

Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section

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

I. Officers:

2023–2024	2024–2025
President: Katharine Horzmann Vice President: Sunish Mohanan Vice President-Elect: Sonika Patial Secretary-Treasurer: Debabrata Mahapatra Past President, Councillor: Gopinath Palanisamy Councillor: Elizabeth Roberts Councillor: Govindarajan Thangavelu Postdoctoral Representative: Catherine Wise Graduate Student Representative: Catherine Rojas	President: Sunish Mohanan Vice President: Sonika Patial Vice President-Elect: Tracey Papenfuss Secretary-Treasurer: Debabrata Mahapatra Past President, Councillor: Katharine Horzmann Councillor: Govindarajan Thangavelu Councillor: Christina Wilson-Frank Postdoctoral Representative: Ishita Choudhary Graduate Student Representative: Gina Capece

Committees:

Sunish Mohanan – President, Sonika Patial as Vice President, Tracey Papenfuss as Vice President-Elect, Debabrata Mahapatra as Secretary/Treasurer, Elizabeth Roberts and Christina Wilson-Frank as Councillors, Ishita Choudhary as Postdoctoral Representative, and Gina Capece as Graduate Student Representative

II. 2024 Membership total: 146

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary 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
- Poster session for trainees
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Member highlights
- Newsletter(s)
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- Utilized/expanded Endowment Fund(s) for Component Group

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section collaborated with the

following organizations within SOT.

- Ocular Toxicology

V. Communication Methods:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- ToXchange
- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary 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
- Include inclusive descriptions of Awards
- Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
- Highlight trainee research
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
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- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Career panel(s)
- Speed mentoring
- Chat with an expert
- Actively recruit members to be part of the SOT Mentor Match system

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	4
Early Career	4
Mid Career	1
Late Career	1

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

Successful organization of virtual business meeting ahead of the SOT annual conference; Well attended scientific symposium on Ocular toxicologic pathology at the annual conference

X. Strategic Plan:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- 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 Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- AI influence in toxicology and comparative biology; In depth regulatory landscape and requirements session

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?

Reinstituting mentoring event financial support would be crucial to continue to this important focus for Specialty Section.

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.)?

Lack of clarity on One Health initiatives in multiple Specialty Sections and would benefit from a broader discussion on a focused approach; Annual luncheon room was far removed from accessible area which affects attendance.