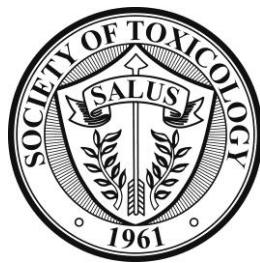


# IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY

## Specialty Section

### Spring 2024 Edition



#### 2024-2025 Executive Committee

##### President

Alessandro Venosa

##### Vice President

Andrew Gow

##### Vice President-Elect

Debra Laskin

##### Secretary

Allison Ehrlich

##### Treasurer

David McMillan

##### Past President

Marie-Soleil Piche

##### Senior Councilor

Lauren Walker

##### Junior Councilor

Brandon Lewis

##### Postdoc Representative

Samuel Cochran

##### Student Representative

Hannah Lovins

## 2025 Annual Meeting Session Proposals

*Have an idea or topic you would like to see at the Annual Meeting in Orlando in 2025?*

Consider submitting a  
Session Proposal for the  
2025 SOT Program!

*Proposal Deadline: Wednesday, May 15, 2024,  
11:59 pm (US EDT, UTC -4)*



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# Incoming President's Message continued:

Dear ITSS Membership,



I am excited and honored to begin my role as President of the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section (ITSS). I would first like to express my thanks to Dr. Marie-Soleil Piche for her leadership as ITSS President and for the Executive Committee (EC) Officers throughout 2023-2024. I will work to build on the path set by Marie-Soleil and our previous Presidents to highlight and support immunotoxicology. On behalf of the EC, I would also like to thank our outgoing Past President Dr. Berran Yucesoy, our Postdoctoral Representative, Brandon Lewis, and our Senior Councilor, Thea Golden for their service. In addition, thanks to everyone who has contributed to the past and ongoing work on our Education, Awards, Communications & Membership, and Program committees. Your work contributes greatly to facilitate these activities and ensure their success year after year.

For the upcoming year, the Executive Committee will be composed of: Andrew Gow (Vice President), Debra Laskin (Vice President-Elect), Marie-Soleil Piche (Past President), Allison K. Ehrlich (Secretary), David McMillan (Treasurer), Lauren Walker (Senior Councilor), Brandon Lewis (Junior Councilor), Samuel Cochran (Postdoctoral Representative), and Hannah Lovins (Graduate Student Representative).

The Executive Committee will continue to meet via monthly teleconferences to discuss issues of interest for the ITSS and respond to the needs of SOT and our members. Our number 1 focus will center on improving the visibility and impact of our Specialty Section, both inside and outside of SOT. This will be achieved through four major pillars: mentoring, education, membership, and collaboration with other Specialty Sections and other organizations working in immunotoxicology. Secondly, we will continue our efforts to increase membership, which has been decreasing since the pandemic but has stabilized this past year. Along those lines, a third area of emphasis will be related to increasing the ITSS presence at the SOT Annual Meeting. To address this point, we have recently changed our bylaws to split the prior Secretary/Treasurer position (thank you all for voting) and thus expanding the bandwidth of the Executive Committee. We have also recently established a new subcommittee which will work year-round to help identify ideas for sessions to be presented at the Annual Meeting (and avoid the frenzy that usually accompanies the March-May period).

*Continued on the next page...*

# Incoming President's Message continued:



If you're interested in becoming more involved in the ITSS and helping move our initiatives forward, please reach out to any EC member. We are always looking for members on our various committees. There are many activities for which we need volunteers: such as for mentoring and outreach activities, awards, and session review proposals. If there are any subjects of interest or outstanding/unaddressed items, do not hesitate to reach out to any members of the EC. We want to ensure our members are being heard and that we can fulfill the needs of people in the ITSS.

One last item I would like to emphasize is my most sincere gratitude to those who have donated to our Endowment Funds throughout the years. These funds allow us to highlight and support the research of outstanding trainees. If you have never made a contribution to the **Health and Environmental Science Institute Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Student Award** or **Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti Research Excellence in Immunotoxicology Award** Funds, please consider doing so, as your contributions make a great impact for the next generation of immunotoxicologists.

Please visit the new [Endowment Fund Search](#) and select the “Immunotoxicology” box under Component Groups to learn more about and even [donate](#) to each fund!

I look forward to a 2024 filled with great science and enthusiasm and a fun meeting in Orlando next March!

Best,  
Alessandro Venosa  
ITSS President, 2024-2025



**ALESSANDRO VENOSA**  
President

# Outgoing President's Message:

Dear ITSS Members,



For those who were able to make it to the Salt Lake City SOT Annual Meeting, it was wonderful to meet you in person and to celebrate the accomplishments of our members. The Executive Committee is already working hard to ensure that we have another successful presence, with symposiums and continuing education courses, at the meeting in Orlando next year. Looking back over the past 2023-2024 term, it has been a productive year, with webinars co-hosted with the *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section and with the Biotechnology Specialty Section. In addition, we endorsed high-quality sessions and CE courses for the SOT Annual Meeting, hosted a mentorship event, and presented various awards to our members. We have also updated our bylaws to ensure more members could get involved in the Executive Committee, with 2 separate roles for the Secretary and Treasurer. Our international collaboration with the Japanese Society of Immunotoxicology (JSIT) continued with Dr. Kristina Howard from US FDA, who presented virtually at the 2023 JSIT meeting. Our Endowment Funds, which support the Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti Research Excellence in Immunotoxicology Award and the HESI Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Travel Award, continued to grow. We are very thankful to our donors and could not continue to recognize the work of our members without them. As I am rotating off to the Past President role, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support I received during my mandate as the ITSS President. It was a wonderful and rewarding experience for me, which made me realize and appreciate all the efforts from various members behind the scenes. I would also like to thank every member of the Executive Committee with whom I had the privilege to work. I look forward to serving as Past President and to the upcoming year under the leadership of Dr. Alessandro Venosa. I wish you all a safe and fun summer and thank you for being a member of ITSS.

Sincerely,

Marie-Soleil Piche

ITSS Past President, 2024-2025



**MARIE-SOLEIL PICHE**

Past President

# Welcome 2024 ITSS Executive Committee!

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**ALESSANDRO VENOSA**  
President



**ANDREW GOW**  
Vice President



**DEBRA LASKIN**  
Vice President-Elect



**ALLISON EHRLICH**  
Secretary



**DAVID MCMILLAN**  
Treasurer



**MARIE-SOLEIL PICHE**  
Past President



**LAUREN WALKER**  
Sr. Councilor



**BRANDON LEWIS**  
Jr. Councilor



**SAMUEL COCHRAN**  
Postdoctoral  
Representative



**HANNAH LOVINS**  
Graduate Student  
Representative

# 2024 ITSS Committee List:

## 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: Debra Laskin

Email: [laskin@eohsi.rutgers.edu](mailto:laskin@eohsi.rutgers.edu)



### Awards Committee

Chair: Lauren Walker

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

### Program Committee

Chair: Andrew Gow

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



# Student & Postdoctoral Report:



Dear ITSS graduate students and postdoctoral fellows,

We hope you are having a wonderful start to your Summer and hopefully have been able to enjoy some sunshine and warmer temperatures! It was a pleasure having the opportunity to meet you during the ITSS reception at the Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. We are both looking forward to serving you, representing you, and sharing your thoughts and opinions during our ITSS committee meetings. Please reach out to us with any feedback from the Annual Meeting or ideas you may have for next year's meeting in Orlando, Florida!

To briefly introduce us, Samuel Cochran is the ITSS Postdoctoral representative and has been in his postdoc position for almost two years now. Hannah Lovins is our Graduate Student representative, and she is currently finishing her 4<sup>th</sup> year of her Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology PhD program. We are both in Dr. Kymberly Gowdy's lab at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH and are very excited to work together in serving ITSS!

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the ITSS events at this year's Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. We had an awesome turnout for the Graduate Student and Postdoc mixer and the mentoring event prior to the ITSS reception. We are really hoping to bring that engagement and excitement from the Annual Meeting with us throughout the year until we are back in person in Orlando next March! Please be on the lookout for additional mentoring and professional development opportunities through the year!

With that, we want to encourage our ITSS graduate student and postdoctoral members to get involved with ITSS by participating in our different subcommittees. This is an excellent way to connect with other ITSS members to enhance your professional network. There are three different committees that student and postdoc members can get involved with: Awards, Programming, and Education. Each committee is chaired by friendly and motivated members of the ITSS executive committee. Participating in these committees is a rewarding and amazing opportunity to get to know the immunotoxicology community. If you would like more information or want to learn how to get involved, please reach out to us at [hannah.hartzler@osumc.edu](mailto:hannah.hartzler@osumc.edu) and [samuel.cochran@osumc.edu](mailto:samuel.cochran@osumc.edu).

We look forward to serving you! Have a fantastic summer!

Sam and Hannah



# In Case You Missed it at the Annual Meeting

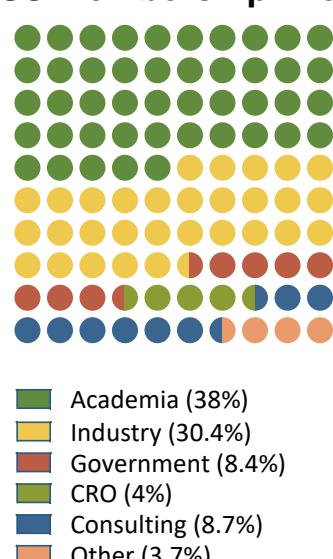
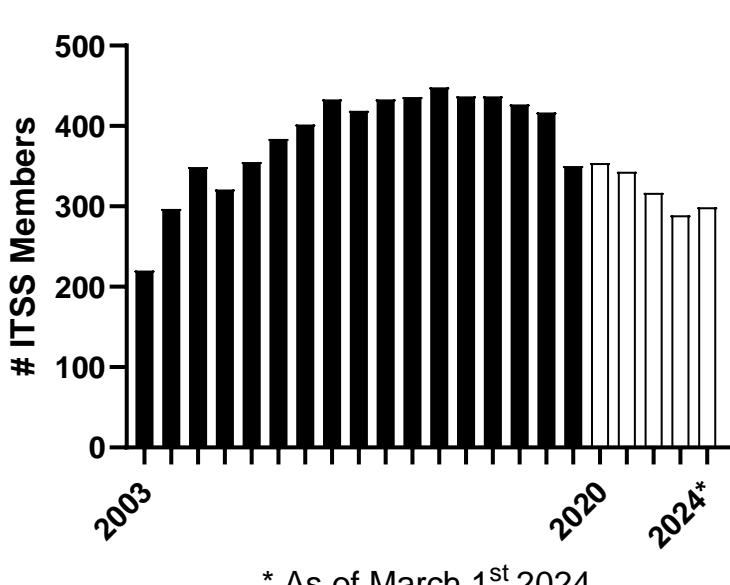
## *Net assets as of December of 2023:*

- General account: \$11,936
- HESI Endowment fund: \$80,224
- Nagarkatti Endowment fund: \$71,613

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>Income*</b>	\$10,743	\$9,124	\$8,259	\$9,140	\$10,636
<b>Expenses</b>	\$15,660	\$4,222	\$1,578	\$14,610	\$17,246

\*Summary data shown for general account (does not include HESI or Nagarkatti)

## *Membership Report*



# 2024 ITSS Award Winners:

## Vos Award for Lifetime Career Achievement in Immunotoxicology

### M. Firoze Khan, PhD

Professor in the Department of Pathology  
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Nominated by Emanuela Corsini and Jagjit Yadav



## Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI) Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Travel Award

### Martina Lulini

PhD Candidate  
Università degli Studi di Milano

### Bright Obeng

PhD Candidate  
University of Maine

### Christina Post

Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry



# Best Paper of the Year 2024

## Suppression of Lung Oxidative Stress, Inflammation, and Fibrosis Following Nitrogen Mustard Exposure by the Selective Farnesoid X Receptor Agonist Obeticholic Acid

Meshanni, JA., Lee, JM., Vayas, KN., Sun, R., Jiang, C., Guo, GL., Gow, AJ., Laskin, JD., and Laskin, DL.



*Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, 2023.  
PMID: 37188530

## Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti Research Excellence in Immunotoxicology Travel Awards

### Evangeline Schott

PhD Student  
The Ohio State University

### Lei Zhang

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Texas A&M University

### Jessica Rodriguez

PhD Candidate  
Louisiana State University



# Outstanding Young Immunotoxicologist Award

## Allison Ehrlich, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department Environmental  
Toxicology – University of  
California, Davis



# Outstanding Senior Immunotoxicologist Award

## Debra L. Laskin, PhD

Distinguished Professor and Chair of  
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Roy A. Bowers Endowed Chair  
Rutgers University



# Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee Award

## Timothy Smyth, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Human Monocyte-Derived Macrophages Demonstrate Polarization-State Dependent Gene Expression Patterns following Exposure to Ambient Particulate Matter



# Best Presentation by a Student Award

## Braeden Giles

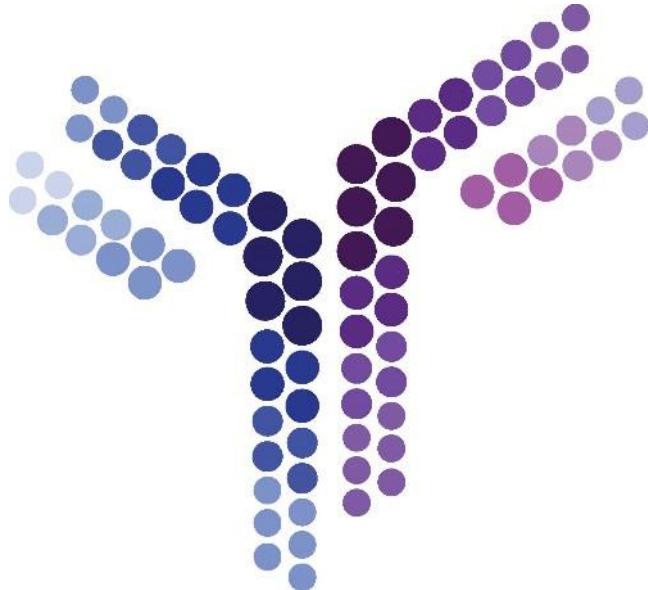
PhD Candidate

Advisors: Drs. Bernard Robaire and  
Koren K. Mann  
McGill University

Impact of an Organophosphate Ester (OPEs) Mixture from Household Dust on the Immune System: Insights from Studies in Sprague-Dawley Rats



# Thank you to our donors for your continuous support!



## We appreciate all that you do for the ITSS and our trainees!



# Save the Date!



## SAVE THE DATES

### Escape to Warm Weather with SOT

The SOT 64th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo will feature five days of Featured and Scientific Sessions, poster presentations, and social events, as well as the popular three-day ToxExpo.



#### 📍 Where

[Orange County Convention Center](#)

West Concourse

9800 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32819

#### ⌚ When

Sunday, March 16, 2025, to Thursday, March 20, 2025

# Session Proposal Deadline for SOT 2025

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*Have an idea or topic you would like to see at the Annual Meeting?*

*Consider submitting a session proposal for the 2025 SOT Program!*

*Deadline: Wednesday, May 15, 2024,  
11:59 pm (US EDT, UTC -4)*

