

Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024**  
May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

**I. Officers:**

<b><u>2023–2024</u></b>	<b><u>2024–2025</u></b>
President: Karilyn Sant Vice President: Jessica LaRocca Vice President-Elect: Jessica Hartman Secretary-Treasurer: Leah Wehmas Past President, Councilor: Tamara Tal Senior Councilor: Elizabeth Martin Junior Councilor: Subham Dasgupta Postdoctoral Representative: Yvonne Rericha Senior Student Representative: Marjorie Marin Junior Student Representative: Sarah Avila-Barnard	President: Jessica LaRocca Vice President: Jessica Hartman Vice President-Elect: Elizabeth Martin Secretary-Treasurer: Leah Wehmas Past President, Councilor: Karilyn Sant Senior Councilor: Subham Dasgupta Junior Councilor: Lindsay Wilson Postdoctoral Representative: Sarah Avila-Barnard Senior Student Representative: Veronia Basaly Junior Student Representative: Jordan Lee

**Committees:**

Jessica LaRocca; Jessica Hartman; Elizabeth Martin; Leah Wehmas; Karilyn Sant; Subham Dasgupta; Lindsay Wilson; Veronia Basaly; Jordan Lee

**II. 2024 Membership total: 206**

**III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:**

The Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- 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
- Newsletter(s)
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)

**IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:**

The Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Biotechnology
- Mechanisms
- Risk Assessment

**V. Communication Methods:**

The Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)
- LinkedIn
- Other Social Media (Facebook, X, etc.)

**VI. Promotion of Inclusivity**

The Molecular and Systems Biology 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
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

**VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:**

The Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Speed mentoring

**VIII. Awards Given:**

Trainee	3
Early Career	3
Mid Career	
Late Career	

**IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:**

MSBSS hosted an excellent speed mentoring session. This was fully booked with mentors and mentees and all attendees were very engaged.

**X. Strategic Plan:**

The Molecular and Systems Biology 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
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future
- Provide training and education that reflects the needs of members

- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

**XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:**

The Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- Machine learning/AI for toxicological purposes; Environmental justice in toxicology; Ecotoxicology as biosensor; Molecular and systems biology approaches in ecotoxicology; Read across approaches in chemical risk assessment

**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?

It could be helpful to have a dedicated meeting in the fall with SOT staff and Component Group officers to discuss protocols for planning receptions and other events at the Annual Meeting (considerations for choosing a venue, deadlines, rules for funding, etc.). Treating it as a sort of "kick-off" for planning may also help Component Groups shift their planning earlier in the year, easing the burden on SOT staff come spring.

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.)?

Modify sessions so at least one has MSBSS as primary endorser. We do not have a single session as primary this year accepted by SOT.