Out Toxicologists and Allies

ANNUAL REPORT: 2022–2023
May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

I. Officers/Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>2022–2023</th>
<th>2023–2024</th>
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<tr>
<td>President:</td>
<td>Samantha Snow</td>
<td>Troy Roepke</td>
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<td>Vice President:</td>
<td>Troy Roepke</td>
<td>Jessica Plavicki</td>
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<td>Vice President-Elect:</td>
<td>Jessica Plavicki</td>
<td>Margaret Whittaker</td>
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<td>Secretary/Treasurer:</td>
<td>Sarah Lacher</td>
<td>Sarah Lacher</td>
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<td>Past President:</td>
<td>Daniella Pizzurro</td>
<td>Samantha Snow</td>
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<td>Councilors:</td>
<td>Phillip Wages</td>
<td>Thomas Lewandowski</td>
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<td>Postdoctoral Representative:</td>
<td>Elvis Ticiani</td>
<td>Lauren Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Representative:</td>
<td>Joanna Woo</td>
<td>Joanna Woo</td>
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Committees:

Programming: Troy Roepke, Phillip Wages, Terra Vincent, Margaret Whittake, Tom Lewandowski

Nominating: Daniella Pizzurro, Martin Phillips, Jessica Plavicki

II. 2022 Membership total: 105

III. Key Outcomes in 2022–2023:

A. Awarded the second Postdoctoral Achievement Award to a postdoctoral OTA member (Dr. Cody Schmidlin, Eli Lilly). The Nominating committee solicited and reviewed 4 applications for this award.

Created and awarded a Mentoring Achievement Award to an OTA member (Dr. Andrij Holian, University of Montana). The Nominating committee solicited and reviewed 2 applications for this award.

B. Produced and disseminated a bi-annual newsletter to membership, led by the Programming Committee. Two issues of the newsletter (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023) were sent to OTA membership.

Further refined roles & responsibilities for each officer as well as responsibilities of the Programming and Nominating Committees with respect to leading activities and efforts throughout the year.

IV. Activities

A. SOT Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, receptions):
   Planned and held OTA’s second in-person member reception during the 2023 Annual Meeting in Nashville. Approximately 150 people attended this event.
B. 2023 Awards Recipients:

**Postdoctoral Achievement Award** awarded to Dr. Cody Schmidlin (Eli Lilly)

**Mentoring Achievement Award** awarded to Dr. Andrij Holian (University of Montana)

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g., webinars, in-person meetings):

NA

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: semi-annual newsletters - June Pride and Fall editions.
2. Communication Highlights: Key Announcements/blogs: Awards solicitation (Summer/Fall) and announcement of upcoming events/reception (prior to SOT Annual meeting)
3. Highlights of website enhancements: Website highlights: Added photos from the Annual Meeting Reception, links to external media added, new officer information.

E. Mentoring Activities:

OTA officers participated in a mentoring event at SOT 2023, which was sponsored by OTA.

Future plans regarding mentoring are 1) plan a webinar mentoring event for trainees in Fall 2023 and 2) sponsor and participate in the annual SOT mentoring event."

V. Feedback and Ideas:

A. In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment? Please give examples of any current practices used to support inclusion in processes such as 1) leadership selection and promotion, 2) award descriptions and selection, and 3) endorsement of proposals for the annual meetings.

Our Past-President, Daniella Pizzurro, moderated and chaired a special session on how to promote an inclusive environment in toxicology, which we sponsored. We also have endorsed other proposal that discuss inclusivity and the current President will be speaking at 2024 SOT meeting about OTA efforts on promoting DEI in SOT.

B. What is one thing the Society should be doing that we currently do not do (or do not do effectively) that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?

In 2020, OTA submitted recommendations for updated language pertaining to gender identity and inclusiveness for incorporation in all SOT materials, including SOT bylaws, website, SOT membership, and annual meeting registration materials. OTA recognizes that SOT accepted this proposal and incorporated gender-neutral language into their bylaws. OTA would like SOT to continue to implement our recommendations into other SOT materials, including SOT membership and annual meeting registration forms. We also want to continue the discussion about meeting locations with the Council including the Safe Cities list developed by OTA officers. While we appreciate the current discussions, more actions should be taken to protect our vulnerable members.
Specifically for the upcoming 2024 Annual Meeting, OTA strongly would like to include the option to select pronouns during registration for the Annual Meeting name badges for all future meetings. A list of pronoun options was provided in the original proposal and can be re-issued to SOT Council. We appreciate the availability of pronoun stickers this year at SOT. However, they should be available at a more prominent place in the venue.

C. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

OTA appreciates the recent SOT President’s message acknowledging the challenges associated with the Annual Meeting host cities. OTA implores SOT to continue to scrutinize their choices for host cities, especially with regard to the current climate of abject danger to LGBT+ (and specifically to transgender) members in many States. To be clear, this goes beyond ‘bathroom bills’ and into the territory of laws passed that allow for the demonization and terrorization of trans, nonbinary, and queer individuals, dictating everything from participation in sports to stringent restrictions on health care and attacks on parents caring for their trans children. Hateful rhetoric around LGBT+ people presenting a danger to others and to children have resurfaced in full force at a national level, and certain States/communities are more encouraging of these behaviors than others and put the lives and safety of LGBT+ people at risk.

In efforts to keep ALL SOT members able to safely attend the Annual Meeting, we encourage more efforts to find host cities that are located in places with laws in place that protect LGBT+ individuals, especially women and people of color. In addition, having resources on hand regarding where LGBT+ attendees can turn to in the event of harassment, discrimination, or feeling unsafe would be beneficial.