

Food Safety Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2021–2022

May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022

I. Officers/Committees

<u>Officer</u>	<u>2021–2022</u>	<u>2022–2023</u>
President:	Sachin Bhusari	Logeswari Ponnusamy
President-Elect/Vice President:	Logeswari Ponnusamy	David Szabo
Secretary/ Treasurer:	David Szabo	Amy Roe
Past President:	Britney Geter	Britney Geter
Councilors:	Chester E. Rodriguez	Sachin Bhusari
	Alexandra Lobach	Fleur de Mooij
	Daniele Wikoff	Lois Haughton
	Fleur de Mooij	Allison Franzen
	Lois Haughton	René Viñas
Postdoctoral Representative:	Sumira Phatak	Olawande Olagoke
Graduate Student Representative:	Benjamin Kistinger	Rebecca Kim
Junior Graduate Student Representative:	Rebecca Kim	Lauren Payne

Committees

- 2021-22 Nomination Committee: Chester E. Rodriguez and Sachin Bhusari
- 2021-22 Program Committee: Logeswari Ponnusamy and David Szabo
- 2021-22 Awards Committee: Daniele Wikoff, Alexandra Lobach and David Szabo
- 2021-22 Newsletter Committee: Lois Haughton, Fleur de Mooij and Rebecca Kim
- 2021 Webinar Committee: Sumira Phatak, Daniele Wikoff and Logeswari Ponnusamy
- 2021 Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee: Alexandra Lobach
- 2021 Mentoring Program Committee: David Szabo, Sumira Phatak, Rebecca Kim and Benjamin Kistinger
- 2021 LinkedIn communication page: Sumira Phatak
- 2021 Annual Business and Reception Preparation Ad Hoc Committee: Sachin Bhusari, Logeswari Ponnusamy, David Szabo, Sumira Phatak, Lois Haughton, Fleur de Mooij, Alexandra Lobach and Britney Geter

II. 2021 Membership total: 240

III. Key Outcomes in 2021–2022:

- The Food Safety SS secured a new “Elsevier Postdoctoral Award” targeted to postdoctoral trainee applicants conducting original research in food safety or related areas. Award is guaranteed for next five years (through FY 26) made possible by the generous contribution made by Elsevier Inc.
- Promoted the education and training of the next generation of Food Safety Toxicologists through the three Food Safety Specialty Awards:
 - The Frank C. Lu Early Career Scientist Award
 - The Frank C. Lu Graduate Student Award
 - The Burdock Student Award
 - Elsevier Postdoctoral Award

- These awards were made possible by contributions of the Burdock Group, the Frank C. Lu Food Safety Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment that is managed by the Food Safety Specialty Section and Elsevier.
- Continue enhancing communication efforts through our LinkedIn page and engage member audience to highlight our early training career awards, acknowledge our sponsors for their generous contributions, and promote training opportunities within Food Safety toxicology.]
- Endorsed the SOT workshop entitled Safety Challenges and Development Strategies Unique to Biotechnology-Derived Products Across Industries
- Endorsed the SOT Roundtable Session - Are Animal Studies Still the “Gold Standard” for Validating New Approach Methods?
- A manuscript titled “A Regulatory Relic: After 60 Years of Research on Cancer Risk, the Delaney Clause Continues to Keep Us in the Past” capturing the highlights from the scientific session on Delaney Clause held at SOT 2019 Annual Meeting and SOT sponsored session at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) 2020 Annual Meeting has been accepted for publication in Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology Journal.

IV. Activities

A. 2022 SOT Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, receptions):

- Food Safety Specialty Section Meeting

Date and Time: Tuesday, March 28, 2022 from 6:00 pm –7:00 pm ET
 Summary: The FS3 reception event included a business meeting that introduced the current officers, learn about current sponsorship, membership, and financial summaries. Highlights were provided about new initiatives, early-career events, and award recipients. The business meeting was finished with a hot topic session on PFAS followed by food and drinks.
- FS3 Endorsed Workshop: Safety Challenges and Development Strategies Unique to Biotechnology-Derived Products Across Industries

Workshop Date: Tue, Mar 29, 2022
 Chair: Tod Harper, Amgen Inc.
 Co-Chair: Rene Vinas, Coca-Cola Company
- FS3 Endorsed Roundtable Session - Are Animal Studies Still the “Gold Standard” for Validating New Approach Methods?

Roundtable Date: Wed, Mar 30, 2022
 Chair: Suzanne Fitzpatrick, US FDA
 Co-Chair: A. Wallace Hayes, USF College of Public Health

B. 2022 Awards Information:

- *Food Safety SS Frank C. Lu Early Career Scientist Award, Food Safety Specialty Section – not awarded (*lack of eligible applicants*)
- *Food Safety SS Frank C. Lu Graduate Student Award, Food Safety Specialty Section

Lauren Heine, SOT 2022 abstract titled “Dietary Omega-Fatty Acid Prevents Silica-Triggered Autoimmune Disease in Adult Lupus-Prone Mice”

*These awards are made possible by the Frank C. Lu Food Safety Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment that is managed by the Food Safety Specialty Section.

- Food Safety SS Burdock Group Student Scientific Award- *not awarded (lack of eligible applicants)*

*This award is made possible by the generous contribution of the Burdock Consulting Group

- **Elsevier Post Doc Award
Dr. Saroj Amar for SOT 2022 abstract titled 'Effects of Inhalation of Neat and Ethyl Parathion Incorporated Soil on Plasma Acetylcholinesterase Activity and Dopamine Levels in a Rat Model.'

**This award is made possible by the generous contribution of the Elsevier. This is an inaugural year for this 5-year recurring award sponsored by Elsevier.

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g., webinars, in-person meetings):

- In September, FS3 members were invited to respond to a survey to provide input on webinar topics for our 2021/2022 webinar series. A total of 15 topics were presented as options, and the membership was asked to rank them. The 3 topics that had the most interest were: metal contaminants in food/feed; EFSA opinions concerning genotoxicity and mixtures; and, food contact materials testing/protocols.
- Jointly Sponsored Webinar 1: Updates to the Cramer et al. Decision Tree and the Threshold of Toxicological Concern: The Expanded Decision Tree and Its Use in Safety Assessments
Jointly Sponsored Webinar with the Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS)
Wednesday, November 10, 2021
Chair: Danielle Wikoff
- Jointly Sponsored Webinar 2: Metals on the Menu and other Food for Thought
Jointly Sponsored Webinar with the Metals Specialty Section (MSS)
February 24, 2022
Chair: Sumira Phatak

D. Communication Activities:

1. **Newsletter publication frequency:** Fall 2021 and Spring/Summer 2022
2. **New or significant announcements/blogs:**
 - Shared updates with FSSS membership via email on the following items:
 - a. Newly elected officers
 - b. Fall and Spring newsletters
 - c. Awards: 2022 FSSS award winners
 - d. Upcoming webinars and FSSS endorsed virtual SOT 2022 session
3. **LinkedIn Page:**
 - Highlighted Food Safety SS Early Career Training Awards
 - Acknowledged the generous contributions of our sponsors
 - Communicated training/job opportunities in Food Safety Toxicology
4. **Highlights of website enhancements:**
 - Updated the Elsevier Post-doctoral award

E. Mentoring Activities:

- FS3 Mentoring event was held on March 28, between 5:00 to 6:00 PM at the Convention Center, SOT in San Diego, California in advance of the FS3 annual reception at the 61st Annual SOT meeting

F. FSSS Sponsors for 2021-2022

- Keller & Heckman \$1000
- American Beverage Association \$600

- Cargill \$1000
- Coco-cola \$1000
- Vanguard Global Associates \$400

V. Feedback and Ideas:

A. In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment? Please give examples of any current practices used to support inclusion in processes such as 1) leadership selection and promotion, 2) award descriptions and selection, and 3) endorsement of proposals for the annual meetings.

The FS3 EC committee is very diverse, represented by individuals from different backgrounds (e.g., academia, industry, consulting and startup), include both seasoned and early to mid-career toxicologists and EC members located within and outside of the USA. We make sure that everyone's voice is heard on the monthly meeting calls and have diversity in our thoughts and actions in everything we do at FS3. Similarly, FS3 membership is also very diverse from different backgrounds and we as FS3 EC are fully committed to DEI activities and initiatives put forth by SOT and by our membership. Award selection considers inclusivity as well and account for applicants/winners from academic institutions located within and outside of the USA.

B. How might SOT better support your group's activities (perhaps something the Society should be doing that we currently do not do, or do not do effectively, that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?):

Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.

As we were not able to award the Food Safety SS Frank C. Lu Early Career Scientist Award, due to a lack of eligible applicants, it would be helpful if SOT could promote the availability of the awards by including notices in communications that are intended to be circulated to a wider audience or all SOT members.

We also sincerely thank Bo for her contribution and tremendous support for all of the FS3 activities. Her active and timely help was very valuable throughout the year for many different needs especially to run the webinar and surveys.

C. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

The webinars conducted by FS3 were well received by the FS3 membership. Though, there is an opportunity for better coordination between the FS3/specialty sections and SOT in terms of scheduling and conduct of these webinars. We had to postpone the webinar dates few times due to scheduling conflicts with other webinars conducted on same days by SOT. Better coordination between SOT and its component group can help to avoid this kind of scheduling conflicts in the future.

D. What changes do your component group anticipate making in the way in which it operates in the coming year?

Engaging FS membership with enhanced communication.