

Southern California Regional Chapter

ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024

May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

I. Officers:

<u>2023–2024</u>	<u>2024–2025</u>
President: Gina Yanochko-Hoffman Vice President: Mamta Behl Vice President-Elect: Tejas Lahoti Secretary: Elizabeth Baker Treasurer: Dale Baker Past President, Councilor: Keri Cannon Councilor: Hemraj Dodiya Councilor: Tian Xia Postdoctoral Representative: Esther Omaiye Graduate Student Representative: Marisol Arellano Graduate Student Representative: Rajat Gupta	President: Mamta Behl Vice President: Tejas Lahoti Vice President-Elect: Christine Hoffmaster Secretary: Amy Tran-Guzman Treasurer: Dale Baker Past President, Councilor: Gina Yanochko-Hoffman Councilor: Hemraj Dodiya Postdoctoral Representative: Stacy Schkoda Graduate Student Representative: Rajat Gupta Graduate Student Representative: Allen Louie

Committees: NA

II. 2024 Membership total: 179

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:

The Southern California Regional Chapter accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person Regional Chapter meeting/mixer
- Social event at SOT Annual Meeting
- Poster session for trainees
- Trainee awards conferred

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Southern California Regional Chapter collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Northeast

V. Communication Methods:

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

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Regional Chapter website
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Southern California Regional Chapter maintained an inclusive organization through the following activities.

- Solicit equitable input from all executive committee leaders
- Utilize virtual meetings for convening Regional Chapter leadership
- Rotate locations for meetings across sites
- Utilize standardized rubrics for judging awards/posters
- Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
- Waive fees for meetings or membership due to financial hardship
- Highlight trainee research

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Southern California Regional Chapter hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Chat with an expert

VIII. Activities Supporting Undergraduate Students:

The Southern California Regional Chapter engaged undergraduate students with the following activities:

- Attendance at Regional Chapter meeting
- Poster session & short talks at annual meeting; mentoring event

IX. Awards Given:

Trainee	2
Early Career	
Mid Career	
Late Career	

X. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

In-person annual meeting with Mentoring event & co-hosted networking/mixer at national meeting

XI. Strategic Plan:

The Southern California Regional Chapter supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels

XII. Regional Chapter Meeting Highlights

The Southern California had the following highlights from their Annual Meetings:

First time SoCal SOT mentoring event, organized by post-doc and grad student representatives and both undergraduate & graduate students participated in the event as mentees who connected

with professionals in academia, industry, and non-profit sectors; provided students with informational interview & networking opportunities.

XIII. Scientific Topics of Interest:

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

- Regenerative/personalized medicine & role of toxicologist in different professional environments (i.e. pharmaceutical industry, CROs, academia, government, etc)

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?

Additional help with meeting planning & organization could be helpful. Despite the overlap with new & old committee members there does seem to be a feeling of reinventing the wheel especially since, as volunteers and science professionals there isn't a deep knowledge base in this kind of event planning and everyone is "winging it". Are these meetings a requirement? What does HQ see as the goal & mission of the regional chapters?

- 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.)?

The process for reimbursing committee members as well as sending award checks could use some improvement. Last year we had a situation in which a travel award took over 6 months to receive. We noted some improvement with the most recent award season and hopeful there will be continuous improvement with the new systems.