

Midwest

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:	Ashley Brinkman	Tracy Henriques
President-Elect:	Tracy Henriques	Matthew Wolter
Secretary:	Matthew Wolter	Lei Wang
Treasurer:	Charles Mattis	Charles Mattis
Past President:	Smita Salian-Mehta	Ashley Brinkman
Councilors:	Keegan Baldauf	Amy Sheppard
	Brita Kilburg-Basnyat	Brita Kilburg-Basnyat
	Ellen Baker	Ellen Baker
	Kimberly Keil Stietz	Keegan Baldauf
Postdoctoral Representative:	Alison Neff	Elvis Ticiani
Graduate Student Representative:	Anita Waye	Nelson Peterson

Program Committee: (Tracy Henriques, Ashley Brinkman, Ellen Baker, Alison Neff, Keegan Baldauf)

Award Committee: (Fall Committee: Tracy Henriques, Ashley Brinkman, Charles Mattis, Matthew Wolter, Thomas Peterson and Alison Neff; Spring Committee: Tracy Henriques, Ashley Brinkman, Matthew Wolter, Ellen Baker, Alison Neff, and Keegan Baldauf)

II. 2022 Membership total: 136

III. Key Outcomes in 2022–2023:

- A. Collaborating with Midwest SETAC to present a webinar entitled, “Toxicological Risk Assessment – Environmental and Human Health Perspectives”, which had approximately 90 registrants, bringing together toxicologists involved with Midwest SETAC, MRC/SOT, as well as the broader SETAC and SOT communities.
- B. Hosted two well attended regional chapter meetings. The fall meeting was located in Madison WI in October 2022 and featured student flash talks. Our Spring meeting was located in Mundelein, IL in May 2023 and featured a poster session as well as student and professional awards.

IV. Activities

- A. SOT Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, receptions):
Participation in the National SOT Meeting in March included a poster with information on MRC/SOT which was presented by our Chapter President, Ashley Brinkman, and hosting a networking breakfast for toxicologists in our region and beyond.
- B. 2023 Awards Recipients:

2022 Fall Meeting:

Trainee Flash Talk award winners:

Monica Ridlon, Kenneth Rivera-Gonzalez , and Sri Vidya Danguubiyyam, all from University of Wisconsin- Madison; each received \$50 for being selected to present their work.

2023 Spring Meeting

Young Investigator Award:

Adira Safar (\$500)

Early Career Toxicologist Award:

Brita Kilburg-Basnyat (\$500)

Kenneth P. DuBois Award:

Jodi Flaws (\$500)

Victor A. Drill Award for best poster presentation:

Sana Iqbal (\$500)

Trivia award winners:

Brian Chanas, Meredith Crosby, Rikki Gordon, Jeff White, and Jodi Flaws; each received a \$50 Amazon gift card.

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

Hosted a 2022 Fall Meeting on October 28, 2022, “Food Safety in Toxicology”, which featured a tour of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, three speakers; Dr. Paul Hanlon (Abbott Nutrition), Dr. Kristin Schill (UW- Madison), and Matt Savidge (Knoell USA) and three trainee flash talks; Monica Ridlon, Kenneth S. Rivera-Gonzalez, and Sri Vidya Danguubiyyam, all graduate students at UW-Madison. We had 36 registrants join us in Madison, WI

Hosted a Spring Meeting on May 19, 2023 in Mundelein, IL entitled, “Emerging Trends in Gene Therapy”. With presentations from Dr. Almudena Veiga-Lopez and Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan Afzal, as well as our 2022 Young Investigator Award winner, Vicki Mourikes. A student poster session was held, with Sana Iqbal winning the Victor A. Drill Award for best poster! This year's meeting featured a game of trivia, which all attendees participated.

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: semiannually (coincides with annual fall and spring meetings)
2. Communication Highlights: 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)
3. Highlights of website enhancements: This year we completed a complete overhaul of the regional chapter homepage with new layout, logo and content.

E. Mentoring Activities:

- i. Continuation of the Mentor/Mentee Program which was introduced last year.
- ii. Trainee Flash Talks at the Fall meeting: four abstracts were selected to be presented at the meeting, and trainees were given three minutes to present with two minutes Q&A. Presentations were well-received.
- iii. Poster session at the Spring meeting: trainees presented posters, received feedback from experienced toxicologists attending the meeting

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

- i. Mentor/Mentee Program
- ii. Trainee Flash Talks at the Fall meeting
- iii. Waiving student membership fees
- iv. Poster presentation and young investigator award
- iv. 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.

- 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
- Rotating location of our fall and spring meeting across various cities within our region
- Supporting trainees by highlighting their work through flash talks, providing mentorship through the mentor/mentee initiative, and through a tour of the Wisconsin state health lab during the Fall meeting
- select Fall and Spring meeting topics that may appeal to a diverse group of attendees.

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?

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.)?

More timely release of bank statements to help us more accurately plan chapter activities and awards.