

# Biotechnology Specialty Section



## Summer/Fall 2025 Newsletter

SOT

Society of  
Toxicology

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 2025–2026 term. Furthermore, I would like to sincerely thank the entire 2024–2025 BTSS Executive Committee for their commitment and engagement in making this Specialty Section successful that culminated in another terrific showing at the SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. I want to give a special thank you to our outgoing President, Jason Pinkstaff for his wonderful leadership this past year, and additionally I want to thank our other departing officers for tremendous contributions to the BTSS: Tod Harper (Past President), Adhithiya Charli (Senior Councilor), Yunjia Lai (Postdoctoral Representative), and Madhura More (Graduate Student Representative).

Now join me in welcoming the 2025–2026 BTSS Executive Committee members; Hervé Lebrec (Vice President), Liz Mutter-Rottmayer (Vice President-Elect), Ashwini Phadnis (Secretary/Treasurer), Lauren Lewis (Senior Councilor), Sateesh Anand (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 2025–2026 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 scientific webinars on diverse biotechnology topics throughout the year; and
4. Prepare for the 2026 SOT Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

We've already hosted an excellent webinar from Dr. Nicholas Buss, PhD from Eli Lilly entitled "Shaping the Future of Nonclinical Safety for Gene Therapy in 2025" and are aiming to have another before the end of the year.

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 Diego for the next SOT meeting!

Sincerely,  
Ed Dere, PhD, DABT  
President, Biotechnology Specialty Section (2025–2026)



Ed Dere, PhD, DABT

### Vol.16, Issue 1

- 1) President's Message
- 2) Executive Committee 2025-2026
- 3) Exiting Executive Committee 2024-2025
- 4) BTSS Awards
- 5) Upcoming award applications
- 6) 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](mailto:apladdha@gmail.com)*

# BTSS Executive Board



**President**  
Ed Dere, PhD, DABT  
Genentech



**Vice President**  
Hervé Lebrec, PharmD, PhD,  
DABT Sonoma  
Biotherapeutics



**Vice President-Elect**  
Liz Mutter-Rottmayer,  
PhD, DABT  
Genentech



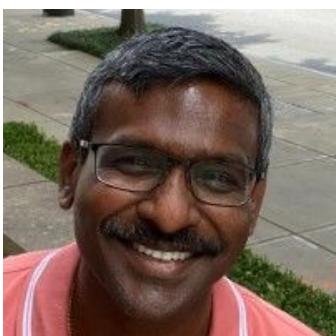
**Past President**  
Jason Pinkstaff,  
PhD, DABT, ERT  
Receptive Bio



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Ashwini Phadnis Moghe,  
PhD, DABT  
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**Senior Councilor**  
Lauren Lewis, PhD  
Apellis



**Junior Councilor**  
Sateesh Anand, PhD,  
DABT  
Boehringer-Ingelheim



**Postdoctoral Representative**  
Ankit Laddha, PhD  
UConn



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

Follow SOT & BTSS members on LinkedIn!

# Previous 2023-2024 BTSS Officers

The BTSS-sponsored events at the 64th Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting held in Orlando, Florida were a great success. We would like to thank our incredible team from the last year!

**President:** Jason Pinkstaff

**Vice President:** Edward Dere

**Vice President-Elect:** Hervé Lebrec

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Ashwini Phadnis Moghe

**Senior Councilor:** Adhithiya Charli

**Junior Councilor:** Lauren Lewis

**Postdoc Representative :** Yunjia Lai

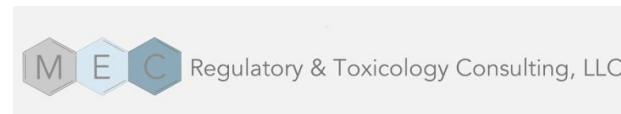
**Grad Student Rep:** Rajat Gupta

## 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 Board 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 **Ashwini Phadnis Moghe** ([ashiwini.phadnis\\_moghe@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:ashiwini.phadnis_moghe@boehringer-ingelheim.com)), for more information on how to donate.

### BTSS Financials

Net Assets as of June 2025: \$20,698

# Award Recipients at SOT 2025



## BTSS Battelle Postdoctoral Award

**Isha Mhatre-Winters, PhD**  
The University of Georgia, Athens

## Outstanding Young Investigator Award

**Saurabh Vispute, PhD, DABT, RAC**  
Pfizer



# *Congratulations!!*

There were no applicants for either the Student Achievement Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Biotherapeutic Safety Awards. **Please encourage any BTSS member to apply any of the relevant awards for this upcoming SOT!** We want to recognize the efforts and achievements all across the BTSS community!

# BTSS Awards 2025

Award deadlines are approaching! Please visit the [BTSS website](#) or contact **Lauren Lewis** ([lauren.lewis@apellis.com](mailto:lauren.lewis@apellis.com)) for further details

## **Student Achievement Award**

A monetary stipend will be awarded to two graduate students (\$500 each) who are presenting a poster at the SOT Annual Meeting and whose work exemplifies the mission of the Biotechnology Specialty Section.

## **Battelle Postdoctoral Award**

This award will recognize a postdoctoral researcher whose work, as demonstrated in a poster or oral presentation at the SOT Annual Meeting, best exemplifies the mission of BTSS. A plaque of recognition and monetary prize (\$500) will be awarded to the winning nominee.

## **Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Biotherapeutic Safety**

This award is intended to encourage research and training of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in nonclinical safety sciences as applied to biotherapeutic products. The award recipient will be eligible for reimbursement of up to \$2,000 of expenses related to attendance at a biotechnology nonclinical safety-related conference or training course.

## **Best Paper Award**

A monetary prize will be awarded to the authors of the best paper in the area of biotechnology, published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

## **BTSS Outstanding Young Investigator Award**

A monetary prize will be awarded to the Young Investigator who has made a significant contribution to the evolution of scientifically relevant approaches to and interpretation of toxicology aspects unique to biotechnology-derived products. The recipient must have less than 10 years of experience since obtaining his/her highest-earned degree. This award is NOT LIMITED only to those in academia.

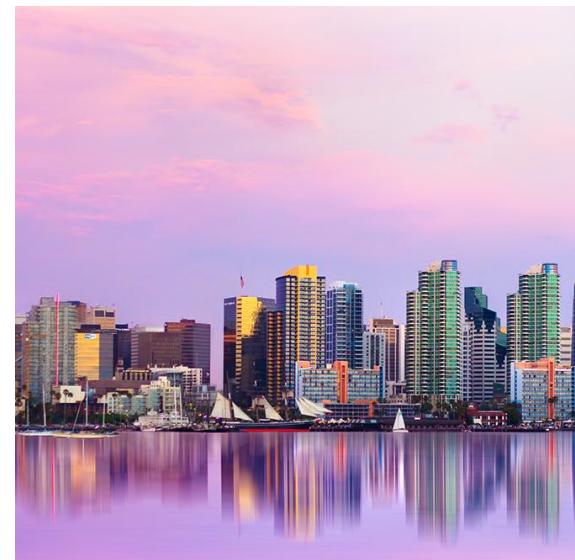
## **BTSS Career Achievement in Biotechnology Award**

An engraved plaque will be awarded to a Senior Investigator whose body of work represents an outstanding achievement or contribution in the evolution of scientifically relevant approaches to and interpretation of toxicological aspects that are unique to biotechnology-derived products.

# SOT Returns to San Diego

The 65<sup>th</sup> Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting & ToxExpo is coming up! Please be sure to mark your calendars!

- **Early Bird Registration Deadline:** January 30, 2025
- **Standard Registration Deadline:** February 27, 2025
- **Final Registration Period:** After February 27, 2025



BTSS will be hosting our annual reception at SOT on Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 PM and we look forward to seeing you there!