Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology
Specialty Section

Spring 2026 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Sustainable Chemistry through Contemporary Toxicology Membership,

As I conclude my term as President of the Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology (SCCT) Specialty Section, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our Executive Committee and broader membership. Your commitment and dedication to the science around sustainable chemistry and toxicology have made this past year one of progress and meaningful engagement.

IN THIS ISSUE

I truly appreciate the efforts from our Executive Committee and membership in the success of our Specialty Section for the 2025-2026 term. I would like to highlight a number of successes we have had this past year. SCCT hosted two amazing webinars in the Fall of 2025 and Spring of 2026, which received significantly positive feedback. We also hosted a reception and participated in the NetworX Night mentoring event during the annual SOT meeting. Also, our SCCT Awards Committee did a phenomenal job selecting recipients for the Best Abstract Postdoctoral Scholar and Best Abstract Graduate Student Awards for outstanding research that supports the SCCT mission. These activities support our central role in toxicology in the advancement of sustainable chemical innovation. Also, feedback from our membership and broader toxicology community has provided a wealth of ideas to help shape the SCCT in the coming years.

As we look to the future, we recognize that 2026 will be another challenging year. With global changes in priorities and leadership, the policies around sustainable chemistry, green innovation, and the use of alternative toxicological methods will continue to be impacted. Our Specialty Section is well-positioned to contribute valuable scientific perspectives as regulatory and research agendas shift. I am confident that SCCT will continue to serve as a trusted forum for collaboration, dialogue, and leadership at the intersection of toxicology and sustainability.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving in the role of President of SCCT for the 2025-2026 term. I look forward to supporting the incoming leadership and continuing to engage with SCCT's vital mission in the years ahead.

Damani Parran, PhD, MBA, DABT
Outgoing President, SCCT Specialty Section

SOT 2026 REPORT-OUT

SCCT-Endorsed Symposium Session: Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: Has the Time Come for Greater Integration of Approaches?

By Lauren Brown, MS, DABT
SCCT Outgoing Past President

At SOT 2026, I was honored to chair the session "Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: Has the Time Come for Greater Integration of Approaches?" with Dr. Bruno Campos (Unilever). As a human health risk assessor (Brown) and an ecological risk assessor (Campos), we were motivated to develop this session, given our recognition that human and environmental health are deeply interconnected, yet risk assessment frameworks have traditionally addressed them in isolation. This separation has led to parallel, and often uncoordinated, evaluation processes. Emerging scientific capabilities, particularly the expansion of non-animal, mechanistically-informed approaches, are beginning to bridge this divide and support more integrated decision-making. Concurrently, regulatory and policy developments, including the “one substance, one assessment” concept and increasing emphasis on sustainability frameworks such as “Safe and Sustainable by Design,” are prompting a shift toward more cohesive and holistic evaluation strategies. Against this backdrop, the session aimed to explore how new tools and approaches can advance more unified, efficient, and protective assessments across human and environmental domains. For a more detailed perspective on each topic addressed in the session, I encourage readers to explore the accompanying ToXchange article, by SOT Reporter Krista Enos, **Are We Human? Or Are We Integrated?**

Building out from the discussion, it became evident that there are meaningful opportunities to leverage mechanistic insights derived from human health toxicology to inform ecological risk assessment, particularly given the more advanced state of mechanistic understanding in this domain. In parallel, new approach methodologies (NAMs) are currently more mature in the context of human health, highlighting a potential pathway for their strategic use in environmental assessments. Where conserved biological pathways or mechanisms exist across species, these data streams may provide a valuable foundation for informing ecological evaluations. Collectively, the discussions underscored the potential for greater cross-domain integration, while also emphasizing the importance of carefully considering species relevance and applicability when translating mechanistic information.

SOT 2026 REPORT-OUT

Symposium Session: NAM *In Vitro* Assessment of Intestinal Metabolism to Inform PBK Modeling of Bioavailability and Systemic Exposure

By Kaylyn Dinh, BS
Toxicology Graduate Student, Texas A&M University
SCCT Member

This session, chaired by Dr. John Wambaugh (US EPA) and co-chaired by Max Spänig (Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine, Germany), highlighted how advances in new approach methodologies (NAMs) and toxicokinetic modeling are improving the prediction of internal concentrations, particularly for oral exposures. The Biological Modeling Specialty Section was the primary endorser of this session; the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section and Risk Assessment Specialty Sections were co-endorsers. A central theme was the need to move beyond simplified or poorly translatable models by integrating human relevant *in vitro* systems with physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) and high-throughput toxicokinetic (HTTK) modeling. Together, these approaches support quantitative *in vitro-in vivo* extrapolation (QIVIVE), and enable more informed, mechanism-based evaluation of chemical safety.

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The opening presentation by Dr. Patrik Lundquist (Uppsala University, Sweden) focused on emerging intestinal NAMs designed to better capture human-specific metabolism and transport. While Caco-2 cell models remain useful for permeability screening, they lack metabolic capacity and physiological complexity. Advances such as primary human enterocytes and intestinal organoids provide improved representation of epithelial structure, transporter expression, and metabolic activity (e.g., CYP3A4). Notably, 2D/liquid-interface organoid systems enable simultaneous assessment of permeability, metabolism, and transport, while Ussing chamber studies with human tissue demonstrated that intestinal metabolism can significantly influence disposition through efflux of metabolites back into the gut lumen. These systems underscore the importance of integrating multiple processes within a single platform to improve prediction of oral bioavailability.

Dr. Jingxuan Wang (Wageningen University and Research, Wageningen, Netherlands) expanded on how intestinal *in vitro* data can be incorporated into PBPK and HTTK frameworks to refine estimates of internal exposure. Traditional approaches often treat the intestine as a passive compartment and rely on simplifying assumptions (e.g., complete absorption, hepatic-only metabolism), which can lead to overestimation of internal dose. Wang outlined several intestinal NAMs, from simple permeability models to stem cell-derived systems, 3D tissues, and organ-on-chip platforms, demonstrating how increasing biological complexity improves human relevance. Incorporating transporter activity, intracellular metabolism, and species-specific differences into modeling workflows enables more accurate and less conservative predictions.

Providing a complementary perspective, Dr. Georg Aichinger (ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland) highlighted the critical role of the gut microbiome in chemical biotransformation. Unlike host metabolism, which is largely oxidative, microbial metabolism is often reductive and can generate unique metabolites, alter bioavailability, or reverse host detoxification processes through deconjugation. These processes can extend chemical half-life via enterohepatic recirculation and introduce substantial inter-individual variability. Aichinger emphasized the growing use of NAMs such as anaerobic *in vitro* fermentation systems and sequencing-enabled analyses to characterize microbiome mediated metabolism, reinforcing the need to integrate these processes into next-generation PBPK models.

From a regulatory application standpoint, Dr. Barbara Wetmore (US EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina) described the evolution of high-throughput toxicokinetic (HTTK) workflows for chemical prioritization. Historically, these models relied on conservative assumptions to ensure protective estimates. Incorporation of NAM-derived parameters (e.g., plasma protein binding, hepatic clearance, and, increasingly, intestinal metabolism) alongside *in vitro-in vivo* extrapolation (IVIVE) and Monte Carlo simulations allows for more realistic estimation of internal exposures across populations.

Finally, Dr. Barira Islam (Certara UK Limited, Sheffield, United Kingdom) presented a tiered PBPK modeling framework that integrates NAM-derived ADME data. Screening-level models provide rapid, conservative estimates using minimal inputs, while higher tier models incorporate chemical-specific parameters. This approach enables refinement of exposure predictions by accounting for route-specific metabolism (e.g., intestinal vs. hepatic), population variability, and free (bioavailable) concentrations, which are key factors for linking *in vitro* activity to *in vivo* outcomes.

The panel discussion reinforced the importance of integrating NAMs with computational modeling to improve confidence in human-relevant predictions. A key theme was leveraging high-throughput methods for screening, while incorporating additional biological complexity where it meaningfully improves predictions. Panelists also highlighted ongoing challenges, including standardization of *in vitro* systems, scaling of data for PBPK models, and approaches for validation and uncertainty characterization.

SOT 2026 REPORT-OUT

Informational Session: Toxicology Meets Public Policy: Lessons Learned from NAMs Advocacy in the United States

By Shoba Iyer, PhD
SCCT Councilor 2025-2027

At the 2026 SOT Annual Meeting in San Diego, Dr. Gina Hilton (PETA Science Consortium International e.V.) and Ms. Emily Anderson (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine [PCRM]) chaired a session about the role of new approach methodologies (NAMs) advocacy in public policy development and implementation in the United States (US). Toxicologists play an important role in bridging the gap between technical considerations with NAMs and effective policy creation and adoption; this bridge is the space where toxicologists have a responsibility to communicate how to correctly apply and interpret NAMs to assess human health hazards, as well as the value of NAMs for assessing data gaps.

Anderson shared a case study of how PCRM helped launch the Innovative Science and Technology Approaches for New Drugs (ISTAND) Program at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The policy ask was for the FDA to establish a qualification program for *in vitro* and computational methods. Anderson detailed the multi-year stakeholder engagement process that PCRM undertook, which included convening drug discovery stakeholders, publishing relevant manuscripts and op-ed essays, hosting a NAMs briefing, submitting comments to federal advisory bodies and to FDA, and supporting FDA's funding request. FDA launched their ISTAND program in 2020, and in 2025, ISTAND became a permanent program. Anderson shared strategies for how toxicologists can get involved with promoting NAMs, such as incorporating policy recommendations in publications and presentations, partnering with advocacy groups, and participating in the **International Microphysiological Systems Society's (iMPSS) Government and Policy Relations Committee**.

Dr. Paul Locke (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health [JHSPH]) delivered a presentation on NAMs and the Congressional appropriations process. JHSPH has a toxicology policy laboratory that advocates for 21st century science and policy by identifying and promoting cutting-edge scientific methods focused on human diseases and conditions. Locke shared the importance of finding evidence that informs and supports lobbying; strategies for identifying lobbying targets, such as connecting with other groups who have proposed similar bills as the one your team is working on; and tips for structuring your Congressional ask. This process is how Locke's team successfully included language supportive of NAMs in FDA's Appropriations Committee document earlier this year. Among the questions that Congress asked Locke's team are whether their position reflects a community consensus, and whether we can replace all animal testing right now or if a transition plan is needed. Toxicological expertise and savvy communication for an audience of policymakers is critical for successful outcomes in these discussions.

Mr. Carl David D'Ruiz (dsm-firmenich) gave the final presentation of the session about transforming predictive toxicology into policy, using a case study on sunscreens in the US. D'Ruiz worked on sunscreen in his former role as Chair of the Personal Care Products Council. Before 2025, the US had not approved a new UV filter for sunscreen since 1999. Meanwhile, other countries have offered over 30 UV filters for inclusion in sunscreens. This revealed an opportunity and need to update FDA's toxicity testing requirements. D'Ruiz shared strategies from his experience for influencing policy such that new sunscreen technologies can reach US consumers, including identifying and acting during key policy windows to integrate predictive toxicology and

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NAMs into new sunscreen legislation, framing and amplifying your key message, and building diverse coalitions.

A key overall message from this session was the value of toxicologists stepping into the policymaking process; when this happens, innovation accelerates and public health improves.

Scientific Session recordings from the SOT Annual Meeting are now available on the Online Planner and Event App! Please note that these on-demand recordings are only available to meeting registrants. Log in with your SOT credentials to view sessions that you missed or want to review! Here is a tutorial on accessing the recordings with the Event App.

SOT 2026 REPORT-OUT
SCCT Annual Reception Discussion

We would like to thank everyone who attended the SCCT Reception at SOT 2026! At this event, we had a brief, informal discussion of potential ideas for the SCCT Executive Committee to develop for future webinars or SOT sessions. As always, our members shared topics of interest, which included: circularity and circular economy from various perspectives (e.g., academic, industry, government), and concerns about plastics (e.g., microplastics, food packaging) and viable safer alternatives.

If you would like to add to the ideas shared at this year's SCCT Reception, or volunteer with a future event, please reach out to SCCT Councilor, Shoba Iyer, at shoba.iyer@sfgov.org. We'd love to hear from you!

SCCT 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS
Best Abstract Postdoctoral Scholar Award

David Leuthold, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher at Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ
"Behavioral Effects and Bioaccumulation of Tire-Derived Compounds in Zebrafish: Unraveling the Chemical Drivers of Acute Sensorimotor Disruption"
D. Leuthold, B. Seiwert, D. Zahn, N. Schweiger, M. Ziesenß, R. Owen, and T. Tal

Damani Parran (SCCT President, 2025-2026) and David at the SOT 2026 SCCT Reception

David's work evaluates the chemical components of tire wear particles and their mechanisms in sensorimotor disruption in zebrafish larvae. The approach involved acute exposure of zebrafish larvae to tire tread leachates, subsequent evaluation of motor behavior, derivation of bioconcentration factors, and *in silico* molecular target predictions. The mixture of organic compounds making up the tire tread leachate included benzothiazoles, para-phenylenediamines (PPDs), and phenylguanidines. Tire tread leachate exposure induced a biphasic increase in swimming activity in the zebrafish larvae. Zinc-driven inhibition of GABAergic signaling was one toxicity mechanism identified in the study.

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In silico predictions identified Kv12.2 potassium channels (kcnh3) as a shared molecular target for all identified PPDs. Overall, both zinc and PPDs emerged as co-drivers of GABAergic and potassium channel modulation, likely converging on the observed behavioral phenotype in zebrafish larvae.

When asked about his SCCT 2026 award experience, David Leuthold said:
"Receiving the SCCT Best Abstract Postdoctoral Scholar Award was a great honor and increased the visibility of my work at the conference, leading to many engaging discussions at my poster. Chairing and presenting the "Mind Over Microplastics" Hot Topic Session further enriched my experience by integrating exposure science, mechanistic toxicology, and regulatory perspectives on micro- and nanoplastics, in line with SCCT's mission of advancing sustainable chemistry through contemporary toxicology and safer chemical design."

Best Abstract Graduate Student Award

Hannah Roe, BS
Graduate Student at Texas A&M University
"ECHA Writes Back: The Reasons for Rejection of Read-Across in Compliance Check Decisions by the European Chemicals Agency"
H. Roe, N. Ball, W. Chiu, and I. Rusyn

Hannah's work examines the reasons for the rejection of read-across in compliance check decisions made by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Information on all read-across hypotheses that ECHA found unacceptable was systematically evaluated. Information related to the proposed read-across rationales was categorized into assessment elements, including structural, toxicokinetic, and toxicodynamic similarities. The analysis revealed that inadequate read-across adaptations often lacked supporting data demonstrating toxicokinetic and toxicodynamic similarity. Specific elements were identified within the read-across hypotheses that can be strengthened by incorporating data from NAMs to reduce uncertainty. The study findings highlight opportunities to enhance confidence in read-across approaches and to design scientifically robust adaptations that can better withstand regulatory scrutiny.

Hannah and Damani at the SOT 2026 SCCT Reception

When asked about her SCCT 2026 award experience, Hannah Roe said:
"Receiving the Best Abstract Award was incredibly motivating. It boosted my confidence as a researcher and led to productive, engaging discussions during my poster presentation at SOT."

Other posters that SCCT members presented at SOT 2026 included:

- "Acute Polyamide Micro- and Nanoplastic Aerosol Exposure Alters Ciliary Motility in Primary Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells"
  M. Pavlović, D. Lee, X. Jing, L. Gautam, S. Murthy, A. Adamcakova-Dodd, A. Ryan, and J. Kim
- "Incorporating Climatic Relevance Endpoints into GreenScreen for Safer Chemicals Assessments"
  J. Tanir, J. Rutkiewicz, B. Wang, and M. Whittaker

You too could be the recipient of an SCCT Award, which we will next accept in association with the SOT 2027 Annual Meeting!

Stay tuned for more details and how to apply beginning in Fall/Winter 2026.

These details will be posted on SCCT's Awards webpage.

SOT 2026 PHOTOS

Networking and mingling at the annual SCCT Reception, held on March 23rd at the Marriott Marquis Marina in San Diego, CA.

SCCT 2025-2026 Executive Committee
From left to right: Colleen McLoughlin, Shoba Iyer, Milica Pavlović, Lauren Brown, Damani Parran, and Jen Tanir
Not pictured: Sara Farahmand, Kel DeShong, and Opeyemi Ogunsuyi

SCCT 2026-2027 Executive Committee
From left to right: Britt McAtee, Cody Wilson, Shoba Iyer, Milica Pavlović, Kaley Beins, Damani Parran, and Jen Tanir
Not pictured: Sara Farahmand

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SCCT Executive Committee officers breakfast in San Diego

Milica Pavlović, SCCT's Graduate Student Representative, won SOT's Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award!

🏆👏✨

She was recognized for her achievement on March 22nd at the Student/Postdoctoral Scholar Mixer, in the San Diego Convention Center.

When asked about her experience as a NetworX Night trainee, Milica Pavlović, a graduate student at the University of Iowa, said:

"NetworX was an extremely valuable experience for me as a student, as it created opportunities for direct interaction with senior colleagues across various sectors in a very trainee-friendly environment. A key value of the event was that it made it much easier for students to approach senior professionals, something we often find difficult, especially in settings where people are already engaged in other conversations or not focused on networking. By providing a trainee-friendly environment, the event lowered that initial barrier, making interactions feel more natural and less intimidating, and allowed students to ask questions, build connections, and gain insights they might otherwise miss. In addition to gaining insights into diverse career pathways from experienced colleagues, it was also a great opportunity to connect with fellow toxies and realize how many shared experiences we have while navigating our careers."

SCCT members participated in the Career Advancement, Mentoring, and Networking (CAMAN) Committee's NetworX Night, held on March 23rd at the Marriott Marquis Marina in San Diego, CA.

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When asked about her experience as a NetworX Night table host, Shoba Iyer, a Toxics Reduction Specialist with the San Francisco Environment Department, said:
"I was a mentor/table host at CAMAN's NetworX Night, and really enjoyed the experience! CAMAN organized the event such that each table had two mentors/table hosts, and a few trainees (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows). The mentors remained at their tables throughout the evening, and the trainees rotated across three of the tables in the room. I appreciated hearing questions about career paths and jobs from trainees at various stages in their education. I think this event was a good way for trainees to meet a variety of toxicology professionals, as well as for mentors to learn about the different academic programs the trainees are in, and the skill sets and topic interests that today's trainees have."

When asked about his experience as a NetworX Night table host, Damani Parran, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs Senior Manager with Royal Canin, said:
"I am proud to have played a part in the CAMAN NetworX Night event! It was a great opportunity to engage with scientists that are early in their careers and to provide insights when looking for the next steps. I also learned a lot too! Thank you CAMAN for allowing me to participate!"

MEMBER FEATURE

Britt McAtee, PhD

Senior Manager, Global Toxicology and Food Contact Compliance at PPG

This is our R.E.P.O.R.T.S.-style format for SCCT member features in our biannual newsletters! This format is meant to be a fun, conversational way to feature our wonderful SCCT members.

We are thrilled to feature SCCT incoming Vice President-Elect, Britt McAtee! Britt is the Senior Manager, Global Toxicology and Food Contact Compliance at PPG, where she has worked since 2008. She provides toxicological expertise to PPG's business units globally, including products sold into diverse end markets, including industrial use, consumer use, and food contact. Britt has extensive regulatory experience and has designed toxicology testing strategies to register materials globally, with a focus on the US, EU, Korea, and China. Britt leads/participates in several internal committees at PPG, with responsibilities for chemical management, hazard assessment, occupational health, and sustainability initiatives. Britt began her career as a Health Scientist consultant at ChemRisk in Pittsburgh.

She graduated from Allegheny College with a BS in Environmental Sciences, and earned her PhD in Toxicological Sciences from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology (DABT) and has been a member of SOT since 2004. She previously has served as a Councilor for SCCT and as President of the Allegheny-Erie chapter of SOT.

Read on for more about Britt!

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REPORTER: Britt McAtee

HOMETOWN: Greensburg, PA

READING: *The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown. I love thrillers and listen to audiobooks frequently on my commute. Some of my other recent favorites include *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir, *What Remains* by Wendy Walker, and *Local Woman Missing* by Mary Kubica. Always looking for recommendations!

EATING: I have 4 kids and am always cooking! I get bored easily so I'm always trying new recipes. My kids never know what they might be eating on any given week! Have been doing a lot of Mediterranean recipes lately, and happy to be moving into grilling season in Pennsylvania.

PLAYING: I just finished *Shrinking* and loved it!

OBSESSING OVER: I'm not really obsessive, but usually I'm busy with whatever my family is currently into. I have one daughter in college at Pitt, one graduating high school, and 2 in middle school, and their interests vary from baton twirling, to theater, to swim team. Looking for fun ideas for the high school graduation party at the moment! I am usually up for almost any adventure and things change quickly.

RECOMMENDING: Be a lifelong learner in both your professional and personal life. While my formal education was in science, since working at PPG I have learned a lot about business. Understanding business perspective/goals has helped me to work better with business colleagues and be a better advocate for sustainable chemistry.

TREATING (Myself To): I go to Pilates class at least once a week. It's wonderful for flexibility, balance, and relieves stress. My husband and I also like to hike and try to get out as much as possible.

SHOUTING OUT: I have made many wonderful connections from SOT, between the local Chapters and the Specialty Sections. I am grateful for all the opportunities I have been given through my involvement and am excited to return to a leadership role.

If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, reach out to SCCT Councilor Kaley Beins at kaleybeins@gmail.com!

GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK 2026

To celebrate Graduate Student Appreciation Week 2026, we'd like to give a shoutout to our Graduate Student Representative, Milica Pavlović, MPharm! Milica started serving in this role in May 2025. She has made significant contributions to SCCT's activities over the past year, including coming up with the idea for our Fall Webinar on the Safe and Sustainable by Design framework and helping prepare for and execute the event, serving as our liaison with SOT's Graduate Student Leadership Committee, maintaining SCCT's website, and more! We appreciate Milica's contributions, and her hard work to further SCCT's mission. Thank you, Milica!

SCCT SPRING 2026 WEBINAR REPORT-OUT
Sustainable Chemicals Roundtable

By Shoba Iyer, PhD
SCCT Councilor 2025-2027

On May 5, 2026, the Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology (SCCT) Specialty Section co-sponsored our Spring Webinar with the Occupational and Public Health Specialty Section (OPHSS) and Women in Toxicology (WIT) Special Interest Group. The webinar was a Sustainable Chemicals Roundtable, which brought together an expert panel, each representing a different professional organization focused on Sustainable Chemicals. Links to these organizations' websites and their programming highlights are summarized here.

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's (**SETAC's**) Advancement and Application of Alternatives Assessment (**A4**) Interest Group (**IG**)

💻 Website

💡 Look out for the A4-IG "What's in Your Bag" (WYB) webinar series, which is open to all

⭐ Participation in A4-IG is open to all active free, explorer, and full SETAC members

Clean Production Action's BizNGO, a community of practice for advancing safer chemicals and sustainable materials

💻 Website

📅 Mark your calendars for the BizNGO 2026 Annual Meeting on December 2-3 in Cambridge, MA

🎉 BizNGO is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year!

American Chemical Society's (**ACS**) Green Chemistry Institute (**GCI**)

💻 Website

🏆 ACS GCI offers annual Green Chemistry Challenge Awards

🎉The ACS Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference is celebrating its 30th year in San Antonio, TX, from June 15-18!

PANELISTS

Colleen McLoughlin, PhD, DABT, ERT
Representing the Advancement and Application of Alternatives Assessment Interest Group (A4-IG) of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)

Chris Helt, PhD
Representing BizNGO

Adelina Voutchkova, PhD
Representing the American Chemical Society's Green Chemistry Institute (ACS GCI)

Jen Tanir, PhD
Representing SOT's SCCT Specialty Section

The Society of Toxicology's (**SOT**) Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology (**SCCT**) Specialty Section - that's us!

💻 Website

🏆 Stay tuned for SCCT's annual Awards opportunities, in association with the SOT Annual Meeting

Follow SCCT on LinkedIn!

If you were not able to attend our Spring Webinar, or if you would like a refresher, check out the recording!
Note: Recording is only accessible with SOT member login.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY
Call for Volunteers & Feedback

We would love to increase membership involvement in SCCT efforts. And volunteering is a great way to build your CV, gain leadership experience, and network! To be added to our volunteer list, please fill out this survey.

If you have feedback on what the SCCT Executive Committee can do to increase the value of SCCT membership, please let us know in this anonymous and brief three-question survey.

WHY WE ENJOY SERVING ON SCCT'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

Read on for what excites and inspires each member of the 2025-2026 Executive Committee (EC) to serve.

"I love being part of the SOT's SCCT Specialty Section leadership because it allows me to work alongside dedicated professionals advancing the field of toxicology, focusing on safer chemistries. My mission, both at work and through SCCT, is to help drive the development of safer ingredients and products through sound science, collaboration, and innovation. Being involved in this leadership community gives me the opportunity to support that mission while contributing to the growth and impact of our specialty section."
- Sara Farahmand, Incoming President -

"I enjoy being part of the SCCT EC because it gives me the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from people with diverse technical backgrounds and areas of expertise, all united by a passion for safer chemicals and sustainability. I value being on a team where I can both apply and further develop skills beyond my day-to-day work."
- Jen Tanir, Incoming Vice President -

"Serving on SCCT's EC has been personally fulfilling. What I really enjoy about serving on SCCT's EC is having the opportunity to see, first-hand, cutting-edge science focused on sustainability, and alternative approaches to risk assessments that address complex issues. It is an absolute joy collaborating with other toxicology experts that share the goal of fostering the advancement of safer chemistry."
- Damani Parran, Incoming Past President -

"The best part of serving on the EC was collaborating with such a dedicated group of people, all committed to encouraging a more holistic perspective on toxicology and the role we play in advancing sustainability."
- Lauren Brown, Outgoing Past President -

"Serving on the SCCT Executive Committee has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I've built strong friendships while collaborating with a highly productive team dedicated to advancing sustainable chemistry."
- Colleen McLoughlin, Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer -

"I appreciate the grassroots feel of our Specialty Section and the ability to propose new ideas to the EC and run with it, whether it's a webinar topic, newsletter article, or even a new award for early career scientists!"
- Kel DeShong,
Outgoing Senior Councilor -

"I am a trained toxicologist, but I currently work in toxics reduction and don't regularly interact with toxicologists in my job. Serving on SCCT's EC allows me to stay connected with toxicologists, and remain current with what is going on in the sustainable chemicals and contemporary toxicology space, much of which I learned by managing SCCT's LinkedIn account as Junior Councilor!"
- Shoba Iyer, Incoming Senior Councilor -

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"Serving in SOT's SCCT Specialty Section leadership has been a wonderful experience. Working with brilliant minds who are passionate about SOT and SCCT, as well as committed to collective growth and development, has been outstanding. As I complete my tenure as a postdoc rep, it will be a period to look back to and reminisce for a long time. I once again appreciate the SCCT community for the opportunity to serve. Look forward to more fruitful engagements."
- Opeyemi Ogunsuyi,
Outgoing Postdoctoral Representative -

"As a graduate, student, I truly enjoy serving on SCCT's EC, especially the supportive and collaborative environment that fosters thoughtful discussion and shared growth. The EC members are also exceptional mentors, which is an invaluable resource for any professional, especially those of us that are just entering the field."
- Milica Pavlović, Graduate Student Representative -

2026-2027 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Damani Parran,
PhD, MBA, DABT
Past President

Sara Farahmand,
PhD, DABT
President

Jennifer Tanir, PhD
Vice President

Britt McAtee,
PhD, DABT
VP-Elect

Cody Wilson,
PhD, DABT, ATS
Secretary/Treasurer

Shoba Iyer, PhD
Senior Councilor

Kaley Beins, MPH
Junior Councilor

?

TBD
*Postdoc Rep.**

Milica Pavlović,
MPharm
Grad Student Rep.

A special welcome to our incoming officers, Britt, Cody, and Kaley!

*The Postdoctoral Representative position is currently open.
Please email jentanir@gmail.com if you are interested in serving in the role!

OUTGOING OFFICERS

Please join us in sending off SCCT's outgoing Executive Committee members with much applause and gratitude! Lauren served in the Presidential chain for four years, lending her extensive leadership expertise to shape and grow our Specialty Section. Colleen served as both Secretary and Treasurer for two years, managing our meeting minutes and budget, as well as fundraising. As Councilor, Kel managed our webinars, newsletters, and LinkedIn account, and she brought her creativity and dedication to each of these activities. Opeyemi served as a valuable liaison with the Postdoctoral Assembly, which facilitated promotion of our Fall 2025 Webinar.

Lauren Brown,
MS, DABT
Presidential Chain
2022-2026

Colleen McLoughlin,
PhD, DABT, ERT
Secretary/Treasurer
2024-2026

Damani Parran (left) presenting a plaque to Lauren Brown in recognition of her four years of service to SCCT.

Kel DeShong,
PhD, DABT
Councilor
2024-2026

Opeyemi Ogunsuyi,
PhD
Postdoc Rep.
2025-2026

Thank you, Lauren, Colleen, Kel, and Opeyemi!
You will be missed!

SOT TRAINEE AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for Undergraduate Students

- SOT Undergraduate Research Award

For students who submit a toxicology research abstract by October 16 and whose abstract is accepted.

  - **Deadline:** October 16

- Undergraduate Development Program (UDP) Student Travel Award For promising students interested in exploring toxicology; recipients attend a specialized three-day program during the SOT Annual Meeting.

  - **Deadline:** October 16

- Experiential Opportunities Career Development Award

Provides up to $1,000 for students from groups underrepresented in the sciences to engage in additional education or career development (available to undergrads, graduate students, and first-year postbaccalaureates).

  - **Deadlines:** September 30 and April 30

Opportunities for Graduate Students

- Supplemental Training for Education Program (STEP)

Up to $1,000 to cover costs for training that addresses a specific skill gap.

  - **Deadlines:** September 30 and April 30

- Graduate Intern Fellowship in Toxicology (GIFT)

Up to $3,000 to supplement expenses for a significant summer internship.

  - **Deadline:** February 15

- Mehendale Welcome Award

Financial assistance for international students settling into a new country for their research program.

  - **Deadline:** May 30

- Experiential Opportunities Career Development Award

Provides up to $1,000 for students from groups underrepresented in the sciences to engage in additional education or career development (available to undergrads, graduate students, and first-year postbaccalaureates).

  - **Deadlines:** September 30 and April 30

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Postdoctoral & Early Career Opportunities

- New Experiences in Toxicology (NEXT) Program

Up to $1,000 for additional training to broaden expertise beyond a postdoc's current focus.

  - **Deadlines:** September 30 and April 30

- Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards

Recognition for exceptional papers published during a formal, mentored postdoctoral traineeship. Administered by the Postdoctoral Assembly Executive Board.

  - **Deadline:** October 9

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