

Midwest Regional Chapter

ANNUAL REPORT: 2019-2020

May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020

I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
President:	Chad Vezina	Charles Mattis
President-Elect:	Charles Mattis	Smita Salian-Mehta
Secretary:	Ashley Brinkman	Ashley Brinkman
Treasurer:	Huanyu Qiao	Huanyu Qiao
Past President, Councilor:	Wei Xu	Chad Vezina
Councilors:	Robert Lange	Daniel Kougias
	Matthew Wolter	Tami Swenson
	Abigail McEwen	Brian Chanas
	Ali Chesney	Ali Chesney
Postdoctoral Representative:	Chelsea O'Driscoll	Genoa Warner
Graduate Student Representative:	Katherine Hatcher	Anne Turco

II. 2020 Membership total: 140

III. Key Outcomes in 2019-2020:

A. Activities:

- a. 2020 SOT Annual Meeting Virtual Activities (e.g. courses, scientific sessions, or virtual receptions):
- b. 2020 Awards Information: No awards were issued because of Spring meeting cancellation due to COVID-19
- c. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g. webinars, in person meetings, etc.):
 - i. Fall Meeting Conducted at University of Wisconsin-Madison on October 25, 2019
 1. There were 48 registrants, 26 of whom were postdocs, graduate students, or undergraduate students.
 2. Topic: *"Application of Toxicology Research in Human Health Protection"*
 3. Presentations:
 - a. Rob Lipinski (University of Wisconsin-Madison): *"Defining environmental influences in complex human birth defects"*
 - b. Michael McCoy (Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.): *"Occupational Toxicology and Industrial Hygiene: Synergistic Disciplines for Improving Worker Health"*
 - c. Mohan Rao (AbbVie, Inc.): *Computational Approaches to Preclinical Projections*
 4. Career outreach events associated with this meeting included an optional tour of Exact Biosciences, Inc. for students and postdocs and a panel discussion about toxicology career opportunities in industry, academia, and government.

B. Communication Activities:

- a. Newsletter publication frequency: twice annually (coincides with MRC/SOT Fall and Spring meetings)
- b. Key Announcements/blogs: Ad hoc emails are sent to membership to remind of upcoming meeting dates, solicit nominations and applications for Chapter awards, and to encourage participation by the membership in chapter activities (e.g., running for vacant executive committee offices).
- c. Website highlights: the MRC/SOT website is updated as necessary

C. Regional Chapter activities supporting undergraduate students:

- a. Career outreach events: see Fall meeting description as examples.
- b. The MRC/SOT submitted one nomination for the RC4 travel award: Pranathi Karumanchi, (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), but our candidate did not receive the award.

D. Mentoring activities:

- a. Career outreach events: see Fall meeting description as examples.

IV. Feedback and Ideas:

A. How might SOT better support your group's activities (perhaps something 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. Recommend 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 one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

- b. No changes suggested.

C. What changes does your component group anticipate making in the way in which it operates in the coming year?

- c. We are aspiring to include more student participation in Chapter meetings by modifying their format. The MRC/SOT is considering inclusion of 5-10 minute "flash talks" by students to showcase their research efforts and how they relate to contemporary toxicology issues. The student flash talks would supplement traditional, formal presentations by subject matter experts in areas related to the students' research projects.