

Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section (IRSS) Newsletter

Fall
2023

Message from the Outgoing President

The beginning of my term coincided nicely with what we thought was the tail end of the pandemic. We were finally out and about, interacting with one another without masks, hoping to shift back into our regular routines of research, traveling for conferences, and meetings. This year has also come with many new trends within the industry and shifts in research that many likely could not anticipate while also holding onto the past. Like others, I feel like my focus has been the same: straddling old and new adventures.

They say that change is always for the good, one way or another. An opportunity for new ideas, support, and at the same time struggles. Our Specialty Section is currently straddling between generations of scientists focused around one mission, “Evaluating the impact of airborne chemicals and particles on the body.” We saw members agree to disagree with how things should be done, what we should ask of each other, and at times, whose voice matters more.

Being nimble and amendable to change is the best way I can sum up this year, and it came to a head at the SOT Annual Meeting. I was hoping to leave the office with an Annual Meeting everyone would think about, discussing some of the changes we were excited to present to our members, new opportunities, growth within the organization—especially with the younger scientists that many of us have watched grow up within the Specialty Section. Sadly, these conversations are buried in the shadows of a chaotic start to a meeting and members wondering how to get a drink, what happened to the food, or “I thought we were getting more seats this year?” (definitely one for the books—still laughing in the end). The executive committee is working with SOT staff to adequately plan for Salt Lake City.

I know the executive committee has worked really hard to refine the committee processes and focused areas based on feedback from the Specialty Section members. Thank you to those who provided artwork and participated in the voting for a new IRSS logo. I am proud to have had the privilege to be a part of such a great team and I look forward to supporting the initiatives in the wings.

Best wishes,

Melanie Doyle-Eisele, PhD

President, IRSS (2022–2023)



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IRSS Executive Committee & Election Results

As we transition into the 2023–2024 year and are already preparing for the 2024 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, as your incoming President of IRSS, I look forward to continuing Melanie’s leadership and supporting the initiatives she’s started. Our Fall webinar, “Air Pollution and Pulmonary Fibrosis,” was successful with excellent talks, 91 attendees, and a well-engaged audience—you can watch the [recording online](#). The executive committee is excited to be planning more webinars on hot topics in inhalation toxicology, increasing the number of student awards given out, and continuing our career development/mentoring events throughout the year.

Kymberly Gowdy, PhD
IRSS President 2023–2024

Welcome to our new executive committee members!

Vice President-Elect Christopher Reilly		Secretary Jennifer Larson-Casey	
Councilor Nikaeta Sadekar		Councilor Todd Stueckle	
Treasurer Marie Hargrove		Graduate Student Representative Marissa Guttenberg	

Thank you to our outgoing executive committee members!

Meghan Rebuli
Judith Zelikoff

Natalie Johnson
Michael Yaeger
Robert Tighe



Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section

of the Society of Toxicology

2023 IRSS Awards

Congratulations to our winners!

Paper of the Year Award

Jacklyn Skye Kelty, PhD, et al. 2022



Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol 323: L308–L328, 2022.
First published July 19, 2022; doi:10.1152/ajplung.00349.2021



AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY
**LUNG CELLULAR AND
MOLECULAR PHYSIOLOGY**

RESEARCH ARTICLE

In vitro airway models from mice, rhesus macaques, and humans maintain species differences in xenobiotic metabolism and cellular responses to naphthalene

Jacklyn Kelty,¹ Natalia Kovalchuk,² Eric Uwimana,² Lei Yin,² Xinxin Ding,² and Laura Van Winkle¹

¹Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Cell Biology, Center for Comparative Respiratory Biology and Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine and Center for Health and the Environment, University of California at Davis, Davis, California and
²Pharmacology and Toxicology Department, College of Pharmacy, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Career Achievement

Irfan Rahman, PhD



Young Investigator Award

Jonathan Shannahan, PhD



Mary Amdur Student Endowment Award

Aiman Abzhanova



Mary Amdur Student Endowment Award

Vingie Ng



Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology

**Donald Gardner Inhalation
Toxicology Education Endowment Award**
Morgan Domanico



**SCIREQ & Inhalation and Respiratory
Specialty Section Award**
Keith Rogers



IRSS Postdoctoral Award
Dorothy You, PhD



IRSS Graduate Student Award
Michelle Fiamingo

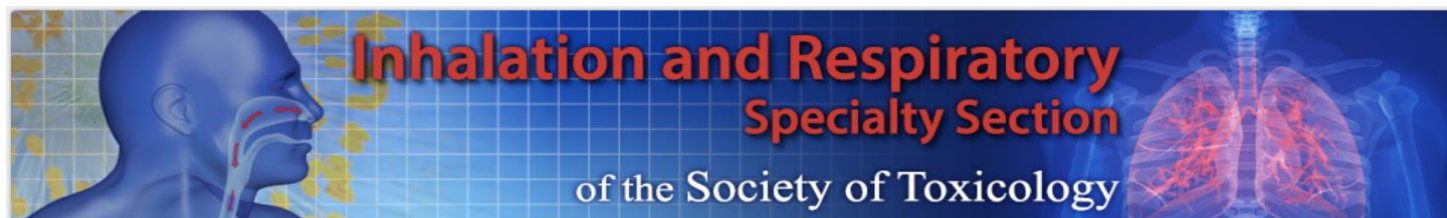


**IRSS Graduate Student Award, Honorable
Mention**
Charlotte A. Love



**IRSS Graduate Student Award, Honorable
Mention**
Kayla Rae Farrell

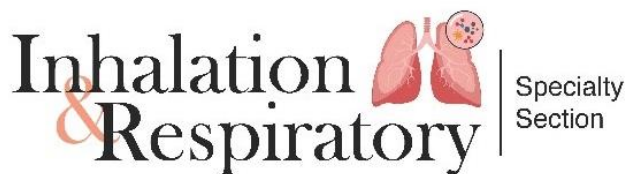




Announcements

IRSS New Logo Alert!

Thank you to our creative members/teams who submitted IRSS logos! We had six great submissions that were voted on by our membership. The two most popular submissions (receiving a cumulative 65% of the votes) were created by Yong Ho Kim (individual submission, US EPA) and Devin Alewel and Helen Nguyen (team submission, US EPA).



These designs will be submitted to help inspire the new logo that will eventually be produced by an SOT graphic designer.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in the selection of our new logo—it really does take a village! Keep your eyes peeled for our updated logo.

P.S. As a token of appreciation, all members who submitted a logo design will receive a gift card!

IRSS Annual Mentoring Event

- Thank you to those who participated in our second annual mentoring event just prior to our annual business meeting in March! We had a **fantastic** turnout, with 34 mentees and 30 mentors! The nearly 1:1 ratio allowed trainees to network with a broad mix of toxicologists spanning multiple disciplines and professional sectors.
- As we're always striving to improve, we'd love to get feedback on what worked well and what we can modify to maximize the value of this event for all of our members. Be on the lookout for a survey to complete!
- Thank you to the IRSS members who helped to organize this year's event to make it a success! See you at the next speed mentoring event in Salt Lake City in March 2024!

IRSS Bylaws Revision

- SOT Council approved the IRSS bylaws revision to separate the Secretary/Treasurer position within the executive committee.
- Jennifer Larson-Casey will continue as Secretary: "I am looking forward to working with the IRSS EC and to facilitate increased transparency between the EC and its members."
- Marie Hargrove was elected to fill the Treasurer role: "Thank you to the IRSS EC... I look forward to being a part of the IRSS EC, ensuring the organization's solvency and fundraising when possible."



Announcements

Undergraduate Awards Deadline: October 16th

We appreciate IRSS membership spreading the word about two SOT programs providing travel support for undergraduates to attend the SOT Annual Meeting:

- [SOT Undergraduate Research Award](#)—for students who submit a toxicology research abstract by October 16 and whose abstract is accepted.
- [Undergraduate Diversity Program Student Travel Award](#)—for students who are US citizens or permanent residents from groups underrepresented in the sciences who are interested in learning more about the field of toxicology; recipients attend a three-day program as part of the meeting.

ToxScholar

SOT encourages toxicologists to make presentations to primarily undergraduate audiences, especially at campuses where students have little opportunity to learn about the discipline and career opportunities.

- Visit [ToxScholar Outreach](#) for resources and tips.



IRSS Upcoming Awards

Donald E. Gardner Inhalation Toxicology Education Award

Provides stipends (up to \$2000) to early career scientists (students, postdocs, or scientists within 10 years of advanced degree) to either:

1. Gain specialized training in novel/emerging inhalation toxicology methodologies by training in another laboratory, attendance at a workshop/class, or training at a core facility.
- OR -
2. To develop educational webinars on innovative methods in the fields of Inhalation and Respiratory Toxicology that will be presented to the IRSS.

This award is made possible by the Donald Gardener Award Fund of the SOT Endowment.

Mary Amdur Student Award

An engraved plaque and cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded to the student whose abstract best addresses the environmental health issues that were the focus of Dr. Mary Amdur's career.

Dr. Amdur was a pioneer in air pollution toxicology and overcame gender, political, and scientific barriers to proclaim the potential for interactions between specific air pollutants.

More information on Dr. Amdur's career can be found in a [tribute in Toxicological Sciences](#).

This award is made possible by the Mary Amdur Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment.

Paper of the Year Award

An engraved plaque will be awarded to the author that applied for and received the award. The paper must be published in a peer-reviewed journal during the calendar year (Jan 1–Dec 1) prior to the annual meeting of the Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section at which the award will be presented.

Postdoctoral Award

An engraved plaque and cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded for the best abstract presented by a postdoctoral fellow in the field of respiratory/inhalation toxicology.

Student Award

An engraved plaque and a cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded for the best abstract presented by a student in the field of respiratory/inhalation toxicology.

Young Investigator Award

An engraved plaque and a cash stipend (\$500) will be awarded to a scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of inhalation or respiratory toxicology. The recipient must be within 15 years of obtaining their highest earned degree at the time when the award is presented (this date should be indicated in the applicant's documents submitted for the award).



IRSS members are encouraged to apply and to encourage others to apply. Additional information regarding eligibility requirements for each award, instructions on the application process, and due dates are available through the new [SOT awards system](#) or on the [IRSS website](#).

Upcoming or Recent Conferences of Interest

Thomas L. Petty Aspen Lung Conference June 6–8, 2023 https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/aspen Look online for meeting summaries		Interdisciplinary Nutrition Sciences Symposium September 14–15, 2023 https://www.interdisciplinarynutrition.org/
Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity (Gordon Research Conference) August 13–18, 2023 https://www.grc.org/cellular-and-molecular-mechanisms-of-toxicity-conference/2023/		Biology of Acute Respiratory Infection (Gordon Research Conference) February 25–March 1, 2024 https://www.grc.org/biology-of-acute-respiratory-infection-conference/2024/
2nd Global Summit on Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology TOXI2023 September 21–23, 2023 https://www.thescientistt.com/2023/toxicology-summit		International Asthma Conference at Nemacolin October 20–22, 2023 https://www.asthma-nemacolin.com/
Society for Redox Biology and Medicine 30th Annual Conference November 15–18, 2023 https://sfrbm.org/meetings/sfrbm-sfrr-2023/		American College of Toxicology Annual Meeting November 12–15, 2023 https://www.actox.org/am/am2023/

Interested in contributing to the IRSS initiatives? Support IRSS mentoring and/or student awards by donating.

[Donate Here!](#)



Many thanks to our IRSS outgoing officers!



**Melanie Doyle-
Eisele**
Former President



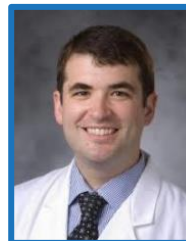
Meghan Rebuli
Former
Secretary/Treasurer



Natalie Johnson
Former Councilor



Michael Yaeger
Former Student
Representative



Robert Tighe
Former
Councilor

Newsletter Submissions

If there are items that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please send them to Jennifer Larson-Casey at jennifercasey@uabmc.edu.