

Mechanisms Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024

May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

I. Officers:

<u>2023–2024</u>	<u>2024–2025</u>
President: Rebecca McCullough Vice President: Archit Rastogi Vice President-Elect: Juliane Beier Secretary-Treasurer: Grace Chappell Past President, Councilor: Cheryl Rockwell Senior Councilor: Anna Kopec Junior Councilor: Joe Zagorski Postdoctoral Representative: Kruuttika Satbhai Graduate Student Representative: Katherine Morton	President: Archit Rastogi Vice President: Juliane Beier Vice President-Elect: Udayan Apte Secretary-Treasurer: Kayla Frost Past President, Councilor: Rebecca McCullough Senior Councilor: Joe Zagorski Junior Councilor: Laura Armstrong Postdoctoral Representative: Emily Stevenson Graduate Student Representative: Christine Kim

II. 2024 Membership total: 271

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:

The Mechanisms Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

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

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Mechanisms Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Biotechnology
- Mechanisms
- Molecular and Systems Biology
- Risk Assessment

V. Communication Methods:

The Mechanisms Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- ToXchange
- Emails through SOT Headquarters

- Specialty Section website
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Mechanisms 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
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
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- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Mechanisms Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Career panel(s)
- Speed mentoring
- Actively recruit members to be part of the SOT Mentor Match system
- Mentor-mentee program within the Specialty Section

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	0
Early Career	0
Mid Career	
Late Career	1

26 awarded

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

Mechanisms co-sponsored and organized a Mentoring Reception with BTSS, MSBSS, RASS, SCCTSS, and OTA SIG during the Annual Meeting on March 11th from 7:30PM – 9:30PM. This was very well received with many Mechanisms members participating as mentors. We plan to continue with similar receptions at future meetings. We hosted a lot more officer meetings and helped engage our membership to a greater degree.

X. Strategic Plan:

The Mechanisms Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- 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 Mechanisms Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- More topics around emerging gene therapies would be very interesting.

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?

Better, more frequent communication from the Society around items that are due would be a huge help. Having the ability for multiple members of the EC to log onto the awards system would be tremendous.

- 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.)?

The single point of access for the new awards system has been a major pain point.