UNIQUE ROLE**

TEF fills a rare niche in addressing the general public as its primary audience. It is among the only independent groups with such a high level of collective toxicological expertise to focus their attention on making toxicological concepts and issues understandable to the public. Informing print and other news-based media about TEF's mission is another approach to more widely disseminating its message.

### **ORIGINS**

Originally founded in 1990 by the Society of Toxicology (SOT), TEF became an independent international non-profit organization in 2002. Trustees of the Foundation are leaders in the field of toxicology and risk assessment from government, industry, the private sector and academia. The TEF board of trustees is international in scope and has included members from North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

### **PROJECTS**

To fulfill its mission, TEF has undertaken an array of projects, all accessible at no cost:

#### ***Educational Resources***

- **Tox Topics, Tox in the News, and Tox Quick Links features of our website** are designed to lead viewers to reliable and engaging sources of information on a growing potpourri of noteworthy toxicological topics. A recent major upgrade to our web site was designed to create an inviting format with greater visual appeal. We also strive to increase

our reach and engagement with viewers using social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook.

- **“Toxicity Today”** is the first in a new short video series conceived to illustrate relevant toxicological topics of contemporary interest in an entertaining way using a 2-3 minute YouTube video format.
- **“Is It Safe?”** is another free educational video by TEF that has been widely distributed through the TEF website and YouTube. Copies are also available in CD format. Scientists and others are using this 15 minute video to educate the public about key principles and concepts in toxicology with examples from everyday life.

**“Is It Safe?”** is a winner of the prestigious “Platinum Best in Show” Aurora Award in the category of educational videos. Versions are also available in Latin American Spanish and Japanese (subtitled), with additional translations planned.

This initiative, co-funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), also received broad donor support from the Food and Drug Administration and several industries and private donors working in the field of toxicology. A listing of all TEF supporters appears on the TEF website.

- **“Is It Safe? - Evaluating Chemical Risk,”** created as a written booklet, is a 23 page primer designed to accompany the video as an aid to teaching. It can also be used as a standalone educational resource and is available online.
- TEF also offers live courses and other educational events for the public in cities throughout the US.

#### *Professional development for students of toxicology*

- TEF continues to provide funding through the Dixon Award for a graduate student to attend the International Congress of Toxicology every three years.

*Please visit the TEF website at [www.toxedfoundation.org](http://www.toxedfoundation.org) to learn more about TEF.*

*While there, consider a **DONATION**  
to help support our mission and expand our projects.*

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Tweet: [@ToxEdFoundation](https://twitter.com/ToxEdFoundation)*

*Email us at [toxedef@gmail.com](mailto:toxedef@gmail.com) if you have questions or suggestions for topics you would like us to consider developing for the TEF website.*