

Midwest Regional Chapter

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024**  
May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

**I. Officers:**

<b><u>2023–2024</u></b>	<b><u>2024–2025</u></b>
President: Tracy Henriques President-Elect: Matthew Wolter Secretary: Lei Wang Treasurer: Charles Mattis Past President: Ashley Brinkman Councilor: Ellen Baker Councilor: Keegan Baldauf Councilor: Brita Kilburg-Basnyat Councilor: Amy Sheppard Postdoctoral Representative: Elvis Ticiani Graduate Student Representative: Nelson Peterson	President: Matthew Wolter President-Elect: Keegan Baldauf Secretary: Lei Wang Treasurer: Ellen Baker Past President: Tracy Henriques Councilor: Charlotte Mintie Councilor: Amy Sheppard Councilor: Elvis Ticiani Councilor: Puneet Vij Postdoctoral Representative: Laura Dean Graduate Student Representative: Sana Iqbal

**Committees:**

**II. 2024 Membership total: 112**

**III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:**

The Midwest Regional Chapter accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person Regional Chapter meeting/mixer
- Social event at SOT Annual Meeting
- Poster session for trainees
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- Member highlights
- Newsletter(s)
- Bylaws changes
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- Had 2 great Fall and Spring Regional meetings at new locations, we had a mixer at the Annual SOT event with another region.

**IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:**

The Midwest Regional Chapter collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Central States

**V. Communication Methods:**

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

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

## **VI. Promotion of Inclusivity**

The Midwest 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
- Include inclusive descriptions of Awards
- Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
- Waive fees for meetings or membership due to financial hardship
- 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 Midwest Regional Chapter hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- We have had the above mentoring events in the past but this year we had a mentor/mentee conversations at the lunch time for the Fall and Spring meetings and we had a Tox Trivia event for mentors/mentees.

## **VIII. Activities Supporting Undergraduate Students:**

The Midwest Regional Chapter engaged undergraduate students with the following activities:

- Attendance at Regional Chapter meeting

## **IX. Awards Given:**

Trainee	7
Early Career	1
Mid Career	1
Late Career	1

## **X. Key Outcomes and Improvements:**

We held 2 great Fall and Spring meetings and had a joint SOT mixer. Hosted two well attended regional chapter meetings. The fall meeting was located in Racine, WI in October 2023 and featured student flash talks. We utilized a new location, SC Johnson and the provided a company tour. The theme was inhalation toxicology. Our Spring meeting was located in Milwaukee, WI in May 2024 and featured a poster session as well as student and professional awards. Our meeting

theme was Environmental Toxicology and we held the event at the School of Freshwater Sciences building with the Dean of the School providing the Keynote presentation.

## **XI. Strategic Plan:**

The Midwest Regional Chapter supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- 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 Midwest had the following highlights from their Annual Meetings:

We had 2 Regional Chapter meetings (Fall and Spring). We had a good attendance at both. Both events were new locations and themes for us. We took some risks and it went well. The Tox Trivia was a fun event for the attendees.

## **XIII. Scientific Topics of Interest:**

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

- New Approach Methodologies, in vitro methods. Skin and eye tox. More applied toxicology opportunities for students. More career mentoring and discussion around the DABT. Also, potential partnership with ACT.

## **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?

Improving the accessibility of the membership directory to facilitate networking. It would be advantageous to be able to network with other Midwest area toxicologists who may be National SOT members but have chosen not to join the MRC/SOT.

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.)?

More timely release of bank statements to help us more accurately plan chapter activities and awards. When processes change and we are not aware of them, some double work and confusion happens such as completing this form and when we worked on the awards. I think this form might short sell our yearly efforts but I do appreciate how it will be quicker than filling out a written report which I already did.