

Biotechnology Specialty Section

SOT | Society of
Toxicology

Summer/Fall 2026 Newsletter

Dear BTSS Community,

I'd like to thank you all for this great opportunity to serve as the Biotechnology Specialty Section (BTSS) President for the 2026–2027 term. Furthermore, I would like to sincerely thank the entire BTSS Executive Committee for their commitment and engagement in making this Specialty Section successful and a terrific showing last March at the SOT Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. I want to give a special thank you to our outgoing President, Ed Dere for his wonderful leadership this past year, and additionally I want to thank our other departing officers for tremendous contributions to the BTSS: Jason Pinkstaff (Past President), Lauren Lewis (Senior Councilor), and Ashwini Phadnis (Treasurer/Secretary).

Now join me in welcoming the 2026–2027 BTSS Executive Committee members: Liz Mutter-Rottmayer (Vice President), Lauren Lewis (Vice President-Elect), Leslie Valencia (Secretary/Treasurer), Satheesh Anand (Senior Councilor), Samantha Faber (Junior Councilor), Ankit Laddha (Postdoctoral Representative), and Madhura More (Graduate Student Representative). We've been working diligently all summer in continuing to deliver on the BTSS mission. In the 2026–2027 term we will:

1. Encourage members to recognize their accomplishments to be highlighted in newsletters and nominate members for **annual BTSS awards**;
2. Continue **mentoring** and provide guidance and support for scientists seeking to initiate a career in the biotechnology field;
3. Deliver **2 scientific webinars**: On Dec 3, 1pm ET, "Transforming Toxicology Data into Enduring Knowledge: Acute Outcomes and Chronic Benefits of SEND Data Submission", and, on January 13, 11am ET, "ICH S13 Draft Guideline: The Well-Characterized ONT and Opportunities for Tailored Nonclinical Development" (see detail on page 6) in collaboration with the Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section and the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section. Stay tuned for invitations to come!
4. Prepare for the 2027 **SOT Annual Meeting** in San Antonio, Texas.

On behalf of the BTSS Executive Committee, we thank you for your continued support and contributions to this specialty section, and we look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio for the next SOT meeting!

Sincerely,
Herve Lebrech, PharmD, PhD, DABT
President, Biotechnology Specialty Section (2026–2027)



Herve Lebrech

Vol.16, Issue 1

- President's Message
- Executive Committee 2026-2027
- Exiting Executive Committee 2025-2026
- BTSS Awards
- Upcoming award applications
- Society of Toxicology 2026 Annual Meeting

Newsletter Editors:

Ankit Laddha
Madhura More

*Interested in contributing to
future BTSS newsletters?*

We would love your input!

Please contact

apladdha@gmail.com

BTSS Executive Committee



President
Herve Lebrech
HL Toxicology and
Preclinical Services



Vice President
Liz Mutter-Rottmayer
Genentech



Vice President-Elect
Lauren Lewis
J&J



Past President
Ed Dere
Genentech



Secretary/Treasurer
Leslie Valencia
Genentech



Senior Councilor
Satheesh Anand
Boehringer-Ingelheim



Junior Councilor
Samantha Faber Wilcoxson
J&J



Postdoctoral Representative
Ankit Laddha
UConn



**Graduate Student
Representative**
Madhura Pravin More
UC Irvine

Follow SOT & BTSS members on LinkedIn!

Previous 2025-2026 BTSS Officers

The BTSS-sponsored events at the 65th Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting, held in San Diego, California, were a great success. We would like to thank our incredible team from the past year!

President: Ed Dere

Vice President: Hervé Lebrech

Vice President-Elect: Liz Mutter-Rottmayer

Secretary/Treasurer: Ashwini Phadnis Moghe

Senior Councilor: Lauren Lewis

Junior Councilor: Satheesh Anand

Postdoc Representative : Ankit Laddha

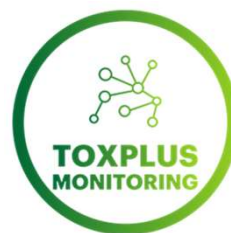
Grad Student Rep: Madhura Pravin More

Renew Your Membership

Membership dues and donations are important sources of funding that are critical to support the BTSS mentoring activities, awards, workshops, and other activities to keep our Specialty Section active. If you have not already done so, please renew your BTSS membership ASAP. In addition to funding our activities, it will ensure that you are able to vote in the upcoming BTSS officer election and that you receive our emails.

Donations & Finances

On behalf of the BTSS Executive Committee and members, we would like to thank the recent generous donations from Pfizer, LTZ Therapeutics, Edge Toxicology Consulting, Genentech and MEC Regulatory & Toxicology Consulting to our Specialty Section.



If you or your organization is able to make a financial contribution, it will help ensure BTSS representation within SOT for years to come. Please reach out to **Leslie Valencia** (valencia.leslie@gene.com), for more information on how to donate.

BTSS Financials

Net Assets as of June 2026: \$21,995.00

Award Recipients at SOT 2026

Manikandan
Palrasu

BEST PAPER
AWARD

[Link to paper](#)



Mohamed
Eltokhy

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD



Diego Paine-
Cabrera

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD



Venkatesh
Pooladanda

BI AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN
BIOTHERAPEUTIC SAFETY



Ankit
Laddha

BATTELLE POSTDOCTORAL
SCHOLAR AWARD



Adhithiya
Charli

OUTSTANDING YOUNG
INVESTIGATOR AWARD



Congratulations!

**Please encourage BTSS members to apply
to any of the relevant awards for this upcoming SOT!**

We want to recognize the efforts and achievements all across the
BTSS community!

BTSS Awards 2026-2027

Application deadline is January 8th 2027!

Please visit the [BTSS website](#) or contact **Satheesh Anand**
(satheesh.anand@boehringer-ingenlheim.com) for complete details

Graduate Students

Research recognition & training support

Student Achievement Award TWO GRADUATE STUDENTS • \$500 EACH

For students presenting a poster at the SOT Annual Meeting whose work contributes to the field of biotechnology.

Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Biotherapeutic Safety

UP TO \$2,000 REIMBURSEMENT

Encourages graduate student and postdoctoral researchers training in nonclinical safety sciences for biotherapeutics.

Postdoctoral Trainees

Research recognition & training support

Postdoctoral Award in Biotechnology \$500 PRIZE + RECOGNITION PLAQUE

Recognizes a postdoctoral researcher whose SOT poster or oral presentation contributes to biotechnology.

Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Biotherapeutic Safety

UP TO \$2,000 REIMBURSEMENT

Supports attendance at a biotechnology nonclinical safety-related conference or training course within one year.

Early-Career Scientists

Fewer than 10 years since highest degree

Outstanding Young Investigator Award \$500 PRIZE + RECOGNITION PLAQUE

Recognizes a Young Investigator who has significantly advanced scientifically relevant approaches to, and interpretation of, toxicology aspects unique to biotechnology-derived products. Not limited to academia.

Senior Scientists

At least 15 years since highest degree

Career Achievement in Biotechnology Award RECOGNITION PLAQUE

Honors a Senior Investigator whose body of work is an outstanding achievement or contribution to scientifically relevant approaches to, and interpretation of, toxicological aspects unique to biotechnology-derived products.

UPCOMING WEBINARS (2026-2027)



2026

**BIOTECHNOLOGY,
DRUG DISCOVERY TOXICOLOGY,
AND REGULATORY & SAFETY
EVALUATION
SPECIALTY SECTIONS**

WEBINAR

Transforming Toxicology Data into Enduring Knowledge: Acute Outcomes and Chronic Benefits of SEND Data Submission

December 3, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. ET/10:00 a.m. PT

This webinar will examine how Standard for Exchange of Nonclinical Data (SEND) supports more than regulatory compliance. Speakers will discuss its immediate benefits for data quality, study transparency, and regulatory review, as well as its long-term value for cross-study analysis, translational research, computational applications, and data stewardship.

Speakers: Stephanie Leuenroth-Quinn, PhD, US Food and Drug Administration, and Kevin Snyder, PhD, Certara.

[View details and register](#)

ICH S13 Draft Guideline: The Well-Characterized ONT and Opportunities for Tailored Nonclinical Development

January 14, 2027 | 11:00 a.m. ET/8:00 a.m. PT

This webinar will provide an overview of the draft ICH S13 guideline for the nonclinical safety evaluation of oligonucleotide-based therapeutics (ONTs). The discussion will focus on the well-characterized ONT concept, the use of prior knowledge, risk-based weight-of-evidence approaches, new approach methodologies, and opportunities to develop more focused and scientifically justified non clinical programs. A panel discussion and audience Q&A will follow.

Speakers: Tod Harper, PhD, DABT, Amgen;
Xuan Chi, PhD, US Food and Drug Administration; and
Jen Sisler, PhD, DABT, Eli Lilly.

[View details and register](#)

SOT Returns to San Antonio

The 66th Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting & ToxExpo is coming up!
Please be sure to mark your calendars!

- **Early Bird Registration Deadline:** January 22, 2027
- **Standard Registration Deadline:** February 19, 2027
- **Final Registration Period:** After February 19, 2027



BTSS will host a joint annual reception with the Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section at SOT on **Tuesday, March 16th at 6:00 PM CST**, and we look forward to seeing you there!