

Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2024–2025**

May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

**I. Officers:**

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
President: Satoko Kiyota Vice President: Wenyue Hu Vice President-Elect: Marianna Stamou Secretary-Treasurer: Sarah Carratt Past President, Councilor: Jonathan Maher Councilor: Laura Armstrong Councilor: Brita Kilburg-Basnyat Postdoctoral Representative: Dakota Robarts Graduate Student Representative: Zakiyah Henry	President: Wenyue Hu Vice President: Marianna Stamou Vice President Elect: Kai Wu Past President, Councilor: Satoko Kiyota Secretary-Treasurer: Sarah Carratt Councilor: Hemantkumar Chavan Councilor: Brita Kilburg-Basnyat Postdoctoral Representative: Siddhi Jain Graduate Student Representative: Tiancheng Hu

**Committees:**

None

**II. 2025 Membership total: 247**

**III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:**

The Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- Utilized/expanded Endowment Fund(s) for Component Group

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

The Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Computational Toxicology
- British Toxicology Society Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section, SOT Women in Toxicology

**V. Communication Methods:**

The Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

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

**VI. Promotion of Inclusivity**

The Drug Discovery Toxicology 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
- Waive fees for meetings or membership due to financial hardship
- Highlight trainee research
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

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

The Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Mentoring luncheon/reception

**VIII. Awards Given:**

<b>Trainee</b>	6
<b>Early Career</b>	0
<b>Mid Career</b>	1
<b>Late Career</b>	0

**IX. Strategic Plan:**

The Drug Discovery Toxicology 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

**X. Scientific Topics of Interest:**

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

- We saw a lot of requests for endorsement on NAMs and AI scientific topics this year, so that is clearly important to our membership. However, we are concerned that these topics and sessions are potentially redundant and suggest that SOT attempt to either facilitate collaboration among groups submitting content or provide advice to session developers on how to clearly differentiate their sessions. Of note, DDTSS is interested in the FDA review process for NDA/IB/INDs and the role of AI in regulatory filings.

**XI. 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?

DDTSS is committed to helping trainees and demystifying the industry job application process/career paths available. However, we have struggled to develop content for trainees due to feedback that our content was redundant with other ongoing efforts. It would be helpful if SOT would take a more proactive role in helping component groups identify what trainees are looking for/missing so that we could develop non-overlapping content to support them. Related, we would appreciate if SOT took a more active role in coordinating mentoring events at the annual meeting such that there was less overlap in scheduling. We are open to suggestions from SOT for combining events with other component groups if that would be better for trainees. Mentoring lunches/events are impacted by trainees having too many conflicts at the annual meeting.

- 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's process for scheduling webinars currently involves submitting a form that includes which date we would like. However, it can be difficult to communicate in advance about which dates are available and understand some of the logistics involved (how to run a webinar, how much time is needed, etc). Additional technical support and communication about how to schedule and develop webinars would be useful.