

## Midwest Regional Chapter

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2021–2022

May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022

#### I. Officers/Committees

<u>Officer</u>	<u>2021–2022</u>	<u>2022–2023</u>
President:	Smita Salian-Mehta	Ashley Brinkman
President-Elect:	Ashley Brinkman	Tracy Henriques
Secretary:	Matthew Wolter	Matthew Wolter
Treasurer:	Huanyu Qiao	Charles Mattis
Past President, Councilor:	Charles Mattis	Smita Salian-Mehta
Councilors:	David Belair Brian Chanas Kimberly Keil Stietz Daniel Kougias Tami Swenson	Ellen Baker Keegan Baldauf Kimberly Keil Stietz Brita Kilburg-Basnyat
Postdoctoral Representative:	Alison Neff	Alison Neff
Graduate Student Representative:	Anita Waye	Anita Waye

Committees, if applicable: Program Committee (Ashley Brinkman, Matt Wolter, David Belair, Kimberly Keil Stietz), Award Committee (Ashley Brinkman, Matt Wolter, Charles Mattis, Brian Chanas).

#### II. 2021 Membership total: 144

#### III. Key Outcomes in 2021–2022:

- A. Hosted two virtual annual meetings that reflected continuous participation of chapter members in regional chapter activities.
- B. Collaborated with NorCal SOT to host a toxicology career workshop.
- C. Fostered student participation by initiating a new Mentor/Mentee Program, as well as waiving student membership fees and continuing to highlight trainee flash talks at annual meetings.

#### IV. Activities

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

Hosted a well-attended virtual chapter networking session from 4:00 – 5:00 PM PT to provide a space for updates and interaction. Printed chapter poster, which was presented by our Graduate Student Representative, Anita.

##### B. 2022 Awards Information:

- i. 2021 Fall Meeting Trainee Flash Talk Award Winners – Karen Chiu (University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign), Kevin Porter (University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign), Dr. Alison Neff (University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign), and Brenna Walton (University of Wisconsin - Madison) received \$50 each for their selection to present.
- ii. 2022 Spring Meeting Trainee Flash Talk Award Winners – Sri Vida Dangudubiyyam (University of Wisconsin - Madison), Brenna Walton (University of Wisconsin - Madison), Thomas Peterson (University of Wisconsin - Madison), and Dr. Prarthana Shankar (United States

Environmental Protection Agency) will receive \$50 each for their selection to present.

- iii. 2022 Graduate Student Travel Awards were given in the amount of \$350 to Anita Waye and \$500 to Andrew Knutson. Runners up for this award were Endia Fletcher and Brenna Walton, both receiving \$250.
- iv. 2022 Postdoctoral Travel Award was given to Dr. Dinesh Babu in the amount of \$250.
- v. 2022 Young Investigator Award was given to Vicki Mouikes for her proposal, “Toxicity and Detoxification of Imidacloprid in Ovarian Follicles”. An award in the amount of **\$500 will be provided**.
- vi. 2022 Early Career Toxicologist Award was given to Dr. Kimberly Keil Stietz. An award in the amount of **\$500 will be provided**.
- vii. 2022 Kenneth P. DuBois Award was given to Dr. Greg Erexson. An award in the amount of **\$500 will be provided**.

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

- i. Hosted a Fall Meeting virtually on October 15th, 2021 from 9am-12pm with 74 registrants
  - o Topic was “New Approach Methodologies in Toxicology”
  - o Presentations
    - Hans Raabe, MS (COO and Treasurer, Institute for In Vitro Sciences), “New Approach Methodologies for Assessing Skin Sensitization: Test Methods and Defined Approaches”
    - Fabio Urbina, PhD (Postdoctoral Fellow, Collaborations Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), “Advances in Applying Machine Learning in Toxicology”
    - Amy Avila, PhD (Pharmacology/Toxicology Reviewer, FDA/CDER), “An FDA/CDER Perspective on Nonclinical Testing Strategies: Classical Toxicology Approaches and New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)”
    - Deidre Dalmas Wilk (Scientific Director, GlaxoSmithKline), “Utilization of Alternate Animal Models – Application of Complex In Vitro Models in Drug Discovery & Development”
- ii. Hosted a Spring Meeting virtually on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 9am-12pm
  - o Topic was “Toxicology as a Multi-Disciplinary Field: Regulation, Communication, and the Path to Certification”
  - o Presentations
    - Guillaume Letellier, MS, ERT (Senior Manager, Toxicology at Intertek Assuris), “Food Substances in Contact with Infant Formula and/or Human Milk”
    - Kaiping Chen, PhD (Assistant Professor at UW-Madison), “Science Communication About COVID-19: The Role of Emotion and Identity in Spreading and Debunking Misinformation on Social Media”
    - Donald Stump, PhD, DABT (Principal Director, Toxicology at Charles River Laboratories), “DABT – The Value of Certification”
- iii. Collaboration with NorCal SOT to present a virtual toxicology career workshop entitled “Toxicology Career Map” on October 1st, 2021. This successful workshop with 224 registrants was our first collaboration with another regional

chapter and was also endorsed by the SOT Education and Career Development Committee.

- iv. Development of a new Mentor/Mentee Program with 14 mentees and 9 mentors
- v. Addition of “Chat with a Toxicologist” to the bi-annual newsletter

**D. Communication Activities:**

- i. Newsletter publication frequency: Twice annually (coincides with annual fall and spring meetings)
- ii. New or significant 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).
- iii. Highlights of website enhancements: Website updates are ongoing, and we are currently working on a new homepage

**E. Mentoring Activities**

- i. Mentor/Mentee Program: this new initiative included 9 mentors and 14 mentees who enrolled for 2021-2022.
- ii. Trainee Flash Talks at both Fall and Spring meetings: four abstracts were selected to be presented at each meeting, and trainees were given three minutes to present with two minutes Q&A. Presentations were well-received.

**F. Activities Supporting Undergraduate Students:**

- i. Mentor/Mentee Program
- ii. Trainee Flash Talks at both Fall and Spring meetings
- iii. Collaboration workshop with NorCal SOT
- iv. Waiving student membership fees
- v. Submitting an RC4 nomination

**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.

Our group fosters and maintains an inclusive environment by:

- Advocating for representation on the Executive Committee from multiple career paths (industry, academia, etc.)
- Ensuring that regional chapter annual meeting presentations come from a diverse panel of speakers
- Waiving membership fees for all students to remove potential cost barriers
- Supporting trainees by highlighting their work through flash talks, providing mentorship through the mentor/mentee initiative, and through the career workshop organized with NorCal SOT

B. 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?):

*Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.*

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.

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.)?

MRC-SOT was planning to host a webinar for toxicology board certifications. However, we were told this overlaps with the scope of national SOT subcommittees. As an RC we had to host this event at our annual meeting and not a separate webinar. National should encourage RCs who plan to do such additional activities beyond the annual meetings, especially if similar events organized by national SOT are not lined up for foreseeable future.

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

No operational changes, but we would like to reach out to Midwest SETAC to potentially collaborate on a workshop/meeting, which would foster interaction between toxicologists that focus mainly on the environment and those who focus on human health.