

Stem Cells Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Xiugong Gao Vice President: Sebastian Medina Vice President-Elect: Xian Wu Past President, Councilor: Nicole zur Nieden Secretary-Treasurer: Rong Li Councilor: Erik Tokar Councilor: Katie Zychowski Postdoctoral Representative: Anke Tukker	President: Sebastian Medina Vice President: Xian Wu Vice President-Elect: Nicole Sparks Secretary-Treasurer: Shu Yang Past President, Councilor: Xiugong Gao Councilor: Erik Tokar Councilor: Julie In Postdoctoral Representative: Hyunjin Kim Graduate Student Representative: Nneamaka Iwobi

Committees:

No appointed committees

II. 2026 Membership total: 55

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

The Stem Cells Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Virtual meetings
- 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)

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Stem Cells Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- CAMAN Committee NetworX Night

V. Communication Methods:

The Stem Cells 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
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Stem Cells 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
- Include inclusive descriptions of Awards
- Highlight trainee research
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

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

- Chat with an expert
- Networking luncheon/reception

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	2
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- A. Resumed distribution of the SCSS newsletter
- B. Coordinated trainee award activities

X. Strategic Plan:

The Stem Cells Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:

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

- Applications of Human Stem Cell Models in Toxicological Research: 1. Diverse human stem cell models for toxicological studies, including different cell types, directed differentiation versus transdifferentiation approaches, and advanced models such as

organoids. 2. The utility of human stem cell models in developmental toxicity research to complement traditional animal models, particularly for investigating human-specific aspects of development (e.g., neurodevelopment). 3. A broader perspective on how human stem cell-based approaches can help bridge the gap between epidemiological evidence and mechanistic toxicological studies.

- Artificial Intelligence in Toxicology and Scientific Research: 1. Opportunities and challenges of applying artificial intelligence (AI) in toxicology, including data analysis, predictive modeling, and accelerating scientific discovery. 2. Potential limitations and considerations, including data quality, model interpretability, validation, and responsible implementation of AI-driven approaches.

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?

Increased support and subsidies for Specialty Section receptions. The costs associated with hosting these events (food, beverages, audiovisual equipment, and other expenses) have risen substantially, and a single reception can consume nearly an entire annual budget, particularly for smaller Specialty Sections.

- 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.)?

Avoid scheduling conflicts with larger Specialty Section receptions by considering alternative time slots, such as lunchtime events or Sunday evening receptions.