



**Society of Toxicology
Graduate Student
Leadership Committee**

Student Spotlights

Celebrating Milestones, Leadership, and Impact

Dear SOT Graduate Student Members,

This newsletter celebrates the incredible accomplishments of our graduate student members—from awards and publications to leadership, outreach, and research milestones.

This feature highlights the impact students are making within the Society of Toxicology and beyond, recognizing both academic excellence and meaningful service to the community.

Kaylyn Dinh
GSLC Communications
Subcommittee Chair



[Learn more about the
GSLC here!](#)

March 2026

Trisha Patel, PhD

De Montfort University

PhD in Nanotoxicology and Nanomedicine

Congratulations to Trisha Patel on her recent publication, **“Nanotoxicity of Porous Silica Nanoparticles: Physicochemical Properties and Mechanistic Cellular Endpoints.”**

Her work advances our understanding of how nanoparticle characteristics influence cellular responses, contributing valuable insights to the field of nanotoxicology and safer material design.



[Trisha's LinkedIn](#)

Elizabeth Slane,

PhD

Wayne State University
PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences

Congratulations to Elizabeth! She is a recent graduate of Dr. Brian Cummings' lab at Wayne State University, and earned **First Place in the Graduate Student Poster Presentation at the Michigan Chapter of the Society of Toxicology on October 3, 2025.**

Her outstanding research and presentation excellence exemplify the strength and impact of graduate scholarship in toxicology.



[Elizabeth's LinkedIn](#)

Lutfat Usman,

PhD

Kwara State University, Malete

Lutfat Abimbola Usman recently completed her PhD, with her convocation ceremony held on December 13, 2025. Her doctoral research culminated in both a peer-reviewed publication and an abstract presentation, reflecting the impact and scholarly contribution of her work to the field of toxicology. She looks forward to continuing her engagement with the SOT student community in the next chapter of her professional journey.

***Tamarindus indica* fruit pulp in neurodegeneration: a multimodal pharmacological study**

Parkinson's Disease: Pharmacology and Medical Management. International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society



Lutfat's LinkedIn

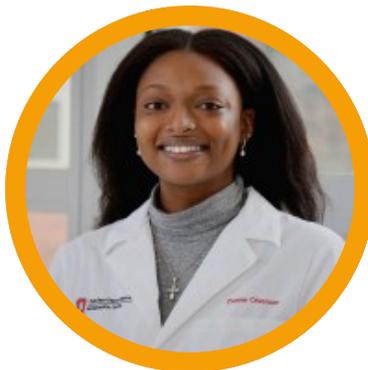
Zianne Olverson

Ohio State University

PhD in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Zianne Olverson recently achieved an exciting milestone by publishing her **first-author manuscript in Toxicological Sciences**. This accomplishment reflects her dedication to advancing research in toxicology and represents a significant contribution to the field. Congratulations to Zianne on this outstanding achievement!

[E-cigarette exposure during pregnancy impairs uterine artery blood flow and feto-placental function](#)



[Zianne's LinkedIn](#)

Olivia Lampe

Texas A&M University
PhD in Toxicology

Olivia Lampe is a 4th Year PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University and the Graduate Student Representative for the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section (RSESS) of the Society of Toxicology.

She recently published her first-author manuscript titled **“Impact of Exposure to Particulate Matter on Pulmonary Immune Responses and Respiratory Health”** in Inhalation Toxicology.

Her work contributes valuable insight into respiratory toxicology and highlights her leadership and scholarship within the SOT community.



[Olivia's LinkedIn](#)

Alex Svetlik

Texas A&M University
PhD in Toxicology

Alex Svetlik is a 5th Year PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University and published her paper **“Association of Arsenic Exposure with PDGF-BB In Vitro and in a South Texas Population Exposed Through Drinking Water,”** in Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology, contributing important insights into environmental exposure and biomarker responses.

She also earned **First Place in the Graduate Student Poster Competition at the Lone Star Regional Chapter Meeting**, demonstrating excellence in both research and scientific communication.



[Alex's LinkedIn](#)

Hangyu Wu

UConn School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Hangyu (Isabella) Wu is a fifth-year PhD candidate in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Connecticut in Dr. José E. Manautou's laboratory. Alongside her research achievements, she has demonstrated strong leadership through teaching, mentorship, and service within her academic community, reflecting her commitment to both scientific excellence and professional engagement in toxicology.

Professional Experience & Leadership

- Internship at Neurocrine Biosciences where she investigated strategies for hepatotoxicity risk assessment in early drug development using 3D liver models
- Graduate Student Representative, School of Pharmacy Advisory Board
- Mentor for Junior Researchers, School of Pharmacy
- Teaching Assistant for PHRX 4031: Sterile Pharmaceutical Compounding Lab

Presentations

- Oral Presentation: Mechanistic Insights into Paris Saponin I-Induced Hepatic Oxidative Stress via Network Toxicology and Molecular Docking. 2025 Gordon Research Conference(GRC) - Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity. (August 10-15, 2025).

Awards

- **NORTH AMERICAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP** - American College of Toxicology (ACT) 46th Annual Meeting in Phoenix, 2025
- **THE CARL C. SMITH GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD** - Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting in Orlando, 2025
- **NESOT STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD** - Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting in Orlando, 2025
- **JOHN MORRIS TRAVEL AWARD** - School of Pharmacy, University of Connecticut, 2025

Publications

1. [MRP4 deficiency drives lipid metabolism dysregulation and adipose tissue inflammation through cAMP-CREB-CRTC2 activation](#)



Milica Pavlović,

MPharm

University of Iowa
PhD in Human Toxicology

Milica Pavlović, MPharm, is a PhD candidate in Human Toxicology at the University of Iowa whose interdisciplinary background in pharmacy and biochemistry strengthens her research in toxicology.

She has been appointed to serve on the **Scientific Advisory Council for the Evidence-Based Toxicology Collaboration**, with her term beginning in January 2026, and recently began a three-year appointment as a member of the **Webinar Subcommittee for the American College of Toxicology (ACT)**—demonstrating her leadership and commitment to advancing the field.



[Milica's LinkedIn](#)

Carlos Eduardo Bastos Lopes

Auburn University

Residency/PhD Combined Program, Anatomic Pathology

Carlos is a third-year Anatomic Pathology resident at Auburn University enrolled in a combined residency/PhD program, where his research focuses on environmental toxicants using zebrafish models.

At the 2025 ACVP Conference, he earned **First Place in the Industrial and Toxicologic Pathology Young Investigators Award** for his presentation, “**Developmental Exposure to Trichloroethylene Disrupts DNA Methylation and Induces Morphologic Alterations in Zebrafish (Danio rerio).**” His work advances understanding of how environmental toxicants impact developmental and epigenetic processes.



[Carlos's LinkedIn](#)

Renee Owen

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)

Renee Owen is a PhD candidate at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Tamara Tal.

She recently published her first first-author paper in Toxicological Sciences (October 2025 issue), marking a significant milestone in her doctoral research:

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) antagonizes gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) receptors in larval zebrafish and mammalian models

In addition, she delivered a platform presentation at the **19th International Neurotoxicology Association (INA-19) Conference in Sommarøy, Norway**, where **she was selected as a finalist for the David Ray Student Travel Award**—highlighting the international recognition of her work.



Renee's LinkedIn

Xue Wu

University of Florida PhD in Environmental and Global Health

Xue Wu is a graduate student at the University of Florida whose research integrates PBPK modeling and machine learning to advance drug residue prediction and food safety assessment. Through her research, leadership, and professional engagement, Xue is contributing innovative quantitative approaches to the field of toxicology.

Professional Experience & Leadership

- Completed a summer internship in Clinical Pharmacology Department at Neurocrine Biosciences.
- Currently serving as the Graduate Student Representative for the Biological Modeling Specialty Section (BMSS), Society of Toxicology.

Presentations

- Oral Presentation: Development of a PBPK Model for Predicting Florfenicol and Florfenicol Amine Residues in Sheep and Goats. UF PPHP Days (April 14, 2025).
- Poster Presentation: An interactive PBPK (iPBPK) model for predicting florfenicol and florfenicol amine residues in sheep and goats. SOT 63rd Annual Meeting (March 16–20, 2025).

Publications

1. [A Machine Learning-Empowered Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship Model for Predicting the Plasma Half-life of Drugs in Dogs.](#)
2. [Application of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Methods in Food Safety Assessment.](#)
3. [Applications of PBPK Models to Predict Tissue Residues and Extralabel Withdrawal Times of Drugs in Food Animals: Perspectives from the FARAD Program.](#)

