

Stem Cells

ANNUAL REPORT: 2022–2023

May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

I. Officers

| <u>Officer</u> | <u>2022–2023</u> | <u>2023–2024</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| President: | Petra Haberzettl | Blake Anson |
| Vice President: | Blake Anson | Nicole zur Nieden |
| Vice President-Elect: | Nicole zur Nieden | Xiugong Gao |
| Secretary/Treasurer: | Aaron Bowman | Aaron Bowman |
| Past President: | M Diana Neely | Petra Haberzettl |
| Councilors: | Mike Clements Sanket Gadhia | Mike Clements |
| Postdoctoral Representative: | Zimple Kurlawala | |
| Graduate Student Representative: | Iqra Pervaiz | Dowlette-Mary Alam El Din |

II. 2022 Membership total: 82

III. Key Outcomes in 2022–2023:

- A. Two SCSS Endorsed Sessions were accepted for the 2023 SOT Annual Meeting.
- B. Two corporate sponsors signed up for the 2023 SCSS reception.

IV. Activities

- A. SOT Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, receptions):

Two Sponsored Sessions:

“Moving Stem Cell–Derived New Approach Methods toward Regulatory Acceptance”

Chaired by: Li Pang, US FDA/NCTR & Sid Hunter, US EPA

Wed, Mar 22, 8:00-10:45am (CT), Karl Dean Ballroom C1, Music City Center

“Safety Assessment Approaches for Stem Cell Therapy”

Chaired by: William Slikker & James Kang, University of Tennessee

Wed, Mar 22, 1:30-4:15pm (CT), Karl Dean Ballroom C1, Music City Center

SCSS Reception:

Monday Night (3/20) approximately 20 attendees and two corporate sponsors

- B. 2023 Awards Recipients:

1st Place - SCSS Excellence in Research Award Graduate Student Winner:

Luke Liu, PhD candidate, Purdue University

“Novel Discovery of the Choroid Plexus (CP)- Subventricular Zone (SVZ) Regulatory Axis: Evidence from Small-Sized Extracellular Vesicles Released from the CP to Altered Adult Neurogenesis in SVZ and Implications in Manganese-Induced Nonmotor Syndromes.”

2nd Place - SCSS Excellence in Research Award Graduate Student Winner:

Dowlette-Mary Alam El Din, PhD candidate, Johns Hopkins University

“Functional Assessment of hiPSC-Derived Brain Organoids to Study the Effects of Chemical Exposure and Electrical Stimuli on Synaptic Plasticity”

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

SCSS supported two graduate student research awards with the help of two corporate sponsors: Axion Biosystems and NeuCyte.

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: No newsletters in 2022, one currently published for Spring 2023, one anticipated for Fall 2023, and then again late Winter 2023 prior to the 2024 meeting.
2. Communication Highlights: None at this time.
3. Highlights of website enhancements: Increased functionality and organization with aesthetically pleasing elements

E. Mentoring Activities: Sponsorship of two graduate student research awards

V. Feedback and Ideas:

- A. In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment? Please give examples of any current practices used to support inclusion in processes such as 1) leadership selection and promotion, 2) award descriptions and selection, and 3) endorsement of proposals for the Annual Meetings.

There are no explicit inclusivity initiatives at this time. However, the current make-up of the leadership has a relatively even male/female split. and while no data has been collected on demographics/ancestry, we consider and seek out diversity of nationality, employment sector, and other demographics in our leadership. We will continue to reach out broadly to existing membership about opportunities for leadership and activities throughout the Specialty Section and consider diversity equity and inclusion as we do so.

- B. What is one thing 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?

SOT could foster greater awareness and recruitment into the Specialty Sections. For example, organize a “recruitment fair” during the welcome session where each of the Specialty

Sections has a table and a staff member (or two) to provide information. An SOT sponsored raffle that provides a prize for those individuals that went to each of the tables could then drive subsection awareness and subsequent membership.

- 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.)?

Reception costs at national meetings are expensive, and especially challenging for new and small Specialty Sections like the Stem Cells SS. We wonder if there would be a way for the society to enable smaller sections to join together for receptions – especially for ones in which there may be potential cross collaborative interests among members. Advice to Specialty Section leadership to help enable this (and schedule together) would be welcomed if feasible.