Greetings and Welcome to the SOT Mechanisms Specialty Section!

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great honor to serve as the President of the Mechanisms specialty section this year. In my mind, Mechanisms SS serves a critical role in SOT by presenting cutting-edge science and developing state-of-the-science programming. The Mechanisms SS also has an important training mission. Because so many students and postdocs are engaged in mechanistic research, they are naturally attracted to our specialty section. We are committed to supporting our trainees by providing travel support, presentation awards, mentoring events, career development webinars and numerous presentation opportunities. I have long been a proud member of the Mechanisms specialty section and am delighted to have the opportunity to lead this prestigious group.

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives, our science and our ability to network. It has been a stressful and unsettling time. However, the return of in-person programming at the annual SOT meeting in San Diego was a positive development and marked the beginning of a gradual return to normalcy. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend this year’s meeting in person and hope that more members will be able to attend next year as the pandemic (hopefully) winds down.

Mechanisms specialty section has a long tradition of developing innovative program proposals. I would like to remind everyone that it is never too early to start thinking about programs for next year’s meeting. Program proposals are typically due to SOT in mid-May. The Mechanisms SS executive committee is happy to provide prereview feedback on proposals for continuing education programs, symposia, workshops and other sessions. We want your ideas!

I am very grateful to all the people who contribute to the success of this specialty section. I would like to thank all the people who provide service to this group. Many thanks to our judges who ranked all the award nominations. I would like to also thank our members who submitted program proposals last year. Thank you also to all the members of the executive committee who do the day-to-day work. Lastly, I would like to thank all the mentors who assist the trainees with their abstract submissions and presentations at the annual meeting. It really takes all of us to make this specialty section a success!

Looking forward, I think our specialty section is in a position of strength. Our executive committee is outstanding-- I am grateful for the opportunity to work with this group. Our finances are stable, which will be important as prices continue to increase at the convention centers where we host

Cheryl E. Rockwell
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Rebecca L. McCullough
Vice President
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Vice President-Elect
Grace Anne Chappell
Secretary/Treasurer
Juliane Ingeborg Beier
Senior Councilor
Anna K. Kopec
Junior Councilor
Alysha E. Simmons
Postdoctoral Representative
Joanna Woo
Student Representative
Daniel David Petersen
Past President
our meetings. The specialty section continues to lead the society in sponsoring cutting-edge programming and in supporting our students. And most importantly, despite recent Covid-related setbacks, our membership remains strong. All in all, the Mechanisms specialty section remains a critical source of leadership, programming and student support in the Society. I am excited to serve as the president this year!

**Status of Endowment Funds**

Our endowed awards are in great shape (see below)! However, the future of our named awards is dependent upon the support of our members. All members are encouraged to contribute and are reminded to inquire whether your employer supports matched donations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award</td>
<td>$154,624.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award</td>
<td>$128,310.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renal Toxicology Fellowship Award</td>
<td>$106,970.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award</td>
<td>$62,651.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon D. Murphy Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$126,316.00</td>
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**Seeking Supporters of Mechanisms SS!**

Individual or corporate/company/institutional donations are always welcome and help the Specialty Section thrive! Donations to the general fund help Mechanisms SS to:

1. Recognize trainee accomplishments by way of awards, supporting travel to the meeting
2. Host online and in-person events, such as trainings, scientific webinars, and mentoring
3. Hold a member’s reception at the annual meeting

Interested parties please reach out to Secretary/Treasurer Grace Chappell at Grace.Chappell@icf.com. Any donation is greatly appreciated and will be appropriately recognized!

**2023 Awards—Call for Applications!!**

Awards season is upon us! We have several prestigious awards offered to graduate students and postdocs by our Specialty Section. Awards are announced at the Mechanisms Business Meeting and Reception each year at the SOT Annual Meeting. We encourage students and postdocs across SOT to apply, you do not need to be a member of Mechanisms to be eligible.

Application deadlines are fast approaching and as early as November 15th! Awards and deadlines are listed below. For application instructions and requirements, please visit our website at [https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/awards.asp](https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/awards.asp).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
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<th>Submission Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award</td>
<td>Preliminary applications due by November 15, 2022</td>
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<td>Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award</td>
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<td>Renal Toxicology Award</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Subject line: “Renal_applicantlastname”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award</td>
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<td>Subject line: “Elsevier_applicantlastname”</td>
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Call for Career Achievement Award Nominations!

The Career Achievement Award is announced each year at the Annual Meeting. We would like to again congratulate past awardees, including Curtis D. Klaassen, MS, PhD, FATS, FAASLD, FASPET (2020) and Robert Roth, PhD, DABT (2021). To see more information about our awardees, visit our website!

To nominate a candidate for the award:
1. Send the current CV for the candidate to sotmechanisms@gmail.com by December 1, 2022.
2. Provide two letters of recommendation from members of the Mechanisms Specialty Section outlining the research accomplishments and service of the candidate.

New Deadline for Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award Applications!

This year the Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award deadline (November 15, 2022) is prior to the SOT Abstract submission deadline (December 1, 2022). Applications due on November 15th should include:
1. Cover letter
2. Copy of the abstract submitted for the 2023 SOT Annual Meeting with the graduate student as the presenting author.
3. Personal statement
4. Two Letters of Recommendation

Selected finalists will be asked to submit manuscripts by December 15, 2022. Please refer to the Mechanisms SS Awards Website for specific details regarding applications for the Carl C. Smith Graduate Student and all other awards.
A Message from Your Student Representative

Greetings everyone! Thank you all for the incredible past SOT meeting and for showcasing such a welcoming community of scientists. The experience really helped me personally experience the livelihood of mentorship and how rejuvenating it is to meet not just new faces, but the absolute brilliant minds of these new faces! It’s truly a pleasure to integrate myself and learn from this community. I will stand by my message to advocate strengthening mentorship for trainees and enhance outreach and engagement for current and future students aimed toward growth and development in their prospective careers. I am always open to questions and suggestions too; let’s do our best this year! During this time, we are aiming to have a couple of events throughout the year, from mentor/mentee matching to webinar-styled perspectives into the current field of toxicology, to really engage fellow students in the Mechanisms SS in what options are out there and what’s more to learn outside of our lectures and textbooks. I currently highly recommend participating in the SOT Mentor Match program already available for years at SOT to not only engage in advocating for your own professional development with an established toxicologist but to also learn from your mentor on… how to be a mentor! With that said, there are many opportunities already supplied through SOT like graduate student awards, travel grants, mentorship opportunities, volunteer work, committees, events, etc, all available to you on the SOT website (https://www.toxicology.org/groups/gs/graduates.asp). If you have any suggestions on events or resources that can be distributed to all the members focused on post-grad development in the field, please let me know. Feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/in/joanna-woo/), and I look forward to a wonderful year together!

A Message from Your Postdoctoral Representative

Thank you so much for reading the Mechanisms Specialty Section Newsletter! We are here as a community and as officers to not only to promote understanding and dissemination of the impressive science happening within and around the Mechanisms community, but to listen to your needs and facilitate relationships within the specialty section. To my fellow postdocs, if you have not already, update your ToXchange page to show off your achievements; you have earned it! If you update and post your resume, you can also directly apply to jobs posted in the SOT Job Bank by selecting “apply through the Job Board.” As you continue to work toward the next stage of your career, share your needs with the Mechanisms specialty section. We care about your scientific interests and professional development, so if you have questions, scientific interests for webinars or panel discussions, or something you are passionate about sharing with the membership, communicate that to us via our email surveys. We are here to serve you and want to hear from you so that we can use each event and annual meeting to celebrate our membership and community. Apart from the Mechanisms Specialty Section, postdoctoral researchers can also get involved by contributing written articles, sharing pictures, or suggesting topics for the Post-y, a great source of information and community support for your extremely busy and blossoming career (said mostly with sincerity, a hint of hyperbole, and minimal sleep). Join the National Postdoctoral Association and learn more
at nationalpostdoc.org through webinars and blogs developed by and intended for people like you. As your postdoctoral representative, I am excited to facilitate our involvement in the Mechanisms community. If you want to know about any professional information left out of this introductory statement, feel free to visit my LinkedIn page.

**Call for Officer Nominations!**

Each fall we seek volunteers from our members to serve on the Mechanisms Leadership Committee. The continued success of our Specialty Section is dependent upon the efforts of those willing to serve. We have 4 positions that will be available for the 2023 - 2024 year (shown below). Self-nominations are highly encouraged. Nominees will be reviewed by current officers and a ballot compiled for election. If you are interested in any of the positions listed, please contact Cheryl E. Rockwell (rockwelc@msu.edu) or Rebecca L. McCullough (rebecca.mccullough@cuanschutz.edu).

**Open Positions for 2023 - 2024:**

- **Vice President-Elect (1-year term, advances to President)**
- **Junior Councilor (1-year term, advances to Senior Councilor)**
- **Postdoctoral Representative (1-year term)**
- **Graduate Student Representative (1-year term)**

Please don’t forget that abstracts are due to SOT by December 1st, 2022, and apply for the many SOT career achievement, graduate student, and postdoctoral awards applications also available outside of the Mechanisms Specialty Section due as early as October 9th, 2022.

**We look forward to seeing you at SOT 2023 in Nashville!**