

Neurotoxicology Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Ronald Tjalkens Vice President: Kristen Ryan Vice President Elect: Megan Culbreth Past President, Councilor: Alison Bernstein Secretary-Treasurer: Briana De Miranda Councilor: Edward Levin Councilor: Megan Mahoney Postdoctoral Representative: Rebecca Wilson Graduate Student Representative: Brenna Baird	President: Kristen Ryan Vice President: Megan Culbreth Vice President-Elect: Briana De Miranda Secretary-Treasurer: Dilshan Harischandra Past President, Councilor: Ronald Tjalkens Councilor: Eva-Maria Collins Councilor: Megan Mahoney Postdoctoral Representative: Marisol Arellano Graduate Student Representative: Monica Carbajal

Committees:

Career Advancement/Mentoring/Networking Committee

II. 2026 Membership total: 282

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

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

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Poster session for trainees
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- Member highlights
- 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 Neurotoxicology Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Participated in CAMAN event

V. Communication Methods:

The Neurotoxicology 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

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Neurotoxicology 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 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
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

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

- Speed networking
- Chat with an expert
- Mentor-mentee program within the Specialty Section
- NTSS member participated in CAMAN-hosted event, conducted annual NTSS poster competition for graduate students and postdoctoral trainees to promote awards and network

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	12
Early Career	0
Mid Career	1
Late Career	1

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- Updated Award Descriptions and Deadlines for SOT Apply and the NTSS website which lead to distribution of 12 trainee awards
- Encouraged the NTSS community to submit SOT 2027 session proposals with targeted emails and examples for topic areas of interest.

X. Strategic Plan:

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

- Some of these topics will be in the 2027 meeting, which is in-part due to requests directly sent out by NTSS Executive Committee after SOT this year. Topics include microplastics and neurodegenerative disease as well as methodologies and microplastics and pregnancy as a critical window for maternal mental health. NTSS would still like to see more sessions for best practices in neurotoxicology research as well as rigor and reproducibility/open science in toxicology - practical tools and skills.

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?

Our officers would like more consistent support for administrative and technical tasks. For example, for this report, our newsletter, and our reception, we manually curate a list of NTSS members who have won awards and serve on committees. This is time-consuming, and we likely miss people. It would be helpful if a system could be set up from the member database to notify Sections when members win awards and are elected to committees.

- 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.)?

SOT Apply is getting better but is still a challenge for members and non-members to apply for awards and is likewise challenging for NTSS officers to navigate for award application preview and download. Wondering if this could be improved. Award checks distributed after the annual meeting take months to reach the trainee. Would appreciate the ability to track this information so that we can accurately communicate with trainees and mentors.