

ANNUAL REPORT: 2024–2025
May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

I. Officers:

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
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	President: Juliane Beier Vice President: Udayan Apte Vice President Elect: Alicia Timme-Laragy Past President, Councilor: Archit Rastogi Secretary-Treasurer: Kayla Frost Senior Councilor: Laura Armstrong Junior Councilor: Banrida Wahlang Postdoctoral Representative: Rebekah Kendall Graduate Student Representative: Hamida Hamida

II. 2025 Membership total: 247

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:

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

- In-person meeting/mixer
- 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 mentoring
- Actively recruit members to be part of the SOT Mentor Match system
- Mentor-mentee program within the Specialty Section

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	21
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	1

IX. 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

X. Scientific Topics of Interest:

The Mechanisms Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- Impact of AI on research and tools

XI. 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.