

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026**

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

**I. Officers:**

| <b><u>2025–2026</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b><u>2026–2027</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| President: Juliane Beier<br>Vice President: Udayan Apte<br>Vice President Elect: Alicia Timme-Laragy<br>Past President, Councilor: Archit Rastogi<br>Secretary-Treasurer: Kayla Frost<br>Senior Councilor: Laura Armstrong<br>Junior Councilor: Banrida Wahlang<br>Postdoctoral Representative: Rebekah Kendall<br>Graduate Student Representative: Hamida Hamida | President: Udayan Apte<br>Vice President: Alicia Timme-Laragy<br>Vice President-Elect: Joe Zagorski<br>Secretary-Treasurer: Walter Watson<br>Past President, Councilor: Juliane Beier<br>Senior Councilor: Banrida Wahlang<br>Junior Councilor: Aditya Joshi<br>Postdoctoral Representative: Candace Longoria<br>Graduate Student Representative: Gina Capece |

**Committees:**

No appointed committees

**II. 2026 Membership total: 249**

**III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:**

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

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Sponsored session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- 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
- Computational Toxicology
- Molecular and Systems Biology
- Ocular Toxicology
- Risk Assessment

**V. Communication Methods:**

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

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn
- Other Social Media (Facebook, X, etc.)

**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
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- 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 networking
- Actively recruit members to be part of the SOT Mentor Match system
- Mentor-mentee program within the Specialty Section

**VIII. Awards Given:**

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| <b>Trainee</b>      | 23 |
| <b>Early Career</b> | 0  |
| <b>Mid Career</b>   | 0  |
| <b>Late Career</b>  | 0  |

**IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:**

- A. Expanded the number of new named/endowed awards administered by Mechanisms SS.
- B. Provided mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels.

**X. Strategic Plan:**

The Mechanisms Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- 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.

- The impact of AI on research.

**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?

We administer a large number of awards. It would be very helpful if multiple members of the executive committee could log onto the awards system.

- 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 awards system has caused us the most pain.