

# SOT STUDENT E-LETTER



Fall 2021 Edition

PUBLISHED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (GSLC)

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*This edition of the SOT Student e-Letter is created by the GSLC Communications Subcommittee, with special assistance from Noor Aly, Jeffrey Chen, Amanda Dhaneshwar, Belkys Gonzalez, Vicki Mourikes, Jennifer Toyoda, and David Umbaugh.*

## Letter from the GSLC Chair

**Hi there!** Did you know SOT offers so much more than presenting your research and attending symposia at the Annual Meeting? SOT is a society that caters to toxicologists (and those toxicology-adjacent) of all levels, but the Society needs enthusiastic graduate students to take on leadership roles to make sure SOT can continue to serve toxicologists just like you!

**There are still some wonderful groups of Specialty Sections (SS), Special Interest Groups (SIG), and Regional Chapters (RC) without a student representative.** These groups could use you and your input! When you join the leadership of these groups, you also become a part of the Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) and one of three subcommittees: Communications, Professional Development, and Programming. These subcommittees work together to create blogs, webinars, and social events catered to graduate students.

For example, this year's **3-Minute Thesis (3MT)**: a science communication competition that takes presenting your project out of the box. 3MT gives you the chance to get creative in how you bring your project into a new light—in under 180 seconds.

So, when you see your RC/SIG/SS call for nominations I hope you send your biosketch, and when you see that 3MT announcement you send in that abstract because you never know what relationships and opportunities will arise!

-Belkys Gonzalez  
*Chair, Graduate Student Leadership Committee (2021-2022)*

## Trainee Discussions

### Blogs

Keep up with what's going on! As an SOT student member, you have access to news, articles, and important announcements. Bookmark the [SOT Blogs page](#) on your browser and check in often to stay informed. Check out past blogs published by members of the Communications Subcommittee of the GSLC, which are of interest to trainees, such as "[How to Choose the Right Lab](#)" and "[How to Write a Compelling Conference Abstract.](#)"

### Webinars and Other Events

"Interview with an Expert" podcast series and other webinars can be found under the "Graduate Student-Focused Webinars" tab on the [SOT Webinars Page](#). Trainee opportunities abound year-round, including SOT Regional Chapter, Special Interest Group, and Specialty Section events. Find up-to-date event information at the [SOT Calendar of Events](#).

### Graduate Student Resources

Take advantage of your student membership! Find opportunities for awards, leadership, volunteer work, and training support at the [SOT Graduate Student Membership page](#).

## Award Opportunities

### Graduate Student Awards

Search for awards for Specialty Sections, Regional Chapters and Special Interest Groups <https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx>. **Deadlines are coming up fast!**

### Graduate Intern Fellowship in Toxicology (GIFT)

Administered by the Education and Career Development Committee, this program will enable outstanding doctoral students to pursue an internship in toxicology that advances their professional and scientific development. Awards of up to \$3,000 each to supplement available funds to make the experience possible (for example, travel to the internship site, local housing, stipend). Internship must last for at least six consecutive weeks between May and August.

<https://www.toxicology.org/education/st/gift.asp>

Deadlines: Required Pre-application: December 1, 2021 | Full Application: Due February 21, 2022

## Compete in SOT's 2022 3MT!!

An average 80,000-word thesis would take 9 hours to present. Your time limit ... **3 minutes!**

THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT) is a competition that encourages participants to look at their projects in a new light and help them bring focus to their critical findings in compelling and creative ways, under the 180" time constraint.

- Master a novel big-picture presentation approach
- Advertise your work & network with the SOT community
- Market yourself for future job opportunities or collaborations
- Build skills & your CV

**Monetary awards!**

### Timeline:

- Wednesday, December 15: Abstract submissions due
- Monday, January 31: Abstract acceptance notification
- Monday, February 28: All video materials due
- Monday, March 7: Voting and Judging begins
- Monday, March 28: Winners announced at the SOT Annual Meeting

#### Categories

- Undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Postdoctoral Scholars

#### Components

- Short, catchy title
- Abstract: 250-words
- Research: completed or in progress

- Highlight-focused
- Understandable by a general audience
- Get creative!

## Career Development Resources

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### Job Bank

Are you in the job market? The job bank is a useful online service that is free for all SOT student members. Prospective employers and recruiters post positions in industry, academia, and government, making this a useful tool for everyone. Additionally, you can use the job bank to manage your resume and contact employers and recruiters directly. [Check it out!](#)

### Career Development Webinars

The SOT Career Resource and Development Committee works to develop information and produce webinars and SOT Annual Meeting sessions designed to provide career guidance to SOT members. We encourage students to explore these webinars, especially those in the Graduate Student category! Student members can access all the webinars dated back to September 2009 [here](#).

## Student Membership Information

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**Not a member? [Apply today!](#) Already a student member of SOT? Then [renew your dues online](#).**

As a student member you will gain access to ToXchange, the [SOT Online Job Bank](#), and student award information. You will be a part of a larger community of scientists and gain eligibility for student leadership positions. Membership in SOT facilitates communication that can open the door for new research collaborations. It also is a great way to network with future employers!

## Annual Meeting News

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The 61<sup>st</sup> SOT Annual Meeting & ToXExpo (March 27-31, 2022) in person in San Diego, California. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and the health concerns of many in the SOT community, SOT will provide enhanced in-person meeting features that will allow for remote participation in this year's event. The details are still being finalized, but the goal is that those attending in-person and virtually will be able to connect and engage in the presentations and discussion throughout the meeting.

**Abstract submission deadline is Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.** The new deadline is an enhancement to the meeting that will continue in future years. The extended deadline will give the SOT community more time to submit and allow for the newest findings in the field to be considered each year.

The program this year will include events such as:

- Continuing Education Courses
- Education-Career Development Sessions
- Informational Sessions
- Roundtable Sessions
- Regional Interest Sessions
- Symposium Sessions
- ToXExpo
- Workshop Sessions

Health Policies for the meeting are as follows:

- There are no attendance limits on events in California
- Verification of fully vaccinated status is required for all attendees, meeting participants, and staff
- Attendees must follow the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidance for Face Covering

Deadlines for registration:

- Early Bird Registration January 28, 2022
- Standard Registration  
January 29 -February 25, 2022
- Final Registration after February 25, 2022

More information on the 61<sup>st</sup> SOT Annual Meeting and ToXExpo can be found at:

<https://www.toxicology.org/events/am/am2022/index.asp>

# The GSLC Community

## ABOUT THE GSLC

Each Regional Chapter (RC), Special Interest Group (SIG), and Specialty Section (SS) elects one graduate student member to represent their group in the GSLC. The GSLC *Executive Board* oversees the Committee. The committee includes 3 subcommittees: Communications, Professional Development, and Programming. The GSLC was created to provide student leadership at the national SOT level. Our job is to address the needs of students in the Society and to promote student participation and membership. If you are interested in learning more about the GSLC, please visit us at the [graduate student page](#) on the SOT website.

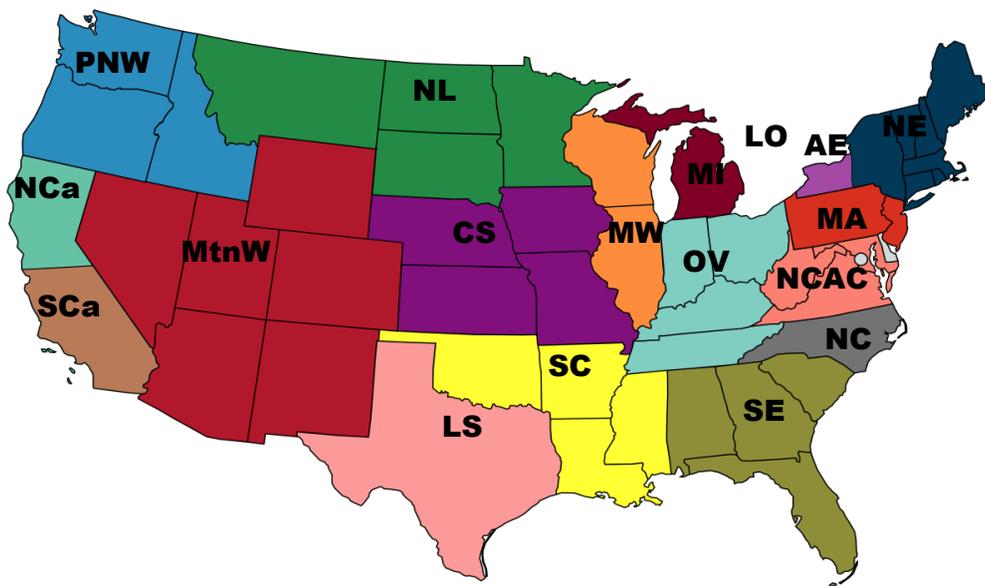
## Meet the GSLC Executive Board

	<b>GSLC CHAIR</b> <b>Belkys Gonzalez</b> St. John's University Favorite piece of grad school advice? "Don't forget to do the soft-skills and extra-curriculars, the bench work will still be there."		<b>GSLC SECRETARY</b> <b>Olivia Stephenson</b> St. John's University Grad school advice? "Be open to change! Sometimes experiments don't work, and plans change but being able to adapt and pivot is a great skill to have!"
	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SC CHAIR</b> <b>Esther Omaiye</b> University of California Riverside Favorite piece of grad school advice? "Be kind to yourself (and others), and focus on projects that you genuinely enjoy!"		<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SC SECRETARY</b> <b>Elise Hickman</b> UNC Chapel Hill Favorite piece of grad school advice? "Make time for things that bring you joy outside of research!"
	<b>COMMUNICATIONS SC CHAIR</b> <b>Jennifer Toyoda</b> University of Louisville What is your superpower? "Time bending. Even when it seems it won't get done before the deadline, somehow it always gets done."		<b>COMMUNICATIONS SC SECRETARY</b> <b>David Umbaugh</b> University of Kansas Medical Center What is your favorite superpower? "Flying"
	<b>PROGRAMING SC CHAIR</b> <b>Chinedu Ahuchaogu</b> University of Maryland Eastern Shore Favorite piece of grad school advice? "Work smart and have a clear purpose."		<b>PROGRAMMING SC SECRETARY</b> <b>Thomas Peterson</b> University of Wisconsin-Madison "My superpower of choice would be to travel back in time so I could invest in bitcoin."

## Regional and Specialty Groups

### Become Involved in Your Regional Chapter (RC)

There are 18 RCs within the SOT whose purpose is to foster scientific exchange at the local level. These chapters sponsor regional meetings throughout the year that offer exceptional scientific programs, renowned speakers, and opportunities for student involvement in poster and seminar sessions. Additionally, RCs provide an invaluable tool to network with individuals who have careers in academia, government, and industry positions within those specific regions of the United States. Also be sure check out the [poster, seminar, and travel AWARDS](#) that are given annually to dedicated and gifted student regional members!



### Participate In Specialty Sections (SS)

There are 29 SSs within the SOT designed to bring together scientists of similar interests, expertise, and experience. The SSs are primary sponsors of many of the programmatic sessions during the SOT Annual Meeting. Students are encouraged to join a SS because such groups provide students with opportunities for future employment and collaborations, as well as providing a platform for students to suggest scientific sessions and symposia for the Annual Meeting. The SSs encourage student involvement by providing funds for competitive student travel awards and best abstract awards that recognize their accomplishments. Learn more by [visiting their homepage](#).

### Participate In Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SOT has established 8 SIGs to promote the recruitment of toxicologists who share a common interest in toxicological research. The goals of these 8 groups are to develop and conduct programs and opportunities that promote career development and recognize accomplishments of the toxicologists in each SIG. Learn more about the workshops, seminars, and student awards by [visiting their homepage](#).