

Mountain West Regional Chapter

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

I. Officers:

<u>2023–2024</u>	<u>2024–2025</u>
President: Aikseng Ooi Vice President: Kristofer Fritz Vice President-Elect: Alessandro Venosa Secretary-Treasurer: Erica Dashner-Titus Past President, Councilor: Alicia Bolt Councilor: Luke Montrose Councilor: Julie Moreno Senior Student Representative: Samantha Serna Junior Student Representative: Courtney McGinnis	President: Kristofer Fritz Vice President: Alessandro Venosa Vice President-Elect: Sebastian Medina Secretary-Treasurer: Derek Drechsel Past President, Councilor: Aikseng Ooi Councilor: Luke Montrose Councilor: Kinta Serve Postdoctoral Representative: Sumira Phatak Senior Student Representative: Courtney McGinnis Junior Student Representative: Michaela Hvizdak

Committees:

II. 2024 Membership total: 114

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:

The Mountain West Regional Chapter accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person Regional Chapter meeting/mixer
- Social event at SOT Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Poster session for trainees
- Trainee awards conferred
- Newsletter(s)
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Mountain West Regional Chapter collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

V. Communication Methods:

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

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Regional Chapter website
- Newsletter(s)

- Other Social Media (Facebook, X, etc.)

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Mountain West 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
- Highlight trainee research
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Mountain West Regional Chapter hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Career panel(s)
- Chat with an expert
- Mentor-mentee program within the Regional Chapter
- Outreach to local universities that lack a formal toxicology program

VIII. Activities Supporting Undergraduate Students:

The Mountain West Regional Chapter engaged undergraduate students with the following activities:

- Attendance at Regional Chapter meeting

IX. Awards Given:

Trainee	>7
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

*24 (graduate and post-doc presentation and travel awards)

X. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

Focused trainee engagement at regional chapter meeting (networking with professionals, 52 trainee talks/posters). Held annual meeting in conjunction with Rocky Mtn Wildfire Smoke Symposium to increase engagement and visibility of MWSOT across region

XI. Strategic Plan:

The Mountain West Regional Chapter supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- 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 Mountain West had the following highlights from their Annual Meetings:

Talks/posters at regional chapter meeting were almost exclusively presented by students/post-docs.

XIII. Scientific Topics of Interest:

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

- Science/Risk communication, machine learning and predictive toxicology

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?

Develop postdoctoral training webinar series on relevant technical & professional development topics

- 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.)?

Not allowing regional chapters to reach out beyond current membership (e.g. via e-mail)