

**2023–2024**  
**Executive Committee**

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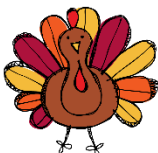
Senior Councilor  
**Thea Golden**

Junior Councilor  
**Lauren Walker**

Postdoc Representative  
**Brandon Lewis**

Student Representative  
**Hannah Lovins**

## President's Message



IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION  
OF THE SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY



Greetings ITSS Community!

I hope that everyone has had a nice and relaxing summer and is enjoying the fall season. As we look forward to the 2024 Annual Meeting, I would like to congratulate our ITSS Program Committee for reviewing, vetting, and ranking the proposals. As usual, we will have a strong immunotoxicology representation with five exciting proposals (see page 5 for details), four of which will be presented as symposiums and one of which will be a continuing education course. Although the main program session deadline has passed, there is still time to submit poster abstracts, but it must be done today, Monday, November 13th (see page 6 for details).

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# President's Message continued:

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It is also the time of the year for recruitment of candidates for the 2024–2025 leadership term and officer elections. We will have four officer positions open: 1) Vice President-Elect, 2) Junior Councilor, 3) Postdoc Representative, and 4) Treasurer. Indeed, in order to increase the opportunities of ITSS members to join the leadership team, the Treasurer and Secretary responsibilities were divided. Therefore, Allison Ehrlich will continue as our Secretary for the upcoming year, while the Treasurer position will be open for elections, formal ballot to come soon. Information about [officers' responsibilities](#) and our [committees](#) is available on our website. Please consider nominating yourself or your colleagues who are interested in serving the ITSS community. Nominations need to be submitted at the latest on November 15th to the officers. We also welcome anyone interested in getting involved in committee activities. We already received the names of a few people who are interested in getting involved, but are always looking to have additional members join our group. As always, we welcome new faces, diversity, fresh perspectives, and new ideas!

It is also time to start submitting nominations for the 2024 ITSS Awards. We strongly encourage you to submit the nomination well before the deadline to ensure Immunotoxicology Specialty Section nominees will have sufficient time to provide all the necessary information before the deadline. We have an incredibly talented community, with members involved in several facets of immunotoxicology. Please consider nominating your colleagues for awards to recognize their outstanding commitment to immunotoxicology. We also encourage mentors to work with their students and postdocs on submitting their posters or platform presentations for one of the Best Presentation Awards. It is a great way to recognize your students for their hard work and dedication. Awards descriptions and application requirements can be found on the [ITSS website](#) (refer to pages 7-10 for details). Any award-related questions can be directed to our Awards Committee chairs, [Thea Golden](#) and [Lauren Walker](#).

The deadline for ITSS membership renewal is also approaching and needs to be completed in December 2023. Your membership renewal is what makes our work possible to plan activities. We very much appreciate your continued membership and support which is essential for sustainable growth. Please encourage your colleagues, students, and postdocs to join ITSS and let them know about the opportunities and awards offered. Our leadership is always happy to answer any questions from potential new members. Membership information can be found on the ITSS website, and any membership-related questions can be directed to our Membership Committee chairs, [Lauren Walker](#) and [Hannah Lovins](#).

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# President's Message continued:



As the last joint webinar, with the IVAMSS, on “Advancements Within the Field of Predictive Immunotoxicity *In Vitro* Models for Chemical Safety” was a success in June 2023, we will be planning another joint webinar, with the Biotechnology Specialty Section this time, on the US FDA Guidance on Nonclinical Evaluation of Immunotoxic Potential of Pharmaceuticals. Details about this event will be shared once the final date has been scheduled. We encourage you to join this event and participate by asking questions to the speakers and panelists. It is a great way to interact with your colleagues and share your experience in the field.

It is also not too early to start planning for the 2025 meeting. I would like to encourage our members to continue the tradition of submitting strong proposals for the 2025 meeting. While planning future proposals, please remember that our Program Committee is here to help you. As the request for new proposals will come soon after the 2024 Annual Meeting, it would be ideal to have these discussions before the Annual Meeting to avoid being pressed with a tight deadline. [Alessandro Venosa](#) from our Program Committee is looking for volunteers to help in the preparation of sessions ahead of the proposal deadline in 2025. Please reach out to him if you are interested and if you have any ideas of topics you would like to see in the program in 2 years.

Lastly, if you are interested in becoming a mentor for the forthcoming live mentoring event in Salt Lake City, please get in touch with our Education Committee chair, [Andrew Gow](#). As always, please do not hesitate to contact [me](#) or any other member of the Executive Committee if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback. We appreciate hearing from you. All the best for the remainder of 2023, and we look forward to seeing you next year in Salt Lake City!

Best Regards,

Dr. Marie-Soleil Piche  
ITSS President, 2023–2024



**MARIE-SOLEIL PICHE**  
President

# Save the Date!



SAVE THE DATES

## Toxicology Heads to the Mountain West in 2024

SOT is returning to Salt Lake City for the first time in more than a decade for its 63rd Annual Meeting and ToxExpo. The 2024 meeting will feature five days of Featured and Scientific Sessions, poster presentations, and social events, as well as the popular three-day ToxExpo.

### Where

[Salt Palace Convention Center](#)  
in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah

### When

Sunday, March 10, 2024, to Thursday, March 14, 2024

# ITSS Endorsed CE Courses, Symposia, and Workshops at the Annual Meeting

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## **'Relax Immune System,' Cell and Gene Therapy Here**

***Sun, Mar 10 (8:15 AM - 12:00 Noon) – Room TBA***

## **Defining Susceptibility to Ozone: A Window into Exposure Effects in a Changing Climate**

***Mon, March 11 (1:45 PM - 4:30 PM) - Grand Ballroom B, Salt Palace CC***

## **State-of-the-Art *In Vitro* Immune Modeling: The Beginning of a Journey toward AOPs and Improved Safety Assessment**

***Tue, Mar 12 (8:00 AM - 10:45 AM) - Room 251 A, Salt Palace CC***

## **Challenges and Future Perspectives on New Approach Methodologies for Developmental Immunotoxicity Testing**

***Wed, Mar 13 (8:00 AM - 10:45 AM) - Grand Ballroom J, Salt Palace CC***

## **Through the Lens: Translational Insights in Ocular Toxicology**

***Wed, Mar 13 (11:00 AM - 12:20 PM) - Grand Ballroom B, Salt Palace CC***





# Upcoming Deadlines

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## SOT Annual Meeting



**SOT Annual Meeting Abstract Submission Deadline**

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## ***SOT Annual Meeting Registration Deadlines***

Early Bird Registration January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Standard Registration January 20<sup>th</sup> – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Final Registration – After February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Immunotoxicology Specialty Section-Specific

***Nominations for ITSS Executive Committee Elections***

**Vice President-Elect – Jr. Councilor - Postdoc Rep - Treasurer**

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**ITSS 2024 Awards Deadline**

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

***ITSS 2024 Membership Renewal Deadline***

End of December 2023

## ITSS Best Paper of the Year Award



This award is for the best paper in the area of immunotoxicology, published in ANY peer-reviewed journal between January 1 and December 31 of the current calendar year. The first publication date (either electronic or paper) will be considered the date of publication. Authors may not nominate their own papers. Review papers are not eligible for this award. For full consideration, first author and/or corresponding author will need to be ITSS members. An engraved plaque will be awarded to the authors.

### Required Documents:

1. Full citation of the article (and/or pdf attachment)
2. Letter of support discussing the findings and value of the research

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## ITSS Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee Award

This award will be presented to the postdoctoral trainees whose work in the field of immunotoxicology is deserving of recognition.

### Required Documents:

1. A copy of the original abstract submitted to the SOT Annual Meeting
2. Mentor's letter of support
3. Written version of a presentation (5-7 slides/7' + 3' Q&A) based on submitted abstract



## ITSS Best Presentation by a Student Award



This award will be presented to the graduate student trainees whose work in the field of immunotoxicology is deserving of recognition.

### Required Documents:

1. A copy of the original abstract submitted to the SOT Annual Meeting
2. Mentor's letter of support
3. Written version of a presentation (5-7 slides/7' + 3' Q&A) based on submitted abstract

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## ITSS Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti Research Excellence in Immunotoxicology Award

These awards are made possible by the Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti Research Excellence in Immunotoxicology Award Fund of the SOT Endowment Fund. This cash award will assist graduate students or postdoctoral scholars to attend the SOT Annual Meeting and present their research.

### Required Documents:

1. Nomination letter from mentor
2. Up-to-date CV
3. Personal statement letter describing how the award will impact their career





## **ITSS HESI Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Travel Award**

This award is made possible by the Health and Environmental Science Institute Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment Fund. The nominees should be within five years of receiving a PhD. The cash award will assist young investigators to attend the SOT Annual Meeting and present their research. Both US and international investigators are eligible and encouraged to apply.

### **Requirements:**

1. Letter from current advisor indicating contributions to immunotox field
  2. Up-to-date CV
  3. Personal statement letter regarding attendance at SOT and career development in immunotoxicology
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## **ITSS Outstanding Senior Immunotoxicologist Award**

The Outstanding Senior Immunotoxicologist Award is for scientists in academia, industry, or regulatory entities whose work has made significant contributions to the field of immunotoxicology. The nominees must have at least 10 years of experience since obtaining their highest degree. Nominees must have distinguished themselves as leaders in their chosen area of immunotoxicology and not previously been awarded the Vos Lifetime Career Achievement Award. Self-nominations will not be considered.

### **Required Documents:**

1. Nomination letter
2. Summary of awardee's accomplishments in immunotoxicology
3. Up-to-date CV and Bibliography

## ITSS Outstanding Young Immunotoxicologist Award

This award will be presented to postdoctoral trainees and junior independent scientists in academia, industry, or regulatory entities. The nominees must have up to 10 years of experience since obtaining their highest degree. Exceptions to the 10-year limitation can be made if careers have been interrupted for family or health reasons, or clinical practice, etc. Reasons for the exception should be documented in the nomination letter. Self-nominations will not be considered.

Required Documents:

1. Nomination letter
2. Nominee's up-to-date CV and Bibliography



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## ITSS Vos Lifetime Career Achievement Award in Immunotoxicology

This award will be presented to a Senior Investigator (at least 20 years since obtaining their highest degree) whose body of work represents an outstanding career in immunotoxicology. Nominees are evaluated with respect to the following criteria: 1) Contribution to immunotoxicology field, 2) Influence in education/training/mentorship of young scientists in immunotoxicology, 3) Leadership/service to immunotoxicology, and 4) Influence on regulatory and risk/safety assessment decisions in immunotoxicology.

Required Documents:

1. Letter discussing the impact of the nominee's work to advance the immunotoxicology field
2. Nominee's up-to-date CV and Bibliography
3. Supporting letter of recommendation from another investigator

# 2023-2024 ITSS Committee List:

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## **Volunteers Needed for Limited Number of Seats:**

Please contact the committee chairs if you have questions or if you are interested in serving with us!

### **Education Committee**

Chair: Andrew Gow

Email: [gow@research.rutgers.edu](mailto:gow@research.rutgers.edu)

### **Awards Committee**

Chair: Thea Golden

Email: [theagolden@gmail.com](mailto:theagolden@gmail.com)

### **Program Committee**

Chair: Alessandro Venosa

Email: [alessandro.venosa@pharm.utah.edu](mailto:alessandro.venosa@pharm.utah.edu)

To learn more about ITSS committees

[CLICK HERE](#)

Note:

SOT membership is required.

Must be willing to become a member of the ITSS and to commit to service.



# Postdoctoral Report:

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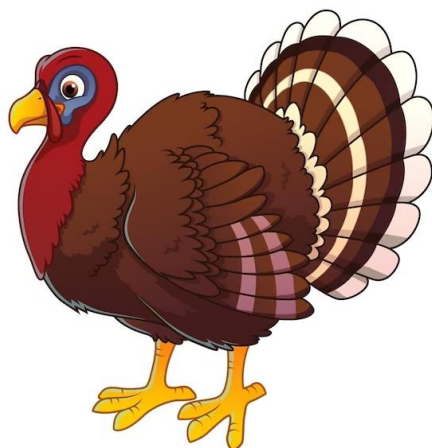
Greetings ITSS Postdocs:

My name is Brandon Lewis, and I have served as the ITSS Postdoctoral Representative for the past year. I enjoyed meeting many of you at the SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo in Nashville this past year, and I look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City in March. I am writing to express the benefits of volunteering to serve on the ITSS executive committee. As described in this newsletter, ITSS is holding an open call for nominations for the next executive committee. Postdoc Representative will be a position up for election with a term of one year. In this position, one forms many friendships with fellow postdocs, graduate students, senior investigators, and toxicologists in industry and government. The experience I gained from serving on this committee has been extremely valuable as I moved out of my postdoctoral position and into industry. The advice given by senior members of the executive committee throughout my time has not only been beneficial to my growth as a scientist, but also as a leader. I learned firsthand how SOT events and meetings are organized and executed. I learned how to communicate with people from vastly different backgrounds that are currently dispersed throughout the world. Importantly, we, as a committee, worked together to accomplish a common goal: to push ITSS forward into a new year and build upon the foundation laid by our wonderful predecessors. I urge you to consider nominating either someone you know or yourself to serve as the Postdoc Representative.

Please reach out to [me](#) if you have any questions at all about ITSS as well as the position of postdoc representative.

See you in Salt Lake!

Brandon Lewis





## **FDA 2023 Guidance Discussion: Nonclinical Evaluation of the Immunotoxic Potential of Pharmaceuticals**

**Specific details will be shared once  
webinar link has been posted!**



# ITSS Member Achievements



Want to highlight your *amazing* accomplishments?



We encourage **ALL ITSS members** to share their achievements over this past year to be published in the upcoming ITSS Newsletters.

*This includes grants, awards, and publications!*

Email Hannah at [hannah.hartzler@osumc.edu](mailto:hannah.hartzler@osumc.edu) with your name, accomplishment, and a link to the website, paper, grant info, etc!

