

Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section (IRSS) Newsletter

Fall
2025

Dear IRSS Members,

Your IRSS leadership has been hard at work preparing for upcoming webinars featuring 2025 awardees and on topics of interest to our membership, as well as planning events for the 2026 Annual Meeting in San Diego. We hope you attended and enjoyed the 2025 IRSS Mary Amdur Award Winners–Rapid-Fire Session on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, and want to remind members that the annual meeting abstract deadline is Wednesday November 13, 2025. We hope that many of you will apply to one of our student and postdoc awards or nominate a deserving colleague for one of our prestigious awards such as the *Paper of the Year*, *Young Investigator*, or *Career Achievement* award. We have several exciting new and continuing events including a webinar on January 28th, 11:30 am-12:30pm EST, entitled “*Balancing Act: Vaping’s Effects on Cardiac Autonomic Function and Oral Microbial Health*,” and a mentor-trainee networking event preceding the IRSS business meeting on Tuesday March 24th, 2026, at the SOT Headquarters hotel at the annual meeting. This year’s annual meeting will feature an exciting assortment of IRSS sponsored scientific sessions including: 1) *Environmental Exposures and Pulmonary Fibrosis: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go?* (workshop); 2) *Toxic Air, Targeted Care: Innovations in Inhalation Injury and Intervention Through Early Career Perspectives* (a workshop developed by IRSS trainees); and 3) *Take A Deep Breath... Hold It! The Mounting Uncertainty Around Cardiopulmonary Toxicity of Novel Non-Tobacco Derived Nicotine and CBD Vaping Products in an Unstable Regulatory Landscape* (symposium). This is a busy time for our Specialty Section as deadlines for applications for awards and open IRSS leadership positions are approaching. As a reminder, to be considered for our awards you need to be a member of the IRSS specialty section - please also remember to select IRSS when you renew your SOT membership and encourage others to do so as well, especially junior colleagues! We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming online events and in San Diego in March 2026! As always check the IRSS website for updates and schedules of events.

Cheers,

Chris Reilly



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Important upcoming deadlines:

- Nominations for upcoming IRSS election: **October 27, 2025**. Contact Laura Van Winkle lsvanwinkle@ucdavis.edu
- SOT annual conference abstract submission: **November 13th, 2025**.
- Applications due for IRSS Awards: **December 1st, 2025**. Questions? Reach out to Patricia Silveyra psilveyr@iu.edu



Dear Inhalation Specialty Section Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section Executive Committee to invite you to support our upcoming awards and mentoring event. Our 358 members includes a diverse group of students and professionals from academia, government, NGOs, and industry, all dedicated to advancing toxicological research. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to increase the number of awards presented at our 2025 annual meeting, and we sincerely appreciate your support.

The IRSS offers a wide range of activities, from educational webinars and career development programs to numerous awards, that engage members at every career stage, from undergraduates to established principal investigators. Ensuring the continuation of our awards, especially those recognizing students and early-career investigators, and hosting a vibrant event remain critical priorities. Your contribution helps us honor outstanding achievements and advance the field of inhalation and respiratory toxicology.

Our meetings thrive because of the generous support from donors like you. This year, we aim to raise \$6,000 through donations and partnerships with SOT-allowable sponsors. We deeply appreciate your ongoing support and kindly ask you to consider contributing to our general fund. Two easy donation options are available

- 1) Mail your donation to the following address: Society of Toxicology // attn. Jane Carskaddan // 1190 Sunrise Valley // Suite 300// Reston, VA 20191. Please add a note in the envelope or write on the memo that it is a donation and the name of the Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section.
- 2) Use the online donation form:<https://www.toxicology.org/groups/SOT-Component-Group-Donation-Form>

Sincerely,

Pooja Singh
Inhalation Respiratory Specialty Section Treasurer

Fall webinar: Tuesday September 30th, 2025. 11 AM ET.
2025 IRSS Mary Amdur Award Winners—Rapid-Fire Session.

Speakers:

Brenna Baird, University of New Mexico.
Marc Rodriguez, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Milica Pavlovic, University of Iowa.
Mariana Saitas, Texas A&M University.

Winter webinar: Wednesday January 28 2026. 11:30 AM ET.
Vaping's Effects on Cardiac Autonomic Function and Oral Microbial Health

Speakers:

Alex Carll, University of Louisville
Xiaojia He, Underwriters Laboratory



IRSS Executive Committee Positions available in upcoming election

Vice President-Elect (1 position, 4-year term)	VP-Elect serves as Chair of the Awards Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead review and selection of awardees with the IRSS Executive Committee.• Notifies each award winner.• Prepares a written summary of the winners of each award to be included in the newsletter and presented at the IRSS Reception.• Notifies Secretary/Treasurer of any checks needed for award winners.• To the extent possible, solicits donations for awards; responsible for communication with potential sponsoring entities.• Informs Endowment Fund Board and Fund points of contact of Award winners prior to the annual meeting.• Present awards at the annual IRSS reception.
Junior Councilors (2 positions, 2-year term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve on the Program Committee (under the direction of the Vice President) and Awards Committee (under the direction of the Vice President-Elect) as described above.• Assist with webinars and learn for following year.• Build the poster for the annual meeting reception• They may also be asked to serve in other capacities, as the need arises within the IRSS.
Postdoctoral Representative (1 position, 2-year term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represents postdoctoral interests to IRSS and provides IRSS information to postdoctoral members• Participates in Postdoctoral Assembly on behalf of IRSS• Coordinates IRSS representation/participation at annual student/postdoctoral reception at SOT; acts as IRSS liaison at reception• Actively recruits new postdoctoral members into IRSS• Assists Vice President-Elect and President with planning for the annual meeting• Periodically review IRSS web page to keep it current, including addition of new officers, updated award information, award winners, photos from annual meetings, and any announcements.• Reviews SOT guidelines for SS webpages to assure compliance. Establishes appropriate links to other organizations as needed. Serves as IRSS website and ToXchange liaison with SOT HQ

Please note: you must be a current SOT and IRSS member to run for an elected IRSS position.

If interested in running, email IRSS Past President, Laura Van Winkle (lsvanwinkle@ucdavis.edu) and IRSS Secretary, Elizabeth Corteselli (Elizabeth.Corteselli@med.unc.edu), your headshot and short bio by October 27th, 2025. Further information will be communicated via ToXchange.

Upcoming IRSS Awards- Please Apply!

2025 IRSS Mentoring Event, Business Meeting and AWARDS

Note you MUST be an IRSS member to be eligible for awards

<u>Paper of the Year Award</u>	An engraved plaque will be awarded to the author that applied for 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.
<u>Career Achievement Award</u>	An engraved plaque will be awarded to a senior investigator whose body of work represents an outstanding achievement in respiratory /inhalation toxicology.
<u>Young Investigator Award</u>	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).
<u>Mary Amdur Student Award</u> <i>This award is made possible by the Mary Amdur Student Award Fund of the SOT Endowment.</i>	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, who 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 here .
<u>Donald Gardner Inhalation Toxicology Education Award</u> <i>This award is made possible by the Donald Gardner Award Fund of the SOT Endowment</i>	This award will be used to provide stipends 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.
<u>Outstanding Graduate Student Award</u> <i>Note that receipt of an IRSS Student Award in the previous year disqualifies the applicant for the current year.</i>	The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions of graduate students in the area of inhalation or respiratory toxicology. The applicant must be a current graduate student. Submission of an abstract to the SOT annual meeting is also required. Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit and service will be considered for this award. Awardees will receive an engraved plaque and cash award of \$500 during the IRSS business meeting at the annual SOT meeting.
<u>Outstanding Postdoctoral Trainee Award</u> <i>Note that receipt of an IRSS Student Award in the previous year disqualifies the applicant for the current year.</i>	The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions of postdoctoral trainees to the SOT annual meeting in the area of inhalation or respiratory toxicology. The applicant must be a current postdoctoral trainee. Submission of an abstract to the SOT annual meeting is also required. Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit and service will be considered as criteria for this award. Awardees will receive an engraved plaque and a cash award of \$500 during the IRSS business meeting at the annual SOT meeting.
<u>Sponsored Awards</u>	Will be posted on SOT website and announced – stay tuned as a number of sponsored awards are in the works!



2025 IRSS Mentoring Event – Thanks to Attendees!



House Dust Mite Proteins Adsorb on Multiwalled Carbon Nanotubes Forming an Allergen Corona That Intensifies Allergic Lung Disease in Mice

Ryan D. Bartone, Logan J. Tisch, Judith Dominguez, Christine K. Payne, and James C. Bonner*

 [Cite This: ACS Nano 2024, 18, 26215–26232](#)

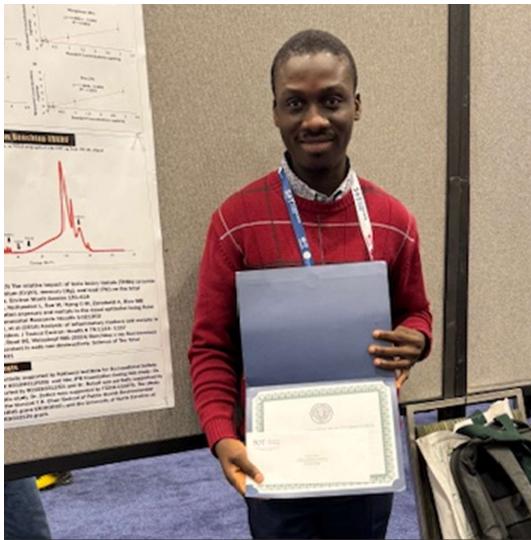
 [Read Online](#)

IRSS Paper of the Year 2025

ACS NANO

Ryan Bartone, et. al. 2024

(Mentor: James Bonner, NC State University)

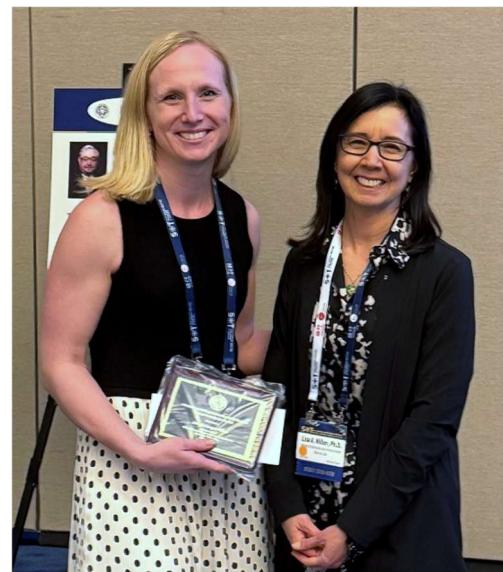


IRSS EMKA-Scireq Award

Kolawole Adesina

Purdue University

Mentor: Aaron Specht, PhD



IRSS Young Investigator Award

Jennifer Larson-Casey, PhD

Assistant Professor

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Nominated by: Brent Carter, MD



Donald E. Gardner Inhalation Toxicology Award

Kevin Schichlein UNC, Chapel Hill

Mentors: Ilona Jaspers, PhD and Gregory Smith, PhD



IRSS Outstanding Postdoctoral Trainee Award

Elise Hickman, PhD

UNC, Chapel Hill

Mentor: Julia Rager, PhD



IRSS Outstanding Postdoctoral Trainee Award

Candace Longoria, PhD

Rutgers University

Mentor: Debra Laskin, PhD

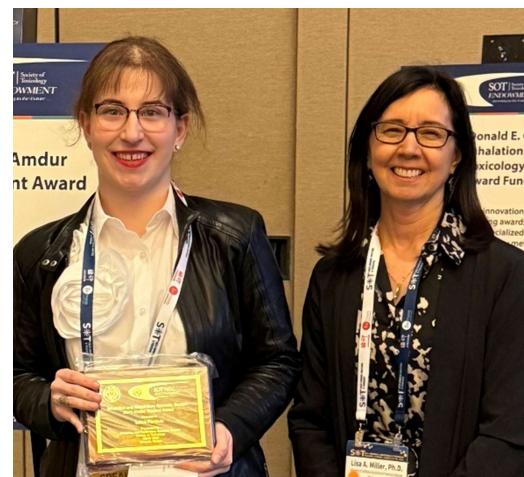


IRSS Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Rajat Gupta

UCLA

Mentor: Jesus Araujo, PhD



Mary Amdur Student Award
Milica Pavlović
University of Iowa
Mentor: Jong Sung Kim, PhD



**Mary Amdur
Student Award**
Mariana Saitas
Texas A&M University
Mentor: Natalie Johnson, PhD



**Mary Amdur
Student Award**
Marc Rodriguez
UNC, Chapel Hill
Mentor: Meghan Rebuli, PhD



**IRSS Outstanding Graduate
Student Award**
Akshada Shinde
Purdue
Mentor: Jonathan Shannahan, PhD



**Mary Amdur
Student Award**
Brenna Baird
University of New Mexico
Mentor: Matthew Campen, PhD

IRSS Career Award



2025 IRSS Career Achievement Award

Judith Zelikoff, PhD, New York University

Nominated by Alison Elder, PhD

SOT MARCH 16-20
ORLANDO



SOT MARCH 22-25
SAN DIEGO