

Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section

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

I. Officers:

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
President: Sarah Gilpin Vice President: Azita Cuevas Vice President-Elect: James Coleman Secretary-Treasurer: Prajakta Shimpi Past President, Councilor: Kim Norman Councilor: Valentina Galbiati Councilor: Ying Huang Postdoctoral Representative: Alexandra Nail Graduate Student Representative: Andrew Roney	President: Azita Cuevas Vice President: James Coleman Vice President Elect: Clive Roper Past President, Councilor: Sarah Gilpin Secretary-Treasurer: Mayukh Banerjee Councilor: Sadaff Ejaz Councilor: Ying Huang Graduate Student Representative: Andrew Roney

Committees:

II. 2025 Membership total: 112

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:

The Dermal Toxicology 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
- Trainee awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Member highlights
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- We increased DTSS visibility and attendance at the Annual Meeting through a successful giveaway promotion that encouraged member participation.

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

- Medical Device and Combination Product
- Risk Assessment

V. Communication Methods:

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

- Connection with DTSS graduate and trainee representatives

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	2
Early Career	0
Mid Career	0
Late Career	2

IX. Strategic Plan:

The Dermal Toxicology 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
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

X. Scientific Topics of Interest:

The Dermal Toxicology Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- Advancements in *in vitro* and *in silico methods*, with an emphasis on regulatory acceptance and evolving global frameworks
- Applications of artificial intelligence in toxicology, including its utility in safety assessment and predictive modeling
- Expanding research on the skin microbiome and its implications for dermal toxicity, product safety, and formulation development

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?

One thing the Society should prioritize more effectively is providing targeted resources to support the development of smaller Specialty Sections. For example, a centralized toolkit that outlines how to better utilize existing SOT tools—such as communication platforms, event planning resources, and outreach templates—would help enhance programming and increase visibility of emerging scientific areas, such as dermal toxicology. Additionally, SOT could further support smaller SS by highlighting them through official channels, such as a “Specialty Section of the Month” feature on the website, inclusion in newsletters, email spotlights, or LinkedIn posts. These efforts would help foster engagement, encourage membership, and showcase the scientific value and contributions of smaller sections.

- 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.)?

One area that should be reconsidered is the cost structure and scheduling of Specialty Section (SS) Annual Receptions. The overhead costs associated with hosting these receptions can be prohibitive and may limit accessibility or reduce participation. Additionally, the timing of these events—often scheduled later in the week—makes it challenging to engage the full membership, as many attendees begin to depart before the final days of the meeting. Revisiting both the financial model and event timing could improve attendance, foster greater networking, and enhance the overall value of these gatherings for our Specialty Section members.