

THE POST-Y



Message from the PDA Chair:

Dear SOT Postdocs,

As we embark on a new academic year, I would like to welcome the new postdoctoral members to SOT and thank the continuing members for their dedication to SOT! It was so nice to see everyone at the 2026 SOT Annual Meeting, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2027 SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio in March! This year, the PDA Executive Board would like to encourage postdocs to take advantage of the benefits SOT offers and also to become involved in SOT. Being a postdoctoral member of SOT gives you access to join one Specialty Section and one Specialty Interest Group for free, and you can also join your Regional Chapter. All of these groups have postdoctoral representatives who interact with the PDA Executive Board and relay information to the broader PDA. Becoming a member of a Specialty Section, Special Interest Group, or Regional Chapter gives you the opportunity to broaden your professional network with individuals from various career paths.

As a member of SOT, you can apply for awards offered by the Society. I would like to invite postdoctoral members to apply for the Best Postdoctoral Publication Award. This award recognizes outstanding work performed by SOT members while they are in a formal, mentored postdoctoral position. We will recognize the winners of the award at the Postdoctoral Luncheon at the SOT Annual Meeting.

Throughout the year, the PDA Executive Board hosts a myriad of events. We are planning multiple webinars on professional development. Additionally, at the SOT Annual Meeting, we will continue to host the Postdoctoral Luncheon, Career Exploration Through Speed Informational Interviews event, and Poster Tours for Trainees. Attending these events at the SOT Annual Meeting provides you the opportunity to network with other postdoctoral scholars and SOT members.

Additionally, the PDA will participate in the National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW). This year the theme of NPAW is "Celebrating 150 Years of the US Postdoc Position." The postdoctoral position in the US began in 1876, when postdocs from Germany came to work at Johns Hopkins University. Postdocs have many responsibilities outside of their expertise in their respective fields. During our postdocs, we are learning new skills, writing grants, and mentoring students. NPAW is a time to celebrate all the work that we are doing and the achievements we have made. We will be hosting a postdoc "Shout-Out" campaign and also kicking off informational tidbits on the benefits of an SOT membership to celebrate SOT postdocs.

Throughout this upcoming year, the PDA Executive Board looks forward to interacting with you and celebrating all your accomplishments and hard work. We will keep you updated through the PDA ToXchange on events throughout the year, events at the SOT Annual Meeting, and any vacancies for postdoctoral representative positions.

Sincerely,
Angela Dean
SOT PDA Chair

2026-2027 SOT PDA Board

Angela Dean
Chair

Idoia Meaza
Vice Chair

Venkat Ramakrishna
Ungarala
Secretary

Xing Chen
Treasurer
and Post-y Editor

Sydney Boney
Councilor

Anik Tuladhar
Councilor

María Carmen
Rubio-Armendáriz
Council Contact

Jenna Pelsey
Staff Liaison

Table of Contents

Message from the PDA Chair.....1

2026–2027 Postdoctoral Assembly Executive Board Bios.....3

National Postdoc Appreciation Week8

Discovering SOT: A Guide for Trainee Involvement Webinar.....9

Accepting Applications for the 2027 Best Postdoctoral Publication Award10

AI in Toxicology: Practical Tools Postdocs Actually Use.....11

Volunteers Needed!.....12

Postdoctoral Leaders in SOT13

SOT Resources for Postdocs.....15

Get Ready to Renew Your SOT Membership!.....16

Postdoc Funding: New Experiences in Toxicology (NEXT) Award17

Call for *Post-y* Newsletter Articles for Spring Edition18

2026–2027 Postdoctoral Assembly

Executive Board

Angela Dean

Chair

Dr. Angela Dean is a postdoctoral research fellow in Dr. Jodi Flaws' lab studying the effects of phthalate exposure on reproductive aging in the ovary. She is interested in molecular and reproductive toxicology. Angela obtained her master's degree in Biological Sciences from Idaho State University and her doctoral degree in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She served as secretary for her program's graduate student committee during her master's degree. During her PhD, Angela also served on the graduate program committee in various roles, including on different subcommittees and as Chair of the committee. Angela was the postdoctoral representative for the Midwest Regional Chapter of SOT and

also the secretary for the Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) of SOT. She looks forward to bringing her prior experience to the role of Chair of the PDA and to providing postdocs with opportunities to make the most of their postdoc experience and to help in their transition to the next step in their careers.



Idoia Meaza

Vice Chair

Dr. Idoia Meaza graduated with a BS in Biology from the University of the Basque Country, and an MS in Marine Environment and Resources from the Universities of the Basque Country, Southampton and Liege. In addition, she also obtained an MS and a PhD degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Louisville. Now, Idoia is a postdoctoral trainee at the Wise Laboratory of Environmental and Genetic Toxicology, where she studies how exposure to metals causes lung cancer, the deadliest type of cancer. She is also interested in studying how other pollutants like microplastics affect human, ecosystem, and wildlife health.

Dr. Meaza is a highly productive postdoctoral fellow. She has received fellowships to support her training, including an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, a La Caixa Postgraduate Studies Abroad fellowship and the Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship in *In Vitro* Toxicology. Dr. Meaza has published 24 peer-reviewed articles in metal carcinogenesis and toxicology, and has over 140 abstracts. She has been selected several times to present her work in national and international conferences, including the Society of Toxicology, the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society, the International Society for Trace Element Research in Humans and the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. Dr. Meaza has been honored with prestigious awards from the Society of Toxicology, including the Dharm V. Singh Carcinogenesis Endowment Award from the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section, the Metals Specialty Section Graduate Student Award, the Mechanisms Specialty Section Sheldon D. Murphy Student Endowment Award and the Celebrating Women in Toxicology Endowment Award. Further, at her hooding ceremony, she received the highest achievement for a graduating PhD trainee at the University of Louisville, the Guy Stevenson Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies. (Continued on next page)



2026–2027 Postdoctoral Assembly

Executive Board

Dr. Meaza has demonstrated sustained leadership within Society of Toxicology, her university and other professional societies. During her PhD, Idoia was the graduate student representative for the Ohio Valley Chapter Society of Toxicology and the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section, and she received the Outstanding Leadership Award for her leadership efforts. Now she serves as the postdoctoral representative of the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section, and she is excited to further serve the broader SOT's postdoctoral community by serving on the PDA Executive Board.

Venkat Ramakrishna Ungarala

Secretary

Dr. Venkat Ramakrishna Ungarala is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Penn State College of Medicine and a member of the Center for Research on Tobacco and Health. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Pharmaceutical Sciences and completed his PhD at Osmania University in collaboration with the ICMR–National Institute of Nutrition. Dr. Ungarala's work sits at the intersection of toxicology, public health, and regulatory science, with a focus on understanding how combustible and non-combustible nicotine products drive oxidative stress, inflammation, and downstream biological injury. His research focuses on translational biomarker development and



evidence generation to inform harm reduction and tobacco regulation, with the broader goal of producing data that are clinically and policy relevant. In addition to his research, Dr. Ungarala has demonstrated sustained leadership in academic and professional settings. He has mentored undergraduate and graduate trainees, coordinated multidisciplinary research efforts, overseen laboratory operations, and contributed to the training and supervision of junior staff. He currently serves as Professional Development Chair for the Penn State College of Medicine Postdoctoral Association (Hershey campus) and is an Associate Editorial Board Member and active peer reviewer. He regularly participates in toxicology-focused scientific meetings, journal clubs, and trainee development initiatives. Through his service on the PDA Executive Board, Dr. Ungarala is committed to advocating for postdoctoral scholars, strengthening professional development pathways, and fostering an inclusive, collaborative scientific environment that supports trainee success and career advancement.

2026–2027 Postdoctoral Assembly Executive Board

Xing Chen

Treasurer & Post-y Editor

Dr. Xing Chen is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Systems Toxicology at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). She earned her PhD in Veterinary Medicine from Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine in Japan, following an MS in Veterinary Medicine from Shanghai Ocean University in China. Dr. Chen's research focuses on environmental toxicology, high-throughput screening, and the mechanistic evaluation of endocrine-disrupting chemicals using *in vitro* systems and aquatic animal models. Her work integrates molecular toxicology with translational science to support chemical hazard assessment and human health relevance. She has authored more than 15 peer-reviewed publications and has presented her research at numerous scientific meetings and conferences. An active member of the Society of Toxicology (SOT), Dr. Chen has presented her work at multiple SOT Annual Meetings from 2015 to 2024. She has held diverse leadership and research roles, including serving as a Young Scientist with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and leading projects in neurodevelopmental toxicity and viral pathogen detection. Through her interdisciplinary training and international research experience, Dr. Chen brings a collaborative perspective to toxicology and is committed to supporting the scientific and professional development of the postdoctoral community.



Sydney Boney

Councilor

Dr. Sydney Boney earned her BS, MS, and PhD in Animal Science from North Carolina State University, where she investigated how chronic undernutrition impacts neuronal hormone synthesis and pubertal onset. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the US Environmental Protection Agency examining the effects of PFAS on reproductive capacity, including ovulation, cyclicity, and puberty. Sydney is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in the Division of Translational Toxicology. (Continued on next page)



2026–2027 Postdoctoral Assembly

Executive Board

Her research focuses on patient-derived pluripotent stem cells from individuals with Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's disease. She differentiates these cells into a 3D cerebral organoid model and, once mature, characterizes both intracellular and extracellular changes, including analyses of cell-free DNA, RT-PCR, Western blotting, and immunofluorescence, with plans to incorporate ddPCR and NanoString analyses on extracellular vesicles. The goal of this work is to better understand how AD and PD organoids differ in intracellular pathology and extracellular molecular release. Longer term, she aims to challenge these organoids with environmentally relevant toxicants, such as metals and PFAS, to determine how altered development and differentiation may contribute to neurodegenerative disease processes.

In addition to her research, Sydney serves as Co-Chair of the NIEHS Trainee Assembly (NTA) of Fellows. In this role, she acts as a liaison between institute leadership and fellows, coordinates speaker, networking, and outreach events, and manages a subcommittee of fellows who assist in planning additional programming to support the trainee community.

Anik Tuladhar *Councilor*

Dr. Anik Tuladhar earned his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Augusta University, specializing in Cell Biology and Anatomy. His research focuses on preclinical safety and translational biology with an emphasis on bone toxicity, multimodal imaging, histology, and biomarker assessment. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Preclinical Safety at AbbVie, where he studies mechanisms of bone toxicity and supports early safety evaluation for emerging therapeutic programs. As a postdoctoral fellow, he has presented his work at several national conferences, contributing to broader scientific dialogue in toxicology and musculoskeletal safety. He also volunteers as an editorial peer reviewer for multiple scientific journals, supporting rigorous scientific communication and the advancement of high quality research in the field.



2026–2027 Postdoctoral Assembly

Executive Board

María Carmen Rubio-Armendáriz

Council Contact

Dr. Rubio is a tenured Associate Professor of Toxicology at the University of La Laguna (Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain), a position she has held since 2009. She serves as Director of the Master's Program in Food Safety, Quality and Sustainability and previously held the role of Vice President for Internationalization.

A member of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) since 2018, Dr. Rubio has been actively involved with the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (HOT) since 2019, serving on its Executive Committee in multiple capacities—including President, Vice President and Councilor—as well as chairing the Awards, Education, and Global Outreach Committees. She has also served as Councilor for the Women in Toxicology Special Interest Group (SIG).

Dr. Rubio is a member of the Spanish Association of Toxicology (AETOX). Her academic background spans multiple disciplines, including a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, a Bachelor's degree in Food Science and Technology, a PhD in Basic and Applied Toxicology, and Master's degrees in Pharmaceutical Care, Toxicology and Food Safety, and Health Education.

As a Senior Research Fellow, her work focuses on Food Safety, Environmental Toxicology, and Risk Assessment. She has participated in numerous international research projects and has supervised 18 doctoral dissertations. Dr. Rubio is the author and co-author of publications in high-impact peer-reviewed journals and serves as a reviewer for scientific journals, international research programs, grants, and doctoral theses at both the national and international levels.

From 2017 to 2021, she served on the Scientific Committee on Food Safety of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN), under the Spanish Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare.

Among her distinctions, Dr. Rubio received the 2002 Young Researcher Award in Medical and Health Sciences from the Government of the Canary Islands.





National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) *September 21–25, 2026*

The PDA joins the National Postdoctoral Association in focusing attention on the contributions and achievements of postdoctoral scholars. Visit the [NPAW 2026 Calendar](https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/2026NPAW) for events happening virtually and at institutions across the country.

This year's theme is:

"Celebrating 150 Years of the US Postdoc Position"

UPCOMING WEBINAR

Discovering SOT: A Guide for Trainee Involvement

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

Audience: Postdoctoral Scholars, Graduate Students, and Undergraduate Students

Hosted By: Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) & Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC)

Overview

If you are an undergraduate student, graduate student, or a postdoctoral scholar, this webinar will provide a simplified look at all the opportunities provided to you by SOT. Hosted by the PDA and GSLC, trainees will be given an opportunity to hear from various SOT committees about mentorship programs, volunteer opportunities and more. Furthermore, trainees will get a demonstration on how to navigate SOT's website and make the most of your membership!

Featured Presenters

- Chair, Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA)
- Chair, Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC)
- Representative, Membership Committee
- Representative, Initiatives for Development and Engagement Committee (IDEC)
- Representative, Career Advancement, Mentoring, and Networking Committee (CAMAN)

Registration Information

If you're new to SOT, looking to get more involved, or would like to hear about award and other opportunities, please [register](#) for this webinar today!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW](#)

Accepting Applications for the Best Postdoctoral Publication Award

Each year the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) is proud to highlight outstanding toxicological research published by postdoctoral members of the society by issuing the Best Postdoctoral Publication Award.

This award recognizes work accomplished during formal mentored postdoctoral traineeships evidenced by exceptional recently published manuscripts in the field of toxicology.

Three awards will be presented:

PDA Luncheon @ SOT 2027 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX

Awardees will receive \$315 and a certificate recognizing their achievement

Apply via the [APPLICATION LINK](#) before 11:59 pm (EDT) on October 9, 2026.

AI in Toxicology: Practical Tools Postdocs Actually Use

by Xing Chen

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming part of everyday scientific research. While headlines often highlight AI-driven drug discovery or toxicity prediction, many postdoctoral researchers are finding its greatest value in more practical ways: streamlining literature searches, improving scientific writing, assisting with programming, and organizing ideas.

AI is not a substitute for scientific expertise. Rather, it is another research tool—like statistical software or molecular visualization programs—that can help researchers work more efficiently while leaving critical thinking and decision-making in human hands.

Literature Exploration

Keeping up with the growing toxicology literature is a challenge. AI-powered literature assistants can help identify influential papers, summarize emerging topics, compare findings across studies, and suggest related publications. These tools are particularly useful when entering a new field or preparing grant proposals and review articles.

That said, AI-generated summaries should always be verified by reading the original publications. Understanding experimental design, data quality, and study limitations still requires careful evaluation by the researcher.

Scientific Writing

Many postdocs use AI to polish manuscripts, improve grammar, reorganize sections, or tailor writing for different audiences. For international scholars, these tools can be especially valuable for improving clarity while preserving their own scientific ideas.

Regardless of how AI is used, authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of their work.

Programming and Data Analysis

One of AI's most practical applications is coding assistance. Whether writing Python or R scripts, troubleshooting errors, explaining unfamiliar functions, or creating visualization templates, AI can significantly reduce time spent on routine programming.

For researchers analyzing transcriptomics, high-content imaging, or screening datasets, AI can also help explain statistical approaches and suggest analysis workflows. As always, computational results should be independently verified before drawing scientific conclusions.

Experimental Planning and Communication

AI can also serve as a brainstorming partner. It may suggest alternative hypotheses, identify appropriate controls, recommend complementary assays, or highlight potential off-target effects. While these ideas can stimulate creative thinking, they should always be evaluated using the scientific literature and discussions with mentors and collaborators.

Outside the laboratory, AI can help organize presentations, draft figure legends, prepare seminar outlines, or generate mock interview questions for academic, industry, or government positions.

Responsible Use

As AI becomes more integrated into research, responsible use is essential. Researchers should avoid uploading confidential, proprietary, or unpublished data into public AI platforms unless permitted by institutional policy. Because AI systems can occasionally generate inaccurate information or fabricated citations, all outputs require careful verification.

How are you incorporating AI into your research? We'd love to hear about your favorite tools and workflows in a future issue of *The Post-y*.

Five AI Tools Worth Exploring

- **ChatGPT**—Brainstorm experiments, improve writing, and assist with coding.
- **NotebookLM**—Summarize and search your own PDFs and notes.
- **Perplexity**—Search the literature with linked sources.
- **Elicit**—Find and compare research papers for literature reviews.
- **Claude**—Edit and organize long manuscripts or reports.

Use AI wisely: Verify all outputs, consult the original literature, and never upload confidential or unpublished data unless permitted by your institution.



The SOT Initiatives for Development and Engagement Committee (IDEC) is seeking postdoctoral volunteers interested in assisting with activities for undergraduate students at the [SOT 66th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo](#) in San Antonio, Texas.



Opportunities for Postdocs to Volunteer

- Undergraduate Development Program

Peer Mentors (graduate student or postdoc) serve from Saturday through Monday and establish mentoring relationships with a small group of students as part of the program in advance of and extending after the Annual Meeting.

- Undergraduate Education Program

Peer Mentors (graduate student or postdoc) serve on Sunday morning only with students who register for the Sunday activities.

- Career Roundtable

Facilitators talk informally with the undergraduate program participants for one hour on Sunday afternoon so that students learn about different career paths. (***Postdocs are sometimes called on to participate***)

If you are interested in volunteering, please be on the lookout for SOT emails and announcements this Fall! Please consider this wonderful opportunity to engage with and positively influence the next generation of scientists! IDEC thanks you, in advance, for your commitment and interest!

Questions? [Contact Jenna Pelsey](#) at SOT Headquarters.

By Zakiyah Henry, IDEC Postdoctoral Representative (2026–2027)

Postdoctoral Leaders in SOT

Postdoctoral Committee Representatives



Career Advancement,
Mentoring, and Networking
Esther Omaiye
University of California, Riverside



Career Advancement,
Mentoring, and Networking
Ishita Virmani
Medical University Innsbruck



Continuing Education
Committee
Siddhi Jain
University of Pittsburgh



Education and Experiential
Opportunities Committee
Haiyan Lu
University of Louisville



Initiatives for Development
and Engagement Committee
Zakiyah Henry
*National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences*



Membership
Committee
Mohammad Siddiqi
*Virginia Commonwealth
University*

SOT Postdoctoral Representatives

Specialty Sections

Biological Modeling	<i>Xuelian Jia</i>	Mechanisms	<i>Candace Longoria</i>
Biotechnology	<i>Ankit Laddha</i>	Medical Device and Combination Product	<i>Vacant</i>
Carcinogenesis	<i>Idoia Meaza Isusi</i>	Metals	<i>Haiyan Lu</i>
Cardiovascular Toxicology	<i>Russell Hunter</i>	Mixtures	<i>Jennifer Toyoda</i>
Clinical and Translational Toxicology	<i>Chander Negi</i>	Molecular and Systems Biology	<i>Nicole McNabb-Kelada</i>
Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary	<i>Ankit Laddha</i>	Nanoscience and Advanced Materials	<i>Vacant</i>
Computational Toxicology	<i>Lo-Wein Lin</i>	Neurotoxicology	<i>Marisol Arellano</i>
Dermal Toxicology	<i>Christina Awada</i>	Occupational and Public Health	<i>Eva Vitucci</i>
Drug Discovery Toxicology	<i>Siddhi Jain</i>	Ocular Toxicology	<i>Jose Jimenez Chavez</i>
Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues	<i>Vacant</i>	Regulatory and Safety Evaluation	<i>Aishwarya Rengarajan</i>
Exposure	<i>Zakiyah Henry, Eva Vitucci</i>	Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology	<i>Brittany Rickard</i>
Food Safety	<i>Vacant</i>	Risk Assessment	<i>Paul Kruse</i>
Immunotoxicology	<i>Lauren Heine</i>	Stem Cells	<i>Hyunjin Kim</i>
In Vitro and Alternative Methods	<i>Mi Thant Mon Soe</i>	Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology	<i>Vacant</i>
Inhalation and Respiratory	<i>Samuel Cochran</i>		

Special Interest Groups

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology	<i>Yunjia Lai</i>
Arab Toxicologists Association	<i>Christina Awada</i>
Association of Scientists of Indian Origin	<i>Ishita Virmani</i>
Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists	<i>Nilda Sanchez-Castellanos</i>
Korean Toxicologists Association in America	<i>Ho Young Lee</i>
Out Toxicologists and Allies	<i>Drake Phelps</i>
Toxicologists of African Origin	<i>Precious Adesina</i>
Women in Toxicology	<i>Rebecca Wilson</i>

Regional Chapters

Allegheny-Erie	<i>Amber Melcher, Siddhi Jain</i>
Central States	<i>Forkan Ahamed</i>
Lake Ontario	<i>Vacant</i>
Lone Star	<i>Nishant Sharma</i>
Michigan	<i>Heather Guetterman</i>
Mid-Atlantic	<i>Vacant</i>
Midwest	<i>Anik Tuladhar</i>
Mountain West	<i>Maribel Hernández</i>
National Capital Area	<i>Xing Chen</i>
North Carolina	<i>Paul Kruse</i>
Northeast	<i>Gagandeep Kaur</i>
Northern California	<i>Yi-Hua Tsai</i>
Northland	<i>Vacant</i>
Ohio Valley	<i>Samuel Cochran</i>
Pacific Northwest	<i>Christian Rude</i>
South Central	<i>Shilpa Thota</i>
Southeastern	<i>Jie Zhou</i>
Southern California	<i>Rajat Gupta</i>

Interested in serving? Check out the postdoc representative vacancies below!

Contact the Component Group's President if interested.

- Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section
- Food Safety Specialty Section
- Lake Ontario Regional Chapter
- Medical Device and Combination Product Specialty Section
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter
- Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section
- Northland Regional Chapter
- Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology Specialty Section

SOT Resources for Postdocs

Join the SOT social network through [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), or [Bluesky](#).

[SOT Job Bank](#)

Whether you are preparing to transition out of your postdoc or exploring your next professional step, the official [SOT Job Bank](#) serves as an essential, tailor-made career hub for SOT postdoctoral members. Designed specifically for toxicologists, the platform allows you to search and filter active job listings across academia, industry, government, and consulting by keyword, employment type, and location. Beyond job postings, postdocs can take advantage of robust career development resources powered by Momentive Careers—including the Job Search Research Center for expert advice on interviewing, networking, and resume formatting, as well as an interactive tool to upload your CV/resume for a professional evaluation to ensure your application stands out to prospective employers.

[Mentor Match](#)

Navigating career decisions, sector transitions, and work-life balance during a postdoctoral fellowship requires thoughtful guidance, and the SOT Mentor Match platform on [ToXchange](#) is designed to connect you with experienced toxicologists who can help. Available as an exclusive benefit to SOT members, this online tool lets postdocs easily search for mentors across academia, industry, government, and consulting based on specific career interests, leadership development goals, and areas of scientific expertise. Whether you are seeking advice on defining your independent research direction, preparing for job interviews, or building a professional network outside your laboratory, Mentor Match provides a flexible, self-driven space to establish meaningful 1-on-1 connections and accelerate your career trajectory.



[Postdoctoral Assembly ToXchange Community](#)

Designed specifically for SOT's early-career researchers, the [Postdoctoral Assembly \(PDA\) ToXchange Community](#) serves as your primary online hub for staying connected, informed, and engaged across the Society. Open to all SOT postdoctoral members, this dedicated forum is where the PDA Executive Board shares regular Monthly Highlights—delivering direct updates on SOT opportunities, awards, professional development webinars, and leadership roles tailored to postdocs. Beyond staying up to date on Society announcements, the platform offers a collaborative space to network with peers, share resources, ask career-related questions, and connect with fellow postdocs across all sectors of toxicology.



Get Ready to Renew Your SOT Membership!

Mohammad Khursheed Siddiqi, PhD

SOT Membership Committee Postdoc Rep, 2026-2027

The SOT membership renewal season begins in October! At that time, you'll be able to renew for the 2027 membership year.

If you have not yet renewed for 2026, it's not too late; you can still complete your [renewal now](#) and ensure uninterrupted access to your member benefits.

Membership is more than annual dues; it is an investment in your career. Renewing your Postdoctoral membership provides valuable networking opportunities, professional development resources, leadership experiences, professional recognition, and lifelong learning through SOT continuing education, postdoctoral events, and the SOT Annual Meeting. If you have recently completed graduate or postdoctoral studies or achieved the requisite number of years or publications in the field, you may qualify to upgrade to Associate Membership. Upgrading requires sponsorship by two Full Members, and Membership Services is happy to assist you throughout the application process.

[Benefits for both the Postdoctoral and Associate membership levels include:](#)

Professional Development

- Access to Annual Meeting sessions, CE courses, symposia, and workshops
- Exclusive webinars on emerging topics in toxicology
- Educational Opportunities

Leadership Opportunities

- Participating as representatives for SOT Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, Specialty Sections, and Committees.
- Hosting academic sessions and webinars
- Gaining valuable leadership experience that enhances professional visibility and career advancement

Networking Opportunities

- SOT Annual Meeting Networking Events
- Engagement with SOT Regional Chapters
- Access to ToXchange online member community

Member-Exclusive Discounts

- ToxSci journal subscription
- SOT Annual Meeting registration
- Registration for webinars and other meetings/events

Connection to News and Hot Topics

- Communiqué Blog
- Specialty Sections and Special Interest Groups

Additional benefits of postdoc membership:

- One free Specialty Section and Special Interest Group membership
- Postdoc awards for SOT, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups
- Complimentary SOT Job Bank job seeker services

Visit the [SOT website](#) to determine the membership that best fits your career stage. Membership applications are accepted quarterly, with deadlines on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. Be sure your 2026 membership is current and get ready to renew for 2027 when the renewal period opens in October. For questions or assistance, contact Membership Services at sothq@toxicology.org or 703.438.3115.

Postdoc Funding: New Experiences in Toxicology (NEXT) Program

Postdoctoral scholars are at a critical juncture in their career decision path and would benefit from training to broaden their expertise and prepare them for the competitive job market and a professional position in toxicology. The SOT New Experiences in Toxicology (NEXT) program offers an opportunity for postdoctoral scholars to obtain training outside their current training sector. For example, an academic or industrial postdoc might seek experience in government or regulatory toxicology courtesy of award funds. NEXT provides funding up to \$1,000 for training-related expenses. The program has two deadlines, September 30 and April 30.

Applicants will identify professional development workshops, short courses, or other activities that would expand their training. The NEXT experience must be outside the available resources of the applicant's postdoctoral training and research project and be related to their career goals.



Call for info on events for postdocs at SOT Annual Meeting for Spring *Post-y*

Hello SOT Postdocs!

We welcome your contributions to the Spring 2027 edition of the *Post-y*. The PDA Executive Board would like to highlight events and opportunities for postdocs at the 2027 SOT Annual Meeting & ToxExpo and welcome you to share information about what your group is planning so we can include it in a listing of events for postdocs.

If there is a *Post-y* theme that you would be interested in for the future, or if you would like to share a short article about a topic of interest or your experience, you can also share that with us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

Xing Chen, PDA Treasurer & *Post-y* Editor