



Dear MSBSS Members,

First and foremost, thank you all for your continued commitment to the Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section. I am honored to serve as your President and am deeply grateful for the energy, time, and creativity our volunteer Officers and member base bring to this community. Despite the many challenges we face, the strength of MSBSS lies in our shared dedication to advancing systems-level approaches in toxicology and supporting our trainees and one another along the way.

This past year, our members once again impressed through innovative research, engaging presentations, and excellent mentorship of trainee scientists. The 2025 SOT meeting featured several outstanding MSBSS-endorsed sessions, and I want to congratulate all who participated. We also had the pleasure of hosting an excellent trainee webinar earlier this month, where our first-place trainee award winners presented their work in a series of eloquent short talks. The event sparked lively discussion and showcased the exceptional talent within our trainee membership.

Looking ahead, I strongly encourage all members (at all levels) to start thinking about symposium, workshop, and other session proposals for the 2027 SOT Annual Meeting. I know it is early, but we know our community is full of innovative ideas and emerging science that deserve to be highlighted at the annual meeting. MSBSS is eager to help support your proposals. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the leadership team for guidance and feedback as the spring approaches.

We also recognize that this year brings new and ongoing challenges. We know our members are navigating reduced funding, increased costs, and the lingering effects of professional burnout following the pandemic. Yet these times also highlight what makes MSBSS special: our commitment to collaboration, mentorship, and the growth of the next generation of scientists.

As we look ahead to the 2026 SOT Meeting in San Diego, I encourage you to stay engaged with MSBSS. We continue to offer research awards at undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels. We also give an award for Paper of the Year open to all MSBSS members. [Award applications are due Dec 5](#). This year, we will also participate in the inaugural centralized networking event that is being organized by CAMAN titled “**NetworX Night**” on Monday, March 23 from 7:30-9:00 PM. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event, and for the MSBSS Reception scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00-7:30 PM.

Lastly, if you or your company are in a position to help support MSBSS, please consider donating (please follow the QR code below). Your contributions of any amount are deeply appreciated and will help to directly support our trainee awards, mentoring activities, and community-building events that make MSBSS such a vibrant and impactful section.

Thank you for your engagement and support, and we look forward to seeing you in sunny San Diego!

Jessica Hartman, Ph.D.
President, Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section



Stay Connected!

In an effort to improve year-round communications, we have a MSBSS LinkedIn. Follow for award updates, features, and scientific content!



Follow us on

LinkedIn



msbss.sot@gmail.com

MSBSS Treasurer's Report

The MSBSS finances (as of the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025) are below. Our General Fund is used to support the annual reception, mentoring event, and overrun award costs and the Endowment fund supports trainee awards. Our specialty section is in good financial standing with sufficient funds to support our meeting and award activities in the upcoming year.

	General Fund	Endowment
Starting Balance	\$27,855	\$63,429
Expense: trainee awards, plaques, etc.	\$2,533	\$2,500
Expense: mentoring activities	\$701	-
Expense: reception	\$4,454	-
Income: membership dues	\$3,440	-
Income: registration revenue	\$1,350	-
Income: earned interest	\$1,238	\$6,275
Income: contributions	\$1,150	-

Help MSBSS Continue to Support Trainees!

Supporting trainees is a cornerstone of the MSBSS mission. We recognize outstanding research at the undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral stages; provide travel and Paper of the Year awards; and host the popular Mentorship Reception at the annual SOT conference. Help MSBSS maintain this exceptional level of support for our trainees by making a tax-deductible donation to our specialty session. Some of your employers may have programs for matching employee contributions to charitable organizations like SOT, so check with your employers to maximize your giving. You can give directly to the [Molecular Biology Student Award Fund](#) or work through the MSBSS Treasurer, Ozzy Lozoya, to coordinate your donation.

Don't forget to vote in this year's MSBSS elections!
Online ballots will be distributed in early 2026.

2025-2026 MSBSS Officers

President

Jessica Hartman

Medical University of South Carolina



Vice President

Elizabeth Martin

CTEH



Vice President-Elect

Subham Dasgupta

Clemson University



Secretary/Treasurer

Ozzy Lozoya

RTI International



Past President

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Minnesota Department of Health



Junior Councilor

Bharat Bhushan

University of Pittsburgh



Postdoctoral Rep.

Michelle Kossack

Brown University

Senior Student Rep.

Jordan Lee

Rutgers University



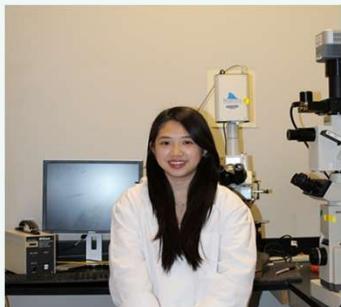
Junior Student Rep.

Syed Rubaiyat Ferdous

Clemson University



2025 MSBSS Undergraduate Student Trainee Award
Winners



1st: Cayen Rong

University of Washington

Gut microbiome mechanistically contributes to early life BDE-99 exposure mediated disruption of the gut barrier integrity and immune surveillance

2nd: Isabelle Ngo

University of Washington

Gut microbiome mechanistically contributes to early life BDE-99 exposure mediated disruption of the gut barrier integrity and immune surveillance

2025 MSBSS Travel Award Winner

Diego Paine-Cabrera

University of Kansas Medical Center

Egr1 deletion reduces liver injury, inflammation, and fibrotic markers in choline-deficient ethionine-supplemented diet model



2025 MSBSS Graduate Student Trainee Awards



1st: **Gillian Williams**, University of Pittsburgh
Exploring Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor as a Potential Target for Treating Acetaminophen Hepatotoxicity

2nd: **Christine Kim**, Rutgers University
Selective Receptor Modulation During Melatonin Renoprotection Against Vancomycin Toxicity

3rd: **Joe Lim**, University of Washington

TBBPA exposure causes gut microbiome toxicity linked to biomarkers of early-stage liver fibrosis

Syed Rubaiyat Ferdous, Clemson University

Examining impacts of perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) on sensorimotor and circadian rhythm development

2025 MSBSS Postdoctoral Trainee Awards



1st: **Siddhi Jain**, University of Pittsburgh
Hepatocyte-Specific MET Ablation Exacerbates Liver Injury and Impedes Regeneration in Acetaminophen-Induced Hepatotoxicity Model

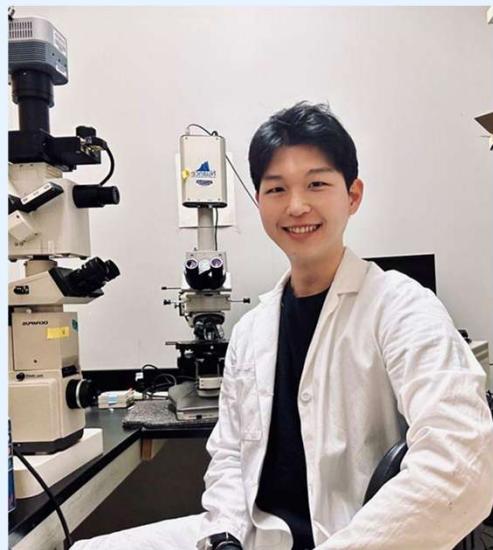
2nd: **Elise Hickman**, University of North Carolina

Investigating the Effects of Wildfire Smoke on Extracellular Vesicle Release and Cargo as Key Mediators of Wildfire Smoke Toxicity Using an Equine In Vivo Approach

Yunjia Lai, Columbia University

Biotin rescues manganese-induced Parkinson's disease phenotypes and neurotoxicity

2025 MSBSS Paper of the Year Award



Joe Lim
University of Washington

Single-cell transcriptomics unveiled that early life BDE-99 exposure reprogrammed the gut-liver axis to promote a proinflammatory metabolic signature in male mice at late adulthood

Upcoming MSBSS Award Deadlines

MSBSS award deadlines are rapidly approaching! We are currently asking for applications for the following awards:

- Graduate Student Research Award
- Paper of the Year Award
- Postdoctoral Scholar Research Award
- Undergraduate Research Award

For more MSBSS Award information, please go to our website:

<https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/msbss/awards.asp>

Award applications are due December 5, 2025. SOT abstracts for the Annual Meeting are due November 13, 2025.

RECAP: 2025 MSBSS Mentoring Reception

We were thrilled to host this event in person in Orlando in 2025. MSBSS partnered with Mechanisms, Biotechnology, and Risk Assessment Specialty Sections and Out Toxicologists and Allies Special Interest Group to host over 100 mentees and mentors representing various disciplines in toxicology including academia, industry, consulting, government, and science communication. In the “speed-mentoring” style event, mentors and mentees alike appreciated the opportunity to network with a diverse group of attendees in a fun, informal way, while making connections that we hope will be long-lasting and fruitful. **In 2026, we look forward to supporting the NetworX Night on Monday, March 23, from 7:30 pm-9:00 pm during the SOT Annual Meeting in San Diego.**



Save the Date!

1st Annual CAMAN NetworX Night

Tentative date and time: Monday, March 23, 2026, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina

Stay tuned in January 2026 for registration and mentor information!

Save the Date!

MSBSS Members Reception at the 2026 SOT meeting in San Diego

Tentative date and time: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Location: Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina

Stay tuned in January 2026 for more information!

We want to celebrate YOU!

Send us updates on your accomplishments on LinkedIn, or to our email address:

MSBSS.sot@gmail.com