



## FOOD SAFETY SPECIALTY SECTION

### Summer Newsletter 2024

#### Current Officers

**President:** Amy Roe

**Vice President:** Kevin Boyd

**Vice President-Elect:** René Viñas

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Heather

Burleigh-Flayer

**Past President:** David Szabo

**Councilor:** Kelly Almond-Abbate

**Councilor:** Alexandria Lau

**Councilor:** Christine Thiffault

**Councilor:** Deval Patel

**Postdoctoral Representative:**

Vacant

**Graduate Student**

**Representative:** Cassandra Winz

**Junior Graduate Student**

**Representative:** Kaylyn Dinh

#### Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones enjoying a satisfying summer. Your 2024-2025 Executive Committee has kicked off the new SOT year with a couple of busy planning sessions. We have already been hard at work providing preliminary feedback on several Session Proposals seeking FS3 endorsement for the 2025 SOT Annual



Meeting. In our most recent monthly meeting, we were able to outline an exciting webinar topic we hope to offer in early fall—details coming soon. This newsletter is largely devoted to a look back at FS3 events from the 2024 SOT Annual Meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing FS3 officers from the 2023-2024 Executive Committee. These dedicated colleagues will be missed: Logeswari Ponnusamy (Past President), Britney Geter (Secretary/Treasurer), Allison Franzen (Councilor), Olawande Olagoke (Postdoctoral Representative), and Lauren Payne (Graduate Student Representative). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank David Szabo for his great leadership as our President last year. I know that under his guidance as current Past President, we will be set for another productive year.

We will be looking for opportunities to get more of our membership involved in upcoming activities. Our immediate need is for a Postdoctoral Representative. If you are interested or can recommend someone, please contact me directly ([roe.al@pg.com](mailto:roe.al@pg.com)). Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other officers with ideas and suggestions for how we can better serve our membership. Enjoy this issue, and have a wonderful summer!

**Amy L. Roe, PhD, DABT, Fellow ATS**  
**FS3 President, 2024-2025**

## Incoming FS3 Officers

### *Vice President Elect: René Viñas*

Dr. René Viñas is a Board-Certified Toxicologist at UPSIDE Foods where he contributes expertise in toxicology to support new research initiatives. Prior roles include safety and regulatory positions at The Coca-Cola Company and the Grocery Manufacturers Association. Earlier in his career, Dr. Viñas served as an ORISE Fellow at the US FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health, focusing on risk assessment for nanomaterials in medical devices. Dr. Viñas earned his PhD in Pharmacology & Toxicology from The University of Texas – Medical Branch.



### *Treasurer: Heather Burleigh-Flayer*



Dr. Heather Burleigh-Flayer is a Board Certified (DABT) Toxicologist and Principal Scientist at Dose-Response, LLC. Dose-Response provides technical support for toxicology issues including hazard and risk assessments for food contact materials and other related fields. Prior to founding Dose-Response, LLC, she was the Global Manager of Toxicology at PPG Industries, Inc. for over 25 years, overseeing the safety of a diverse portfolio of coatings (including food contact can coatings) and chemical products. She began her career as the Manager of Inhalation Toxicology at Union Carbide Corporation's Bushy Run Research Center where she was responsible for the conduct of toxicology testing for numerous companies and trade associations. She earned a PhD in Toxicology from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health. Dr. Burleigh-Flayer is an active participant in SOT, previously authoring an SOT position paper and serving as President of the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section.

### *Junior Councilor: Christine Thiffault*

Dr. Christine Thiffault joined Exponent in December 2022 and brings with her over 20 years of experience in the chemical & pharmaceutical industries. Dr. Thiffault has an in-depth understanding of chemical regulation and a broad toxicological expertise focusing on food contact substances, medical devices, pesticides, consumer goods, and cosmetics to support compliance/registration in North America, Europe, and China. Dr. Thiffault focuses her work at Exponent on supporting food contact materials, cosmetics, medical devices, and consumer products. Dr. Thiffault has provided an expert opinion to our



clients on food contact materials and cosmetics to ensure safety and regulatory requirements are met. Dr. Thiffault is a member of the American Board of Toxicology and holds a DABT. She is also an accredited member of the European Registered Toxicologist and a Project Management Professional.



#### ***Junior Councilor: Deval Patel***

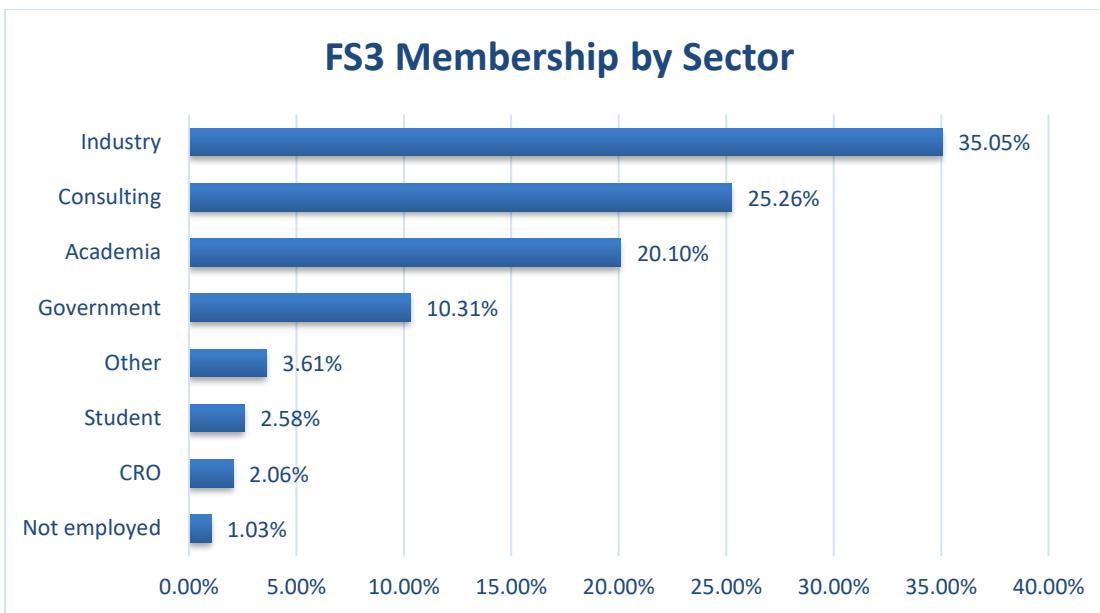
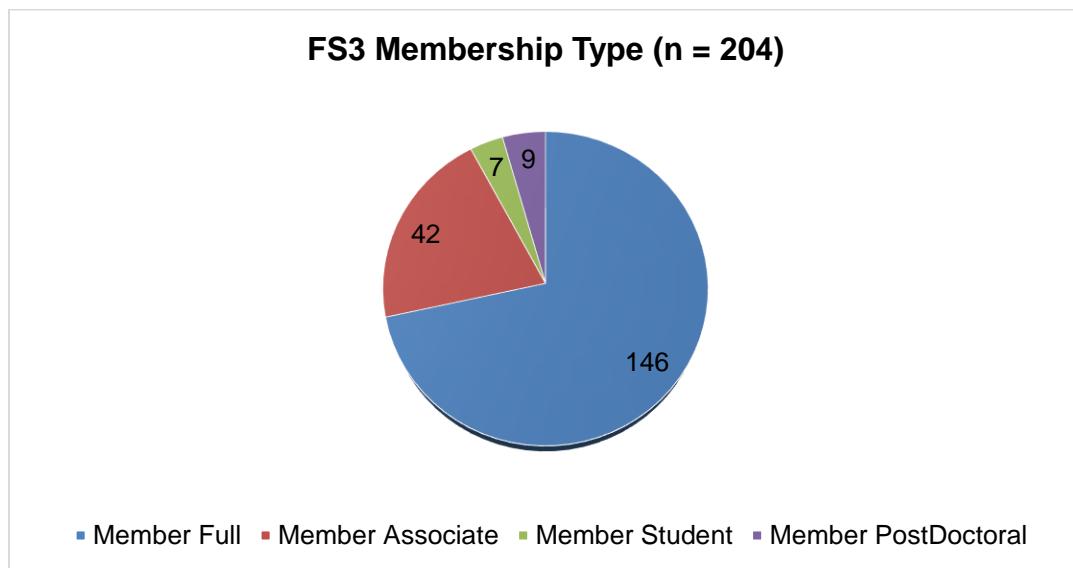
Deval Patel has been a Principal Toxicologist at Amway since 2012, where she is a Lead Toxicologist supporting the safety of dietary supplements, food, and beverages. Her experience also includes cosmetic and personal care safety assessment. Ms. Patel received her Bachelors and Master of Pharmacy from India in 2009 and 2011 respectively. She also holds an MBA from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and is Board Certified by the American Board of Toxicology. Ms. Patel has served on committees such as the Systemic Tox and Dermal Tox Working Group for the Botanical Safety Consortium which is a public-private partnership to improve botanical safety. She has been an invited speaker to several conferences related to supplement safety, personalized cosmetics, and ingredient safety. Ms. Patel has co-authored a paper on botanical toxicity studies published in the journal *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* (September 2023) and a thesis on preservation of cosmetics global/safety perspective published by the China Association of Fragrance, Flavor & Cosmetic Industries (CAFFCI).

#### ***Junior Student Representative: Kaylyn Dinh***

Kaylyn Dinh is a 3rd year Toxicology PhD student and graduated from Texas A&M University with a BS in Biochemistry and a minor in Bioinformatics in May of 2022. During her undergraduate career, she completed the LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars program and a thesis regarding PFAS exposure and children's health. Shortly after, she began working as an Environmental Health Sciences intern at ICF where she communicated with the US EPA, NIEHS, and NTP in conducting systematic reviews and worked on multiple projects involving OFRs, PAHs, Next 20 chemicals, and PFAS. Currently, her research focuses on vulnerable and susceptible populations such as pregnant women and infants, particularly in evaluating PFAS levels in breast milk within the United States and developing strategies to mitigate exposure to nursing infants. She has been a member of SOT since 2022 and will also be serving as the graduate student representative of LSSOT this year.



## FS3 Membership, Treasury, and Sponsorship Update



### Treasury Report

The current FS3 balance is \$34,018 after paying expenses of \$8,046 incurred during the 2024 SOT Annual Meeting (e.g., meeting room, awards plaques, etc.). The net assets for the Frank C. Lu Endowment Fund increased by \$3,643 leading to the current balance of \$61,368 at the end of March 2024.

# SOT Annual Meeting Report – Salt Lake City, Utah

## FS3 Endorsed Sessions for 2024

8 Submissions (4 for Primary Endorsement):

3 workshops, 2 symposiums, 1 CE, 2 Informational Sessions

Secondary Endorser

Primary Endorser

**Five Decades of Evaluating the Safety of Aspartame Consumption; Has Anything Changed?**

Informational Session

165 minutes

Tuesday March 12, 2024

8:00-10:45 AM



**Botanical-Induced Toxicity: Liver injury and Botanical Drug Interactions**

Symposium Session

165 minutes

Monday March 11, 2024

1:45-4:30pm



**Use of PBPK and Novel Pharmacokinetic Approaches for the Quantitative Prediction of Tissue Residue and Withdrawal Times for Human Food Safety Assessment**

Workshop Session

165 minutes

Monday March 11, 2024

9:14-12:00 PM

## 2024 FS3 Award Recipients

**Frank C. Lu Graduate Student Award:** Jui-Feng Tsai, National Taiwan University, "Cardiotoxic Effects of Mycotoxin Citrinin in Zebrafish Embryos and Mammalian Cells."

**Burdock Group Scientific Science Award:** Cassandra Winz, Rutgers University, "The Effects of Estrogenic Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) Found in Our Food on Breast Cancer Incidence and Progression."

**Elsevier Postdoctoral Award:** Alba Garcia-Rodriguez, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, "Modeling Human-Derived *In Vitro* Barriers to Assess the Effects of Micro- and Nanoplastics."

## FS3 Mentoring Event

The FS3 Career Mentoring event was held at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. At this year's Annual Meeting, FS3 partnered with the Biotechnology Specialty Section (BTSS) and Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (HOT) Special Interest Group to host our first joint mentoring event. This event was designed to facilitate opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and early-career scientists to expand their professional network and learn from expert mentors from diverse career backgrounds and various sectors. This event was a great success, and we want to thank all the mentors and mentees who participated this year!



## FS3 Reception

FS3 members enjoyed some good food and mingling prior to when the business meeting was convened. We were thankful for our current Past President, David Szabo for leading the presentation with the rest of our Executive committee. It was great to see a packed room of members! The agenda covered a yearly overview of financials, membership, communications, and the FS3 Awards Ceremony. It was so great seeing everyone again in Salt Lake City, and we hope to see you next year.



## FS3 Committee Open Position

For 2024-2025, FS3 Committee has an open position for **Postdoctoral Representative**, which is a 2-year term. Interested candidates are encouraged to reach out to Amy Roe ([roe.al@pg.com](mailto:roe.al@pg.com)) or anyone on the FS3 committee. Roles and responsibilities are available in this [document](#) and on our FS3 [website](#).