

Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section (IRSS) Newsletter

Summer
2024

Message From the Outgoing President

This past year has been an exciting journey filled with hard work and lots of exciting events and changes. We were able to host multiple webinars focused on novel topics in the inhalation and respiratory toxicology field, amend our bylaws to split the Secretary/Treasurer position into two positions, and navigate the multiple changes that SOT implemented to keep our society a strong and supportive environment for its members. Throughout it all, I was surrounded by an amazing Executive Committee who worked tirelessly to solicit nominations, award applications, and even donations to keep our Specialty Section traditions afloat. Because of our efforts, the IRSS was able to give out a record number of awards to our trainees, host an outstanding mentoring event at the Annual Meeting, and have many exciting things planned for 2024-2025.

Despite our successes during my term, IRSS did have some financial challenges to overcome. Annual business meeting prices are going up, and what we normally pay for food, venue, etc. has almost doubled in cost. Despite these additional costs, myself and the outgoing IRSS Executive Committee wanted to keep (or even increase) the number of trainees we support with awards. Thankfully, IRSS has a very generous membership who were more than willing to step up and donate, allowing us to double the number of awards we gave out during my term. Seeing everyone pull together and be generous was so amazing to see. This model of community reaffirms why I became an IRSS member and my dedication to this Specialty Section and SOT.

Working hard, not being afraid to ask for help, and being amendable to change, is the best way I can sum up my term. I am excited about the initiatives that Dr. Van Winkle will be prioritizing during her term. Additionally, we have multiple webinars being planned, new award review criteria being designed and implemented, and ongoing efforts to support our trainees. This is a great time to get involved in IRSS, and I encourage you to do so.

I am proud to have had the privilege to be a part of such a great team this past year and I look forward to supporting the initiatives in the wings. I look forward to seeing everyone at SOT 2025 in Orlando, FL.

Best wishes,

Kymberly Gowdy, PhD

President, IRSS (2023-2024)



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IRSS Executive Committee & Election Results

As we transition into the 2024-2025 year, we are already preparing for the 2025 meeting in Orlando, FL. As your incoming President of IRSS, I look forward to continuing Kym's leadership and supporting the initiatives she and the Executive Committee has started as well as promoting IRSS at the Annual Meeting and throughout the year. We had several successful webinars in the last year and the IRSS Councilor's are hard at work lining up an amazing slate of future webinars. The Executive Committee is excited to announce that we are working to increase the number of student abstract awards, looking into adding a travel award for students, creating mechanisms for broader IRSS participation, and continuing our career development/mentoring events. Please encourage your trainees to add the IRSS as a Specialty Section when they renew or initiate their SOT membership so they can learn about and participate in our events.

Laura Van Winkle, PhD
IRSS President 2024-2025

Welcome to our new Executive Committee members!

Vice President-Elect Lisa Miller		Postdoctoral Representative Eva Vitucci	
Councilor Colette Miller		Councilor Alexandra Noël	
Thank you to our outgoing Executive Committee members!		Melanie Doyle-Eisele Katie Zychowski	Patricia Silveyra Emma Karey

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2024 IRSS Awards

Congratulations to our winners!

Paper of the Year Award

Alexia Perryman, et. al. 2023



PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Plasma sterols and vitamin D are correlates and predictors of ozone-induced inflammation in the lung: A pilot study

Alexia N. Perryman^{1,2}, Hye-Young H. Kim³, Alexis Payton^{2,4}, Julia E. Rager^{1,2,4}, Erin E. McNeil¹, Meghan E. Rebuli^{1,2,5}, Heather Wells², Martha Almond², Jamie Antinori², Neil E. Alexis^{1,2,5}, Ned A. Porter³, Ilona Jaspers^{1,2,4,5,*}

Career Achievement

Flemming Cassee, PhD



Young Investigator Award

Alexandra Noël, PhD



Mary Amdur Student Award Winners

Hannah Lovins, Morgan Nalesnik, Kevin Schichlein, Samantha Serna, and David O'Laughlin





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Donald Gardner Inhalation Toxicology Education Award

Samuel Cochran, PhD



IRSS Student Award
Devin Alewel



IRSS Postdoctoral Award
Sarah Long, DVM

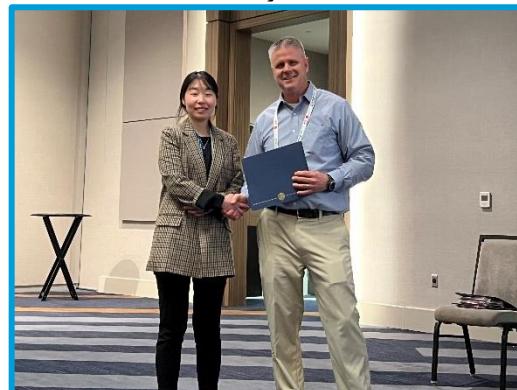


EMKA-SCIREQ & Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section Award

Jennifer Thies, PhD



IRSS Student Award
Heui Hye Park



IRSS Postdoctoral Award
Emily Stevenson, PhD

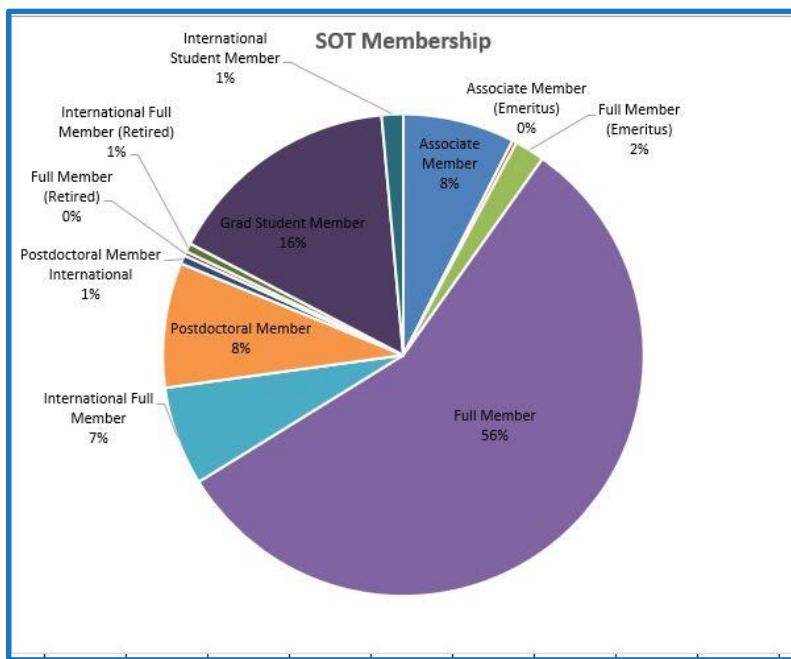


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IRSS Membership Updates

IRSS Membership makeup as of Spring 2024:



As of January 2024, our current membership makeup is in the pie chart above. This makeup is comparable to previous years. We look forward to seeing our membership grow in the next year and will put emphasis on recruiting and retaining trainee and international members.

2024 IRSS Membership Survey

As we continually strive to improve our content and better serve your needs, we kindly ask for a few moments of your time to participate in our brief survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand your interests, preferences, and how we can enhance your experience with IRSS. We greatly appreciate your feedback and initiative to get involved!

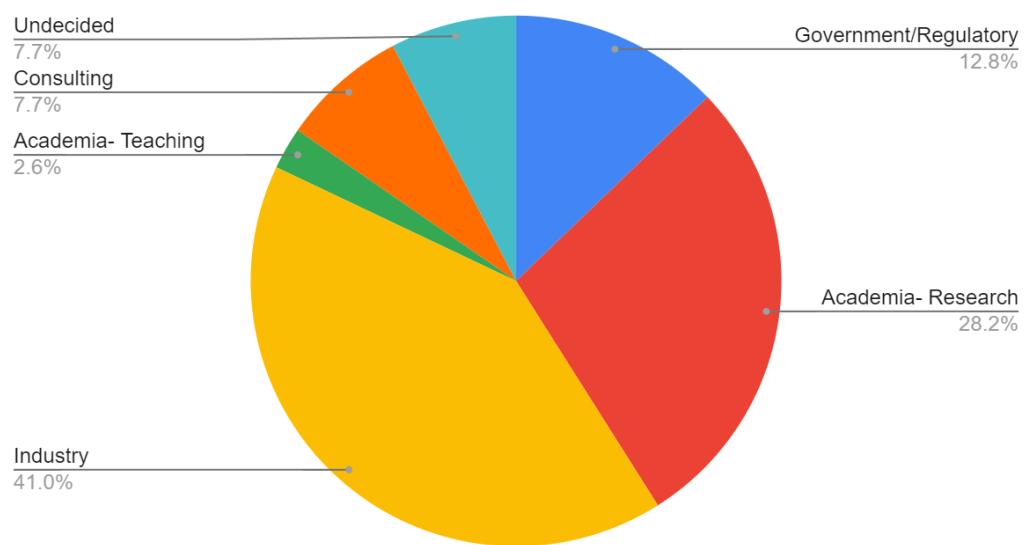
[Participate Here](#)

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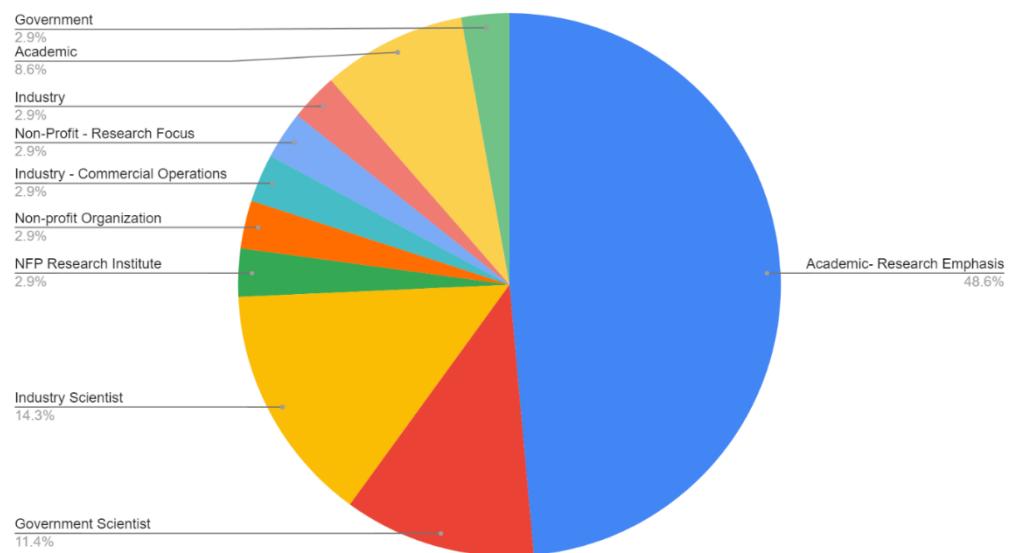
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During the SOT Annual Meeting, we conducted our third IRSS mentoring event, which has become exceedingly popular. It offered trainees a chance to engage informally with IRSS members from various sectors, including academia, industry, government, and consulting, to explore career trajectories and tactics. The event was well-attended, with 74 participants and an almost equal ratio of mentees to mentors. Mentors were allocated tables corresponding to their sector and role, while trainees moved between them. This setup allowed mentees to have one-on-one discussions with mentors in their desired fields and establish valuable connections.

Career Goal of Trainees at 2024 IRSS Mentorship Event



Current Role of Mentors at 2024 IRSS Mentorship Event



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Upcoming IRSS Webinars

June 17th, 2024; 11:00 AM ET

“Emerging Threats to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and Human Health”

Speakers from Underwriters Laboratories, Chemical Insights Research Institute (CIRI)



**Research
Institutes**



Speaker 1: Dr. Cristi Bell-Huff

**Chemical Insights
Research Institute**



Speaker 2: Dr. Christa Wright

Registration required.

Register here!

Stay tuned for a lineup of exciting 2024-2025 IRSS Webinars!

- Update from the 2023 IRSS Donald E. Gardner Award Winner

Speaker: Satya Achanta, DVM, PhD; Duke University School of Medicine

Topic: Optimizing Large Animal Inhalation Toxicology Studies

- Presentations from 2024 IRSS Mary Amdur Award Winners

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IRSS Spotlight: 2023 Award Recipients

Morgan Domanico, Recipient of the Donald Gardner award (2023)

- As a previous award recipient, how did receiving a student or Endowment-funded award impact your research or career goals?**

Receiving the 2023 Donald E. Gardner Inhalation Toxicology Education Award has opened new doors for me in my research career. During my graduate education, I was introduced to the concept of metabolomics analysis during a research collaboration, and afterwards became very interested in applying it to one of my own projects. Since this technique was not within the area of expertise of my home lab, it was critical to get some sort of outside tutelage. I used the award to attend the West Coast Metabolomics Center's Bits & Bites Course in Metabolomics, which provided me with training in untargeted metabolomics techniques, and I am now utilizing my new knowledge to complete lipidomics analysis for one of our lab's ongoing projects.

- Were you encouraged to apply for an award by a previous award recipient, mentor, or an IRSS member?**

I was encouraged to apply by my mentor and IRSS member, Dr. Laura Van Winkle. I am grateful for her direction, as up until that point, I had not realized there were IRSS awards specifically tailored to training opportunities for students.

- What advice would you give to an Inhalation Respiratory Specialty Section member that is considering applying during next year's award cycle?**

I know I struggled a bit to describe the requested training, since I was trying to learn about a field new to me, and thus lacked the correct terminology. Instead of providing an in-depth description of the training that I did not yet know much about, I found it helpful to focus on why *this particular* training was a suitable fit for me compared to other options (i.e., no previous expertise required, good for scheduling, etc.). I think it is also important to touch on how the knowledge gained will help advance the science of inhalation toxicology, which made me truly consider not just how to get the training, but also what I would do with it afterwards. Having the tangible goal to apply the knowledge towards an actual research project truly helped me make the most of this opportunity.

- How important are the awards provided by the Inhalation Respiratory Specialty Section for the next generation of inhalation toxicologists?**

Awards provided by the IRSS are incredibly important for training the next generation of inhalation toxicologists. From the student perspective, there is a sense of having your efforts recognized and supported that comes with an award, and it feels like the current generation of IRSS members are welcoming students amongst their ranks,



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which is incredibly encouraging to young researchers aspiring to get to that level. Regarding the Gardner Award specifically, I think as both our planet and our technological capabilities continue to change, it will be crucial to blend emerging techniques with the foundational components of quality research in order to handle what toxicological problems may await us in the future.

Michelle Fiamingo, Recipient of IRSS Graduate Student Award (2023)

1. As a previous award recipient, how did receiving a student or Endowment-funded award impact your research or career goals?

Receiving this award provided the opportunity for me to attend the annual SOT conference in Nashville and present my research at a symposium platform presentation. This allowed me to work on presenting my research to broad audiences, provided networking opportunities, and broadened my community with other inhalation toxicologists.

2. Were you encouraged to apply for an award by a previous award recipient, mentor, or an IRSS member?

I was encouraged to apply by my mentor, Dr. Mehdi Hazari, as well as other investigators in the Cardiopulmonary and Immunotoxicology branch at the US EPA.

3. What advice would you give to an Inhalation Respiratory Specialty Section member that is considering applying during next year's award cycle?

Definitely apply! There are numerous awards, and the application process allows you to think more critically and broadly about not only your research, but also your career. This still provides good insight and clarity into your work, as well as great networking opportunities!

4. How important are the awards provided by the Inhalation Respiratory Specialty Section for the next generation of inhalation toxicologists?

Travel funding can be difficult for students, especially early in their graduate school career. Personally, this award was instrumental in me affording this trip and I think that the financial support IRSS provides to students can be critical for them to not only attend the conferences, but also network and create a community with other inhalation toxicologists. In an era of collaboration, these relationships will be instrumental for the next generation of inhalation toxicologists.

Interested in applying to an IRSS Award? Additional information regarding eligibility requirements for each award, instructions, and due dates are available at:

The SOT's new Awards site: [SOT Apply](#)

or the [IRSS website](#)





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Upcoming Events of Interest

<p>Fourth Aerosol Dosimetry Conference June 6-8, 2023 https://tinyurl.com/dosimetry2024 For more information, please email Dr. Flemming Casse at flemming.cassee@rivm.nl</p>		<p>Association of Inhalation Toxicologists Annual Conference September 17-19, 2024 Cleveland, OH https://www.aitoxicology.org/conference-information</p>
<p>American Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology (ASCCT) October 28-30, 2024 Research Triangle Park, NC https://www.ascctox.org/annual-meeting</p>		<p>International Congress of Toxicology October 15-18, 2025 Beijing, China https://www.ict2025.com/en/web/index/18245</p>
<p>World Summit on Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology October 14-16, 2024 Bern, Switzerland https://toxicology2024.com/</p>		<p>International Asthma Conference at Nemacolin November 15-17, 2024 Farmington, PA https://www.asthma-nemacolin.com/</p>
<p>Society for Redox Biology and Medicine 31th Annual Conference November 20-23, 2024 Savannah, GA https://sfrbm.org/meetings/sfrbm-2024/</p>		<p>American College of Toxicology Annual Meeting Nov. 17-20, 2024 Austin, TX https://www.actox.org/am/am2024/</p>



Don't forget about the SOT 2025 abstract deadline: November 13, 2024!



Many thanks to our IRSS outgoing officers!



Melanie Doyle-Eisele
Former Past President



Patricia Silveyra
Former Councilor



Emma Karey
Former Postdoc Representative



Katie Zychowski
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.



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

[Donate Here!](#)