Participant Roles
Who Are the Participants, and What Are Their Roles?

Undergraduate Students
All undergraduate students who register for the Annual Meeting also can register for the Sunday Undergraduate Education Program. Some students, selected by the Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) based on a nationwide competitive application, receive travel support to attend the meeting and have special activities on Saturday and Monday. The students’ role is to interact with toxicologists, learn more about toxicology, discover strategies for success in applying to and completing graduate school, and consider careers in the biomedical scientists.

Undergraduate Faculty Advisors
These are faculty members who are not SOT members and who have been involved with supporting the career development of undergraduate students, especially those from groups that are underrepresented in the sciences. CDI also selects these participants by competitive application from a national pool. Faculty advisors can communicate readily with the students, peer mentors, and toxicologists. They play an important role in helping everyone benefit from the unique experience of the Undergraduate Program. At their home institution, they assist with the graduate school application process as well as recruiting future program participants.

Peer Mentors
Typically toxicology graduate students, but sometimes undergraduate students or postdoctoral scholars, these participants contribute to the cohesiveness of the mentor groups. Some peer mentors participated in the SOT Undergraduate Program when they were baccalaureate students. Peer mentors are excellent resources for questions about what graduate school is really like and for good reasons to consider a career in toxicology.

Host Mentors
Host mentors are toxicologists who are established in a toxicology career. These participants have a broad perspective on the benefits of a graduate research degree, employment opportunities in the biomedical sciences, and what life is like as a toxicologist. Group participants can network, network, network, during the program and in the future.

Committee on Diversity Initiatives
The members of this SOT Committee have planned the Undergraduate Program, selected all the participants and speakers, and thought about all the details that make this program a well-rounded introduction to toxicology and graduate school. They want to meet the participants during the program, may be contacted in the future, and will follow up to see what career paths the student participants select.