

Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2024–2025

May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

I. Officers:

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
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	Postdoctoral Representative: Michelle Kossack President: Jessica Hartman Vice President: Elizabeth Martin Vice President Elect: Subham Dasgupta Past President, Councilor: Jessica LaRocca Secretary-Treasurer: Oswaldo Lozoya Senior Councilor: Lindsay Wilson Junior Councilor: Bharat Bhushan Senior Student Representative: Jordan Lee Junior Student Representative: Syed Rubaiyat Ferdous

Committees:

II. 2025 Membership total: 193

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:

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

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- Utilized/expanded Endowment Fund(s) for Component Group

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

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

- Biotechnology
- Exposure
- Mechanisms
- Mixtures

- Occupational and Public Health
- Risk Assessment
- Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology
- OTA

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
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

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.

- Mentoring luncheon/reception

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	9
Early Career	1
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

IX. Strategic Plan:

The Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future

- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels

X. 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.

- We would like to see more organ-organ crosstalk sessions (which we believe is an area of Systems Biology that our members would be interested to see highlighted).

XI. 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 would be great if the Society could put together some materials to help new/junior scientists develop session proposals. Our specialty section has received fewer and fewer endorsement requests and the proposals we review seem to come from the same groups of people. Part of the issue is that the process is opaque. Perhaps a webinar series on-demand walking through the steps, or a very easy-to-follow written guide would help to empower other scientists to develop session proposals.

- 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 have discussed what changes may be coming to the society as it relates to championing diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is an important aspect of the Society that we as a Specialty Section consider a core value, and we hope to see a continued investment in this area despite ongoing attacks to DEI by the federal government.