

Food Safety Specialty Section

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

I. Officers:

<u>2023–2024</u>	<u>2024–2025</u>
President: David Szabo Vice President: Amy Roe Vice President-Elect: Kevin Boyd Secretary-Treasurer: Britney Geter Past President, Councilor: Logeswari Ponnusamy Councilor: Kelly Almond-Abbate Councilor: Allison Franzen Councilor: Alexandria Lau Councilor: René Viñas Postdoctoral Representative: Olawande Olagoke Senior Student Representative: Lauren Payne Junior Student Representative: Cassandra Winz	President: Amy Roe Vice President: Kevin Boyd Vice President-Elect: René Viñas Secretary-Treasurer: Heather Burleigh-Flayer Past President, Councilor: David Szabo Councilor: Kelly Almond-Abbate Councilor: Alexandria Lau Councilor: Deval Patel Councilor: Christine Thiffault Senior Student Representative: Cassandra Winz Junior Student Representative: Kaylyn Dinh

II. 2024 Membership total: 204

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:

The Food Safety Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Sponsored session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Member highlights
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Food Safety Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Biotechnology
- Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues
- HOT

V. Communication Methods:

The Food Safety Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Food Safety Specialty Section maintained an inclusive organization through the following activities.

- 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
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Food Safety Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Career panel(s)
- Jointly with HOT and BTSS

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	3
Early Career	3
Mid Career	
Late Career	

We have 4 awards but the Early career scientist award went unfilled, even after several announcements.

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- 1) Mentoring event was a successful collaboration across three groups. Very well attended and positive feedback.
- 2) Increased number of submissions this year, when compared to previous years. This is likely due to active recruiting and advocacy with membership.

X. Strategic Plan:

The Food Safety Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels

XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:

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

- Botanicals, Regulatory differences for ingredients, media misrepresentation, Food safety 101

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?

Provide a percentage of general SOT membership funds for the Component Group budgets.

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.)?

Allow SS to manage membership communications. This would reduce additional complexity by asking for permission through SOT.