



CARCINOGENESIS

SPECIALTY SECTION

Fall 2026 Newsletter

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Greetings from the SOT Carcinogenesis Specialty Section!

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

This year, the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section celebrates its 40th anniversary. Our Specialty Section was one of the first established in the Society of Toxicology, and our members have played essential roles in our understanding of genotoxic and non-genotoxic carcinogenesis, novel strategies for cancer prevention and early detection, development of safer and more efficacious cancer therapeutics, and chemical regulation to provide the public with safer products. I am honored to serve as the President of the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section for 2026-2027.

Despite all our accomplishments, there is still work to be done. In 2026, an estimated 21 million people worldwide will be diagnosed with cancer, with 1 in 5 people being diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. The American Cancer Society estimates that 1 in 9 men and 1 in 13 women will die from cancer, and that global cancer cases are projected to rise to 34 million globally by 2025. Of particular concern is the increasing rates of aggressive cancers in young people. Because of this, we need to continue to advocate for investment in basic and translational toxicology. Our field is going to be essential to understand these cancers and saving lives, as the increasing incidence of young onset cancers is most likely driven by a changing environment.

This pressing need for increased understanding of carcinogenesis is why I was so inspired by our student and postdoctoral fellow members at the 2026 Annual Society of Toxicology meeting in San Diego. Our young colleagues presented cutting edge work across the broad disciplines of toxicology and carcinogenesis, from understanding ferroptosis in colon cancer therapy, to



We are looking for leaders!

Each fall, we seek volunteers to serve on the Carcinogenesis Leadership Committee. Consider playing a role in shaping our Specialty Section. Our continued success depends on those willing to serve.

We have four positions available for 2027-2028

- **Vice President-Elect**
- **Councilor**
- **Postdoctoral Representative**
- **Graduate Student Representative.**

Position descriptions can be found [here](#). Self-nominations are encouraged. Current officers will review nominees, and the ballot will be compiled for election. Watch for the call for nominations

Why run?

Councilor- “You can contribute to SOT programming, advertise the section’s success, and promote carcinogenesis content year-round.”

Postdoc- “This is a great opportunity to get involved with the Specialty Section, build connections with researchers at different career stages, and learn about the exciting work your peers are doing in the field. It is also a chance to represent the voices and perspectives of fellow postdocs and help shape activities that support the postdoctoral community.”

Graduate Student- “You can have a direct role in developing professional skills, having input on session proposals and ensuring the section’s success.”

understanding RNA binding proteins and their roles in liver carcinogenesis, to developing novel biomarkers linking environmental exposures and cancer risk. Huge congratulations to our outstanding award winners! It was great to have the chance to interact with our members at our reception, catching up with old friends, and meeting new ones. I’d like to personally thank all our members who presented their work, with a particular thank you going to those of you who planned and submitted the symposia, workshops, and roundtables which made the 2026 Annual Meeting such a success.

This year, CSS will continue our mission of promoting basic and applied carcinogenesis research, promoting and presenting topical carcinogenesis research, building a network of researchers and practitioners dedicated to fighting cancer, and developing the next generation of carcinogenesis-focused SOT members. We’ll stay connected in multiple ways – in person in meetings and virtually through webinars, workshops, and social networks like our CSS LinkedIn.

It is already time to start turning our attention to the 2027 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, in my home state of Texas. We’ll continue to offer award opportunities for our outstanding graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty members. Please share these opportunities broadly, a major goal of ours is to broaden and diversify our already outstanding applicant pool. These awards are also a major recruitment tool to recruit bright new members to join CSS. Award descriptions can be found on the CSS website, and awards-related questions can be directed to Xiang Xue, our Vice President, who will oversee our awards committee this year.

If you are interested in being involved in CSS leadership, we will have 4 positions open: the Vice President-Elect (who will start the President Chain) as well as a Councilor, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Graduate Student Representative. The Vice President-Elect position has an overall 4-year commitment, while the Councilor, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Graduate Student positions each have a 2-year term. Willam Bisson, our Past President, will be leading our nominating committee.

Please also do not hesitate to reach out to me or the other CSS leaders to share your thoughts on how to continue to grow the section and improve our events and activities. I encourage you to invite friends and colleagues to join CSS and come to our reception at the 2027 annual meeting. We have a bright and dedicated membership and working together, we can continue to positively impact our specialty section, the Society of Toxicology, and the public’s health more broadly.

Finally, as funding cuts are becoming the norm and prices are on the rise, the generous donations of CSS members and friends become more and more important for the successful operations of the section as well as our ability to

Apply for Awards

2027 Call for Applications

The Carcinogenesis Specialty Section offers the following awards:

CSS Dharm V. Singh Carcinogenesis Graduate Student Endowment Award

CSS Environmental Carcinogenesis Merit Award for Graduate Students

CSS Environmental Carcinogenesis Merit Award for Postdoctoral Researchers

CSS James A. Swenberg Carcinogenesis Merit Award for Junior Faculty Members

Nominations and/or applications for 2027 SOT Awards are now being accepted. Apply at <https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/CSS/awards.asp>

Last day to apply is January 12, 2027. Apply Today!

recognize the work of our outstanding junior colleagues. If you are able, I ask that you consider donating to one of our endowment funds or to support our activities. Use the QR code below to make a donation.

I am looking forward to this year's activities and seeing you all in San Antonio in March 2027. Have a wonderful Fall and holiday season.

Sincerely,

Justin Colacino, PhD MPH MA

SUPPORT CSS:



2026 SOT Carcinogenesis Specialty Section Award Winners

CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

James A. Swenberg Carcinogenesis Merit Award for Junior Faculty Members



Dr. Jenny Kay

Postdoctoral Researcher and Young Investigator Award



Dr. Ziwei Wang

Environmental Carcinogenesis Merit Award



Dr. Cati Marques
Postdoctoral
Researcher



Jianhao Feng
Graduate Student

Dharm V. Singh Carcinogenesis Graduate Student Endowment Award



Arafat Oany
1st Place



Rahul Kumar
2nd Place



Mohamed Eltokhy
3rd Place



Please join us!



***The Carcinogenesis Specialty Section Meeting / Reception:
Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk
Monday, March 15th
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Central)***

Join the CSS for our Business Meeting and Reception. The event will include:

- A report of Section activities over the past year
- Award announcements
- Introductions of the 2026-2027 officers, and
- Ample networking opportunities to connect with colleagues.

This event is open to all in-person Annual Meeting attendees interested in joining the Section, regardless of current membership status with the group.



SOT 2027 CSS Sponsored Events:

Monday, March 15th, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM



Scientific Session: How Do Chemical Exposures Affect the Tumor-Immune Microenvironment?

Chairs: Richard Currie, Syngenta, Jealott's Hill International Research Center; Jenna Miller, University of Michigan School of Public Health

Primary Endorser: Carcinogenesis Specialty Section

Other Endorsers: Immunotoxicology Specialty Section; Women in Toxicology Special Interest Group

Tuesday, March 16th, 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM



Scientific Session: Cancer Risk: It's Not a Straight Line

Chairs: Ann Lowit, US EPA; Gina Hilton, PETA Science Consortium International e.V.

Primary Endorser: Risk Assessment Specialty Section

Other Endorsers: Carcinogenesis Specialty Section; Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section

Wednesday, March 17th, 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM



Common Pathways, Divergent Outcomes: Decoding Complexity in Chemical Carcinogenesis

Chairs: William Bisson, Integrative Toxicology and Cancer Prevention; Christa Wright, Chemical Insights Research Institute

Primary Endorser: Clinical and Translational Toxicology Specialty Section

Other Endorsers: Carcinogenesis Specialty Section;

Wednesday, March 17th, 2:45 PM to 4:00 PM



Scientific Session: Molecular Biomarkers for Early Assessment of Cancer Risk

Chairs: Udayan Apte, Kansas University Medical Center; Connie Mitchell, Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI)

Primary Endorser: Carcinogenesis Specialty Section

Other Endorsers: Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section; Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section

Celebrating Member Accomplishments

Congratulations on your well-deserved success! It's inspiring to see your dedication and hard work recognized. Your contributions are invaluable to the team.

Awards

Xiang Xue International Digestive Disease Forum (IDDF) Travel Grant

William Bisson, Amy Wang, Danila Cuomo 2026 NIEHS Director's Merit Award for Outstanding leadership in modernizing the Report on Carcinogens Handbook

Publications

Lunn R...Bisson W...et al. 2026. Environmental International. Novel and Rigorous Methods for Identifying Cancer Hazards: the Updated Report on Carcinogens Handbook. In press

Cuomo...Bisson...et al. 2026 ACS Environmental Health Perspectives. Mapping ToxCast/Tox21 Assay Endpoints to Key Characteristics of Carcinogens to Support Cancer Hazard Identification. In press

Kay JE, Shakti R, McEneaney JT, Polsky C, Schwarzman M, Rudel RA. "Guiding risk reduction for breast cancer-relevant chemicals: Production, sources, intake levels, emissions, and regulations." Environmental Health Perspectives, 2026, DOI: 10.1021/EHP.6c00022

Kay JE, Corrigan JJ, Volk LB, Armijo AL, Nazari IS, Torous DK, Avlasevich SL, Croy RG, Wadduwage DN, Dertinger SD, Essigmann JM, Samson LD, Engelward BP. "Sex and Alkyladenine DNA Glycosylase Expression are Key Susceptibility Factors for NDMA-induced Mutations, Toxicity, and Cancer." *DNA Repair*, 2026, DOI: 10.1016/j.dnarep.2026.103955

Matteo G, Eickmeyer DC, Bradford LM, Meier MJ, Williams A, Barton-Maclaren T, Corton JC, Yauk CL, Atlas E. "Chemicals in plastics differentially affect the transcriptome of MCF-7 breast cancer cells." *Arch Toxicol*. 2026 Jul;100(7):3011-3024. doi: 10.1007/s00204-026-04376-1. PMID: 42010127

Wu X, Padilla JB, Smith LE, Goodla L, Villareal LB, Leslie KK, Xue X. "Curcumin analogues trigger heme oxygenase-1-mediated ferroptosis to halt endometrial cancer growth." *Cell Death* July 2026, 100015.

Nail AN, Banerjee M, Xu M, Reynolds CH, Stýblo M, Cable PH, Wilkey DW, Merchant ML, Ferragut Cardoso AP, Thomas SD, States JC. "Deficient arsenic methylation and global proteomic reprogramming in human keratinocytes during arsenic-induced skin carcinogenesis." *Arch Toxicol*. 2026 Jun 27;10.1007/s00204-026-04478-w. doi: 10.1007/s00204-026-04478-w. PMID: 42362746

Villareal LB, Liang Y, Kwon YY, Hui S, Xue X. "Iron-driven regulation of nucleotide synthesis reveals metabolic vulnerabilities in colorectal cancer." *Genes Dis*, 27 May 2026, 102261.

Hernández AF, Jeddi MZ, Wilks MF, FitzGerald R, Duca RC, Villeneuve D, Viegas S, Hotta A, Baucher MA, Browne P, Scholten B, Simon E, Poddalgoda D, Bal-Price A, Mustieles V, van Thriel C, Bonassi S, Fenech M, Ndaw S, Pieper C, Rissler J, Paini A, Farcas L, Schmid K, Pasanen-Kase R, Hopf NB. "Using effect biomarker thresholds in regulatory risk assessment: an OECD-based framework for assessing cumulative exposures to chemical mixtures." *Environ Int*. 2026 May; 211:110215. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2026.110215.

Karmaus A, Bisson W, et al. 2026 F1000Res. *Methods2AOP: A Collaboration to Strengthen the Integration of Test Methods into the Adverse Outcome Pathway Framework*. DOI: 10.12688/f1000research.172881.2.

Presentations

William Bisson. *Symposia Session Speaker, Bridging Cancer Hazards and Risk Assessment for Harmonized Regulatory Decision Making*, 2026 EUROTOX Congress. Sept 15, 2026; Vienna, Austria.

Amber Goetz. *Symposia Session Speaker, Maximizing Existing Data: The ReCAAP Framework for Agrochemical Carcinogenicity Assessment*, 2026 EUROTOX Congress. Sept 14, 2026; Vienna, Austria.

J.E. Kay. "Mutations from occupational exposures in female firefighters." *International Association for Fire Fighters Strive for Excellence Conference*. Apr 1, 2026; Las Vegas, NV

J.E. Kay. "Key Characteristics of Carcinogens: What they are and how we can use them." *International Association for Fire Fighters Strive for Excellence Conference*. Apr 2, 2026; Las Vegas, NV

Xiang Xue. *Platform Session Chair, Inside Out: Micro- and Nanoplastics Across Tissues and Fluids*, 2026 SOT Annual Meeting. Mar 24, 2026; San Diego, CA

Xiang Xue. *Symposium Chair, Metal Matters: Tracing the Path from Exposure to Carcinogenesis. The 16th Conference of the International Society for Trace Element Research in Humans (ISTERH)*. Jun 03-06, 2026; São Paulo, Brazil

Xiang Xue. *Webinar Chair, AACT Awardee Webinar* Oct 27, 2026

Nancy B Hopf. "Translating innovation into regulation (OECD standards) - The major challenge for the new century." *14th International Conference on Environmental Mutagens (ICEM)*. Sept 9, 2026; Edinburgh, Scotland

Upcoming Meetings with CSS Sponsored / Supported Presentations

Be on the lookout for upcoming sponsored symposium in partnership with Michigan Center on Lifestage Environmental Exposures and Disease

Environmental Pathways in Carcinogenesis

This Year's Focus: Mechanisms, Biomarkers, and Next-Gen Risk Assessment

Monday, October 19, 2026

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM US EDT

Dear CSS members.

We are pleased to share that we have partnered with the **Michigan Center on Lifestage Environmental Exposures and Disease** for an upcoming online symposium on **Environmental Pathways in Carcinogenesis**. An overview of the program and registration are below. We hope to see you there!

CSS Leadership

Environmental Pathways in Carcinogenesis

This Year's Focus: Mechanisms, Biomarkers, and Next-Gen Risk Assessment

Monday, October 19, 2026

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM US EDT

Session 1. Mechanisms: Understanding the role of plasticity and the microenvironment in carcinogenesis using systems toxicology

Chair: Giorgia Del Favero (University of Wien)

Speakers: Annamaria Colacci (University of Bologna), Arun Pandiri (NIEHS), Justin Colacino (University of Michigan)

Session 2. Molecular Epidemiology: Linking exposures to cancer risk and outcomes via molecular biomarkers

Chair: Sue Fenton

Speakers: Dana Dolinoy (University of Michigan), Alexandra White (NIEHS), Christian Coarfa (Baylor College of Medicine)

Session 3. Emerging New Approach Methodologies: Understanding genotoxic and non-genotoxic carcinogens for next generation risk assessment

Chair: William Bisson (ICTP)

Speakers: Miriam Jacobs (UK Health Security Agency), Carole Yauk (University of Ottatwa), Michael DeVito (**US Environmental Protection Agency**)

Session 4. Brainstorming and Future Directions

Moderators: Cheryl Walker (Baylor College of Medicine), Scott Auerbach (NIEHS)

[View Full Schedule](#) and [registration](#)

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio, TX for the 2027 SOT Meeting!



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