Greetings and Welcome to the SOT Mechanisms Specialty Section!

Hello to all Mechanisms Specialty Section members! We want to welcome and thank you for being part of one of the largest and oldest specialty sections that the Society of Toxicology has to offer. Our Annual Meeting is just around the corner, and we hope to see you all in Baltimore, MD from March 10-14, 2019. Just two years ago our meeting was in Baltimore, and we are excited to return. A list of restaurants and attractions in Baltimore are outlined on the SOT website under the Annual Meetings tab; that is for when we are not busy with innovative Toxicology research!

Our MSS meeting will take place on Monday, March 11 at which our student and postdoctoral awards will be announced. Outlined in this newsletter are the deadlines for several awards that the MSS has to offer. If you have questions, please contact the MSS officer that is listed for that award (see section below) and we will be happy to get you situated. As always, we encourage all graduate students and postdocs to apply. The MSS is grateful to the donors that make these awards a possibility to our members.

In addition, we are seeking nominations for the Career Achievement Award to help recognize toxicologists that have contributed to cutting-edge mechanistic research.

We are here to serve our section, so contact us with any suggestions, questions, or feedback. And if you are interested in serving on the Mechanisms executive committee, we are taking nominations for several officer positions. Availability and term lengths are listed below in the newsletter. Let’s continue to maintain and heighten the great reputation of the Mechanisms Specialty Section.

Safe travels to all in March and see you in Baltimore.

Donna D. Zhang, Mechanisms Specialty Section President
Status of Endowment Funds

Our endowed awards are doing quite well (see below). As always though, their continued growth and success depends on the generosity of our Specialty Section members. Please consider donating, and remember that no amount is too small. Donations are typically tax-deductible. Please check with your employer to see if they support matched donations.

For additional questions or to contribute, please contact Martin Ronis (mronis@lsuhsc.edu) or visit: http://www.toxicology.org/endowment/contribute/donate.asp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award</th>
<th>Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award</th>
<th>Renal Toxicology Fellowship Award</th>
<th>Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award Fund</th>
<th>Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award</th>
<th>Sheldon D. Murphy Memorial Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$121,134</td>
<td>$102,815</td>
<td>$81,208</td>
<td>$47,796</td>
<td>$54,458</td>
<td>$101,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Award Winners

**Congratulations to the 2018 MSS Award Winners!**

**Career Achievement Award**
- Debra Laskin

**Robert J. Rubin Travel Award**
- Jalissa Nguyen Wynder (UW-Madison)

**Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award**
- Katelyn Lavrich (UNC-CH)
- Dharmind Rokad (Iowa State)
- John T. Szilagyi (Rutgers)

**Ronald G. Thurman Travel Award**
- Ian Huck (KUMC)
- Qian Lin (Louisville)

**Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award**
- Jessica Hartman (Duke)
- Matt Dodson (Arizona)
- Laura Armstrong (Rutgers)

**Postdoctoral Travel Award**
- Samantha Farber (UNC-CH)
- Alisa Suen (ORISE USEPA)

**Renal Toxicology Award**
- Maria Beatriz Monteiro (Harvard)
- Yu-Wei Chang (Texas Tech)
- Firas Alhasson (South Carolina)

**Sheldon D. Murphy Travel Award**
- Joseph Kochmanski (Michigan)
- Yvonne Chang (Oregon State)
- Ramiya Kumar (Clemson)
- Krishna Prahlad Maremanda (NIPER)
- John T. Szilagyi (Rutgers)
**2019 Awards—Call For Applications!!**

Awards season is upon us! We have several prestigious awards offered to graduate students and postdocs by our Specialty Section. Award recipients 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! Awards and deadlines are listed below. Please note, all awards must be submitted to: sotmechanisms@gmail.com. Leadership contact is provided for inquiries.

For detailed award descriptions, eligibility, and application instructions visit: [http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/Awards.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/Awards.asp)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Leadership Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon D. Murphy Student Travel Award</td>
<td>October 22, 2018</td>
<td>Martin J. Ronis (<a href="mailto:mronis@lsuhsc.edu">mronis@lsuhsc.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Student Travel Award</td>
<td>October 22, 2018</td>
<td>Kristina Wolf (<a href="mailto:kristina_wolf@lifenethealth.org">kristina_wolf@lifenethealth.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award</td>
<td>October 22, 2018</td>
<td>James P. Luyendyk (<a href="mailto:luyendyk@msu.edu">luyendyk@msu.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal Toxicology Award</td>
<td>December 10, 2018</td>
<td>Brian J. Day (<a href="mailto:DayB@NJHealth.org">DayB@NJHealth.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award</td>
<td>December 31, 2018</td>
<td>Rhiannon N. Hardwick (<a href="mailto:rhardwick@theravance.com">rhardwick@theravance.com</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award</td>
<td>January 1, 2019</td>
<td>Donna D. Zhang (<a href="mailto:dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu">dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Achievement Award</td>
<td>January 1, 2019</td>
<td>Donna D. Zhang (<a href="mailto:dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu">dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award</td>
<td>January 7, 2019</td>
<td>Brian S. Cummings (<a href="mailto:bsc@rx.uga.edu">bsc@rx.uga.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nominations Requested: Career Achievement Award

The Career Achievement Award was recently created by the Mechanisms Specialty Section, and is announced each year at the Annual Meeting. Past awardees have included Dean Jones (2014), Dennis Peterson (2015), Michael Gallo (2016) and Steven Cohen (2017). Please feel free to contact us with a name of anyone you feel is worthy of this honor. The only requirements are that the person be a member of the Mechanisms Specialty Section and that they have made outstanding contributions to the field of mechanistic toxicology. We will consider the nomination for 3 years.

To nominate a candidate for the award:
- Send the current CV for the candidate to Donna Zhang (dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu) by January 1, 2019.
- Provide two letters of recommendation from members of the Mechanisms Specialty Section outlining the research accomplishments and service of the candidate.
- Nominations will be considered for 3 years.

Supplemental Training for Education Program (STEP)

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS AND MENTORS!!
Supplemental Training for Education Program (STEP)
Next Deadline: October 9

Doctoral students are encouraged to apply for SOT funding to support participation in a workshop, training course, or event which facilitates the professional or scientific education needed to achieve future career goals. The activity should be outside the scope of their graduate program and graduate research.

For more info: http://www.toxicology.org/education/st/step.asp
A Message from Your Graduate Student Representative

Hello Graduate Students! My name is Cody Schmidlin and I am your current Graduate Student Representative for the Mechanism Specialty Section of SOT. We are currently planning many helpful events at our Annual Meeting this upcoming March in Baltimore. There are some great opportunities to connect with both industry and academia experts to assist you in networking and your career goals. These include our Student/Postdoctoral Mixer (Sunday evening) and a Mentoring Reception (Monday evening) done in collaboration with the Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section.

As a graduate student, the Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) is here for you. Information that is prevalent to graduate students can be found on the main SOT website; including activities like Chat with an Expert, volunteer work, and numerous graduate student awards.

Some quick reminders: Do not forget to submit to the student travel and research awards as outlined in the 2019 Awards section of the newsletter. If you are interested in running for the Graduate Student Representative position, please submit a nomination to Rhiannon Hardwick or Donna Zhang. All awards and leadership positions are a great way to boost your resume and contribute to our scientific community; so apply today!

If you have any questions or would like to see anything done by the MSS, feel free to contact me anytime (codyschmidlin@email.arizona.edu). I look forward to seeing you all in March!

A Note from Your Postdoctoral Representative

Hi Postdocs!! I am Laura Armstrong, the current Postdoctoral Representative for the Mechanisms Specialty Section. I have been a member and involved with SOT since 2011 as a graduate student, and also served as a Graduate Student Representative for Mechanisms SS previously. I highly encourage postdoctoral members to continue/become involved in the society, and to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available through SOT and our Specialty Section. The SOT and the Mechanisms SS have provided me with excellent networking opportunities within and outside my expertise, and have contributed to my growth as a scientist from a graduate student to a postdoctoral fellow. First, the SOT Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) coordinates webinars and career development seminars, about which you can find more information on the PDA website. Most importantly, the PDA sponsors “Poster Tours for Trainees” and the “PDA Luncheon” to give postdocs an opportunity to network with senior toxicologists and postdocs, and to recognize achievements of fellow colleagues at the annual meeting. The Mechanisms Specialty Section supports postdoctoral fellows through several award opportunities to recognize cutting-edge mechanistic toxicology and educational excellence/leadership through the mentoring of future toxicologists; these awards include the Postdoctoral Travel Award, the Renal Toxicology Award and the Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award. Deadlines and pertinent award information is outlined in this newsletter and our website. Lastly, please look out for the announcement of a SOT Mentoring Event co-sponsored with the Molecular and Systems Biology
Specialty Section to be held for the 2nd time at the Annual Meeting, with mentors from industry, academia, government, and consulting. The Mechanisms SS provides a great network to grow as a postdoctoral fellow, and a diverse support system to assist in pursuing all your future endeavors; so, don’t be shy, get involved and apply for awards that recognize your contributions to mechanistic toxicology! I look forward to seeing everyone in Baltimore at the Student/Postdoc Mixer Sunday night, and feel free to reach out with any questions about postdoc opportunities or just to introduce yourself.

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 and passion of those willing to serve. We have five positions that will be available for the 2019-2020 year (shown below). Self-nominations are highly encouraged. Interested applicants are expected to submit a photo and short bio indicating your credentials and interest in serving in a selected position. Nominees and bios will be reviewed by current officers. Note: bios will be used to create election ballots. The bios are your opportunity to convince Mechanisms members to vote for you!

If you are interested in any of the positions listed, please contact Rhiannon Hardwick (rhardwick@theravance.com) or Donna Zhang (dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu).

Open Positions for 2019-2020:

- **Vice President-Elect** (4-year term, advances to Vice President in year 2, then President, and then Past President in the subsequent years)
- **Junior Councilor** (2-year term, advances to Senior Councilor in the 2nd year)
- **Secretary/Treasurer** (2-year term)
- **Postdoctoral Representative** (1-year term)
- **Graduate Student Representative** (1-year term)

Thank you!

Thank you again for being a part of the Mechanisms Specialty Section. Please check out our website as well as the main Society of Toxicology website for updates about opportunities, awards, and our annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you in March!

Mechanisms Specialty Sections Officers, Society of Toxicology