

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Shaun McCullough Vice President: Emily Reinke Vice President Elect: Shannon Bell Past President, Councilor: Samantha Faber (Wilcoxson) Secretary: Maureen Bunger Treasurer: Deniz Emul Councilor: Anthony Bahinski Councilor: Amy Mihalchik Postdoctoral Representative: Mi Thant Mon Soe Graduate Student Representative: Jessica Rodriguez	President: Emily Reinke Vice President: Shannon Bell Vice President-Elect: Gina Hilton Treasurer: Jong Sung Kim Secretary: Amber Daniel Past President, Councilor: Shaun McCullough Councilor: Victoria Hull Councilor: Amy Mihalchik Postdoctoral Representative: Mi Thant Mon Soe Graduate Student Representative: Hayley Jesse

Committees:

No appointed committees

II. 2026 Membership total: 406

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

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

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Medical Device and Combination Product
- Women in Toxicology and Association of Scientists of Indian Origin

V. Communication Methods:

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section maintained an inclusive organization through the following activities.

- Nominate a diverse slate of candidates for elections
- 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

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Networking luncheon/reception

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	5
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	2

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- A. We had a successful reception at SOT, trying a new approach for poster awards, allowing reception attendees to vote on the best posters after they presented at the reception. We will continue to utilize this approach going forward.
- B. We also co-hosted two webinars, which is above our goal of at least one a year.

X. Strategic Plan:

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content

- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- Greater focus on data integration across approaches and new methods, more in the NGRA or IATA focus, since most methods in the *in vitro* space will not be standalone approaches but instead integrated into a combined weight of evidence or IATA/DA.

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?

We continue to struggle to have adequate food for our heavily vegan membership at the Specialty Section reception. We would like to see a bit more variety to the selection that would meet their dietary needs, as well as a larger quantity of food provided.

- 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.)?

We would love to see more integration of the Specialty Sections with CAMAN going forward. We would like to be better able to interact with CAMAN for guidance and best practices for mentoring within our Specialty Section, as we would like to have more emphasis on this for our members going forward.