Welcome to our 2022 newsletter

The MISSION of the SS-CCG is:

• To collaborate and communicate issues, concerns, and opportunities of the specialty sections to and from SOT council.

• To support the collective voice from all specialty sections while recognizing their diversity in interest, size, and dynamics.

• To facilitate the exchange of ideas and issues across Specialty Sections.

The membership of the SS-CCG consists of elected representatives of each of the current 29 Specialty Sections. In any year, the SS-CCG has 10 members, each member serving a two-year term before rotating off and being replaced by representatives from Specialty Sections not currently represented. In this way the SS-CCG is able to involve members from all of the Specialty Sections on a rotating basis.

The Chair of the group this year is Dr. Laura Plunkeet. In the spring of 2022-2023, SS-CCG elected a new co-chair, Dr. Kathryn Page. This is our first newsletter since the election, and we welcome Laura to the leadership position where she will serve as Chair in 2022-2023.

If you have any questions about the SS-CCG, let us know and we hope to see in you at 2023 SOT Annual meeting in Nashville!
Greetings from your Specialty Section Collaboration and Communication Group Leadership! As we enter another fall season, I would like to update you on some of our activities and announce the results of our Co-Chair election.

First, I’d like to announce the election of Dr. Kathryn Page as our new Co-Chair. While the election was some months ago, this is our first external communication since then. Congratulations to Kathryn!

Second, I’d like to provide a quick update on our current activities. We have several initiatives we are working on, including a continuing effort to develop Best Practices guidance as a resource for Specialty Sections in areas such as officer roles and responsibilities, fundraising and communication. SS-CCG also is developing a webinar and continues to advertise/promote joint Specialty Section webinars.

The joint webinar project involves capturing all the Specialty Section led webinars, and cross-advertise them to other related Specialty Sections to build collaborations between Specialty Sections and to provide more continuing education opportunities for SOT members. If you know of any upcoming webinars that could be cross advertised, please send an email to the chair.

An ongoing initiative has been our Best Practices project. We are in the process of finalizing our first guidance document on officer roles and responsibilities and are beginning work on recommendations around fundraising. The goal of this effort is to provide Specialty Section leadership teams with guidance and recommendations on ways to improve group function and create continuity files for new Specialty Sections and new leadership teams about what practices work optimally.

Best Regards
Laura Plunkett PhD, DABT
Chair, SS-CCG lplunkett@biopolicysolutions.com
SPOTLIGHT ON PIONEERING SOT SPECIALTY SECTIONS:
SOT MECHANISMS AND SOT SUSTAINABLE CHEMICALS FOR
CONTEMPORARY TOXICOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTIONS

by
Meg Whittaker, President SCCT Specialty Section and Cheryl Rockwell, President
Mechanisms Specialty Section

SOT has established 29 specialty sections, demonstrating increasing diversity in the field of
toxicology as shown by the word cloud. This article spotlights SOT specialty section activities
underway at one of the oldest (Mechanisms Specialty Section) and one of the newest
(Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology) SOT specialty sections. This article
will also tell you how to join an SOT specialty section, even before annual membership dues
renewal!

Although SOT was established in 1961, twenty years passed until SOT’s first specialty sections
were formed. In 1981, the first three SOT specialty sections were launched: Mechanisms,
Metals, and Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Sections. According to the
SOT Publications and Historical Documents webpage, a snapshot of toxicology in the year 1981
indicates that 1,957 individuals registered for the annual SOT meeting and the American Board
of Toxicology conducted its second board certification exam. Fast-forward almost 40 years to the
year 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in cancellation of the in-person SOT meeting,
requiring a Herculean effort by SOT to deliver a virtual meeting to over 5,570 virtual attendees.
The year 2020 was also when SOT’s newest specialty section, the Sustainable Chemicals
through Contemporary Toxicology (SCCT) Specialty Section was formed.

Highlights of these two SOT specialty sections are described below.

A Word Cloud of SOT’s 29 Individual Specialty Sections
SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOT MECHANISMS SPECIALTY SECTION

SOT’s Mechanisms Specialty Section (also known as Mech SS) is dedicated to elucidating the cellular, biochemical and molecular mechanisms of action of toxic substances. Mech SS is a large and busy specialty section that places a high priority on developing cutting-edge programming for the annual meeting and supporting trainees. Support for trainees is manifested in multiple ways, including coordinating an annual mentoring/networking event in partnership with the Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section (MSBSS) and the Biotechnology SS, hosting career development programs and by administering an array of awards which provide travel support and recognize the achievements of the trainees. One of these awards is co-administered jointly with the Risk Assessment SS (RASS).

Currently, Mech SS is getting ready to put out its fall newsletter and developing a survey for trainees which will be used for a new career development webinar. Mech SS is also gearing up for “Awards season” with increased messaging about awards deadlines and recruitment of additional reviewers, who will be called upon to review anything from face-to-face interviews onsite at the annual meeting to comprehensive applications that include full manuscripts and personal statements. Like all specialty sections, Mech SS is also actively recruiting officers for the upcoming election.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOT SUSTAINABLE CHEMICALS THROUGH CONTEMPORARY TOXICOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION

The Sustainable Chemicals for Contemporary Toxicology Specialty Section (also known as SCCT) was formed in 2020 by SOT members who were interested in supporting scientific activities designed to reduce the likelihood of regrettable substitution (phasing out one chemical of concern for one equally or more hazardous) throughout the supply chain through interdisciplinary partnerships. SCCT has partnered with other SOT SS on multiple occasions including RASS and the Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues (ELFSI) SS to offer SOT members webinars and CE courses that advance green toxicology and sustainable toxicology topics.

Upcoming SCCT events include a November 4th webinar (co-sponsored with ELFSI) at 12 noon EST titled “Avoid Being Toxicology’s Worst Enemy” to learn from experts on how to interact with the press to share novel research findings and avoid bias and conflict of interest. You can register at the SCCT events webpage for this free webinar.
THE CALL TO SERVE: BECOMING A MEMBER AND OFFICER OF A SOT SPECIALTY SECTION

Benjamin Franklin said “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.” This quote is a fitting description of why there are 29 SOT specialty sections, which cover a broad range of toxicology subspecialties and offer numerous in-person and virtual opportunities to learn and become involved in specialty section activities.

SOT members may not realize that SOT specialty sections welcome new specialty section members on a rolling basis, so please consider joining a specialty section before you receive your annual membership e-mail from SOT. If you are a current SOT member you can join a specialty section at any time, please log onto the SOT Component Groups page and click “Join Now” to join new specialty sections. If you would like to make an update during the membership renewal, click on “change selection” on your SOT online membership renewal webpage, and add additional specialty sections.

To view the full list of SOT specialty sections, please visit SOT’s Specialty Sections webpage, and click on each specialty section to learn about their mission, past activities, and upcoming events. SOT SS are currently circulating calls for new officers, so challenge yourself and throw your hat into the ring for an elected position!
UPCOMING SS-CCG SELECTIONS

In the first quarter of each year, the SS-CCG holds elections for new members of the committee. The SS-CCG is comprised of 10 representatives from SOT Specialty Sections. **Five incoming Specialty Section Representatives are elected to the SS-CCG by the outgoing 29 Specialty Section Presidents.** Each elected SS-CCG member serves for a term of two years. Currently represented Specialty Sections are excluded from providing a candidate for election such that there cannot be two representatives from the same SS serving on the SS-CCG. A co-chair will be elected among the incoming representatives by the SS-CCG members. The Co-chair will serve one year and rotate into the Chair position for the second year of service.

ELIGIBILITY

The candidates for SS-CCG must be on the Presidential track and have one at least one year of experience in the executive committee of the specialty section they represent and at least two years left (e.g., roll-off their EC no earlier than the month of April two years after the appointment).

*Terms of service will be for two years.*

_The candidate names must be provided to SOT by January 15th._

*Student and Postdoctoral Representatives are not eligible.*

SS-CCG LEADERSHIP

TEAM 2022 - 2023

2022-2023 MEMBERS

Jason Cannon  
Neurotoxicology

Laura Plunkett  
Chair--Risk Assessment

Cheryl Rockwell  
Mechanisms

Berran Yucesoy  
Immunotoxicology

Sarah Farahmand  
Dermal Toxicology

Sarah Campion  
Reproductive & Developmental

Kathryn Page  
Co-Chair--In Vitro & Alternative Mechanisms

Chengfeng Yang  
Metals

Meg Whittaker  
Sustainable Chemicals through Contemporary Toxicology

Anne Loccisano  
Occupational & Public Health

Betina Lew  
SOT Council Contact