

Mechanisms Specialty Section Newsletter

GREETINGS MECHANISMS MEMBERS!

Greetings from your Mechanisms Specialty Section Leadership! As we prepare for another year in the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to update you on some of the adjustments we have made to hold a virtual Annual SOT Meeting for 2021. We have aligned some of our award application deadlines to match the change in SOT abstract submission deadline this year, which is December 1, 2020. This will create some challenges for those who want to apply for the Carl C. Smith Award that requires a manuscript as part of the review process (see Pg. 5 for award information and links).

Holding a virtual annual meeting that does not require travel changes how travel awards will be handled this year. SOT Headquarters has informed us that travel awards for this year will be adjusted to cover registration fees. Other non-travel awards will not be impacted by this restriction.

It is never too early to be thinking about new symposiums, workshops, roundtables, and CE courses for next year's meeting that will be due shortly after this year's meeting. Mechanisms members always submit many strong and innovative proposals for the annual meeting. I encourage our membership to continue this tradition.

The success of our trainees is due to the tremendous support and leadership from our mentors. I would like to point out the mentor match page in ToXchange that describes how to enroll and participate in mentoring our trainees. We sincerely thank those of you that serve as award judges each year and welcome anyone interested in getting involved in future activities. We also invite our members to consider nominating one or more of their colleagues for our Career Achievement Award (Pg. 8) to recognize their outstanding commitment to mechanistic toxicology research and mentorship. Lastly, please take note of leadership positions that are on the ballot (Pg. 8). We welcome new faces, diversity, and fresh ideas!

Best Regards

Brian J. Day, PhD

President, Mechanisms Specialty Section



OFFICERS

2020-2022

Brian J. Day
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Colin Anderson
Student Representative

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Hardwick
Past President

ENDOWMENT FUND STATUS

Note from the treasurer: Although these are challenging times, please be re-assured that these endowments are fiscally healthy and that regardless of the status of the virtual 2021 meeting these funds will be utilized to support trainees in the upcoming year. The annual interest of these endowments support these talented trainees—small contributions to the endowment can make a big impact on the future.

Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award	\$121,483
Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award	\$101,902
Renal Toxicology Fellowship Award	\$84,416
Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award Fund	\$48,863
Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award	\$56,924
Sheldon D. Murphy Memorial Fund	\$104,556

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Here!](#)



2020 AWARD WINNERS

*Announced at the Mechanisms Virtual SOT Business Meeting and Awards Reception, April 30, 2020
(from the comfort of your favorite Zoom locale)*

CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS!!

Career Achievement Award

Curtis Klaassen, PhD, DABT, ATS, FAASLD
University Distinguished Professor and Chair (Retired)
University of Kansas School of Medicine



Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award

1st—**Colin Anderson**, University of Colorado
2nd—**Cody Jozef Schmidlin**, University of Arizona
3rd—**Archit Rastogi**, University of Massachusetts
(Amherst)

Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award

1st—**Lauren Poole Hardy**, Michigan State University
2nd—**Souvarish Sarkar**, Harvard Medical School
3rd—**Avinash Kumar**, University of Pittsburgh

Carl C. Smith Finalists

Reena Berman, University of Colorado
Melissa Clemens, University of Arkansas
Emily Marques, University of Rhode Island
Christine Rygiel, University of Michigan
Regina Schnegelberger, University of Pittsburgh

Sheldon D. Murphy Student Travel Award

Kelsey Behrens, University of North Carolina
Reena Berman, University of Colorado
Itishree Kaushik, Texas Tech University
Siannah Miller, University of Arizona
Sharavan Ramachandran, Texas Tech University
Archit Rastogi, University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
Monica Roy, University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
Cody Jozef Schmidlin, University of Arizona

Renal Toxicology Award

1st—**Joseph Jilek**, University of Arizona
2nd—**Jephte Akakpo**, University of Kansas
3rd—**Lillie Allred Barnett**, University of Georgia

Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award

Melissa Clemens, University of Arkansas
Dan Rizzolo, Rutgers University
Regina Schnegelberger, University of Pittsburgh

Postdoctoral Student Travel Award

Courtney Culpepper, University of South Carolina
Lauren Poole Hardy, Michigan State University

Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award

Alexa Murray, Rutgers University

ENDORSED SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES AT 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Each year at the SOT Annual Meeting the Mechanisms SS endorses several items on the program, many of which were developed by Mechanisms members. Mechanisms Leadership now offers a pre-review period for proposal feedback in an effort help increase acceptance rates. Final proposals are then submitted to the Scientific Program Committee followed by official endorsement by Specialty Sections.

Proposals are always due shortly after each Annual Meeting, thus requiring a bit of planning ahead. If you are interested in creating a proposal for a Continuing Education Course, Symposia, or Workshop don't forget to reach out for pre-review. All inquiries can be made to: sotmechanisms@gmail.com.

Session Type	Title
Continuing Education Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advances in CRISPR-Cas-9 Tools and Applications for Toxicologists • Introduction to Open-Access Computational Toxicology Tools • Gateway Technologies to Tomorrow's Metal Toxicological Research
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lysosome/Autophagy Dysregulation in Toxicity and Disease • Genome Editing in Drug Discovery: Using the Cas9 Protein to Explore Target-Mediated Toxicity • Cellular Recovery and Resilience: A New Perspective on Toxicity Testing • Quantitative and Translational Systems Toxicology: Improving Drug Safety Assessment of a New Pharmaceutical Modality
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Carcinogenesis: Effect of Carcinogen Exposure on the Genome and Health Risks • Epigenetic Mechanisms of Metal-Induced Cancer Stem Cell-Like Property and Carcinogenesis • Immune Cell Polarization in Toxicology and Therapeutic Approaches • TaRGET II Consortium: Elucidating Epigenetic Responses to the Environment across Target and Surrogate Tissues • Chemical Probes in Toxicology: From Defining Exposures to Identifying Novel Toxicity and Druggable Targets
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligodendrocytes/Schwann Cells, Major Targets in Neurotoxicity and Neurological Diseases • Beyond the Bulk: Single-Cell Applications in Mechanistic Toxicology • Improving Our Understanding of Toxicant Metabolism and Cytochrome P450s Using Novel Knockout Models and High-Throughput Methods

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CALL FOR 2021 TRAINEE AWARD APPLICATIONS!!!

The movement from a physical to virtual meeting in 2021 will have a significant effect on the Mechanisms awards. Most notably the travel awards were altered according to their charter to either cover registration or to be awarded in cash. The list below covers these modifications and is as updated as possible. Please continue to check the SOT website for any late-breaking updates.

*Awards and application deadlines are listed below. **You do not need to be a Mechanisms member to apply, though you are encouraged to join.** All award applications must be submitted to sotmechanisms@gmail.com. Leadership contacts are provided for inquiries about the application process and specific award eligibility only. To avoid loss of your application, please do not submit applications to individual Award Administrators.*

Award	Amount(s)	Deadline	Award Administrator
Sheldon D. Murphy Student and Postdoctoral Endowment Award	\$500 each	December 1	Jonathan M. Maher (JMaher@theravance.com)
Carl C. Smith (Student)	\$750-2000	December 1	Kai (Connie) Wu (wu.kai@gene.com)
Renal Toxicology (Student/PostDoc)	\$250-1000	December 1	Cheryl Rockwell (rockwelc@msu.edu)
Ronald G. Thurman (Student)	Registration expenses for 2021 meeting	December 1	John Clarke (j.clarke@wsu.edu)
Gabriel L. Plaa Education (Postdoc)	\$750-1500	December 1	Rhiannon N. Hardwick (rhardwick@theravance.com)
Robert J. Rubin (Student)	Registration expenses for 2021 meeting	December 30	Daniel D. Petersen (Petersen.Dan@epa.gov)

For detailed award descriptions, eligibility, and application instructions:

Mechanisms Award Info:

<http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/awards.asp>

Submit ALL Award Applications To:

sotmechanisms@gmail.com



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MESSAGE FROM YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Hello all! My name is Colin Anderson, and I am the Mechanisms Specialty Section Graduate Student Representative for this very unique 2020-2021 term. I am in my 5th year in the Toxicology PhD program at the University of Colorado – Anschutz Medical Campus researching the molecular mechanisms involved in a toxicant model of Parkinson’s disease involving the fungicide maneb. I am currently finishing writing my thesis and preparing to defend this December. I have been a member of my regional chapter (Mountain West) of SOT since 2016 and a student member of SOT since 2018. I am also serving on the SOT Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC), organizing interviews with an expert podcast and assisting in the GSLC newsletter with a comic strip. Keep your eye out for the newsletter from GSLC to get more information on graduate student opportunities and activities.

With the odd nature of this year, SOT and the Mechanisms Specialty Section has made significant changes to their activities and program. Here are a few notes that are important to graduate students.

- The upcoming annual SOT meeting will be virtual this year, and submission deadlines for abstracts and registration has changed. If you are not receiving email updates on SOT registration and abstract submission, please check the website frequently.
- The Mechanisms Specialty Section has recently changed their travel awards to accommodate for the virtual meeting.
- The deadlines for Mechanisms Specialty Section awards have also changed, with the Carl C. Smith abstract submission deadline approaching fast (Dec. 1). Remember, this award must be accompanied with an SOT abstract submission.
- SOT and the specialty section will still be holding virtual social and networking events during the virtual annual meeting, now more important than ever with pandemic limiting networking opportunities.

It is easy to let award applications and abstract submissions lapse while we constantly adjust our personal and work lives around the COVID pandemic. We encourage all graduate students to apply for awards this upcoming term.

Additionally, nominations for the next graduate student representative can be sent to sotmechanisms@gmail.com. This position is a good opportunity for late-stage graduate students to learn the workings of a specialty section and make connections with active members. I highly encourage you to apply to be the next representative, and you may reach out to me with any questions at colin.c.anderson@cuanschutz.edu.

I look forward to seeing everyone at next year’s virtual meeting, and I hope you all stay safe and healthy.

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Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity
Gordon Research Seminar & Conference
Proctor Academy, Andover, NH, USA
August 14-15 & 15-20, 2021
<http://bit.ly/2021CMMTGRC>

GRC

REQUESTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Career Achievement award was created by the Mechanisms SS in 2014 and is announced each year at our Business Meeting and Reception in March. Past awardees have included Dean Jones (2014), Dennis Peterson (2015), Michael Gallo (2016), Steven Cohen (2017), Debra Laskin (2018), Lois Lehman-McKeeman (2019), and Curtis Klaassen (2020).

Mechanisms SS members are encouraged to submit nominations for colleagues they wish to honor. Nominees must be a member of the Mechanisms SS and have made outstanding contributions to the field of mechanistic toxicology. All nominations will remain in consideration for 3 years.

To nominate a colleague:

Send a single PDF file of the required materials (below) to sotmechanisms@gmail.com. In the subject line include "Career_nomineelastname" to ensure processing.

- A current CV of the nominee
- Two letters of recommendation from members of Mechanisms SS outlining the nominees research accomplishments and service activities

For any questions regarding nominee eligibility or preparation of a nomination packet, please contact Brian Day (dayb@njhealth.org).

SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR 2021 BALLOT

The continued success of the Mechanisms SS is driven by those willing to serve in leadership positions. Each fall, we seek new volunteers and have 5 positions available for the 2021/2022 term.

Self-nominations are always welcome and encouraged! Interested applicants will be expected to provide a short bio and photo for the fall ballot. The bio should include your interest in serving, current employment, and relevant leadership activities.

Any questions regarding nominee expectations and duties of a position may be directed to the Leadership Nominating Committee (John Clarke, Rhiannon Hardwick, and Kai (Connie) Wu).

Position	Term
Vice President-Elect	One year then advances up presidential chain (4 years total)
Junior Councilor	One year then advances to Senior Councilor (2 years total)
Postdoctoral Representative	One year
Graduate Student Representative	One Year
Secretary/Treasurer	Two Years

Submit nominations (including self-nominations!) by DECEMBER 15 to:

sotmechanisms@gmail.com