

Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2024–2025
May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

I. Officers:

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
President: Sunish Mohanan Vice President: Sonika Patial Vice President-Elect: Tracey Papenfuss Secretary-Treasurer: Debabrata Mahapatra Past President, Councilor: Katharine Horzmann Councilor: Govindarajan Thangavelu Councilor: Christina Wilson-Frank Postdoctoral Representative: Ishita Choudhary Graduate Student Representative: Gina Capece	President: Sonika Patial Vice President: Tracey Papenfuss Vice President Elect: Logeswari Ponnusamy Past President, Councilor: Sunish Mohanan Secretary-Treasurer: Debabrata Mahapatra Councilor: John Buchweitz Councilor: Christina Wilson-Frank Graduate Student Representative: Gina Capece

Committees:

II. 2025 Membership total: 135

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Virtual meetings
- Sponsored session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Poster session for trainees
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Member highlights
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- Utilized/expanded Endowment Fund(s) for Component Group

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Computational Toxicology

- Immunotoxicology

V. Communication Methods:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary 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
- Highlight trainee research
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Career panel(s)
- Speed mentoring
- Chat with an expert
- Actively recruit members to be part of the SOT Mentor Match system

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	5
Early Career	1
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

IX. Strategic Plan:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future
- Provide training and education that reflects the needs of members
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

X. Scientific Topics of Interest:

The Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- As the field of veterinary, toxicology, and comparative pathology continues to evolve, we are particularly interested in seeing scientific sessions at future Annual Meetings that focus on these two broad areas: 1) Integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in veterinary, toxicology, and comparative pathology; For example, investigating the role of AI in comparative pathology, where algorithms are trained to analyze histopathological data, biomarkers, and omics profiles from various animal models. This approach can help us better understand species-specific responses to toxicity in animal models, which can then be used to predict the toxicological effects of chemicals, environmental pollutants, or pharmaceutical agents on human health. 2) Applications and limitations of NAMs. We would like to see sessions that frankly discuss the realistic applications and limitations of NAMs. How should we strategically approach the regulatory expectations and what is and will be required to move away from animal testing. Although there are multiple presentations discussing the various capabilities and technologies of NAMs, we have not seen as many discussions regarding the scientific challenges and limitations of NAMs. Our goal is not to advocate for the continued use of animal models, but rather to promote a rigorous, evidence-based dialogue that supports informed decision-making in this rapidly changing regulatory landscape.

XI. 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?

Reinstating financial support for the mentoring event would be essential to continue prioritizing this important initiative for the Specialty Section. A mechanism by which the Society can help disseminate information (to help solicit interest, membership, etc.) in our Specialty Section would be immensely useful to us.

- 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.)?

The Society currently does not provide a web- or cloud-based platform for the Specialty Sections to store, manage, and collaboratively work on documents. Implementing such a system would significantly streamline communication across all Specialty Section groups. Additionally, the society should consider allocating funds to support some of our activities such as a mentoring and networking event.