

Mechanisms Specialty Section



Who We Are

The Mechanisms Specialty Section:

- Was founded in 1981 as the **first Specialty Section** within the Society of Toxicology.
- Represents a diverse group of members of the Society of Toxicology who have common interests and expertise in elucidating the cellular, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms of action of toxic substances.
- Provides a focal point for interaction between members of the Society of Toxicology interested in the development and dissemination of new advances in mechanistic research.
- Publishes a newsletter two times a year to inform members and the SOT community about updates to the membership, endowment funds, and upcoming award opportunities.

Incoming 2026-2027 Officers

Position	Name
President:	Udayan Apte
Past President:	Juliane Beier
Vice President:	Alicia Timme-Laragy
Vice President Elect	Joe Zagorski
Secretary-Treasurer:	Bert Watson
Senior Councilor:	Banrida Wahlang
Junior Councilor:	Aditya Joshi
Post-Doc Representative:	Candace Longoria
Grad-Student Representative:	Gina Capece

2026 Annual Meeting Endorsed Sessions

Session Type	Title	Day (Time)
Annual Reception	Mechanisms Specialty Section Meeting/ Reception	March 23, 6:00-7:30 PM <i>Marriott Marquis Ballroom A</i>
Symposium	From Correlation to Causation: Development and Application of Novel Approaches to Implicate Epigenetic Mechanisms in Toxicological Responses	March 23, 2:00-3:30 PM <i>Ballroom 6C</i>
Symposium	It's Complicated: The Messy Relationship Between Environmental Exposures and Metabolic Health	March 24, 1:00-2:30 PM <i>Room 1B</i>
Symposium	Mechanisms of Persistent Neurotoxicity: Changes Seen Throughout the Lifespan	March 24, 4:30-6:00 PM <i>Ballroom 6C</i>

2025-2026 Executive Committee Officers



Juliane Beier
President



Udayan Apte
Vice President



Archit Rastogi
Past President



Alicia Timme-Laragy
Vice President-Elect



Kayla Frost
Secretary-Treasurer



Laura Armstrong
Senior Councilor



Banrida Wahlang
Junior Councilor



Becky Kendall
Post-Doc Rep



Hamida Mamida
Grad Student Rep

Award Opportunities

Graduate Student Awards



Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award

- Flagship award within the Mechanisms Specialty Section.
- Recognizes outstanding mechanistic research by graduate students at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting.
- Finalists are selected based on strength of abstract and invited to submit a manuscript of the submitted project.
- 3 recipients: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place (\$750 - \$2,000)



Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award

- Recognizes presenting authors with strengths in mechanistic research for their abstract
- Provides a travel award (\$500) to participate in the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting.



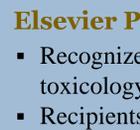
Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award

- Administered in partnership with the Risk Assessment Specialty Section.
- Recognizes outstanding research applying mechanistic toxicology to risk assessment.
- 1-2 recipients (\$500 - \$750)



Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award

- Recognizes outstanding postdoctoral research.
- Recipients are selected based on application materials and interviews conducted prior to the Annual Meeting.
- 3 recipients: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place (\$750 - \$1,500).



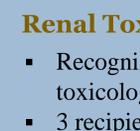
Elsevier Postdoctoral Award

- Recognizes outstanding research conducted in mechanistic toxicology by postdoctoral scientists.
- Recipients receive a certificate and a cash award.



Sheldon D. Murphy Student Travel Award

- Recognizes presenting authors of mechanistic abstracts by providing a travel award to participate in the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting.
- 5-8 recipients (~\$500).



Renal Toxicology Award

- Recognizes outstanding research conducted in renal toxicology by graduate students and postdoctoral scientists.
- 3 recipients: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place (\$250 - \$1,000).

Mixed – Grad and Post-doc Student Awards

Mechanisms Specialty Section Career Achievement Award Present and Past Recipients

- Honors a Mechanism Specialty Section member's career achievements, leadership in the Society of Toxicology, and extensive contribution to mechanistic research.
- Candidates are nominated by Mechanisms Specialty Section members & reviewed by the Executive Committee.

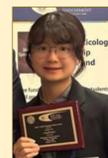


Rick Schnellman, PhD

Dr. Schnellman is the Howard J. Schaeffer Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences and also serves as a Board member for Pharmacology and Toxicology. A leading pharmacologist, researcher and drug discovery entrepreneur, Dr. Schnellman joined the University of Arizona in August 2016 from the Medical University of South Carolina. The Mechanisms Specialty Section was honored to announce Dr. David Williams as the recipient of the 2025 Career Achievement Award. Dr. Schnellman earned his doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Arizona Colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine in 1984. His research is focused on identifying and developing drugs to treat acute kidney injury, diabetic kidney disease, stroke, spinal cord injury and Parkinson's disease. His research has been funded continuously since 1987 and includes NIH grant funding totaling more than \$30 million. Demonstrating his prolific research, he has published more than 180 peer-reviewed publications and reviews and authored more than 28 book chapters.

2025 Award Recipients

Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award



Winner:
Isabella (Hangyu) Wu,
U. Connecticut School
of Pharmacy.

Finalists:

- Itishree Dubey**, NIPER-Raibarelli, India
- Ramji Kandel**, Texas Tech University, USA

Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award



- Diego Paine-Cabrera**, U. Kansas Medical Center
- Jon M. Woodward**, U. Colorado, Anschutz Medical
- Olamide Adelusi**, U. Kansas Medical Center
- Gillian Williams**, U. Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- Joe Jongpyo Lim**, U. Washington.

Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award



Christine Kim,
Rutgers University

Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award



Winner:
Candace Longoria,
Rutgers U.

Finalists:

- Ankit P. Laddha**, U. Connecticut
- Shruthi Thada**, U. South Carolina

Sheldon D. Murphy Grad. Student Travel Award



- Gina Capece**, Rutgers U.
- Samantha Musso**, Michigan State U.
- Jessica Rodriguez**, Rutgers U.
- Kevin Schichlein**, UNC – Chapel Hill
- Sierra Wilson**, U. Pittsburgh

Elsevier Postdoctoral Award



Muhammet Ay,
U. Rochester Medical
Center.

Renal Toxicology Award



- 1st Place: **Madhura More**, U. California
- 2nd Places: **Jie Zhou**, U. Florida
- 3rd Place: **Yasaman Etemadi Shamsabadi**, U. Kansas Medical Center.

Sheldon D. Murphy Postdoctoral Student Travel Award



- Ankit P. Laddha**, U. Connecticut
- Candace R. Longoria**, Rutgers U.
- Catia F. Marques**, U. Pennsylvania
- Isha Mhatre-Winters**, U. Georgia

Congratulations to this year's award winners! Look out for more details in our upcoming Newsletter...

Our Annual Reception!

- Meet fellow Mechanisms SS members, award winners, and incoming officers

Get a glimpse of what's in store in **2026-2027!**

March 22nd, 2026