Hello fellow CVSS members, and Happy Fall!

Your CVSS officers have been busy since the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, working on developing items for the 2019 SOT Annual Meeting, as well as bringing new programs online for all of our members. Inside this newsletter, you will read about highlights to watch out for in Baltimore from the CVSS; mentoring activities; graduate student updates; recruitment efforts; membership features; ToxScholar reports and more!

Please feel free to connect with any of the officers regarding questions you may have, new ideas or directions for the CVSS, or to volunteer your time to support our specialty section and allow us to be as productive as possible. Fall is a time for a lot of preparation for the Annual Meeting; we look forward to seeing many of you in Baltimore, particularly at our luncheon reception on Wednesday March 13th. Please remind your graduate and DVM students to apply for the CVSS awards!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President, I am looking forward to the coming year!

Jennifer Duringer, PhD
President, CVSS
CVSS ELECTIONS 2019 – APPLY FOR OFFICER POSITIONS

We are preparing for election season within SOT Specialty Sections. The CVSS is currently seeking nominations for the positions of Vice President-Elect, 1st year Councilor, Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Representatives. We hope that you will consider joining the CVSS leadership by submitting your bio sketch to our Past President, Jackie Kinyamu-Akunda by December 28th. Candidates for Vice President-Elect must be Full, Associate, Retired, or Emeritus members of SOT. If you work with any graduate students or postdoctoral scholars, please encourage them to submit a bio sketch. Position descriptions can be found here. Volunteering with the CVSS and greater SOT leadership provides a great experience for networking and a platform for contributing your vision to what you want to see at SOT. Please feel free to reach out to CVSS if you have any questions.

MENTORING EVENT 2019

For those of you who assisted with our mentoring event last year, thank you! For those not present, we hosted a mentoring session for graduate students and postdocs at this past SOT Annual Meeting in San Antonio. During the session, students participated in small group discussions with mentors from academia, industry, and government. We plan to host a similar event at the 2019 SOT Annual Meeting. Marcus and Brittany are tackling this project, and as the next SOT Annual Meeting approaches, we will share further details and request CVSS mentors. In addition to the mentoring sessions at annual meetings, Marcus and Brittany are working to improve mentorship opportunities within the CVSS. Ideas include a book club, an Individual Development Plan workshop, and webinars. A survey for CVSS graduate students and postdoctoral members was recently distributed to specialty section members. The results of this survey will allow Marcus and Brittany to tailor CVSS mentorship events to the needs of our graduate students and postdoctoral members.

Outside of CVSS, the Graduate Student Leadership Committee is hosting a podcast-style series titled “Interview with an Expert” for all graduate student SOT members. These podcasts will feature an interview of a professional toxicologist by a graduate student, followed by a live Q&A session for attendees. Students should read email communications from the GSLC to keep informed on these sessions. The first one featured Melissa Badding, PhD, DABT, from the consulting firm Exponent. A recording can be found here.
Inspiration! When you get inspired you naturally tend to pass on such inspiration to someone else. As a long-term advocate/volunteer for education and science outreach focused on next-generation students, I recently had a wonderful opportunity for another inspiring outreach. With support from Society of Toxicology (SOT) International ToxScholar Outreach Grant, I visited four rural teaching and research institutions in southern India. Supported by SOT-Education Committee, the goal of this program is to expand the awareness and to inspire the next generation from developing nations to Toxicology.

The visit was productive and inspired many. Through interactive workshop and seminars, I addressed various career paths in toxicology, different ways veterinary subspecialties can cross-discipline with toxicology, application process for the graduate programs in the US, how to choose graduate school and importance of soft skill development, etc. It was so satisfying to witness so many young veterinarians/researchers keen on pursuing advanced education abroad and considering expanding their career path from traditional paths. As a veterinary scientist from a developing country, it was a great pleasure to go back and share the journey and process that brought me to where I am now. Overall the visit was impactful in inspiring the next generation veterinarians especially women students to advanced education in general and toxicology in specific.

I strongly recommend CVSS members to use of the ToxScholar funding opportunity to support and inspire the next generation. The official International ToxScholar Visit Report is available at SOT website.

Logeswari Ponnusamy, DVM, MVSc, PhD, Principal Scientist (Regulatory Toxicology), Zoetis, MI
SOT-CVSS Councilor

Satya Achanta, DVM, PhD, Postdoctoral Representative of CVSS was a previous recipient of this award in 2016 https://toxchange.toxicology.org/p/bl/ar/blogaid=1909.

To learn more about ToxScholar Outreach grants http://www.toxicology.org/awards/gf/toxscholar.asp
ATTENTION GRADUATE AND VETERINARY STUDENTS! or their mentors!

CVSS Encourages Graduate and Veterinary Students to apply for CVSS awards.

Roger O. McClellan Student Endowment Award

Nominees for the Award must be individuals who are enrolled in a program leading to a DVM degree or in post-DVM residency or graduate program. The awardee must be a member of the SOT (any level) or have an application pending.

The abstract must be submitted and accepted through the regular SOT submission process. This research must be hypothesis driven. Special consideration will be given to abstracts that exemplify the role of comparative medicine in evaluating the safety/risk of exposure to chemicals or physical agents.

Email applications to one of the following CVSS/TEPSS joint selection committee members: Sunish Mohanan (CVSS) or Vinicius Carreira (TEPSS) by January 14th 2019

CVSS Student Travel Award

Any current graduate student whose abstract has been accepted by SOT for presentation at the SOT Annual Meeting may apply. Preference will be given to those submissions that support the mission of CVSS. First ($500) and second ($300) prizes, each including an award plaque, will be based on the best posters.

For questions and submissions, please contact Sabitha Papineni

Award Criteria & Description: http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/cvss/submit.asp
Increasing CVSS membership and Student engagement

We are continually trying to increase awareness of our Specialty Section to students and other professionals. Over this past summer, I had the opportunity to travel to the Boehringer Ingelheim – NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium once again to promote the CVSS. This year, it was hosted by Texas A&M. At this annual symposium, veterinary students from schools all over the United States (and some abroad!) present their summer research. The main purpose for my visit was to attend and present a poster at the DVM/PhD Colloquium before the actual symposium, but I was able to secure a table this year for CVSS. At my table, I displayed the CVSS poster, provided materials with information about SOT, spoke with interested students, provided a sign-up sheet for more information about CVSS and our awards, and I made sure candy was available (the most important recruitment tool of course!). As I did last year, I spent time during most of the poster sessions visiting the posters of students who performed research in the field of toxicology. I encouraged these students to visit our table for more information, and I was able to collect more than a dozen names/emails. I sent all interested individuals an email containing details about SOT, CVSS, CVSS Awards, and the SOT Annual Meeting. While I hope my email will inspire some DVM students to join SOT, I know I have one DVM student interested in recruiting a CVSS speaker for a pathology club meeting. I would call that a success! The CVSS leadership is currently in discussion on the possibility of hosting a webinar with information on Toxicology as a career for DVM students. In the following years, I hope that we can continue to have CVSS presence at this annual symposium. If you mentor any DVM students, we encourage you to have them join CVSS.

Brittany Szafran, DVM
PhD Candidate
Mississippi State University
CVSS Graduate Student Representative

More we are, more we get in, and more we can do together!
Please encourage your colleagues to consider joining CVSS!
Fundraising Campaign

Donate to your scientific community and see immediate returns! The SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) and GSLC, with the support of Endowment Fund Board, have come together to raise a fund that will be used towards the benefit of the student and postdoctoral members of SOT. Please consider donating the suggested $20 by December 2018. The funds collected will be used to buy an annual subscription to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Career Development Courses (March 2019-2020). Early career trainees will be given access to seats, depending upon the amount collected. Joining together, we can do more than we can do alone! **Contribute today to the Rising Star Fund.**

Please Consider Supporting SOT CVSS Endowment Funds

Our CVSS/TEPSS joint endowment fund, Roger O. McClellan Student Award Fund that enable CVSS provide award for outstanding DVM/PhD Students. Your contribution will enable CVSS to recognize an outstanding individual for her/his accomplishment in the Veterinary Toxicology field. To review the fund and donate, kindly visit [CVSS](#).

Reminder: Update your SOT ToXchange Profile

Now is the time to update your SOT profile on ToXchange!

This membership directory serves you and others in many ways including for potential employers to search for their candidates, networking with current and future members and for SOT members to reach out to potential mentors. **Update your profile** and help others!

Ways to Get Involved with CVSS

- Volunteer to serve on a CVSS committee
- Nominate yourself for an officer position
- Serve as a CVSS Mentor
- Attend Annual CVSS Luncheon

Click [here](#) to join the SOT Comparative and Veterinary Specialty Section!

Click [here](#) to contact us and receive more information about a career in toxicology & Comparative and Veterinary Specialty!
Save the Date: SOT 2019!

When: March 10-14, 2019
Where: Baltimore, MD
Elections 2019 Biosketch submission deadline: 12.28.2018

CVSS website: https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/cvss/index.asp