

President's Message

Hello NorCal SOT Friends!

I am so excited to be stepping in as the Chapter President for the 2026–2027 term. First, I would like to welcome all our new members to the chapter and thank all our continuing members and Sponsors for their support!

I would like to personally welcome our new board members Katie Sokolowski (VP-Elect), Kelley Patten (Councilor), Yi-Hua Tsai (Postdoctoral Representative), and Aishwarya Bhusal (Student Representative).

As you will see within the newsletter, we will have several open board positions in 2027 and if you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Sucheta Mukherjee. After having held several of the BOD positions myself, I can attest to the great opportunity to not only give back but also to work with your fellow toxicologists in Northern California.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Fall Symposium (spearheaded by our VP, Anna Engstrom and VP-Elect Katie Sokolowski). The symposium will be focusing on the theme of 'Impactful Uses of NAMs to Address Data Needs in Your Nonclinical Data Package'. We have a broad range of speakers with insightful presentations but also have our inaugural "Free Consulting Panel" – an open, interactive live session where industry experts address your real-world toxicology questions directly. We hope that you can join us for this exciting symposium on Thursday, October 8th at the Crowne Plaza, Foster City, CA.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our chapter's accomplishments since our last Spring Newsletter. Our Board has been very busy planning a wide variety of events, including the 2026 Fall Symposium, several student outreach and professional development events including Genentech Visit, Mentoring event at Berkeley, Lunch with an Expert. These events are not possible without the continuing commitment of our board members.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank Claire Neilan (outgoing Past President), Maryam Tarazkar (outgoing Councilor), Lo-Wei Lin (outgoing Postdoctoral Representative) and Heehay Park (Outgoing Student Representative) for all their hard work, enthusiasm, and endless contribution to the leadership of the board over the past years.

I am very excited to be a part of this energetic chapter. I encourage all of you to continue your enthusiasm, bring new ideas, and let us know what we can do to better serve you and the chapter!

Warm Regards

Hemant Chavan, PhD, DABT



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A Recap of the NorCal SOT 2026 Spring Symposium

NorCal SOT recently hosted an in-person Spring Symposium on **Tuesday, May 19th, 2026** at the Embassy Suites, South San Francisco, titled “Innovations in Toxicology: End-to-End Strategies in Nonclinical Drug Development”.

The agenda of speakers and their topics were as follows:

Time	Morning Session
8:15AM – 9:00AM	Registration, breakfast and vendor booth set-up
9:00AM – 9:10AM	Opening Message, NorCal SOT President Hemant Chavan, PhD, DABT, Genentech
9:10AM – 9:50AM	<i>T Cell Engagers (TCE): From Oncology to Non-Oncology Nonclinical and Clinical Considerations</i> Kavita Raman, PhD, Amgen
9:50AM – 10:25AM	<i>Barriers to Adoption: A Critical Look at the Developmental Neurotoxicity In Vitro Battery in Regulatory Contexts</i> Claire Koenig, PhD, Corteva Agriscience
10:25AM – 10:40AM	Gold Sponsor Talk - Altasciences Norbert Makori, BVM, MSc, PhD, DABT
10:40AM – 10:55AM	Coffee Break
10:55PM – 11:15AM	<i>Disposable E-Cigarettes & Hidden Toxic Metals: Implications for Human Exposure</i> Mark Salazar, UC Davis, Grad Student Achievement Award Winner
11:15AM – 12:00PM	<i>From Molecule Structure to Mechanisms: Unraveling In Vivo Chemical Bioactivity Using Zebrafish</i> Robyn Tanguay, PhD, Oregon State University
12:00PM – 1:30PM	Lunch Break and ‘Lunch with a Mentor’
Time	Afternoon Session
1:30PM – 1:35PM	Chapter Announcements
1:35PM – 1:55PM	<i>Single-nuclei transcriptomics reveal selective neurotoxicity and significant glial cell expansion during the epileptogenic period following organophosphate-induced status epilepticus</i> Matt Armstrong, PhD, UC Davis, Postdoc Achievement Award Winner
1:55PM – 2:30PM	<i>DART Strategy: Use of surrogate antibody and Health Authority Interaction (NHP is not the only option)</i> Yu-Mee Kim, PhD, DABT, Genentech
2:30PM – 2:45PM	Gold Sponsor Talk - LabCorp Marina Seme Nelson, PhD
2:45PM – 3:00PM	Coffee Break
3:00PM – 3:30PM	<i>Safety Pharmacology Case Study: Auditory Toxicity Testing for a Device-Drug Combination Product</i> Katie Sokolowski, PhD, DABT, DSP, UKRT, ERT, Septerna
3:30PM – 4:00PM	<i>Seizures in Drug Development: Detection, Mechanisms, and Real-World Cases</i> Brandon Pressly, PhD, DABT, DSP, Septerna
4:00PM – 5:30PM	Networking Reception

After a full day of exciting presentations, we finished the evening with a social networking event. This event was attended by local scientific professionals from biotech/pharma, government, academia, and CROs to socialize and network.



We would like to recognize and thank our Sponsors for this Symposium:

Our Sponsors: Thank You!!

Gold Sponsors



Our Sponsors: Thank You!!

Silver Sponsors



New NorCal SOT Members as of October 2026

Greetings,

On behalf of the members of the Northern California Regional Chapter, we are thrilled to welcome you to the Society of Toxicology and our vibrant community! As a new Regional Chapter member, you'll find a wealth of opportunities to communicate, collaborate, and connect with fellow members both regionally and nationally. Check out the [Northern California SOT website](#) for exciting updates on meetings, newsletters, awards, governance, educational outreach, and so much more! We are excited to have you join us and encourage you to dive in and become an active participant in the Northern California Regional Chapter.

Welcome aboard!

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation (if known)
Andreea	Stuparu	Dextera Biosciences
Molly	Thibado	University of California, Davis
Archana	Belle	Encoded
Yuna	Ng	University of California, Davis
David	Umbaugh	Genentech
Jeanette	Sullivan	

NorCal Student and Postdoctoral Awards

Awards

Attention All NorCal Undergraduate, Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Members,

The NorCal SOT regional chapter provides Undergraduate, Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Awards for the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting. We encourage all eligible students and postdoctoral members to apply.

- **Undergraduate Student Travel Award to SOT Annual Meeting** – One cash award up to a maximum of \$1,000 will be used to reimburse original receipts to include all or partial costs of transportation to and/or accommodation at the SOT Annual Meeting. Application deadline: Tuesday, January 5, 2027. Further details can be found at the following link:

https://sotapply.toxicology.org/prog/norcal_sot_undergraduate_student_travel_award_to_sot_annual_meeting/

- **Graduate Student Achievement Award** – Cash award(s) on the basis of merit, including the quality, impact and novelty of the science:

https://sotapply.toxicology.org/prog/norcal_sot_graduate_student_achievement_award/

- **Postdoctoral Achievement Award** – Cash award(s) on the basis of merit, including the quality, impact and novelty of the science:

https://sotapply.toxicology.org/prog/norcal_sot_postdoctoral_achievement_award/

Application deadline: Tuesday, January 5, 2027. Completed award applications should be sent to Kelley Patten (patten.kelley@gene.com) and Sunjay Sethi (ssethi@ideayabio.com).

Please note: An accepted abstract is a requirement for the grad and postdoc awards. The SOT abstract site is open now until November 13, 2026 at the following link:

<https://www.toxicology.org/events/am/AM2027/abstract-submissions.asp>

There are several other awards available through SOT for students and fellows at <https://www.toxicology.org/awards/sot/awards.aspx>.

2026-2027 Upcoming Mentoring Events

1. 2026 Fall Resume Workshop at UC Davis

Date: Early December 2026 (final date TBD)

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 pm (PST)

Location: Vet Med 3B Room 1105, UC Davis

Join us for our Fall Resume Workshop, designed to help mentees strengthen their professional materials and prepare for the job application process in a supporting setting.

The event will begin with a brief presentation on how to prepare for a job talk, followed by a rotational resume review session with mentors. During this time, mentees will:

- Share their resume or LinkedIn profile
- Give a short self-introduction in an interview-style format
- Receive feedback one-on-one or in small groups

The workshop is an excellent opportunity for students to gain practical advice and constructive feedback directly from professionals in the field of toxicology.



2. 2027 Spring Toxicology Career Night at UC Berkeley

When: March or April 2027 (final date and time TBD)

Where: UC Berkeley, Exact building location TBD

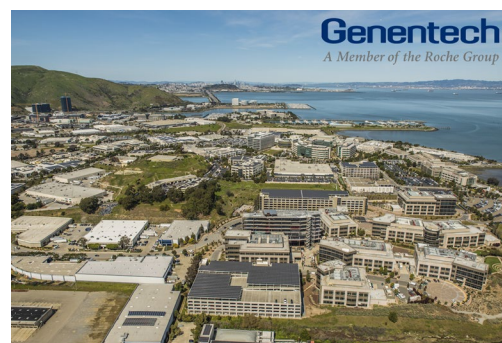
Join us for the 2027 Spring Toxicology Career Night! This event is a great opportunity for students and early-career scientists to gain practical advice, expand their professional network, and learn directly from experienced professionals in toxicology.



3. We are working towards putting on another Spring Tour at Genentech in South SF!

Last year's event gave students an inside look at one of the world's most innovative biotech companies. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the Genentech campus
- Learn about career opportunities in toxicology plus other tox-related areas, including internships or postdoctoral programs
- Connect with professionals at Genentech and hear their day-to-day experience in the biotech industry.
- More details to be announced in future communications!



Call for volunteers

We are seeking toxicologists from industry and government to serve as mentors! Share your career journey and help the next generation of scientists. Please contact: Kelley Patten (patten.kelley@gene.com) and Sunjay Sethi (ssethi@ideayabio.com) if you are interested.

Upcoming Events/Announcement



Northern California Regional Chapter Fall Symposium 2026
**“Mind the Gap: Impactful Uses of NAMs to Address Data Needs
in Your Nonclinical Data Package”**

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Crowne Plaza Foster City, 1221 Chess Dr, Foster City, CA 94404

Time	Morning Session
8:15AM – 9:00AM	Registration, breakfast and vendor booth set-up
9:00AM – 9:10AM	Opening Message, NorCal SOT President Hemant Chavan, PhD, DABT, Genentech
9:10AM – 9:55AM	<i>New Approach Methodologies in Regulatory Applications - Progress and Challenges</i> Ellen Berg, PhD, Alto Predict
9:55AM – 10:35AM	<i>Expanding The Value Proposition of NAMs: Resolving Clinical Liabilities and Optimizing Next-Gen Modalities through reverse translation</i> Aaron Fullerton, PhD, Genentech
10:35AM – 11:05AM	Coffee Break
11:05AM – 11:50AM	<i>Integrating New Approach Methodologies to Address Liver Safety Concerns</i> Sam Faber Wilcoxson, PhD DABT, J&J Innovative Medicine
11:50PM – 12:00PM	Gold Sponsor Talk - LabCorp
12:00PM – 1:30PM	Catered Lunch Break
Time	Afternoon Session
1:30PM – 1:35PM	Chapter Announcements
1:35PM – 2:00PM	<i>Integration of New Approach Methodologies into Human Health Risk Assessment: A Case Study using Toxicity Forecasting</i> Anna Kalashnikova, PhD, California Department of Pesticide Regulation
2:00PM – 2:30PM	Coffee Break
2:30PM – 4:00PM	<i>Free Consulting Panel</i> Marian Glynn, PhD, RAC, DABT, Tox Clarity, LLC Marcus S. Delatte, PhD, Allucent Ric Stanulis, PhD, DABT, Akkeri, Inc.
4:00PM – 5:30PM	Networking Reception

Please feel free to contact Anna Engstrom engstrom.anna@gene.com or Katie Sokolowski ksokolowski@septerna.com if you have any questions or suggestions for future NorCal SOT symposia.

Upcoming Elections

As a member-driven organization, the NorCal SOT Executive Committee relies on the energy and commitment of volunteers like you to help shape our community and lead us into the future. We are currently seeking nominations for positions on the Executive Committee, and we encourage all interested members to nominate themselves. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the growth of NorCal SOT, collaborate with fellow members, and make a lasting impact on our Regional Chapter.

This year, we have the following open positions:

VP-Elect (4-year term)

Secretary (2-year term)

Treasurer (2-year term)

Councilor (2-year term)

If you are interested in serving on the board, please send your name, a brief biosketch (example below), and a short statement of interest (2-3 sentences, optional but encouraged!) to Sucheta Mukherjee (mukherjee.sucheta@gene.com) by November 6, 2026.

Sample Biosketch: This is a guideline - you may revise at your discretion.

Full Name, [including degrees and affiliations]

[Title] Dr. [Last Name] is a/the [Current position] at [place of employment], where they [Summary of work]. They received their doctorate in [Field] from [School/University] in [Year] and was a postdoctoral scholar at [Institution] from [Years]. [Title]. [Last Name] has served on the [study sections, panels, etc.] at the [Organization, i.e. NIH, EPA, etc.]. They are author/co-author of [Number] [Publications including peer-reviewed articles and/or book chapters, etc.]. They have been a member of the SOT since [Year] and has served the SOT in the following capacities: [Offices/positions held].

SOT Annual Meeting 2027

The 2027 SOT Annual Meeting is in San Antonio, Texas on March 14th to March 17th, 2027. Stay tuned!