

Neurotoxicology Specialty Section

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

I. Officers:

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
President: Alison Bernstein Vice President: Muhammad Hossain Vice President-Elect: Ronald Tjalkens Secretary-Treasurer: Briana De Miranda Past President, Councilor: Marissa Sobolewski Councilor: Megan Culbreth Councilor: Edward Levin Postdoctoral Representative: Adam Schuller Graduate Student Representative: Jessie Badley	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

Committees:

II. 2025 Membership total: 287

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:

The Neurotoxicology 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
- 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.

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

- Actively recruit members to be part of the SOT Mentor Match system
- We launched a new program to feature undergraduates in labs of NTSS members, Neurotoxicology Undergraduate Posters (NeuroUP) Showcase, and to connect these undergraduates with potential me

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	12
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	1

IX. 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
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future
- Provide training and education that reflects the needs of members
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

X. Scientific Topics of Interest:

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

- Microplastics and neurodegenerative disease, Nanoparticles and neurological/neurodegenerative disease, Pregnancy as a critical window for maternal mental health, Best practices in neurotoxicology research (aligned with special issue in Neurotoxicology), Rigor and reproducibility/open science in toxicology - practical tools and skills

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?

The Society should have a discussion with Specialty Section presidents before the budget/reception forms are submitted for the next annual meeting to discuss funding of receptions. We have discussed the potential for a society-wide speed mentoring event, with specialty sections having their own dedicated areas, that is available to everyone to allow all sections to participate. This would be particularly beneficial to smaller sections with fewer members and smaller budgets and may be more cost-effective to conduct as a single large event rather than having each individual section organize events independently.

- 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.)?

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.