

Biotechnology Specialty Section

SOT | Society of
Toxicology

Summer/Fall 2025 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 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 Lebrech (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

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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 Board



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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 Lebrech

Secretary/Treasurer: Ashwini Phadnis Moghe

Senior Councilor: Adhithiya Charli

Junior Councilor: Lauren Lewis

Postdoc Representative : Yunjia Lai

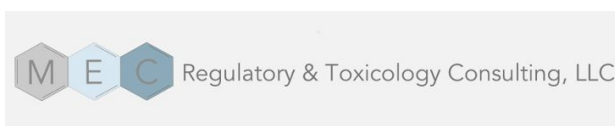
Grad Student Rep: Rajat Gupta

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.

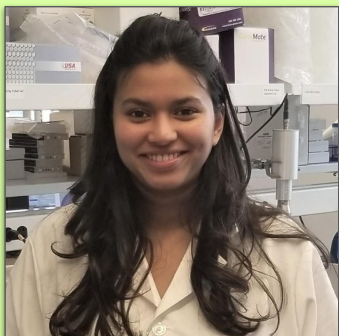


If you or your organization is able to make a financial contribution, it will help ensure BTSS representation within SOT for years to come. Please reach out to **Ashwini Phadnis Moghe** (ashiwini.phadnis_moghe@boehringer-ingenelheim.com), for more information on how to donate.

BTSS Financials

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

Award Recipients at SOT 2025

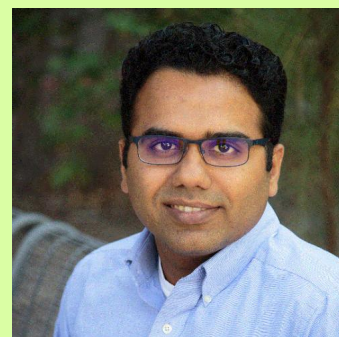


BTSS Battelle Postdoctoral Award

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) 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 65th 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 hosting our annual reception at SOT on Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 PM and we look forward to seeing you there!