Greetings and Welcome to the SOT
Mechanisms Specialty Section!

Greetings from the Mechanisms Specialty Section. The annual meeting in San Antonio is rapidly approaching. Some of you may remember that SOT was held in San Antonio in 2013 and it turned out to be an excellent venue with the canals, the restaurants and the Alamo. I hope to see everyone there, especially at our Specialty Section Meeting, which will be held Wednesday March 14th. As always, this event is where we announce our student and postdoctoral awards, many of which are funded thanks to the generosity of both past and current membership. As such we have several awards, the deadlines of which are listed in this letter. Some of these deadlines have come and gone, but many are still open till December. As such, we encourage all students and postdoctoral fellows to apply. We also encourage advisors to encourage their own trainee’s to apply. Some of the deadlines will change from time-to-time, so make sure to visit the website for the most up-to-date information. You are also free to contact me and I will be happy to help you.

While the majority of our awards focus on students and postdoctoral fellows, we do have a few that focus on the accomplishments of our established members. This includes our relatively new Career Achievement Award. This award gives us the opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements of our members in mechanistic toxicology. We are always seeking nominations. The deadline is January 1, 2018.

We also have openings for several officers in the upcoming year. Thus, we are seeking nominations. This includes officer positions for both student and postdoctoral representative. Do not be shy or self-effacing. We gladly accept self-nominations. Contact me if you have any interests.

We always welcome feedback, suggestions, and ideas on ways to make improvements. Do not hesitate to contact any of us with idea to improve our Specialty Section.

I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio.
Brian S. Cummings, Mechanisms 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 Fund</th>
<th>Sheldon D. Murphy Memorial Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$114,262.00</td>
<td>$98,119.00</td>
<td>$75,614.00</td>
<td>$45,570.00</td>
<td>$51,513.00</td>
<td>$95,996.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Congratulations to the 2017 MSS Award Winners**

**2017 Mechanisms Specialty Section Award Winners**

**Career Achievement**

Steven D. Cohen

Yvonne Chang (Oregon State)

**Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award**

Dahea You (Rutgers)

Kelly Fader (Michigan State)

Bryan Harder (Arizona)

Emma Bowers (UNC)

**Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award**

Gregory Smith (UNC)

Matt Dodson (Arizona)

Joseph Cichocki (Texas A&M)

**Postdoctoral Travel Award**

Kristin Bircsak (Pennsylvania)

Jolyn Fernandes (Emory)

**Renal Toxicology Award**

Priyanka Trivedi (Harvard)

Qian Lin (Louisville)

Cory Gerlach (Harvard)

Kelly Fader (Michigan State)

Gopi Gadapudi (Iowa)

Cory Gerlach (Harvard)

Nehal Gupta (Texas Tech)

Madelyn Huang (UNC)

Dahea You (Rutgers)

**Robert J. Rubin Travel Award**

Yvonne Chang (Oregon State)

**Ronald G. Thurman Travel Award**

Diptadip Dattaroy (South Carolina)

Ramiva Kumar (Clemson)

Yu-Syuan Luo (Texas A&M)
**2018 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! Awards and deadlines are listed below. For application instructions and requirements, please visit: [http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/Awards.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/Awards.asp)

Apply today!

<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 15, 2017</td>
<td>Martin J. Ronis (<a href="mailto:mronis@lsuhsc.edu">mronis@lsuhsc.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award</td>
<td>November 3, 2017</td>
<td>Kristina Wolf (<a href="mailto:kristina.wolf@lifenethealth.org">kristina.wolf@lifenethealth.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award</td>
<td>January 7, 2018</td>
<td>Angela L. Slitt (<a href="mailto:angela_slitt@uri.edu">angela_slitt@uri.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Student Travel Award</td>
<td>October 15, 2017</td>
<td>Udayan M. Apte (<a href="mailto:uapte@kumc.edu">uapte@kumc.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal Toxicology Award</td>
<td>December 10, 2017</td>
<td>Rhiannon N. Hardwick (<a href="mailto:RHardwick@theravance.com">RHardwick@theravance.com</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award</td>
<td>December 31, 2017</td>
<td>Donna D. Zhang (<a href="mailto:dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu">dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award</td>
<td>January 1, 2018</td>
<td>Brian S. Cummings (<a href="mailto:briancsc@uga.edu">briancsc@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 Brian Cummings (briansc@uga.edu) by January 1, 2018.
- 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.

A Message from Kyle, Your Student Representative
Hey Everyone! My name is Kyle Saitta and I am the 2017/2018 Graduate Student Representative for the Mechanisms Specialty Section of SOT. I am currently a PhD candidate in the Joint Graduate Program in Toxicology at Rutgers University located in New Jersey. I work in the laboratory of Dr. Cheryl Dreyfus, in which we are interested in the role of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGLuRs) in glial cells following a demyelinating lesion. These can be important in neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis. I have been attending the SOT scientific conferences since 2013, and became a full-fledged member the same year. As a Graduate Student Representative, I also serve on the SOT Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC), which aids in the coordination of many activities to enhance the professional and scientific development of graduate student members. Many of the resources, events, activities, and volunteering opportunities can be found at the GSLC corner on the SOT website. Here are some
events and activities that all graduate students are encouraged to attend while at the 2018 SOT Annual Meeting held in San Antonio:
- The Student/Postdoctoral Mixer (Sunday evening of the SOT annual meeting)
- Chat with an Expert (Rolling registration during the months leading up to annual meeting and also the during Student/Postdoctoral Mixer)
- Tox Showdown (Tuesday evening of the SOT annual meeting)

The Mechanisms Specialty Section is one of the larger Specialty Sections in SOT, and is highly supportive of student development and success by offering five graduate student awards to facilitate travel and to acknowledge exceptional mechanistic research. Therefore, I encourage all graduate students presenting research at the 2018 annual SOT meeting to apply for awards before their application deadlines listed in this newsletter. I also encourage those interested in learning more about our Specialty Section to attend the Mechanisms SS reception held Wednesday evening March 14th. If you need more information about the Mechanisms SS, please feel free to contact me via email (kyle.saitta@rutgers.edu) or visit our website for more information. Looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio!

A Note from Your Postdoctoral Representative

Howdy Postdocs! My name is Dwayne Carter and I am the current postdoctoral representative for the Mechanisms Specialty Section, and the Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) Committee on Diversity Initiatives. I would encourage ALL postdoctoral members to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available through SOT and the Mechanisms Specialty Section as they played a large role in my success transitioning from an industry postdoc to a scientist within the biotechnology industry in San Diego, California. For a quick look at available opportunities and upcoming events for postdoctoral fellows please visit the PDA website. Specifically, I would like to highlight the PDA sponsored “Poster Tours for Trainees” and the “PDA Luncheon” where postdocs can critically evaluate cutting-edge toxicology methods and research findings, network with senior toxicologists and other postdocs, and celebrate their achievements at the upcoming meeting in San Antonio, Texas. In addition to the PDA sponsored events, the Mechanisms Specialty Section has several awards for postdoctoral fellows to support travel and recognize outstanding research and educational activities at the annual meeting. The deadline and contact information for each award is highlighted in this newsletter so please don’t hesitate and submit your application as soon as possible! Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding opportunities for postdoctoral fellows within the Mechanisms Specialty Section or SOT in general, and I hope to see you all at the 57th Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas!

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 four positions that will be available for the 2018-2019 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 Brian Cummings (briansc@uga.edu) or Donna Zhang (dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu).

Open Positions for 2018-2019:

- **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)*
- **Postdoctoral Representative** *(1 year term)*
- **Graduate Student Representative** *(1 year term)*