

Biological Modeling Specialty Section

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024**  
May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

**I. Officers:**

<b>2023–2024</b>	<b>2024–2025</b>
President: Zhoumeng Lin Vice President: John Wambaugh Vice President-Elect: Stephen Edwards Secretary-Treasurer: Dustin Kapraun Past President, Councilor: Patricia Ruiz Councilor: Sudin Bhattacharya Councilor: Wei-Chun Chou Postdoctoral Representative: Qiran Chen Graduate Student Representative: David Umbaugh	President: John Wambaugh Vice President: Stephen Edwards Vice President-Elect: Dustin Kapraun Secretary-Treasurer: Matthew Linakis Past President, Councilor: Zhoumeng Lin Councilor: Xiaoqing Chang Councilor: Wei-Chun Chou Postdoctoral Representative: Qiran Chen Graduate Student Representative: Xue Wu

**II. 2024 Membership total: 139**

**III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:**

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Virtual meetings
- Sponsored session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)

**IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:**

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Risk Assessment
- American Association of Chinese in Toxicology Special Interest Group

**V. Communication Methods:**

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- ToXchange
- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- LinkedIn

## **VI. Promotion of Inclusivity**

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section maintained an inclusive organization through the following activities.

- Nominate a diverse slate of candidates for elections
- Solicit equitable input from all executive committee leaders
- Utilize virtual meetings for convening Specialty Section leadership
- Utilize standardized rubrics for judging awards/posters
- Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
- Highlight trainee research
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

## **VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:**

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Speed mentoring

## **VIII. Awards Given:**

<b>Trainee</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Early Career</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mid Career</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Late Career</b>	

## **IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:**

Activities like membership, student awards, and virtual presentations are all encouraged by BMSS. Future BMSS officer meetings will discuss strategies to increase the diversity and inclusion of the organization's membership, mentorship, and accomplishments, including language changes for award descriptions, outreach, and membership enrollment. We do not anticipate major changes in the way BMSS operates. However, BMSS officers are actively reaching out to potential sponsors to request sponsorships in order to maintain the financial health of BMSS. In the 2023-2024 term, BMSS had one company donor and three individual member donors donating a total of \$2,550 to the general operating fund of BMSS.

## **X. Strategic Plan:**

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future

- Provide training and education that reflects the needs of members
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

**XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:**

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- Appropriate use of generative artificial intelligence; Encouraging FAIR principals in biological modeling (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable)

**XII. 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 Specialty Section?

BMSS appreciates the continued support of the student awards, webinar setups, and preparation of all our activities. The current process to send our messages to our members is not very efficient and requires approval by SOT and some lead time. The financial statements that are provided to BMSS officers through ToxExchange, which describes the operating funds (“general ledgers”) and the Endowment Funds that support BMSS awards, are quite disorganized and difficult to interpret. It would be helpful if SOT could update the format for these statements such that codes and categories used in “financials” and “general ledgers” statements are clearly defined and column headings in “general ledgers” statements align with column contents. It would be even better if SOT could provide alternative methods for BMSS officers to access transaction history and current balances for BMSS accounts. For example, it would be very helpful if SOT could provide real-time access to account statements, such as the data access made available by banks through “online banking” applications. If this is not feasible, hopefully SOT can at least work to make the financial statements easier to read and interpret by applying some of our proposed formatting changes.

B. What is the one thing the Society is currently doing that impacts the Specialty Section that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

SOT no longer shares profits from Annual Meeting revenues with Specialty Sections. This has had a significant impact on the financial health of BMSS. Perhaps SOT can consider reintroducing profit sharing when and if financial circumstances make this possible.