

## Food Safety Specialty Section

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2020-2021

May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

#### I. Officers/Committees:

Officers	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
President:	Chester E. Rodriguez	Sachin Bhusari
Vice President:	Sachin Bhusari	Logeswari Ponnusamy
Vice President-Elect:	Logeswari Ponnusamy	David Szabo
Secretary:	Britany J. Geter	Britany J. Geter
Treasurer:	Britany J. Geter	Britany J. Geter
Past President	Mansi Krishan	Chester E. Rodriguez
Councilors:	Mansi Krishan Alexandra Lobach Ray A. Matulka Danielle Wikoff Logeswari Ponnusamy	Chester E. Rodriguez Alexandra Lobach Danielle Wikoff Fleur de Moorj Lois Haighton
PDA Representative:	Jorrell Fredericks	TBD
Grad Student Representative:	Ruth Nabwire Wangia	Benjamin Kistinger
Junior Graduate Student Rep:	Sumira Phatak	Rebecca Kim

#### Committees:

- 2020-21 Awards Committee: Daniele Wikoff, Logeswari Ponnusamy, and Ray Matulka
- 2020-21 Newsletter Committee: Daniele Wikoff, Alexandra Lobach, and Chester Rodriguez
- 2020 Webinar Committee: Mansi Krishan, Ray Matulka, Chester Rodriguez
- 2020 LinkedIn communication page: Sumira Phatak and Logeswari Ponnusamy
- 2020 Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee: Logeswari Ponnusamy and Sumira Phatak
- 2020 Annual Business and Reception Preparation Ad Hoc Committee: Mansi Krishan, Chester Rodriguez, Logeswari Ponnusamy, Sumira Phatak, Sachin Bhusari, Ray Matulka, Alexandra Lobach, Britney Geter, and Daniele Wikoff

#### II. 2020 Membership total: 235

#### III. Key Outcomes in 2020-2021:

- 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

- These awards were made possible by contributions of the Burdock Group and the Frank C. Lu Food Safety Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment that is managed by the Food Safety Specialty Section.
- Revamped our communication efforts through our LinkedIn page to highlight our early training career awards, acknowledge our sponsors for their generous contributions, and promote training opportunities within Food Safety toxicology.
- Co-chaired with the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI) a multi-day international virtual workshop in 2020 on the evaluation of protein safety using *in vitro* and *in silico* approaches
- Endorsed for the 2021 Virtual Annual meeting a Probiotic Safety Workshop and a Symposium on Predictive Approaches for Evaluating Botanical Mixtures during Pregnancy

#### **IV. Activities:**

##### **A. 2021 SOT Virtual Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, or virtual receptions):**

###### **Food Safety Specialty Section Virtual Meeting**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm ET

**Summary:** The FS3 virtual 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.

**Virtual Workshop:** Establishing Quality, Safety, and Regulatory Principles for Probiotics: More than Just a Gut check

Workshop Date: Monday, March 15, 11:15 – 2:00 pm ET

Chairs: Amy L. Roe (Procter and Gamble) and Kit Goldman (US Pharmacopeia)

Primary Endorser: Food Safety Specialty Section

**Virtual Symposium:** Botanical Mixtures – Predictive Approaches to Evaluating Pregnancy and Reproductive and Developmental Health

Symposium Date: Wednesday, March 24, 11:45 am – 2:30 pm ET

Chairs: Madelyn Huang (National Toxicology Program) and Catherine Mahony (Procter and Gamble)

Secondary Endorser: Food Safety Specialty Section

##### **B. 2021 Awards Information:**

**Food Safety SS Frank C. Lu Early Career Scientist Award**, Food Safety Specialty Section – Dr. Lichchavi Rajasinghe, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Michigan State University, SOT 2021 abstract titled “Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA) Suppresses Broad Spectrum of Inflammatory Proteins Elicited in a Murine Model of Silica-Triggered Lupus Flaring.”

**Food Safety SS Frank C. Lu Graduate Student Award**, Food Safety Specialty Section – Chittaranjan Sahu, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, SOT 2021 abstract titled “Zinc Deficiency Exacerbated Bisphenol A Toxicity in Rat Testis.”

*\*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** – Ms. Lydia (Lei) Zhang, Department of Toxicology, Texas A&M University, SOT 2020 abstract titled: “Resveratrol Is a Nuclear Receptor 4A1(NR4A1) Ligand the Antagonizes NR4A1-Regulated Prooncogenic Pathways in Lung Cancers.”

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

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

**Co-hosted a virtual workshop with HESI Protein Allergens, Toxins, and Bioinformatics (PATB) Committee**

**Title:** From Protein Toxins to Applied Toxicological Testing Virtual Workshop

**Date:** October 21-22, 2020

**Time:** 9:00 am – 1:00 pm ET

**D. Communication Activities:**

**1. Newsletter publication frequency:** Fall 2020 Newsletter and Spring/Summer 2021 Newsletter

**2. Key Announcements/blogs:**

- Shared updates with FSSS membership via email on the following items:
  - Newly elected officers
  - Fall and Spring newsletters
  - Awards: 2021 FSSS award winners
  - Upcoming webinars and FSSS endorsed virtual SOT 2021 sessions

**3. LinkedIn Page:**

- Highlighted Food Safety SS Early Career Training Awards
- Acknowledged the generous contributions of our sponsors
- Highlighted the career profiles of our specialty section officers
- Communicated training/job opportunities in Food Safety Toxicology

**4. Website highlights:**

- Updated The Burdock Group Student Award to a scientific (rather than a travel) award to accommodate the virtual platform of meetings

**E. Mentoring Activities:**

- Planned SOT 2021 FSSS Mentoring Event was cancelled due to the virtual platform of the SOT 2021 Annual Meeting

**F. FSSS Sponsors for 2019-2020**

- Keller & Heckman \$1000
- American Beverage Association \$600
- Cargill \$1000
- ConAgra \$600
- Vanguard Global Associates \$400

- PepsiCo \$600

## V. Feedback and Ideas:

### A. In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment?

*Regarding the Diversity and Inclusion, the FS3 EC committee is very diverse, represented by women and men from different backgrounds (e.g., academia, industry, consulting). 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 D&I activities and initiatives put forth by SOT and by our membership.*

### 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.**

*Request for SOT to provide better support for getting the awards (monetary) on time to the award winners. FS3 had a few instances in the past where award monies were delayed due to ongoing COVID issues or for other reasons.*

### 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 way SOT distributes award monies for FS3 early career trainees is very inefficient/bureaucratic and leads to frustration by the recipients. FS3 suggests that SOT streamlines the process so that plaques and monetary checks are distributed at the same time.*

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

*FS3 EC is looking forward to an in-person Annual Meeting next year. FS3 EC is making plans for the next year on-site meetings and related activities. We are planning on sponsoring relevant on-site symposia, workshops related to food safety, and a more interactive in-person FS3 reception at the SOT Annual Meeting in 2022.*