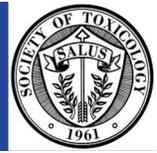




Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS) 2025-26



What is Risk Assessment?

Risk assessment is, to the highest extent possible, a scientific process. In the context of public health, risk assessment is the process of quantifying the probability of a harmful effect to individuals or populations from certain human activities. In most countries, the use of specific chemicals, or the operations of specific facilities (e.g., power plants, manufacturing plants) is not allowed unless it can be shown that they do not increase the risk of death or illness above a certain threshold.

Risk Assessment & Risk Management



Our Specialty Section

The Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS) is a subgroup of SOT members with interest in the theory and practice of risk assessment. This includes a comprehensive and diverse set of issues that range from the interpretation and integration of toxicological and kinetic data in various target tissues to applications in the regulatory arena. RASS is one of the largest and most diverse specialty sections of the SOT and has membership representation from academia, government, industry and consulting. RASS is of interest to toxicologists who seek to enhance the use of descriptive and mechanistic studies in the broader context, such as pharmaceutical efficacy and safety testing, regulatory standard development, and site-specific health risk assessment. Applications of risk assessment include physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling and development of new statistical methods for dose-response and exposure assessment. Our goal is to provide opportunities for enhancing knowledge of current issues, challenges, and tools for risk assessment and to facilitate discussions to advance the science of risk assessment.

Get Involved in RASS!

- Apply for **student or postdoc awards**
- Read our **newsletters**
- Participate in our **monthly webinar series**
- Run for **officer positions***

For more information, scan the QR code to visit our website.



*Executive committee openings on the 2026 ballot include: Vice-President Elect (4 years), Councilor (2 years), and Postdoc Representative (2 years). You must be a RASS member to run for a position.

Current Officers

 President Anne Locciano Exponent Inc.	 Past President Bernard Gadagbui TERA
 Vice President Kan Shao Indiana University	 Vice President Elect Kathryn Page The Clorox Company
 Secretary/ Treasurer Nikolaos Georgiadis European Commission- DG Environment	 Senior Councilor Melissa Heintz ToxStrategies, LLC
 Junior Councilor Alexandra Cordova ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc.	 Postdoc Representative Chi-Yun Chen University of Florida
 Grad Student Representative Disha Gupta Rutgers University	

Incoming Officers

Election results will be announced at the RASS Reception during the 2026 SOT meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 6:00 - 7:30 PM at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, *Marriott Grand Ballroom 5*

New incoming RASS officers will include:

 Vice President-Elect	 Junior Councilor	 Postdoctoral Representative
---	---	--

RASS-Sponsored Joint Mentoring Session: SOT NetworkX Night

Monday, March 23, 7:30-9:00 PM, Marriott Grand Ballroom 4. The event features a brief introduction to key toxicology career resources; a networking session with professionals nominated by SOT component groups; opportunity to learn about career paths, transitions, and positions directly from mentors.

RASS Endowment Fund

We encourage our members to contribute to our endowment funds that provide stipends to graduate student and postdoc members who display excellence in Risk Assessment:

- John Doull Student Award Fund
- Perry J. Gehring Risk Assessment Student Award Fund
- Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award Fund
- Andersen/Clewell Trainee Award Fund

Scan to donate



RASS Webinars

RASS webinars are held from Fall through Spring, generally on the second Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Webinars:

- April 15, 2025
- May 13, 2025

Past Webinars:

The Application of Non-Targeted Mobile Air Monitoring to Assess Volatile Organic Compounds in Non-Occupational Settings
Eva Vitucci, PhD
Texas A&M University

Mixture Toxicity and Kidney Health in Vulnerable Communities
Nishad Jayasundra, PhD
Duke University

In case you missed it ...

Recordings of past webinars can be accessed on the RASS website! Scan the QR code to review all available recordings.



Congratulations to the RASS 2025-2026 Award Winners!

Best Paper Advancing the Science of Risk Assessment Published in 2025

Paul Friedman K*, Thomas RS, Wambaugh JF, Harrill JA, Judson RS, Shafer TJ, Williams AJ, Lee JJ, Loo LH, Gagné M, Long AS, Barton-Maclaren TS, Whelan M, Bouhifd M, Rasenberg M, Simanainen U, Sobanski T. Integration of new approach methods for the assessment of data-poor chemicals. *Toxicol Sci.* 2025 205(1):74-105. doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfa019](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfa019). *Corresponding author: Katie Paul Friedman, UL Research Associates

Best Paper Demonstrating the Application of Risk Assessment Published in 2025

De Abrew KN*, Selman BG, Shobair M, Zhang X, Allemang AJ, Pfuhrer S*. Exploration of oxidative stress-mediated genetic toxicology modes of action using a pathway analysis, Connectivity Mapping, and transcriptional benchmark dosing-based framework. *Toxicol Sci.* 2025 208(2):401-417. doi: [10.1093/toxsci/kfa137](https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfa137). *Corresponding authors: Nadira De Abrew and Stefan Pfuhrer, The Procter & Gamble Company

Overall Best Abstract Award

A. Bassan et al. Innovatune Srl. Integrating Large Language Models into Toxicological Risk Assessment: Opportunities and Challenges. Abstract 4348. Poster A100. AIMachine Learning II.

Perry J. Gehring Best Abstract Risk Assessment Endowment Awards

Graduate Student Awardee: Ibrahim Alshammari, (Texas A&M University) Quantitative estimates of toxicodynamic variability for new approach methodologies-based systemic safety toolbox using a population-based human in vitro model. Poster G516. NAMS In Vitro I.

Postdoctoral Student Awardee: Nicole McNabb-Kelada, (RTI International) Integrating inter-individual variability and cellular interactions: Transcriptomic responses to acrolein in a donor-matched lung co-culture model. Poster J659. NAMS In Vitro III.

John Doull Risk Assessment Endowment Awards

Graduate Student Awardee: Chloe Wray, (Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ) The zebrafish microbiome modulates neurobehavioral responses to azoxystrobin. Poster C254. Neurotoxicity: Developmental.

Postdoctoral Student Awardee: Brittany Rickard, (North Carolina State University) Photodynamic priming (PDP) mitigates chemoresistance and mitochondrial enhancements in ovarian cancer cells with a history of chronic PFAS exposure. Poster D270. PFAS II.

RASS-BMSS joint Andersen-Clewell Trainee Award

Pei-Yu Wu, (University of Florida) Systematic evidence mapping of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): A large language model-based toxicokinetic database. PosterA149. Computational Toxicology.

RASS-MechSS Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award

Lalitha Karchalla, (Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine) Unveiling oral vulnerability: A human 3D model of sulfur mustard-induced epithelial injury. Poster G510. NAMS: In Vitro I.

Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM) Trainee Award

Mackenzie Allison, (Oregon State University) Comparative toxicity of alkylated and parent polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in primary human bronchial epithelial cells. PosterH596. NAMS: In Vitro II.

International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology (IS RTP)-RASS Awards

Award winners will be announced at the RASS Reception during the 2026 SOT meeting on **Tuesday, March 24, 6:00 - 7:30 PM** at the **Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, Marriott Grand Ballroom 5**

Scan for the most recent RASS Syllabus



Presentation & Materials