

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

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IVAMSS OFFICERS

2026 - 2027

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Hayley Jesse



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shaun McCullough

IVAMSS President | 2025-2026

Senior Principal Respiratory Scientist
RTI International

Dear IVAMSS Members,

Over the past year, the field of toxicology has continued to evolve, with notable momentum in the development and application of *in vitro* and alternative methods. Across research, pharmaceutical development, and chemical safety assessment, there has been increasing emphasis on incorporating human-relevant *in vitro* and alternative testing methods, as well as integrated testing strategies, into decision-making frameworks. These efforts reflect a broader shift toward improving the efficiency, mechanistic understanding, and translational relevance of toxicological data while supporting the reduction of animal use. These advances have further strengthened confidence in new approach methodologies (NAMs), particularly through progress in assay standardization, validation, and approaches for integrating *in vitro* data into regulatory decision-making. Increasing focus on reproducibility, quantitative frameworks, and clearly defined context-of-use has supported the more consistent application of these methods. At the same time, continued dialogue among regulatory agencies, industry, and the scientific community has reinforced the importance of transparency and fitness-for-purpose considerations—core principles that align directly with the mission of IVAM.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of IVAM and to reflect on another productive year for our community. IVAM continues to play a key role within the Society of Toxicology by advancing the development, validation, and application of *in vitro* and alternative methods to address complex toxicological challenges. Our members have made important contributions to strengthening the foundations of NAM acceptance, including advances in model development, data integration, and aligning the practice of *in vitro* toxicology with regulatory expectations. These efforts reinforce our shared commitment to ensuring that innovative methods are scientifically robust and positioned for broader use in toxicology research and testing. The recent SOT Annual Meeting highlighted the strength of our Section, with IVAM-sponsored sessions showcasing progress in mechanistic *in vitro* models, assay validation, and strategies for integrating *in vitro* data into regulatory frameworks. Our mentoring initiatives and trainee-focused activities also continue to foster meaningful engagement across career stages, supporting the next generation of scientists working at the interface of science and application. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our Executive Committee and member volunteers for the investment of their time, effort, and expertise in support of IVAM. Their work is essential to sustaining our scientific programming, supporting our awards, and ensuring that IVAM remains a leading forum for advancing transformative research and applications of *in vitro* and alternative methods in toxicology.

As we prepare for the year ahead, I encourage all members to stay engaged - volunteer to help with IVAM reviews, participate in our activities, contribute ideas, and support our trainees and colleagues. Your involvement is essential to advancing the science and regulatory integration of *in vitro* and alternative methods.

Sincerely,



Shaun D. McCullough, PhD

Past President, *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section
Society of Toxicology

MEMBERSHIP

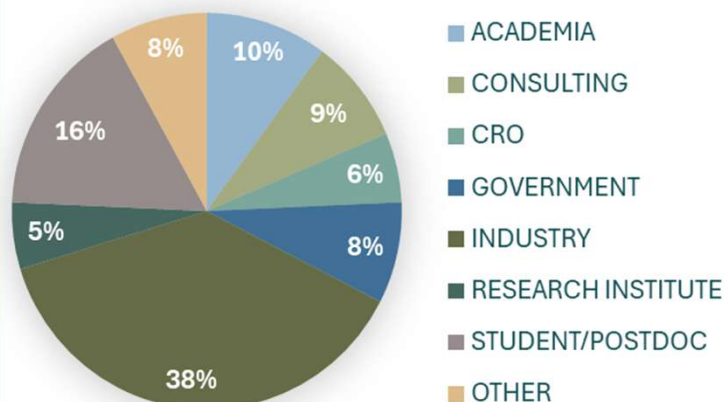
ANNUAL UPDATES

The IVAMSS was founded in **1994** and grew steadily until 2016 when membership **peaked at 524**. As of January 2026, IVAMSS had **387 members**. Our members come from industry, academia, government, contract research organizations, research institutes, and consulting. The majority of IVAMSS members are full members of SOT. Our membership includes representation internationally and retired toxicologists. The charts provided summarize IVAMSS membership.

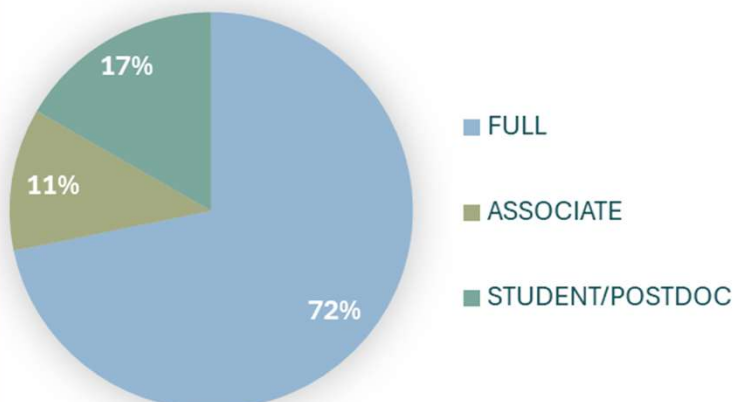
IVAMSS MEMBERS



EMPLOYERTYPE



MEMBERSHIP TYPE



SOT 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL UPDATES

We reviewed 26 Session proposals submitted in May 2025 for SOT's 2026 Annual Meeting. Of the selected proposals IVAMSS was the primary endorser for 9 sessions.

SESSION	SUBMITTED	ACCEPTED
Symposium	13	3
Workshop	8	3
Continuing Education Course	2	2
Informational	3	1
TOTAL	26	9

We had a great attendance at the SOT reception this year! We apologize for limited seating and will aim to book a bigger room for 2027 SOT! See you all in San Antonio!



During the reception, we had asked our finalists for the IVAMSS Best Poster Award and Elsevier Best Poster Award to present to the IVAMSS reception attendees. The audience voted to decide on the winners of these awards!



TREASURER'S REPORT

ANNUAL UPDATES

Deniz Emul

IVAMSS Treasurer | 2025-2026
Senior Biocompatibility Engineer
ResMed

In February 2025, IVAMSS had net assets of \$19,980. As of October 2025, \$12,267 was received in contributions, membership dues, and interest. Expenses amounting to \$8,959 were incurred for the reception at SOT 2025, awards, plaques, activities and resources. Therefore, IVAMSS has net assets of \$23,288.

Net Asset Beginning of Year	\$19,980
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Net Asset End of Year	\$23,288
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Expenses	- \$8,959
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Reception & Awards	
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Income	+ \$12,267
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Contributions	\$1,000
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Membership	\$8,075
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Registration	\$2,187
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Interest	\$1,005
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If your organization is interested in sponsoring

THE IVAMSS RECEPTION OR AWARDS,

please reach out to Shannon Bell: smbell@rti.org

2026-2027 IVAMSS INCOMING OFFICERS

ANNUAL UPDATES



Gina Hilton
VP-Elect



Hayley Jesse
Grad Student Rep.



Victoria Hull
Councilor



Amber Daniel
Secretary



Jong Sung Kim
Treasurer

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED,
VOLUNTEER WITH US!



ROLES

- Newsletter content creators
- Webinar content creators
- Award review committee members

SIGN UP [HERE!](#)

First volunteer meeting will be held during the week of October 5th, 2026.

2026 IVAMSS AWARD WINNERS



In March 2026, we had another in-person SOT Annual Meeting, during which the IVAMSS award winners were announced. The winner of the Graduate Student Award was **Winnie Soerianto**, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill and the winner of the Postdoctoral Award was **Dr. Chander Negi**, Texas A&M University. The IVAMSS Best Poster Award winner was **Dr. Monita Sharma**, PETA Science Consortium International and the Elsevier Best Poster Award winner was **Louisa Zolkiewski**, Apconix. The winner of the MB Research Award for Distinction in Practical IVAM is **Dr. Shilpa Thota**. The winner of the RIFM Trainee Award is **Dr. Nicole McNabb-Kelada**, RTI International. Finally, the Best Paper Award went to **Dr. Piyish Bijaj**, Sanofi. Congratulations again to all of our 2026 winners!



Louisa Zolkiewski
Elsevier Best Poster
Award Winner



Dr. Nicole McNabb-Kelada
RIFM Trainee Award Winner



Dr. Monita Sharma
Best Poster Award Winner



Dr. Shilpa Thota
MB Research
Award Winner



Dr. Chander Negi
IVAM Postdoctoral
Award Winner



Winnie Soerianto
IVAM Graduate Student
Award Winner



Dr. Piyish Bijaj
Best Paper Award Winner

IVAM RELATED RESEARCH 2025-2026



Bajaj P, Brennan RJ, Laurent S, Sauzeat S, Dufault M, Richards B, Adkins K. **Transcriptomic analysis in liver spheroids identifies a dog-specific mechanism of hepatotoxicity for amcenestrant.** *Toxicol Sci.* 2025;204(2):228-41. doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfaf012. PubMed PMID: 39886943.

Bettinsoli V, Melzi G, Crea A, Degli Esposti L, Iafisco M, Catalucci D, Ciana P, Corsini E. **A Novel Approach for *In Vitro* Testing and Hazard Evaluation of Nanoformulated RyR2-Targeting siRNA Drugs Using Human PBMCs.** *Life (Basel).* 2025;15(1). Epub 20250114. doi: 10.3390/life15010095. PubMed PMID: 39860035; PMCID: PMC11766699.

Borton L, Coleman K. **Material-mediated pyrogens in medical devices: Myth or reality?** *ALTEX.* 2026;43(1):78-97. Epub 20250709. doi: 10.14573/altex.2504231. PubMed PMID: 40679284.

Caliskan C, Simsek D, Leese C, Doran C, Seward E, Peden AA, Davletov B. **A sensitive cell-based assay for testing potency of botulinum neurotoxin type A.** *ALTEX.* 2024;41(4):605-16. Epub 20240722. doi: 10.14573/altex.2312071. PubMed PMID: 39072354.

Chen CY, Chou WC, Kamineni VN, Wu PY, Zhang Z, Wu X, Vulpe CD, Lin Z. **Toxicophore-informed machine learning integrating Tox21 assay readouts for organ system-specific carcinogenicity prediction.** *Environ Pollut.* 2026;390:127519. Epub 20251211. doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2025.127519. PubMed PMID: 41389866.

Henriquez AR, Godbout-Cheliak M, Filiatreault A, Breznan D, Thomson EM. **Assay integration for reproducible toxicity testing of particulate matter in a single well: cytotoxicity, oxidative stress, inflammatory response, and mRNA profiling.** *Toxicol In Vitro.* 2026;114:106218. Epub 20260303. doi: 10.1016/j.tiv.2026.106218. PubMed PMID: 41786100.

Huang H, Sanders JN, Warren GL, Patron A, Ninobla A, Inoue K, Valk H, Sadler M, Amorelli B, Hanson M, Acquaviva E, Lear E, Creelman M, Nabua C, Pilat E, Latifzadeh D, Price G, Raabe H, Costin GE. **The impossible made possible through the use of New Approach Methodologies: Dermal safety assessment of potential insect repellent or insecticidal active ingredients using a high-throughput approach to the *in vitro* Skin Irritation Test (OECD TG 439).** *Altern Lab Anim.* 2026;54(1):28-34. Epub 20251223. doi: 10.1177/02611929251408412. PubMed PMID: 41432012.

Islas-Robles A, Ramani M, Phillips J, Costin GE. **New Horizons in Skin Sensitization Assessment of Complex Mixtures: The Use of New Approach Methodologies Beyond Regulatory Approaches.** *Toxics.* 2025;13(8). Epub 20250820. doi: 10.3390/toxics13080693. PubMed PMID: 40863969; PMCID: PMC12390330.

Jackson JP, Brouwer KR. **C-DILI™ Assay: A New Mechanism-Based Human *In Vitro* Screen for Prediction of Cholestatic Liver Toxicity.** *Applied In Vitro Toxicology.* 2026;11(4):73-94. doi: 10.1177/23321539251399331.

IVAM RELATED RESEARCH 2025-2026



Jakaria M, Cannon JR. **Inhibition of Ferroptotic Toxicity by 4-Hydroxyindole.** Chem Res Toxicol. 2025;38(11):2002-9. Epub 20251008. doi: 10.1021/acs.chemrestox.5c00313. PubMed PMID: 41060843; PMCID: PMC12666766.

Jian THZ, Sivitilli AA, Guo YE, Stirton CJ, Gosio JT, Tsukahara Y, Tkach JM, Lu S, Yarmand A, Mangos M, Bremner R, Wrana JL, Attisano L, Pelletier L. **Physiological perfusion of human vasculature reveals a YAP/TAZ-Apelin switch linking intraluminal flow to endothelial state transitions and vessel remodeling.** 2026. doi: 10.64898/2026.03.21.713033.

Koelz AL, Pommerenke C, Woitschewski P, Merkhoffer Y, Dirks WG, Eberth S. **Multiparametric evaluation of different FBS-free replacement media for widely used human cancer cell lines.** ALTEX. 2026. Epub 20260323. doi: 10.14573/altex.2512111. PubMed PMID: 41878985.

Macmillan DS, Holcomb P, Sullivan KM. **Lost in NAMs-lation: A review of animal-free science definitions.** ALTEX. 2026;43(2):373-9. Epub 20260128. doi: 10.14573/altex.2512221. PubMed PMID: 41609486.

Negi CK, Sakolish C, Tsai HD, Nitsche K, Gang H, Bajaj P, Ferguson SS, Stanko JP, Hewitt P, Kukla DA, Lloyd SM, Villenave R, Rusyn I. **Comparative Analysis of Species-Specific Hepatocyte Function and Drug Effects in a Liver Microphysiological System PhysioMimix LC12 and 96-Well Plates.** ACS Pharmacol Transl Sci. 2025;8(11):4138-58. Epub 20251003. doi: 10.1021/acsptsci.5c00554. PubMed PMID: 41262563; PMCID: PMC12624441.

Nyffeler J, Harris FR, Willis C, Byrd G, Blackwell B, Escher BI, Kasperek A, Nichols J, Haselman JT, Patlewicz G, Villeneuve DL, Harrill JA. **A combination of high-throughput *in vitro* and *in silico* new approach methods for ecotoxicology hazard assessment for fish.** Environ Toxicol Chem. 2025;44(9):2599-621. doi: 10.1093/etjnl/vgae083. PubMed PMID: 39937625.

Park S, Gallegos D, Jeffay S, Tennant AH, Sidney Hunter E, 3rd, Chorley BN. **Single-cell RNA sequencing of human embryonic stem cells reveals immediate and deferred transcriptomic responses to retinoic acid-mediated effects across cell subpopulations.** Toxicol In Vitro. 2026;113:106213. Epub 20260211. doi: 10.1016/j.tiv.2026.106213. PubMed PMID: 41679446.

Zwartsen A, Westerhout J, Zhao S, de Leeuw VC, de Bruijn VMP, den Braver-Sewradj SP, van Oostrom CTM, Proenca S, Kramer NI, Chen G, Schepens MAA, van Klaveren J, Zeilmaker MJ, Bokkers BGH, Hessel EVS. **Towards NAM-based risk assessment for developmental neurotoxic effects, illustrated with chlorpyrifos.** ALTEX. 2026;43(2):228-46. Epub 20251023. doi: 10.14573/altex.2412051. PubMed PMID: 41129308.

TRAINEES' CORNER

We want to share the resources and opportunities for fellow trainees to get the right training, network, and recognition as they pursue their career and passion in toxicology. Here is a list that we have gathered so far:

Training opportunities

- **Summer Immersion on Innovative Approaches in Science:** It is a small conference organized by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine every year in June. It provides hands-on introduction to NAMs and is a great place to network. The registration is free and there are many travel awards. Be on the look out for it around January! Deadlines are in April. [Learn more](#)

Newsletters for job opportunities

- ERA21 by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine ([Sign up](#))

IVAMSS Awards [Learn more](#)

- IVAMSS Graduate Student Award (Deadline Jan)
- IVAMSS Postdoctoral Award (Deadline Jan)
- IVAMSS Best Paper Award (Deadline Jan)
- IVAMSS Best Poster Award (Deadline Feb)
- IVAMSS MB Research Award for Distinction in Practical *In Vitro* and Alternative Toxicology Methods (Deadline Feb)

LIKE WHAT WE DO?

JOIN AS A REP!

Trainees are essential to growth and maintenance of IVAMSS! The Specialty Section is committed to creating opportunities for success in all our research careers.

SOT waives the membership fee for the first Specialty Section or Component Group you join as a trainee. As a Rep for a Specialty Section, your SOT conference registration is covered. Being a Rep is a 2-year commitment and elections are held in February each year. The IVAMSS Postdoctoral Representative role will be open for the 2027-2028. We also have volunteering opportunities as well.

If you have questions or are interested in getting involved, please reach out to your Graduate Student or Postdoctoral Representatives below! Also, if you want to share opportunities that are not listed above, reach out to Thant to get them added!

Thant Soe (Postdoctoral Rep) ms4113@rutgers.edu

Hayley Jesse (Graduate Student Rep) jesseh1@tamu.edu

IVAM RELATED WEBSITES



- *Applied In Vitro Toxicology* Journal [Learn more](#)
- Alternatives Research and Development Foundation [Learn more](#)
- Alternatives to Animal Experimentation (ALTEX) [Learn more](#)
- Alternatives to Laboratory Animals (ATLA), UK based [Learn more](#)
- Animal-Free Safety Assessment (AFSA) Collaboration [Learn more](#)
- Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) [Learn more](#)
- Centre for Documentation and Evaluation of Alternative Methods to Animal Experiments (ZEBET), Germany based [Learn more](#)
- European Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) [Learn more](#)
- Japanese Center for Validation of Alternative Methods (JaCVAM) [Learn more](#)
- Office of Research Innovation, Validation, and Application (ORIVA) [Learn more](#)
 - NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) [Learn more](#)
 - Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) [Learn more](#)
- *Toxicology in Vitro* [Learn more](#)
- Tracking System for Alternative Methods Towards Regulatory Acceptance (TSAR), EU based [Learn more](#)

WANT TO KEEP UP WITH OUR LATEST EVENTS?

FOLLOW US ON [LINKEDIN!](#)

THANKS TO IVAMSS 2026 OFFICERS!

Shannon Bell
Vice President



Thant Soe
Postdoc Rep.



Emily Reinke
President



Amy Mihalchik
Councilor



Gina Hilton
VP-Elect



Jong Sung Kim
Treasurer



Victoria Hull
Councilor



Hayley Jesse
Grad Student
Rep.



Amber Daniel
Secretary



Shaun McCullough
Past President



Deniz Emul
Past Treasurer



Anthony Bahinski
Past Councilor



Maureen Bunger
Past Secretary



Jessica Rodriguez
Past Grad Student Rep.

