

The Post-y

Newsletter for the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly

Fall 2019



Message from the Chair

Melanie Abongwa, MS, PhD

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Chair for the 2019-2020 year! I hope that together as your PDA officers, we will continue to seek ways to expand the Postdoctoral membership and increase PDA's involvement within and outside SOT. To this effect, I had the privilege to represent SOT PDA and present a poster at the 2019 [National Postdoctoral Association](#) Annual meeting in Orlando, Florida (see page 2 for more details). Our newly elected officers are excited to continue with the tradition of organizing various PDA-sponsored activities throughout the year, such as scientific, networking, leadership, education, and career development training sessions. We are also accepting applications for the [Best Postdoctoral Publication Award](#) due by October 1. I strongly encourage all eligible members to apply if they have not already done so.

In addition to this newsletter, the Postdoctoral Executive Board is actively planning to celebrate the National Postdoc Appreciation Week (September 16-20) with various blog articles. We are also organizing a career guidance webinar that will be held in the fall; more webinar details will be announced very soon. Furthermore, we are in the process of planning the 2020 SOT Poster Tours for Trainees and Career Exploration Speed Informational Interviews and would like to encourage members to volunteer and sign up for these activities.

To conclude this message, I would like to thank and welcome our incoming PDA officers, Sarah Carratt, Andrea Hindman, Pravin Kaldhone, Ahmed Abdelmoneim, and Joseph Jilek for accepting the responsibility of being an officer for the 2019-2020 term, as well as to thank Michael Carvan for being our Council Contact for this year. I would also like to acknowledge the outgoing PDA officers; Manushree Bharadwaj, myself (Melanie Abongwa), Gurjot Kaur, David Faulkner, Brita Kilburg -Basnyat, Sarah Lacher and Barbara Kaplan for their service to the PDA.

Message from the 2018-2019 Outgoing Chair

Manushree Bhardwaj, PhD

Serving on the PDA board was very honoring for me. My career has benefitted a lot during these two years of service, first as Vice Chair and then Chair. I gained valuable experiences, including organizing and executing events, leading a team, developing proposals, newsletters, and other communication materials, interacting with other groups, and so on. I want to thank the 2018-2019 Executive Board: Melanie Abongwa, Gurjot Kaur, Britta Kilburg, Sarah Lacher, and David Faulkner. Barbara Kaplan, our Council contact, and Rachel Woodson, our staff liaison was very supportive, and I appreciate them. During the 2019 SOT Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the Postdoctoral Luncheon, Career Development session, and Networking Events were very successful, and I feel proud to have contributed towards the execution of these events. I also want to encourage every postdoctoral member in the Society to get involved with PDA and to utilize all the opportunities to enhance their careers.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all postdocs to come forward and run for board positions, or serve as members, postdoc representatives, and volunteers. I am excited to see PDA progress in the hands of the new Executive Board. Best wishes to all and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Chair of the SOT PDA for the 2018-2019 term!

2019-2020 SOT PDA Board

Chair

Melanie Abongwa
mabongwa@westernu.edu

Vice Chair

Sarah Carratt
carratt@ohsu.edu

Secretary

Andrea Hindman
arhindman52@gmail.com

Treasurer

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pravin.kaldhone@fda.hhs.gov

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aam288@cornell.edu

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jjjilek@pharmacy.arizona.edu

Council Contact

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carvanmj@uwm.edu

Staff Liaison

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PDA Board Report on the 2019 National Postdoctoral Association Annual Meeting

Melanie Abongwa, Chair

The 17th Annual Conference of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) was held at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, Florida on April 12-14, 2019. The NPA yearly conference is the largest national meeting and networking event dedicated to postdoctoral scholars. This year, there were over 350 attendees at the NPA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. The attendees comprised of postdocs, administrators, faculty, and representatives from disciplinary societies, industry, and corporations. This diversity provided excellent networking opportunities for postdoctoral scholars who represent the next generation of research, academia, and industry.

This year's NPA conference sessions covered a wide range of topics which are of interest to postdoctoral scholars such as career and personal development, career navigation from postdoctoral scholar to faculty or industry, career growth, mentorship, diversification, and growth of the scientific workforce. Morning and evening exercise sessions were also incorporated into the daily program to emphasize the importance of staying fit and provide opportunities for attendees to network with one another. Other conference activities included exhibitions from sponsors, "dine-arounds," networking breaks, poster, and networking reception, and presentation of poster awards.

During the poster and networking reception, attendees had the opportunity to network and present their posters. Over 40 posters were presented on topics related to data on national postdoctoral membership, expansion of postdoctoral associations, professional

development of postdoctoral scholars, mental health awareness in the postdoctoral community, postdoc women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), diversity and postdoctoral activities in various professional organizations, among others. The SOT PDA poster presented by Melanie Abongwa (2018-2019 Co-Chair) was well received and praised, mainly due to the SOT PDA's structure, membership, diversity, and yearly activities.

The conference ended with a career fair designed to facilitate the transitioning of postdoctoral scholars and graduate students into the academic, and industry job markets. The career fair also provided postdoctoral scholars with the opportunity to network with organizations and discuss career opportunities.

Overall, the NPA conference has served as a channel through which SOT PDA can share knowledge about the group with postdoctoral communities outside SOT, gain ideas on PDA-sponsored Education and Career development session themes, and how to improve its community. The NPA conference was also a great space and resource to make connections with potential webinar/session speakers. The upcoming 18th NPA Annual Conference will take place in San Diego, California from March 27-29, 2020, and SOT will support PDA's presence at the NPA conference. To learn more about the National Postdoctoral Association, you can [click here](#).



The PDA Executive Board invites you to the [59th SOT Annual Meeting](#) in Anaheim, California March 15-19, 2020.

- [Abstract Submissions](#) are due by October 18, 2019.
- Online and [Early-Bird Registration](#) are strongly encouraged. Early-Bird Registration deadline is January 10, 2020.
- Don't forget to book your stay early in advance! Visit the [SOT housing website](#) for more information on making reservations.
- Events of interest to postdocs include the Postdoctoral Assembly Luncheon, Poster Tours for Trainees, Student/Postdoc Mixer, SOT Mentoring Breakfast, Chat with an Expert, In Vitro Lecture, Career Exploration through Speed Informational Interviews. Some of these events sell out quickly, we advise you to sign-up in advance!
- Update your [ToXchange](#) profile and the [SOT Job Bank](#) account before the meeting!

We look forward to meeting you next year at Anaheim!

Not Just an Annual Meeting: Get the most out of your SOT membership with these FREE online resources

Sarah Carratt, Vice Chair

For many years, I thought of SOT as a meeting and not a Society. As I became more involved, I began to see SOT as a living, breathing network of peers and mentors. At the Annual Meetings, I formed friendships and established advising relationships. My SOT connections have helped me prepare fellowship applications and have counseled me on how to get the most out of my postdoc position.

I strongly encourage all postdoctoral members to reach out to their [Specialty Sections](#), [Regional Chapters](#), and [Special Interest Groups](#). Log onto [ToXchange](#), where you can find contact information for all SOT members. Email leaders to introduce yourself or ask for advice. That's why this resource exists! You don't need to be a PDA representative to get the most of your postdoctoral SOT membership. To aid everyone in this, here is a curated list of all the SOT-sponsored resources that are most relevant for postdocs. The National Postdoctoral Association also has an excellent [career webpage](#) with curated videos, articles, and planning tools.

[The Official SOT Postdoctoral Members Webpage:](#)

Within the Official SOT website, there is a section dedicated to postdoctoral members. It contains links to events, activities, award applications, and other resources.

[ToXchange](#): Need contact information for someone you met at the annual meeting? Want to know who your specialty sections representatives are? Do you want to get feedback on your resume or boost your visibility within the Society? ToXchange is an invaluable resource. On ToXchange, you can search the SOT membership directories and view regional/specialty section rosters. You can also upload your CV and access blog posts.

[SOT Job Bank](#): Available at any time, the SOT Job Bank provides a valuable service that supplements the job search process for both employers and job seekers.

The SOT Job Bank allows employers and recruiters to advertise their open positions to over 8,000 SOT members and job seekers to view information on 100+ open positions.

[SOT Mentor Match](#): An online Mentoring program that matches mentees with potential mentors from the SOT membership to provide advice on career path selection and success and life/work balance issues. Some members may serve as mentors but might also be a mentee as they consider moving into a different specialty or area of employment. Mentor Match primarily will focus on career path planning; however, discussions are not limited to these topics.

[SOT Career Development Webinars](#): The SOT Education and Career Development Committee works to develop information and produce webinars designed to provide career guidance to SOT members. In addition, each year, the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly and the Graduate Student Leadership Committee host and organize webinars designed to provide career advice and information to early-career toxicologists.

[SOT Recorded Lectures](#): From recorded lectures delivered during the SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo to webinars hosted by SOT groups throughout the year, the Society of Toxicology has a wide variety of recording presentations, lectures, and webinars available for viewing.

Above all, if you feel like you are not getting most out of your SOT postdoc membership, feel free to reach out your elected representatives or [SOT headquarters](#). We are open to your questions, comments, or suggestions!

Membership Data Updates and Recommendations to Renew your Membership

Daniel Luo, Membership Committee Postdoctoral Representative, 2019-2020

Since 2010, the SOT community has grown from 6724 members in 2010 to 8134 members in 2019. Of these members, the percent of postdoctoral members has risen from 4% to 7%, totaling 557 in 2019. Postdoctoral members have the highest Annual Meeting participation rate, at 84%, among the SOT Members who have attended at least one Annual Meeting since 2015.

Obtaining the documentation and sponsor letters required for SOT membership application is a time-consuming process; yet, there were close to 100 postdoctoral members who forfeited their membership last year. As of today, we have more than 100 that will forfeit their membership if their dues are not paid by December 15. To help with the planning of SOT Annual Meeting events, we encourage you to [renew your membership](#) well in advance of the due date. Any questions about renewing your membership? Contact us at 703.438.3115 or [email us](#)!

2018–2019 Postdoctoral Awards Recipients

The Postdoctoral Assembly is pleased to recognize these award recipients

American Association of Chinese In Toxicology Special Interest Group Best Abstract Award

Miao Li, First Place
Yining Jin, Second Place
Yizhong Liu, Third Place

Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Special Interest Group

Dharm Singh Postdoctoral Fellow Best Abstract Award *

Manushree Bharadwaj
Bharat Bhushan

Biological Modeling Specialty Section Andersen-Clewell Trainee Award

Weichun Chou

Best Paper Award

Todd James Zurlinden

Biotechnology Specialty Section Battelle Postdoctoral Award

Samantha Faber

Carcinogenesis Specialty Section Postdoctoral Fellowship and Young Investigator Award

Rance Nault

Clinical and Translational Toxicology Specialty Section

Postdoctoral Fellows Travel Award

Timo Wille

Computational Toxicology Specialty Section

AstraZeneca Travel Award

Timothy Allen

Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in In Vitro Toxicology

Samantha Faber

In Vitro and Alternative Methods Specialty Section

Postdoctoral Award

Jipeng Li

Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section

Donald E. Gardner Inhalation Toxicology Education Award Fund

Andres Henriquez

Postdoctoral Award

Colette Miller

Mechanisms Specialty Section Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award

Tarana Arman
Aseel Eid
Amita Pant

Renal Toxicology Award

Tarana Arman
Yu-Wei Chang
Yu Syuan Luo

Postdoctoral Student Travel Award

Andres Henriquez
Lauren Poole Hardy

Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award

Tara Catron
Milankumar Prajapati
Philip Wages

Paper of the Year Award

Maria Beatriz Monteiro

Nanotoxicology Specialty Section Outstanding Postdoctoral Award

Valerie Minarchick

Northern California Regional Chapter Postdoctoral Achievement Award

Carolyn Klocke

Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section

Best Manuscript Award

Luke Montrose

Postdoctoral Assembly Best Postdoctoral Publication Award

Brita Kilburg-Basnyat
Samantha J. Snow
Haixia Yang

Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section Postdoctoral Researcher Excellence Award

Yi-Hsien Cheng
Weichun Chou

Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section Best Reproductive/Developmental Toxicology Paper in Toxicological Sciences

Justin M. Conley

Stem Cells Specialty Section Excellence in Research Awards

Monica Langley

Toxicologists of African Origin Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award

Ahmed Abdelmoneim
Diana Kimono
Ola Wasel

Distinguished Scientific Presentation Award

Chiagoziem Otuechere

Women in Toxicology Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement Award

Kimberly Keil
Courtney Roper

SOT Endowment Award *

Award recipient names as reported to the PDA by July 20, 2019.

Apply for the 2019-2020 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award!

- The Best Postdoctoral Publication Award recognizes outstanding work accomplished during formal mentored postdoctoral traineeships by recognizing recently published exceptional papers in the field of toxicology.
- Submit your application by **October 1, 2019**
- Three awardees will receive award presented at the Annual Meeting with a plaque and \$250.00

Want to [apply](#)? Visit [this link](#) to learn more!



2018-2019 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award Recipients: (from left to right) Haixia Yang, Brita Kilburg-Basnyat, Samantha Snow, and Melanie Abongwa (PDA Board Vice chair).

Best Postdoctoral Publication Award Recipients 2018-2019



Specialized Pro-resolving Lipid Mediators Regulate Ozone-Induced Pulmonary and Systemic Inflammation, **Brita Kilburg-Basnyat**, PhD, Covance Inc., Madison, WI.



Ozone-Induced Vascular Contractility and Pulmonary Injury Are Differentially Impacted by Diets Enriched with Coconut Oil, Fish Oil, and Olive Oil, **Samantha J. Snow**, PhD, US EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC.



A Common Antimicrobial Additive Increases Colonic Inflammation and Colitis-Associated Colon Tumorigenesis in Mice, **Haixia Yang**, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA.

Congratulations!

2019–2020 Postdoctoral Representatives

Regional Chapter Representatives

Allegheny-Erie

Briana R. De Miranda

Michigan

Rebekah C. Kennedy

North Carolina

Samantha C. Faber

Central States

Jie Luo

Midwest

Chelsea O'Driscoll

Northeast

Kate Annunziato

Lake Ontario

Thivanka Mudalige Muthumalage

Mountain West

Tosifa Memon

Northern California

Alexandra Colon-Rodriguez

Lone Star

Nathaniel Girer

National Capital Area

Kristal A. Rychlik

Ohio Valley

Richa Sigal

Pacific Northwest

David Scoville

Special Interest Group Representatives

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology

Zhen Ren

Korean Toxicologists Association in America

Ji-Eun Seo

Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

Rashmi Phatak

Toxicologists of African Origin

Kristin Noell

Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists

Maria Beatriz Monteiro

Women in Toxicology

Meghan Rebuli

Specialty Section Representatives

Biological Modeling

Yi-Hsien Cheng

Food Safety

Jorrell Fredericks

Molecular and Systems Biology

Katelyn Lavrich

Biotechnology

Frances Shaffo

Immunotoxicology

Alessandro Venosa

Neurotoxicology

Megan Elizabeth Culbreth

Cardiovascular Toxicology

Molly Harmon

***In Vitro* and Alternative Methods**

Leah M. Norona

Occupational and Public Health

Jayne Patrick Coyle

Clinical and Translational Toxicology

Emma C. Bowers

Inhalation and Respiratory

Gregory J. Smith

Regulatory and Safety Evaluation

Lauren Walker

Comparative and Veterinary

Caroline e. Moore

Mechanisms

Dahea You

Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology

AtLee Taylor Darr Watson

Computational Toxicology

Suzanne Martos

Medical Device and Combination Product

Dakshesh Patel

Risk Assessment

Miao Li

Dermal Toxicology

Laila Al-Eryani

Metals

Taylor Croom-Perez

Stem Cells

Xian Wu

Drug Discovery Toxicology

Monica R. Langley

Mixtures

Troy Hubbard

Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology

Ley Cody Smith

Postdoctoral Representatives Needed!

Please contact the President listed if you are interested in one of these vacancies.

Mid-Atlantic

Jedd M. Hillegass

South Central

Pritmohinder Gill

Southern California

J. Eric McDuffie

Exposure

John F. Wambaugh

Nanoscience &

Advanced Materials
Flemming R. Cassee

Northland

Stephen H. LeMaster

Southeastern

Marie M. Bourgeois

Carcinogenesis

Udayan M. Apte

Ethical, Legal and Social Issues

Marusia A. Popovech

Ocular

Kathleen L. Krenzer

*Thank you to the incoming and outgoing PDA Board Members
and Representatives for all your contributions to the Postdoctoral Assembly!*

2019-2020 PDA Board Members



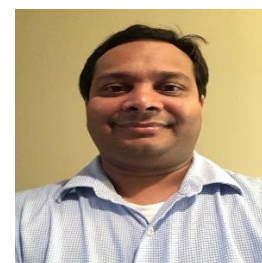
Melanie Abongwa, Chair



Sarah Carratt, Vice Chair



Andrea Hindman, Secretary



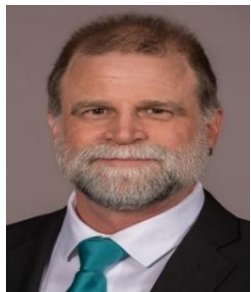
Pravin Kaldhane, Treasurer



Ahmed Abdelmoneim, Councilor



Joseph Jilek, Councilor



Michael Carvan, Council Contact



Shalimar Juan, Staff Liaison

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