

## Biotechnology

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2022–2023

May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

#### I. Officers

<b>Officer</b>	<b>2022–2023</b>	<b>2023–2024</b>
President:	Nicola Stagg	Tod Harper
Vice President:	Tod Harper	Jason Pinkstaff
Vice President-Elect:	Jason Pinkstaff	Edward Dere
Secretary/Treasurer:	René Viñas	René Viñas
Past President:	Robert Li	Nicola Stagg
Councilors:	Jessica Sims	Adhithiya Charli
	Saurabh Vispute	Jessica Sims
Postdoctoral Representative:	Muthanna Sultan	Yunjia Lai
Graduate Student Representative:	Alkeiver Cannon	Rajat Gupta

#### II. 2022 Membership total: 198

#### III. Key Outcomes in 2022–2023:

- A. We promoted BTSS in 2022-2023 with the successful completion of 2 BTSS-sponsored educational webinars that were well attended and received great feedback as well as posted on LinkedIn about the BTSS organization to promote awareness of the broad field of Biotechnology and encourage new membership as well as new leadership and Annual Meeting award nominations.
- B. We had great attendance and feedback at the Annual Meeting reception. It was well attended and had positive feedback on the special speaker, Dr. Siba Das, who spoke on genetic engineering and its use in our society.

#### IV. Activities

- A. SOT Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, receptions):

##### **Scientific Sessions:**

1063: Humanized Mouse Models for Preclinical Evaluation of CART Cells  
Monday, March 20th, 2023 at 1:45pm – 4:30pm; Room 209

1100: Breaking Down Barriers: Blood-Brain Barrier Model Development and Applications in Drug Safety  
Tuesday, March 21st, 2023 at 8:00am – 10:45am; Room 205

1225: Opening Our Eyes: Ocular Gene Therapies from Theory to Practice Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 at 1:30pm – 4:15pm; Room 202

##### **Annual Reception:**

Monday, March 20 at 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

BTSS Reception Speaker: Siba Das PhD, DABT  
Title: Society and the Field Application of Biotechnology for a Safer World

B. 2023 Awards Recipients:

**Best Paper Award:** Xiaohong Lu for “El-Saadiet al., 2022. Tracing brain genotoxic stress in Parkinson’s disease with a novel single-cell genetic sensor. Sci. Adv. 15 (8): 1-21.”

**Outstanding Young Investigator Award:** John Scilagyi

**Career Achievement in Biotechnology Award:** Michael Leach

**Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Biotherapeutic Safety:** Naresh Sah

**Student Achievement Awards:** Piyush Padhi, Mychal Grames

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g., webinars, in-person meetings):

**BTSS-Sponsored Webinars:**

1. Considerations Regarding Nonhuman Primate Use in Pharmaceutical Development

BTSS-sponsored in collaboration with the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section (RSESS)

Speaker:

Ronald Wange, PhD - Associate Director for Pharmacology and Toxicology, OND, CDER

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Attendees – 180

Dr. Wange’s presentation focused on approaches to limit the use of nonhuman primates (NHPs) in drug development. The first half of the talk provided an overview of the guidance on “Nonclinical Considerations for Mitigating Nonhuman Primate Supply Constraints Arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic,” which was issued as final guidance earlier this year under FDA’s COVID-19 public health emergency authority. The second half of the presentation focused on alternatives to the NHP for assessing the risks of biotherapeutic proteins to embryofetal and postnatal development.

2. Cultivated Meat: Regulatory & Safety Challenges for a Developing Industry

BTSS-sponsored in collaboration with the Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues Specialty Section (ELFSI), and Food Safety Specialty Section (FS3)

Speakers:

David Block, PhD - Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of California - Davis

Dave Tonnuci, PhD - Vice President, Regulatory & Toxicology, SciFi Foods, Inc.

Janet Tomiyama, PhD - Professor, Department of Psychology, University of California - Los Angeles

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Attendees – 235

This session aimed to provide participants with 1) an overview of the molecular methodologies and challenges in the creation of cultivated meat, 2) an examination of the regulatory and safety challenges faced by this novel industry and regulators as well as 3) a brief discussion on consumer expectations on the sustainability, nutritional, and ethical considerations associated with the production of cultivated meat.

**D. Communication Activities:**

1. Newsletter publication frequency: 2 Newsletters in 2022-2023 term: Summer 2022 and Winter 2023
2. Communication Highlights: Highlighted webinar and award recipients
3. Highlights of website enhancements: The BTSS website has been maintained and updated as needed.

**E. Mentoring Activities:** BTSS collaborated with the Molecular and Systems Biology (MSBSS), Risk Assessment (RASS), Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology (SCCT), and Mechanisms Specialty Sections as well as the Out Toxicologists and Allies (OTA) Special Interest Group to host the Annual Joint Mentoring Event at the SOT 2023 Annual Meeting, Monday, March 20th at the OMNI Hotel in Nashville from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM.

**V. Feedback and Ideas:**

**A.** In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment? Please give examples of any current practices used to support inclusion in processes such as 1) leadership selection and promotion, 2) award descriptions and selection, and 3) endorsement of proposals for the Annual Meetings.

We foster and maintain an inclusive environment by promoting and encouraging leadership opportunities across academia, industry and regulatory bodies and ensuring we are inclusive across the biotechnology community such as agriculture, cosmetics, and chemicals etc. Award descriptions and selection is very unbiased. We receive award nominations, and EC members also individually reach out to toxicologists from academia, industry, or regulatory bodies to promote awards. Endorsement of proposals for Annual Meetings are done by tallying votes of the entire EC.

**B.** What is one thing the Society should be doing that we currently do not do (or do not do effectively) that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?

We get low in funds because organizations are already donating to SOT and can't also give money to BTSS. It would be helpful if SOT could help with fundraising so we can keep BTSS active and have the funding available to continue to have the SOT annual reception and fund awards.

C. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

We would like a better place to store old component group documents such as meeting slide decks, poster templates, etc.