

Northern California Regional Chapter

ANNUAL REPORT: 2024–2025

May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

I. Officers:

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
President: Claire Neilan Vice President: Sucheta Mukherjee Vice President-Elect: Hemantkumar Chavan Secretary: Vanessa Clark Treasurer: Sandra Chang Past President, Councilor: Ray Zhang; Councilor: Suk Kei Leung Councilor: Maryam Tarazkar Councilor: Suk Kei Leung Postdoctoral Representative: Lo-Wei Lin Graduate Student Representative: Heui Hye Park	President: Sucheta Mukherjee Vice President: Hemantkumar Chavan Vice President Elect: Anna Engstrom Past President, Councilor: Claire Neilan Secretary: Anna Kalashnikova Treasurer: Howard Stock Councilor: Sunjay Sethi Councilor: Maryam Tarazkar Postdoctoral Representative: Lo-Wei Lin

Committees:

Awards Committee: -Xiefan Fang, Sunjay Sethi, Toufan Parma, Chris Frantz, Maryam, and Cleo Leung.
The goal of the committee was to review and select abstracts for annual trainee awards.

II. 2025 Membership total: 241

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:

The Northern California Regional Chapter accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

In-person Regional Chapter meeting/mixer
Social event at SOT Annual Meeting
Mentoring/career development events
Poster session for trainees
Trainee awards conferred
Newsletter(s)
Bylaws changes

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Northern California Regional Chapter collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

Pacific Northwest

V. Communication Methods:

The Northern California Regional Chapter stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

Emails through SOT Headquarters

Regional Chapter website
Newsletter(s)
Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Northern California Regional Chapter maintained an inclusive organization through the following activities.

Nominate a diverse slate of candidates for elections
Solicit equitable input from all executive committee leaders
Utilize virtual meetings for convening Regional Chapter leadership
Rotate locations for meetings across sites
Ensure accessibility of meeting locations
Utilize standardized rubrics for judging awards/posters
Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
Highlight trainee research
Solicit member feedback for development of Regional Chapter activities (such as webinar topics)
Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Northern California Regional Chapter hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Career panel(s)
- Speed mentoring
- Chat with an expert
- Actively recruit members to be part of the SOT Mentor Match system
- Outreach to local universities that lack a formal toxicology program

VIII. Activities Supporting Undergraduate Students:

The Northern California Regional Chapter engaged undergraduate students with the following activities:

Attendance at Regional Chapter meeting

IX. Awards Given:

Trainee	7
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

X. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- A. Hosted two full day in-person scientific symposia (Spring and Fall):
1) “Bridging the Gap: Translating Toxicology from Bench to Bedside” held on October 15, 2024;

2) “Innovate with Confidence: Nonclinical Safety for Novel Modalities” held on May 20, 2025.

B. Hosted 2 mentoring and career development events:

- 1) Virtual panel discussion co-hosted with PANWAT SOT on January 30th, 2025
- 2) Tox Career Night at UC Berkeley on March 3rd, 2025. These events offered undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs the opportunities to engage in discussions on career and professional development in toxicology.

XI. Strategic Plan:

The **Northern California** Regional Chapter supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future
- Provide training and education that reflects the needs of members
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

XII. Regional Chapter Meeting Highlights

The Northern California Regional Chapter had the following highlights from their Annual Meeting:

Our Fall Symposium on nonclinical translation of toxicology to the clinic and Spring Symposium on tox strategies for new modalities testing were both well-attended. The Spring Symposia also had a poster session where trainees could get feedback on their work. We also held a virtual mentoring event with the PANWAT SOT and an in-person speed mentoring event for undergraduates at the UC Berkeley. Both events were well attended by both mentees and mentors.

XIII. Scientific Topics of Interest:

The Northern California Regional Chapter is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

Applications for big data in toxicology
In vitro models of reproductive toxicity - performance and prediction
NAMs and *in vitro*-only approaches in toxicology and regulatory expectations of these approaches
Tox strategies and case studies for new modalities
Use of alternative species
Dietary risk assessment
Regulatory update on recent food additive approvals

XIV. Feedback to the Society:

- A. What is the one thing the Society should be doing that it currently does not do (or does not do effectively) that would be of importance/benefit to the members of the Regional Chapter?

It would be great if SOT could facilitate a forum, potentially at the Annual Meeting, for the BOD members of component groups to come together and exchange ideas about best practices to engage their membership.

- B. What is the one thing the Society is currently doing that impacts the Regional Chapter that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

The inability to directly contact individuals who have registered for a NorCal SOT event, including sending our event information to previous registrants of our symposia, continues to be a barrier. It would be beneficial to add a check box in the registration.

