

Biotechnology Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Edward Dere Vice President: Hervé Lebrech Vice President Elect: Elizabeth Mutter-Rottmayer Past President, Councilor: Jason Pinkstaff Secretary-Treasurer: Ashwini Phadnis Moghe Senior Councilor: Lauren Lewis Junior Councilor: S Anand Postdoctoral Representative: Ankit Laddha Graduate Student Representative: Madhura More	President: Hervé Lebrech Vice President: Elizabeth Mutter-Rottmayer Vice President-Elect: Lauren Lewis Secretary-Treasurer: Leslie Valencia Past President, Councilor: Edward Dere Senior Councilor: S Anand Junior Councilor: Samantha Faber (Wilcoxson) Postdoctoral Representative: Ankit Laddha Graduate Student Representative: Madhura More

Committees:

Career Advancement/Mentoring/Networking Committee
Program Committee

II. 2026 Membership total: 156

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

The Biotechnology Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Sponsored session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- 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.

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)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

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
- Include inclusive descriptions of Awards
- Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

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

- Participated in the CAMAN NetworX event

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	3
Early Career	1
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

A. Actively promoted the Specialty Section awards for trainees (students and post-docs) and for the endowed BI Award, and we were successful in getting numerous applicants for these awards.

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 mentoring and networking opportunities for all career 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.

- Nonclinical safety assessment and development of novel therapeutic modalities (eg. gene therapies, oligos, cancer vaccines, etc...). SOT is missing a great opportunity to engage with the pharmaceutical industry and is losing audiences and membership to other organizations (ie. ACT).

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?

SOT has seen a decline in a biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry related presence and content over the years. The Society should be actively finding ways to keep relevant with the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry. This would naturally benefit the BTSS because of the nature and mission of our Specialty Section, and to help provide relevant scientific session and CE course material. Scientific outreach is also an important area to combat the anti-science rhetoric in the nation. This is a very real problem in this country and we must find ways to connect with the general public to educate them in a way that is digestible for them. Social media presence. Help Specialty Sections and SIGs create and manage social media platforms (ie. LinkedIn).

- 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.)?

Eliminating the Thursday morning session was a good attempt to condense the meeting into the 3 days. It would be interesting to see the retrospective analysis on how it affected the meeting overall (ie. fitting all the content into 3 days, etc..)