



DEVELOPING COMPETITIVE SCIENTIFIC SESSION PROPOSALS

HOSTED BY: SOT Scientific Program
Committee (SPC) and Continuing
Education (CE) Committee

Monday, April 6

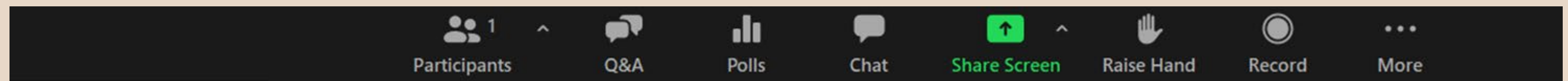
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM (US EDT, UTC-4)





Discussion Instructions

This webinar is being hosted in Zoom. Please use the Q&A option in the tool bar in Zoom to ask a question. The webinar will pause at three designated breaks, and questions from attendees will be addressed during those breaks.



Today's Presenters



ROBYN TANGUAY
Vice President Elect



KELLY ALMONDABBATE
CE Committee Chair



ANDREA DE VIZCAYA RUIZ
SPC Member



KRISTEN RYAN
SPC Member

PLUS

DAVID ROSSÉ
SPC Staff Liaison

SHANNON FROHM
CE Staff Liaison

Agenda

01

DEVELOPING AN IDEA

02

TYPES OF SESSIONS

03

SPEAKER FUNDING

04

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PROPOSAL

05

SPEAKER SELECTION

06

ENDORSEMENT

07

ACCEPTANCE/REVIEW TIMELINE

08

WHAT TO AVOID



CE AND SESSION
PROPOSAL SITE OPEN

April 1 to May 15, 2026

New for 2027

CONSOLIDATED SESSION TYPE

Scientific Session

(formerly Symposia, Workshop,
and Roundtable)

NEW SESSION LENGTH

75 -minutes for everything
but CE

THE TOXICOLOGIST

All presenter abstracts for all
session types, except CE
courses, will be published in
The Toxicologist PDF.

SESSION TYPES AND DURATIONS

45 minutes

- Sunrise Continuing Education

75 minutes

- Education & Career Advancement
- Engagement
- Historical Highlights
- Informational
- Regional Interest
- Scientific

195 minutes

- Continuing Education



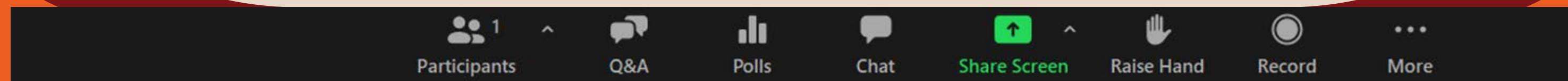
SOT

SAN ANTONIO, TX
66TH ANNUAL MEETING
& ToxExpo • March 14-17, 2027



Question Break #1

Submit your questions or comments by using the Q&A option.



Why You Should Submit a Proposal

SOT is about YOU!

Without our members sharing their interests and work, SOT would not be a premiere professional association for toxicology. As our hallmark event, the Annual Meeting should capture the best, most interesting, and helpful science and information available.



What Makes a Strong Proposal Topic

Good proposals often contain at least one of these factors.

1

Cutting-Edge Interdisciplinary
Science and New Perspectives

2

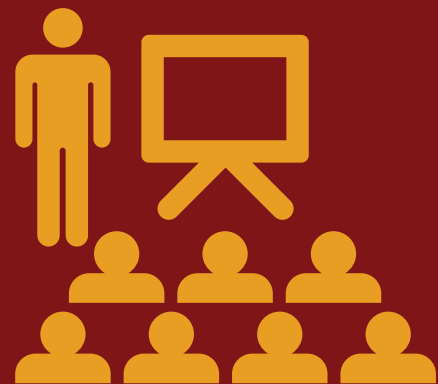
Emerging Fields and Their
Application to the Field of
Toxicology

3

Depth of Analysis

4

Active Involvement in Other
Areas of Toxicology



SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Cutting-edge science: new areas, concepts, or data in the forefront of toxicology



EDUCATION-CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Tools and resources to enhance professional or scientific development



LENGTH
75 minutes



SPEAKERS
Two to four presenters



HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Review of a historical topic with toxicology impact



INFORMATIONAL

General information and planned scientific activities not based on outcome of scientific research



LENGTH
75 minutes



SPEAKERS
Two to four presenters



ENGAGEMENT

Encourage audience participation, discussion among audience members, polling, and other interactive activities



LENGTH

75 minutes



REGIONAL INTEREST

Central topics of relevance that describe public health and/or ecological problems of that region



SPEAKERS

Two to four presenters



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Cover new, established knowledge in
toxicology and related disciplines



LENGTH

19.5 (regular) or 45 minutes (sunrise)



SPEAKERS

Two (sunrise) to eight (maximum)
presenters

MORE ON CE COURSES

MYTH

CE courses are harder to prepare for and develop than other Scientific Sessions.

FACTS

The same amount of preparation is required for all sessions and courses. The main difference is that CE courses are prepared on a faster timeline.

Fewer CE course proposals are received each year, making acceptance percentages higher.





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Special Designations by SPC

IAT

Innovations in Applied Toxicology (IAT) Symposium sessions introduce innovative approaches in applied research.

ITS

Innovations in Toxicological Sciences (ITS) Symposium sessions introduce new technologies or scientific disciplines.



SPEAKER FUNDING

CHANGES FOR 2027

SOT MEMBERS

No funding support provided

NONMEMBERS

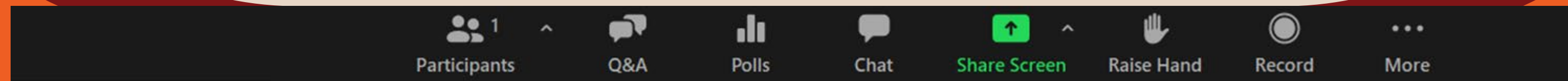
Only one nonmember speaker will receive full funding per session

Registration-Only funding available for up to three nonmember speakers

Full Funding = roundtrip, economy airfare; one night of housing; two days of meals up to \$50 per day; and incidentals (taxi fares, parking at airport, etc.)

Question Break #2

Submit your questions or comments by using the Q&A option.



Proposal Development Process Outlined Online

Session Proposals

[Home](#) | [Presenters](#) | [Session Proposals](#)

- [Step 1: The Idea](#)
- [Step 2: Pick the Session Type](#)
- [Step 3: Find Your Experts](#)
- [Step 4: Prepare the Proposal](#)
- [Step 5: Get Endorsements](#)
- [Step 6: Submit Your Proposal](#)

The Basics of Preparing a Session Proposal



Step 1: The Idea

Look at previous SOT Programs for inspiration and to avoid previously covered topics.



Step 2: Pick the Session Type

Choose between five distinct section formats.



A Good Proposal Has...



A clearly presented
focus/message and objectives



Confirmed speakers—no TBDs



Relevance to toxicology and is
unique



Integrated overall abstract with
presentations that relate to
each other



Primary endorsement by a
relevant Component Group with
a favorable ranking or insightful
comments



Speaker Diversity (job sector,
ethnicity, gender, geography,
etc.)

Securing Speakers

It's easier than you think!

Unique Perspectives

Look for diverse scientific views, as hearing the same presentation five times is not entertaining.

Search the Literature

Use key words related to your topic.

Pursue Diversity

Consider diversity from various angles: employment sector, gender, geographic location, ethnicity, etc.

Cold Call (or Email)

People are usually flattered to be asked.



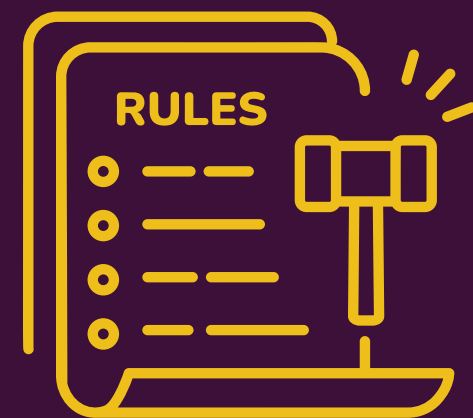
Golden Speaker Rule



You may only speak in one Scientific Session.



Chair and Co -Chair Rules



The Chair must be an SOT member.

You can only Chair one session and Co Chair one additional session.

Endorsement

Go to the group with an affinity for your topic!



Key Takeaways

1

SOT Component Groups and certain Committees can endorse sessions and courses.

2

Rankings and especially comments are considered during proposal review.

3

You must have one primary endorser. Two additional endorsers are allowed.

4

For the best success have your endorsers review your proposal before submitting it (aka, a prereview).

Tips for Pre -review



Identify the groups most relevant to your proposal by reviewing the Component Group and Committee lists.

COMMITTEES



COMPONENT GROUPS



Approach the leaders of each group to determine their prereview timelines and processes each group will be unique.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



Checklist for Proposals

- COMPELLING TOPIC**
with a clear toxicology connection
- APPROPRIATE SESSION TYPE**
that will best showcase the topic
- DIVERSE SPEAKERS**
with unique scientific perspectives to share
- ENDORSEMENT**
from at least one and up to three groups



2026 A.M. (San Diego)	2027 A.M. (San Antonio)	2028 A.M. (Nashville)
Cardiovascular Toxicology	Biotechnology	Biological Modeling
Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues	Clinical and Translational Toxicology	Carcinogenesis
Immunotoxicology	Computational Toxicology	Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary
Inhalation and Respiratory	Exposure	Dermal Toxicology
<i>In Vitro</i> and Alternative Models	Mechanisms	Drug Discovery Toxicology
Metals	Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section	Food Safety
Molecular and Systems Biology	Ocular Toxicology	Medical Device/Combination Product
Neurotoxicology	Regulatory and Safety Evaluation	Mixtures
Stem Cells	Reproductive and Developmental Tox.	Occupational and Public Health
	Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology	Risk Assessment



Review Timeline





Acceptance %

CE

Sessions

100%

2023 Nashville

82%

76%

2024 Salt Lake City

58%

82%

2025 Orlando

56%

77%

2026 San Diego

59%

Reasons for Nonacceptance

Focus on methodology needs expansion

Topic was too similar to a recently held session

Lack of enthusiastic feedback by endorsers and/or SPC and CE Committee reviewers

Too narrow of a focus

Proposal not fully developed

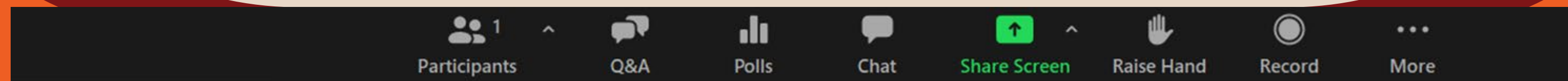
Connection to toxicology missing

Space limitations



Question Break #3

Submit your questions or comments by using the Q&A option.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF SESSION

Tiny Tox Talks

01

20 -MINUTES

Informal, small audience

02

ANYTHING GOES (ALMOST)

Soft skills, best practices, science ~~lite~~ discussions

03

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SUBMISSION

Process is separate from session proposals



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

MAY 15, 2026

Scientific Session and
CE Course Proposal Deadline

AUGUST 3, 2026

Registration and Housing Open

OCTOBER 9, 2026

Awards Nomination Deadline

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline

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www.toxicology.org/2027

