



NCAC-SOT Welcomes Our New Officers!



VICE PRESIDENT - Argel Islas-Robles, PhD, DABT
Senior Toxicologist - Institute For In Vitro Sciences

Dr. Argel Islas-Robles is a Senior Toxicologist and Study Director at the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS), where he provides scientific leadership in the development, validation, and regulatory application of in vitro and non-animal toxicology methods. His work focuses on skin sensitization, medical device biocompatibility, and the advancement of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for hazard identification and risk assessment. He has extensive experience translating OECD-aligned in vitro methods into regulatory-relevant testing strategies and supporting their implementation across industry.

Dr. Islas-Robles leads the skin sensitization program, oversees assay transfer and commercialization efforts, and mentors study directors and laboratory scientists. He is deeply committed to scientific collaboration, professional development, and outreach within the toxicology community. Through his involvement in scientific publishing, conference organization, mentoring programs, and international education initiatives, he actively supports the mission of SOT to advance the science of toxicology and foster an inclusive and globally engaged professional community.

Dr. Islas-Robles is enthusiastic about contributing to the continued growth and impact of NCAC and SOT through leadership, mentorship, and outreach initiatives. Particularly, he is motivated to expand NCAC membership, strengthen engagement of industry and government stakeholders within the region, and support the development of targeted activities that promote participation and sustained involvement across sectors.

SECRETARY - Paola Chrysostomou, M.S., DABT
Toxicologist - Exponent

Ms. Chrysostomou is a board-certified toxicologist with over 9 years of experience conducting toxicological human health hazard assessments in the fields of pesticides, industrial chemicals, food ingredients and additives, consumer products, and pharmaceutical ingredients. In her current capacity with Exponent's Chemical Regulation & Food Safety she works as a regulatory toxicologist preparing chemical assessments, toxicological risk assessments, dose-response assessments, benchmark dose modeling analysis, and quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) analysis for food ingredients, additives and contaminants, consumer products, pesticides, and industrial chemicals. She is experienced in reviewing human health safety data for food additives under FDA's generally recognized as safe (GRAS) notification program, food contact substances, and food ingredients, and preparing dossiers for regulatory submission to FDA, EFSA, and JECFA.



TREASURER – Nicole Olgun, PhD, DABT
Senior Toxicologist - J.S. Held LLC



Dr. Nicole Olgun is a board-certified toxicologist with 15 years of professional experience in designing and conducting scientific research, multidisciplinary toxicology, product stewardship, litigation support, nonclinical safety evaluation of medical devices, consumer product safety, and human health risk assessment. Dr. Olgun has provided technical assistance in legal cases regarding toxicological exposure to asbestos, silica, COVID-19, lead, and benzene. In her current role as a senior toxicologist at J.S. Held, she continues to provide support for litigation, and human health risk assessments.

Dr. Olgun completed her PhD in Toxicology at St. John's University and did her post-doctoral training at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, where her research focused on occupational exposures and adverse reproductive outcomes. While employed by the federal government, Dr. Olgun received multiple awards for her response efforts during the Zika Virus endemic and the COVID-19 pandemic.

POSTDOCTORAL REPRESENTATIVE – Xing Chen, PhD

Dr. Xing Chen is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Systems Toxicology at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). She earned her PhD in Veterinary Medicine from Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine in Japan, following an MS in Veterinary Medicine from Shanghai Ocean University in China. Dr. Chen's research focuses on environmental toxicology, high-throughput screening, and the mechanistic evaluation of endocrine-disrupting chemicals using in vitro systems and aquatic animal models. Her work integrates molecular toxicology with translational science to support chemical hazard assessment and human health relevance. She has authored more than 15 peer-reviewed publications and has presented her research at numerous scientific meetings and conferences. An active member of the Society of Toxicology (SOT), Dr. Chen has presented her work at multiple SOT Annual Meetings from 2015 to 2026. She has held diverse leadership and research roles, including serving as a Young Scientist with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and leading projects in neurodevelopmental toxicity and viral pathogen detection.



GRADUATE STUDENT VICE REPRESENTATIVE – Priscilla Kini

Priscilla Kini is a PhD student at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where her research focuses on reproductive toxicology, with an emphasis on PFAS exposure and placental toxicity. Her work examines the effects of environmental contaminants on maternal and fetal health. As an active member of NCAC-SOT, Priscilla is committed to advancing toxicological research, fostering trainee engagement, and promoting diversity in the scientific community. She is honored to serve and contribute to NCAC-SOT's mission.



**COUNCILOR – WEBSITE COORDINATOR – Ravinder Paul Lal, M.S.
US Federal Government Civilian (Retired)**

Ravinder Paul Lal is a former US Federal Government Civilian who served as a Chemical Engineer for over 20 years in Chemical Biological (CB) Defense Science & Technology Research in support of US National CB Defense Programs, at Edgewood chemical Biological Center (ECBC), US Army RDECOM, APG MD. Ravinder has Identified and solved challenges in CB Defense Technologies for CB detection and developed innovative CB Technology solutions to advance CB Defense capabilities. He Developed and conducted, ECBC, R&T approved Biosafety Level 1, SOPs, and ensured compliance for biological laboratory safety. Ravinder has planned and conducted biotechnology and Bioprocess Engineering

for production of Urease enzyme from a thermophilic bacterium, and optimized manufacturing product bioprocess scale-up to 110-liter urease fermentation. He presented at professional conferences and authored ECBC Technical reports.

Ravinder Paul Lal holds a Master of Science and a Master of Technology in Chemistry from IIT Delhi, India, and a Master of Chemical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago. Ravinder has been a Society of Toxicology member since 2020 and an American Chemical Society (ACS) member since 1976. Ravinder has served as an alternate Councilor for ACS Local Section, Chemical Society Washington (2023-2025).