



Southern California Chapter of
Society of Toxicology

NEWSLETTER

February 13, 2026

President's Message



Dear SoCal SOT Members,

It is a true honor to serve on the leadership council and to work alongside such a remarkable council. Over the past 7 years on the SoCal council, I have had the privilege of learning from dedicated professionals whose commitment, insight, and generosity continue to shape our community. The friendships and partnerships formed here are ones I will value for a lifetime.

Each year, I am inspired by how selflessly our council members work together to ensure that our annual meeting is thoughtfully organized and welcoming to the diverse scientific community we represent. Our shared purpose is clear: to strengthen our discipline and to integrate everyone with an interest in toxicology across Southern California!

The chapter believes deeply in the potential of our student and postdoc members, and we remain committed to providing them with meaningful opportunities to grow. This is why we have integrated short talks and poster presentations into our annual meeting—giving students a platform to share their work, gain visibility, and engage more formally with the broader scientific community via mentor-mentee interactions. These efforts are made possible through the generous support of our industry partners, whose contributions form the foundation that allows us to invest in the next generation and continue advancing the field of toxicology.

As we look ahead, I encourage each of you to vote for the new chapter leadership. Serving in this capacity has been one of the most fulfilling and energizing experiences of my career. It offers a chance to make a lasting impact, to help shape our chapter's direction, and to support the growth of our local scientific community. Thank you for your continued dedication, collaboration, and passion.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual SOT meeting in San Diego, CA and cordially invite you to attend the joint SoCal & Northeast SOT mingle. Keep reading to find the exclusive details!

Kind regards,

Tejas Lahoti, PhD, DABT

President, Southern California Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology



Executive Committee members at the SCCSOT Fall Symposium! From left to right: Adam Filipowicz, Amy Tran-Guzman, Jeanette Sullivan, Sabitha Papineni, Patrick Allard, Christine Hoffmaster, Allen Louie, Tejas Lahoti, Dale Baker, Elena Elkin.

Fall Meetings Scientific Sessions

On October 15, 2025, the SCCSOT regional chapter convened once again at the Ionis Conference Center in Carlsbad for a full day of scientific exchange and professional networking. The theme of this year's meeting, "Advancements in Toxicology – From Mechanisms to Biotherapeutics," underscored the breadth of innovation occurring within the pharmaceutical industry. The event drew a record-breaking 140+ attendees and sponsorship from 24 vendors, reflecting the continued growth and engagement of our regional scientific community. With exceptional talks from:



Laura Leung, PhD
Avidity Biosciences



Hao Chen, PhD, DABT
Ionis



Kristen Holbrook, PhD
Johnson & Johnson



April O'Connell, PhD, DABT
Amgen



Mike Templin, PhD
Charles River



Karissa Cottier, PhD
BIOIVT

Trainee Spotlight!

At this year's symposium, pre-doctoral and post-doctoral trainees were invited to present their latest research through both oral and poster presentations. Following a rigorous application review process by our committee, these individuals were selected for their scientific merit, clarity, and impact on the field of toxicology.

We are proud to recognize the following winners of the 2025 Abstract Competition for their outstanding contributions:

First Place (Post-Doc)



Jose Arturo Jimenez Chavez
UCI

First Place (Pre-Doc)



John Hoang
UCR

Second Place (Tie) (Pre-Doc)



Ingrid Cely
UCLA

Second Place (Tie) (Pre-Doc)



Nicole Mohajer
USC

FALL MEETING

MENTORING EVENT

At this year's annual fall meeting, we hosted a lively mentoring roundtable during the lunch hour, connecting over 20 trainees with 11 professional mentors from both industry and academia. This event provided students with unique opportunities for intimate discussions, where they received valuable career advice and gained insights from seasoned professionals. Thank you to all mentors and trainees for making this engaging session a success!

A HUGE thank you to our 2025 mentors: Patrick Allard, Mike Boyle, Jennifer Cohen, Andrea De Vizcaya Ruiz, Elana Elkin, Brandon Jeffy, Eric McDuffie, Caitlin Murphy, Joseph Piccotti, Swati Rawat, Dahea You

Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering to be a mentor for our 2026 fall annual meeting.



FALL MEETING RECEPTION

Following the scientific sessions, attendees convened for the poster session, during which 20 student presenters showcased their research and engaged in scholarly discussions with colleagues. Each student participant received a certificate of appreciation, presented by Ms. Christine Hoffmaster, Vice-President, SoCal SOT, in recognition of their contributions.

Concurrently, an evening reception was held, providing attendees with an additional opportunity to network and enjoy refreshments in a collegial setting. The event concluded with the announcement of three raffle winners, selected from among those who visited all sponsor tables during the scheduled breaks and reception.



BIG THANK YOU To Our Sponsors!

2025-2026

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Thank you to our **FANTASTIC SPONSORS!**
Without your generous donations, we would not be able to host our events!

If you would like to sponsor our chapter, please see below for more information.

Grad Program Info Session

On November 19, 2025, we hosted a virtual information session for trainees who are interested in pursuing their PhDs and applying to graduate programs. Approximately 20 students from across the Southern California region joined the virtual event to explore cutting-edge PhD opportunities in toxicology. Faculty members from Southern California universities SDSU, UC Irvine, UCLA, UCR, and USC shared details about their programs, important deadlines, and application requirements. The discussion provided valuable tips on crafting standout applications, including insights on what makes a candidate unique and advice for developing compelling personal statements.

We are thrilled to launch this new initiative, which offers a simple and effective way for students to explore their options without leaving the region. Given the positive turnout and great conversations, we plan to make this a recurring event. Stay tuned for future sessions as we continue to highlight the excellent PhD opportunities available right here in Southern California.

Thank you to our faculty- Patrick Allard (UCLA), Martine Culty (USC), Elana Elkin (SDSU), Andrea De Vizcaya Ruiz (UCI), and Linlin Zhao (UCR)- and participants for making this a highly informative event!

**THANK
YOU!**

SDSU

UCLA

UCI

UCR

USC

SAVE THE DATE!

SCCSOT - NESOT Joint Mixer

The SHOUT! House

March 23rd | 7-10 PM

655 Fourth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101

REMINDERS

SCCSOT Executive
Council Elections



Coming Soon!

REMINDERS

Follow us on
LinkedIn by Scanning the QR
Code or
Searching for SCCSOT.



FOLLOW

US ON LINKEDIN



Search Southern California Chapter of
Society of Toxicology (SCCSOT)



SCAN ME

REMINDERS

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Become a Member of Our

Chapter

Why become a member?

- Mentorship & Career opportunities
- Awards and Recognition
- Networking and Relationship building
- Leadership opportunities
- Access to webinars

How to become a member?

When paying SOT membership dues, click
Southern California regional chapter –
Chapter membership is FREE

Questions? Contact us @
southerncaliforniasot@gmail.com