

Central States

ANNUAL REPORT: 2022–2023

May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

I. Officers/Committees

<u>Officer</u>	<u>2022–2023</u>	<u>2023–2024</u>
President:	Udayan Apte	Rodrigo Franco
President-Elect/Vice President:	Rodrigo Franco	Peter Thorne
Secretary/Treasurer:	Jeffrey Klein	Jeffrey Klein
Past President:	Pallavi Limaye	Udayan Apte
Councilors:	Iván Csanaky Isaac Kirubakaran Sundar	Isaac Kirubakaran Sundar Iván Csanaky
Postdoctoral Representative:	Laura Dean	Laura Dean
Graduate Student Representative:	Giselle Sanchez-Guerrero	Giselle Sanchez-Guerrero

II. 2022 Membership total: 62

III. Key Outcomes in 2022–2023:

2022 Annual Meeting: The 2022 annual meeting of CSSOT was held on October 13 and 14th, 2022 at the University of Kansas Medical Center hosted by the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics. The meeting was attended by 75 attendees including students, academic and industry scientists. Dr. Benrida Wahlang from University of Louisville, KY was the keynote speaker. The meeting included oral and poster presentations from trainees and a career development session where students interacted with regional industry professionals. Industry sponsors included Xenometric LLC (Now BioIVT) and MRI Global.

IV. Activities

A. SOT Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, receptions):

2023 CSSOT Breakfast at SOT Annual Meeting: CSSOT held its annual meeting breakfast on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 in the Kitchen Notes Restaurant located within the Omni Hotel in Nashville, TN. 45 people attended the breakfast. The main event was the introduction of new officers and handing out awards to students.

B. 2023 Awards Recipients:

Graduate student- platform presentation (Sponsor: MRIGlobal)

Dakota Robarts (\$300)

Amanda Bullert (\$200)

Graduate student- Poster (Sponsor: MRIGlobal)

Manasi Kotulkar (\$300)
Allen Chen (\$200)
Anna E Bartman (\$100)
Amar Kumar (\$100)
Kaitlyn Venneman (\$100)

Postdoctoral Award (Sponsor: Xenotech)

Hui Wang (\$300)

Partha Kasturi Undergraduate Student Award (Sponsor: Xenotech)

Sawyer Smith (\$200)
Emma Starr (\$100)

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g., webinars, in-person meetings):

Career Development session at CSSOT annual meeting: The trainee members interacted with local industry scientists and obtained valuable advise. The following scientists served as mentors:

Pallavi Limaye, PhD, DABT, Xenotech Inc
Brian Ogilvie, PhD, Xenotech, Inc
Claire Croutch, PhD, MRIGlobal
Navatha Alugubelly, Ph.D. Attentive Sciences
Melissa Ruggiero , PhD, Attentive Sciences
Jeff Klein, PhD, DABT, SciLucent, Inc.

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: We do not have a newsletter.
2. Communication Highlights: All the communication with the members is conducted via emails sent through the central SOT communication channels.
3. Highlights of website enhancements: The CSSOT website was revamped in 2021 and no major changes have been made since then.

E. Mentoring Activities:

Career Development session at CSSOT annual meeting: The trainee members interacted with local industry scientists and obtained valuable advice. The following scientists served as mentors:

- Pallavi Limaye, PhD, DABT, Xenotech Inc
- Brian Ogilvie, PhD, Xenotech, Inc
- Claire Croutch, PhD, MRIGlobal
- Navatha Alugubelly, Ph.D. Attentive Sciences
- Melissa Ruggiero , PhD, Attentive Sciences
- Jeff Klein, PhD, DABT, SciLucent, Inc.

F. (*Regional Chapters only*) Activities Supporting Undergraduate Students:

The CSSOT annual meeting has substantial participation from undergraduate students who compete for the Partha Kasturi Undergraduate Award.

V. **Feedback and Ideas:**

- A. In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment? Please give examples of any current practices used to support inclusion in processes such as 1) leadership selection and promotion, 2) award descriptions and selection, and 3) endorsement of proposals for the annual meetings.

CSSOT strongly supports diversity and inclusion initiatives of SOT and creates an inclusive environment. The leadership selection process seeks nominations from all the members and promotes diversity. We have not been approached for any endorsements for proposals at the annual meeting and this can be improved in the future.

- B. What is one thing the Society should be doing that we currently do not do (or do not do effectively) that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?

A stronger and faster administrative support would be beneficial.

- C. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

We do not see any major issues in this regard.