

# Out Toxicologists and Allies

Special Interest Group of SOT



## FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear OTA Members,

As we look ahead to the SOT 2022 Annual Meeting in March, we hope you'll take the time to read our inaugural edition of the bi-annual newsletter. In it, you'll find updates on OTA's involvement at SOT as well as helpful information on our award and volunteer opportunities! We look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

### Traveling to SOT 2023

- This summer, California [restricted state-funded travel to 17 states](#) (except under limited circumstances), including: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia over anti-LGBTQ legislation recently enacted in those states.
- SOT 2023 will be held at the Nashville Music City Center in Nashville, Tennessee, and OTA members who are employed by the State of California may need to plan accordingly when obtaining approval to attend the following year's annual meeting.
- OTA also raised concerns to the SOT Council about the recent anti-trans bills in Tennessee and the need to develop strategies to protect trans and nonbinary toxicologist who plan on attending SOT in 2023.
- OTA recommends that members contact their regional chapter officers as well as SOT Council directly to express their concerns about safety when traveling to SOT 2023 as well as future selection of National SOT meeting locations.

### Gender Identity and Expression at SOT

- SOT has updated the language in its [Commitment Statement to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#), to include gender identity and expression, reflecting its dedication to improving representation in all forms within the Society: "...The Society asserts that to be a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization, we must be considerate of many factors including, but not limited to, *gender identity*, race/ethnicity, employment sector, nationality and cultural background, geographic location, physical ability, and scientific expertise and perspective." The OTA was involved in this change by proposing guidelines for the Executive Council to follow.
  - All SOT bylaws were updated to be inclusive of all gender identities

### Call for Applicants: Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement Award (Deadline, November 1, 2021)

- This Award is given to a SOT postdoctoral fellow member (current or pending) who has demonstrated outstanding scientific achievement in the field of toxicology and who has also demonstrated leadership and service. Applicants for the Award are not precluded from applying for travel support or other SOT Awards outside of OTA. Applicants who are not OTA members are strongly encouraged to join. More information can be found [here](#).

### Subcommittee Updates:

- Programming Committee
  - This committee develops scientific and educational programs consistent with the objectives of OTA, such as webinars, luncheons, and mentoring activities. The Program Committee also plans the annual reception and completes arrangements for speakers and meeting places. In partnership with the Secretary, it is responsible for submitting all relevant programming documents to the Society of Toxicology Program Committee. Thank you for volunteering to this committee: Margaret H. Whittaker, ToxServices LLC, John T. Piper, Emerald Kalama Chemical, Jessica Ray, PhD Candidate University of Montana!!
- Nominating Committee
  - **We are seeking one more volunteer for the Nominating Committee.** This committee oversees our elections and awards. The Nominating Committee procures funding, solicits applications, and reviews applications for our Graduate Student Travel Award, Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement Award, and Outstanding Young Investigator Award. They also plan the awards ceremony at the annual reception. Please email [outtoxicologistsandallies@gmail.com](mailto:outtoxicologistsandallies@gmail.com) to apply.

### Call for Applicants for Postdoctoral Fellow Representative:

- We are seeking an applicant for our Executive Committee for the remainder of this term concluding May of 2022 with the following expectations:
- Represents postdoc interests to OTA and provides OTA information to postdocs
- Participates in the Postdoctoral Assembly within SOT
- Coordinates OTA representation/participation at student/postdoc reception at SOT annual meeting
- Please email [outtoxicologistsandallies@gmail.com](mailto:outtoxicologistsandallies@gmail.com) to express interest.

### News, Media, and Events on the OTA Website

- The OTA Website features a new [News and Media](#) section where you can find news and media-related updates featuring our LGBTQ+ colleagues, including Executive Board Members Samantha Snow (Vice President) and Troy Roepke (Vice President-Elect).
- The OTA website also has a new [Events](#) section where you can find event-related updates, such as upcoming webinars and meetings. You can also find past webinars, including our [inaugural webinar](#), "Empowering LGBTQ+ Trainees toward Successful and Authentic Careers in Toxicology".

### Donate to OTA

- SOT has formed many special membership groups, including OTA, designed to connect like-minded toxicologists and help advance research and support in specific aspects of toxicology.
- You can donate to OTA by check or credit card by filling out this [form](#). Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help fund our Special Interest Group. Thank you for your kind, unrestricted support!

Stay healthy and safe,

#### **The OTA Executive Board**

Daniella Pizzurro, President

Samantha Snow, Vice President

Troy Roepke, Vice President-Elect

Sarah Lacher, Secretary-Treasurer

Martin Phillips, Past President

Tyler Nicholas, Senior Councilor

Phillip Wages, Junior Councilor

Megumi Matsushita, Graduate Student Representative

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