

Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Wen Yue 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	President: Marianna Stamou Vice President: Kai Wu Vice President-Elect: William Proctor Secretary-Treasurer: Kelley Patten Past President, Councilor: Wen Yue Hu Councilor: Mamta Behl Councilor: Hemantkumar Chavan Postdoctoral Representative: Siddhi Jain Graduate Student Representative: Tiancheng Hu

Committees:

No appointed committees

II. 2026 Membership total: 233

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

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.

- SOT Women in Toxicology Special Interest Group

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.

- Networking luncheon/reception

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	3
Early Career	3
Mid Career	0
Late Career	1

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- Strategic Member Engagement & Scientific Content:** We broadened our educational reach and member interaction throughout the year through targeted events, awards, and networking opportunities.
- High-Impact Scientific Webinars:** DDTSS successfully hosted the DDTSS Award Recipients/Winners Webinar in November 2025, featuring a presentation by the recipient of our prestigious Paper of the Year Award. Additionally, in early 2026 (Jan–Feb), DDTSS co-sponsored a highly successful two-part webinar series on Protein Degradation in collaboration with Women in Toxicology.
- Expanded Professional Networking:** We hosted two major in-person events at the SOT Annual Meeting: the DDTSS Mentoring Event, which provided direct career guidance to early-career scientists, and the CAMAN Network Night. Our overall Annual Reception was exceptional and very well attended by section members.
- Optimization of Section Governance, Awards, and Digital Outreach**
Refined Award Criteria: We strategically updated and clarified the descriptions for our annual awards to provide greater alignment with our scientific scope. This initiative directly led to a higher volume of

top-tier, relevant proposals and nominations.

X. 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

XI. 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.

- Targeted Radioconjugates: Safety evaluation, PK/PD, and translational strategies for novel radiopharmaceutical modalities.
- Differentiated Cell & Gene Therapies (CGT): Dedicated sessions that separate Cell Therapies from Gene Therapies (rather than grouping CGT together) to address their distinct nonclinical toxicity and manufacturing profiles.
- Applied AI in Nonclinical Safety & Decision-Making: Concrete corporate case studies—moving beyond conceptual frameworks or early drug discovery—focusing on specific AI/ML interventions that directly altered nonclinical safety strategies, candidate selection, or safety go/no-go decisions.
- Real-World Corporate Case Studies: Practical, industry-led examples demonstrating how emerging modalities and predictive technologies directly impacted project outcomes and safety assessment strategies.

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?

In our opinion, the introduction meeting for officers was not particularly helpful, as most of the content could have been summarized in an email. DDTSS feels it would be helpful to have more specific instructions for tools or best practices, or more of an interactive meeting that encourages collaboration between Specialty Sections, as there is not much opportunity otherwise to do so.

In addition, 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 it 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.)?

The timelines to submit sessions for SOT are very rapid and do not leave much time to discuss with potential speakers and submit. In addition, SOT takes a very long time to review. Compression in timelines on the SOT side would help give a bit more of a window for potential sessions to be put together. Similarly, the award review process is fast and during the holiday season. Again, compressed timelines on SOT's end would help with this. 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.