



Southern California Chapter of  
Society of Toxicology

# NEWSLETTER

February 18, 2025

## President's Message

As we reflect on this past year, it's incredible how quickly time has flown and how much we've accomplished together as a chapter. There is so much to celebrate and be proud of!



First, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our phenomenal team for their unwavering commitment and hard work:

- Tejas Lahoti, Vice President
- Christine Hoffmaster, Vice President-Elect
- Amy Tran-Guzman, Secretary
- Dale Baker, Treasurer
- Gina Yanocho-Hoffman, Past President
- Hemraj Dodiya and Sabitha Papineni, Councilors
- Stacy Schkoda, Postdoctoral Representative
- Rajat Gupta and Allen Louie, Graduate Student Representatives

We kicked off the year with our Fall Meeting, Modern Perspectives in Toxicology, held on October 3, 2024, at Edwards LifeSciences Corp in Irvine, CA. The event featured an exceptional lineup of speakers from academia, government and industry:

- Valerie Hanley (Cal EPA)
- Marina Seme Nelson (LabCorp)
- Grantley Charles (Edwards LifeSciences)
- Andrea De Vizcaya Ruiz (UC Irvine)

A heartfelt congratulations to all our student and postdoctoral awardees for their outstanding posters and presentations (details available in this newsletter). A special thanks to Rajat Gupta and Amy-Tran Guzman for organizing a highly successful mentoring event. The insights and energy shared by our mentors are pivotal in supporting the next generation of scientists. We also owe heartfelt thanks to our sponsors—your support and trust make it possible to host scientific meetings and provide opportunities for trainees.



This year, we made significant strides in expanding our social media presence, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of Allen Louie and Christine Hoffmaster. If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on LinkedIn to stay updated on exciting chapter activities, including webinars, awards, and scientific events.

Don't forget to apply for the trainee travel awards to the Annual Meeting! This is a fantastic opportunity for trainees to gain visibility, showcase their exceptional work, and offset travel costs. Be on the lookout for an email from the membership team with details—applications are due by February 28.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to invite you to the NESOT/SCCSOT Joint Annual Reception on Tuesday, March 18, at 6:00 PM at The Pub, Orlando. This event promises an evening of networking, delicious food, drinks, and engaging conversation with fellow scientists. For those preparing for the ABT exam, this is a perfect opportunity to connect with others and form study groups. Additionally, we're extending our mentoring initiative—whether you're interested in being a mentor or a mentee, we'd love to see you participate. Above all, let's come together to share ideas, build connections, and have fun!

If you have suggestions for the chapter, are interested in sponsoring an event, or would like to get involved, please reach out to us at [southerncaliforniasot@gmail.com](mailto:southerncaliforniasot@gmail.com). Also, don't forget to encourage your colleagues and students to join SCCSOT. As the saying goes, Together Everyone Achieves More—and our strength lies in our TEAM. We can't wait to see you at the Annual Reception!

Warm regards,

Mamta Behl  
President, SCCSOT



**2024 - 2025 SCCSOT Executive Committee**



# 36th Annual Fall Symposium Highlights

Congratulations to all of our presenters and poster and raffle winners!

**1st Place**  
**Adam Filipowicz**



**2nd Place**  
**Alejandro Martinez Santos**



**3rd Place (Tie)**  
**Ashley Schwartz**



**3rd Place (Tie)**  
**Nicholas Jimenez**



**Certificate of Appreciation**  
**Jeanette Sullivan**



**Raffle Winners**  
**Russell Morales Rubio and José Arturo Jiménez Chavez**



We had some wonderfully insightful talks (not all presenters are shown but we appreciate you all)!





# Mentoring Event

Mentors and mentees had lunch together to discuss career goals and science!



## Thank you Mentors!

Patrick Allard, PhD  
UCLA

Nicole Sparks, PhD  
UCI

Michael Boyle, PhD, DABT  
Stealth Biotech

Jason Pinkstaff, PhD, DABT, ERT, RAC  
Pfizer

Caitlin Murphy, PhD, DABT  
Kumquat Biosciences

Andrea De Vizcaya-Ruiz, PhD  
UCI

Marina Seme Nelson, PhD  
Labcorp Drug Development

Ying Huang, PhD  
Western University



# BIG Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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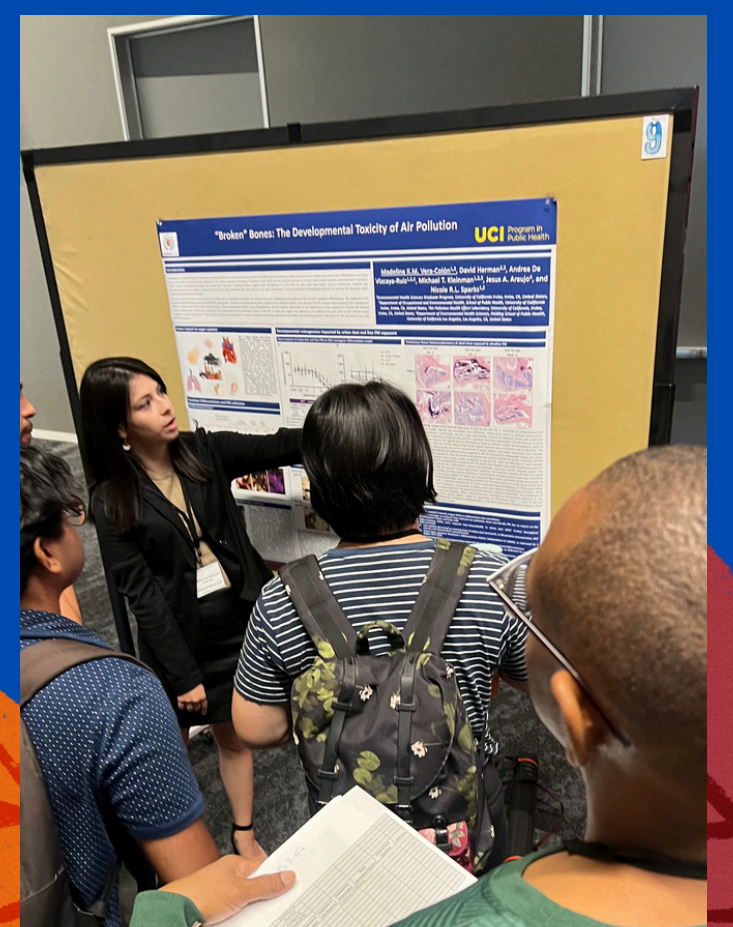
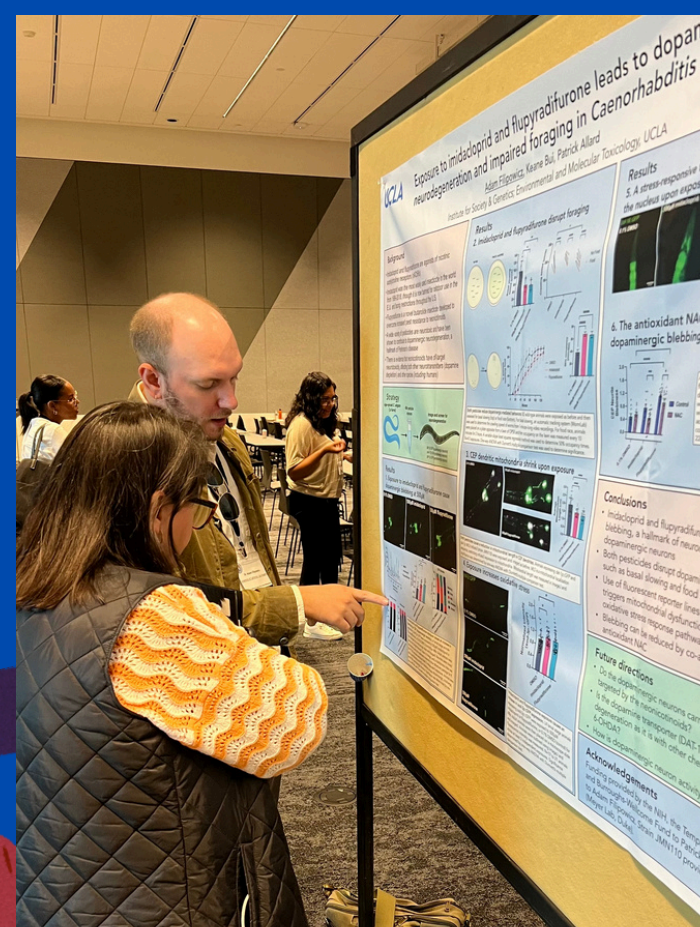
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## Symposium Reception

SCCSOT hosted a fun reception after the symposium! Trainees from all over the SoCal region presented posters while other SCCSOT members caught up with colleagues and enjoyed delicious food.



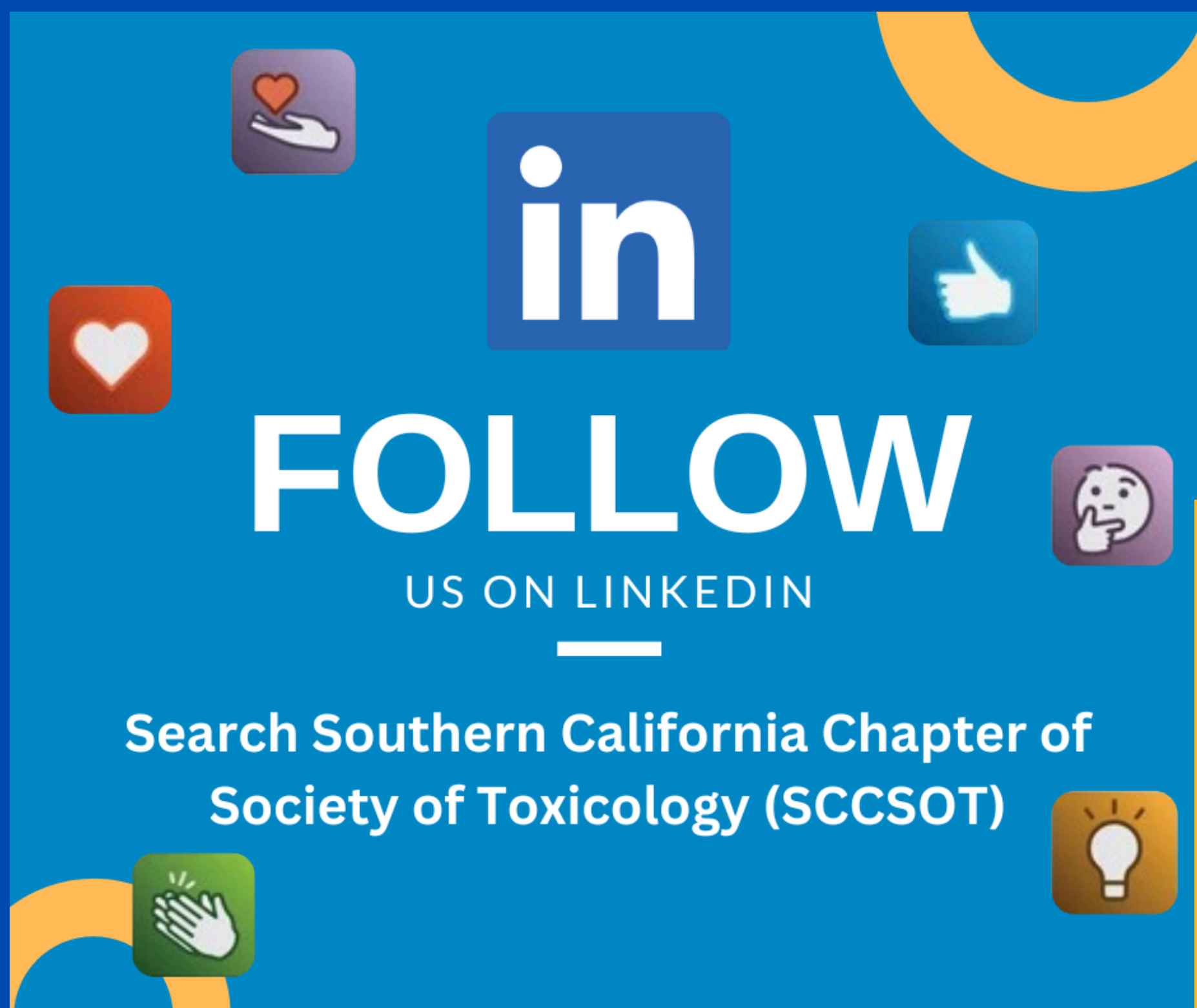


# REMINDERS

Follow us on  
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SCAN ME



**Southern California Regional Chapter**  
OF THE SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY



**Are you preparing for  
the ABT exam?**

SCCSOT would like to help you  
connect with others. This is a great  
opportunity to form study groups  
and increase your chances of  
success!



# REMINDERS

## 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](mailto:southerncaliforniasot@gmail.com)