

Stem Cells Specialty Section
ANNUAL REPORT: 2020-2021
May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
President:	Mike Clements	M. Diana Neely
Vice President:	M. Diana Neely	Petra Haberzettl
Vice President-Elect:	Petra Haberzettl	Blake Anson
Secretary:	Lauren Lewis	Lauren Lewis
Treasurer:	Lauren Lewis	Lauren Lewis
Past President:	Patrick Allard	Mike Clements
Councilors:	Patrick Allard	Mike Clements
	Li Pang	Nicole zur Nieden
	Nicole zur Nieden	Sanket Gadhia
 PDA Representative:	 Nicole R. Sparks	 Nicole R. Sparks
 Grad Student Representative:	 Amy Tran	 Amy Tran

Committees: N/A

II. 2020 Membership total: 83

III. Key Outcomes in 2020-2021:

Created community engagement by creating a LinkedIn account.

IV. Activities:

A. 2021 SOT Virtual Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, or virtual receptions):

Stem Cells Specialty Section Virtual Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm ET

Summary: The virtual event included a brief discussion of the year, announcement of the 2021 Award recipients, short presentation from the SCSS Excellence in Research Award recipients on their latest research, and a platform for members to ask questions.

B. 2021 Awards Information:

Excellence in Research Awards:

1st place postdoctoral award – Lisa Prince

2nd place postdoctoral award – N/A

1st place graduate student award – Amy Tran

2nd place graduate student award – Itishree Kaushik

Total of \$700.- raised for these Excellence in Research Awards from corporate donations:

- Mike Clements, Axion BioSystems, Inc (\$350)

- Ji Wu, NeuCyte, Inc (\$350)

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g., webinars, in person meetings): N/A

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: October 2020, March 2021, and May 2021
2. New or Significant Announcements/blogs: [SCSS LinkedIn Account](#) created Sept 2020
3. Highlight of Website enhancements: New website went live on June 16, 2021.

E. Mentoring Activities: N/A

V. Feedback and Ideas:

A. In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment?

We have a quarterly newsletter where we feature scientists and their research at all stages of their career. We are very careful to have a very inclusive representation of scientists featured.

B. How might SOT better support your group's activities (perhaps something the Society should be doing that we currently do not do, or do not do effectively, that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?):

Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.

The Stem Cell Specialty Section is a relatively small Specialty Section, and we are keen to grow our group. SOT has active Twitter and LinkedIn social media accounts. Would it be possible to include a hashtag in these posts if the content aligns with a particular specialty section (e.g., #StemCellSOT)? This would help our group readily follow posts relevant to our Specialty Section (and share them with our network) and [2] give our group a way of directing other relevant content to followers of this hashtag.

C. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

There is nothing that impacts our group in a way so that it would need to be altered or eliminated.

D. What changes do your component group anticipate making in the way in which it operates in the coming year?

We are actively looking to increase our membership, with a focus on graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. This will be attempted by directly contacting graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to make them aware of our group, our quarterly Newsletter, and our LinkedIn account, both of which we are actively and regularly updating.

VI. Plans for 2020-2021:

A. FUTURE ToxScholars:

We were able to recruit 13 members of the Stem Cell Specialty Section to volunteer to take part in the FUTURE ToxScholars program. We will mount a similar effort this year to recruit volunteers for this important program.

B. 2022 SOT:

The Stem Cell Specialty Section sponsored one symposium “Application and Future of Human Organoid for Toxicological Approach” for the 2021 SOT scientific program. It was however not accepted for the 2022 SOT meeting. We are planning to sponsor applications for stem cell related symposia next year for the SOT meeting in 2023.

C. Excellence in Research Awards 2021

The Stem Cell Specialty Section will be awarding [Excellence in Research Awards](#) again in 2022 for both Graduate Student and Postdoctoral categories.