

## Biotechnology Specialty Section

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024

May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

#### I. Officers:

<u>2023–2024</u>	<u>2024–2025</u>
President: Tod Harper Vice President: Jason Pinkstaff Vice President-Elect: Edward Dere Secretary-Treasurer: René Viñas Past President, Councillor: Nicola Stagg Senior Councillor: Jessica Sims Junior Councillor: Adhithiya Charli Postdoctoral Representative: Yunjia Lai Student Representative: Rajat Gupta	President: Jason Pinkstaff Vice President: Edward Dere Vice President-Elect: Hervé Lebrec Secretary-Treasurer: Ashwini Phadnis Moghe Past President, Councillor: Tod Harper Senior Councillor: Adhithiya Charli Junior Councillor: Lauren Lewis Postdoctoral Representative: Yunjia Lai Graduate Student Representative: Rajat Gupta

#### II. 2024 Membership total: 188

#### III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:

The Biotechnology 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
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Member highlights
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)

#### IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Biotechnology Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues
- Food Safety
- Immunotoxicology
- Mechanisms
- Molecular and Systems Biology
- Risk Assessment

**V. Communication Methods:**

The Biotechnology Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Newsletter(s)

**VI. Promotion of Inclusivity**

The Biotechnology 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
- Highlight trainee research

**VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:**

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

- Career panel(s)
- Speed mentoring

**VIII. Awards Given:**

<b>Trainee</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Early Career</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mid Career</b>	
<b>Late Career</b>	

**IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:**

Participated in 2 mentoring events at Annual Meeting in an attempt to increase trainee membership and participation in BTSS. Hosted joint ITSS/BTSS webinar with over 500 registrants and over 300 attendees.

**X. Strategic Plan:**

The Biotechnology 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 training and education that reflects the needs of members
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

**XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:**

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

- Cell cultivated food, use of biotechnology in society outside of biopharmaceuticals

**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?

Providing matching funds for mentoring events at Annual Meeting.

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.)?

Nothing comes to mind.