

Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2020-2021

May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

I. Officers/Committees:

Officers

President:
Vice President:
Vice President-Elect:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Past President
Councilors:

2020-2021

Irfan Rahman
Judith T. Zelikoff
Melanie L Doyle-Eisele
Mehdi Saeed Hazari
Mehdi Saeed Hazari
Matthew J. Campen
Matthew J. Campen
Amie K. Lund
Holger P. Behrsing
Marusia A. Popovech
Christopher A. Reilly

2021-2022

Judith T. Zelikoff
Melanie L. Doyle-Eisele
Kymberly M. Gowdy
Mehdi Saeed Hazari
Mehdi Saeed Hazari
Irfan Rahman
Irfan Rahman
Holger P. Behrsing
Marusia A. Popovech
Natalie M. Johnson
Robert M. Tighe

PDA Representative:

Colette N. Miller

Thivanka Muthumalage

Grad Student Representative:

Elise Hickman

Michael Yeager

Committees:

IRSS Awards Committee:
Melanie Doyle-Eisele (Chair 2020-2021) and
All EC members
Incoming Chair: Kym Gowdy

**Education, Technical, Outreach,
Endowment and Webinar Committee
(2020-2021)**

Judith Zelikoff, PhD

Judith.Zelikoff@nyulangone.org

Irfan Rahman, PhD

Irfan.Rahman@urmc.rochester.edu

Mehdi Saeed Hazari, PhD

Hazari.Mehdi@epa.gov

Holger Behrsing, PhD (IIVS)

HBehrsing@iivs.org

Marusia Popovech, PhD (Exxon)

mary.a.popovech@exxonmobil.com

Colette Miller, PhD (EPA)

Miller.Colette@epa.gov

Elise Hickman, PhD (UNC)

eliehickman@email.unc.edu

**2021-2021
Webinars:**

Holger Behrsing, Natalie Johnson, and
Marusia Popovech

Journal Club:

Natalie Johnson and Robert Tighe

Mentorship and Networking:

Marusia Popovech, Robert Tighe, Thivanka
Muthumalage and Michael Yaeger

Program Committee:

Judith Zelikoff, PhD (Chair 2020-2021)

Judith.Zelikoff@nyulangone.org

Melanie Doyle-Eisele, PhD

mdoyle@lovelacebiomedical.org

Holger Behrsing, PhD (IIVS)

HBehrsing@iivs.org

Irfan Rahman, PhD

Irfan.Rahman@urmc.rochester.edu

Amie K. Lund, PhD

amie.lund@unt.edu

Christopher A. Reilly, PhD

Chris.Reilly@pharm.utah.edu

Incoming Chair: Melanie Doyle-Eisele

Membership and Endowment
Incoming Chair: Meghan Reboli

Technical

Judith Zelikoff; Melanie Doyle-Eisele;
Holger Behrsing and others

II. 2020 Membership total: 364

III. Key Outcomes in 2020-2021:

- A. Organized several educational/research webinars for members IRSS and at-large SOT
- B. Increased membership and involved in mentorship for research and career development
- C. Community engagement with members

IV. SYMPOSIA/WEBINARS

- **Electronic Cigarettes and Cardiovascular Toxicity: New Friend or Old Foe?**
Chairs: Ivan Mark Olfert, West Virginia University School of Medicine; and Daniel J. Conklin, University of Louisville.
- **Resolution of Inflammation in Chemical Toxicity/Tissue Injury: What's Emerging?**
Chairs: Kymberly Gowdy, East Carolina University; and Srikanth Nadadur, NIEHS.
- **Protecting Public Health and the Environment during Wildfire Recovery**
Chairs: Shelley DuTeaux, California Department of Pesticide Regulation; and Shoba Iyer, California Environmental Protection Agency.

V. CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES:

- ***In Vitro* Approaches to Assess the Toxicity of Inhaled Substances**
Chairs: Amy J. Clippinger, PETA International Science Consortium Ltd., United Kingdom; and Emily Reinke, Army Public Health Center.
- **Sex, Lungs, and Air Pollution**
Chairs: Meghan E. Rebuli, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Robert M. Tighe, Duke University.
- **Lung Function: It's Not Just Breathing**
Chairs: Andrew Gow and Angela Groves

VI. HOT TOPIC seminars were a huge success!

- **E-cigarette and Vaping Product Use-Associated Lung Injury (EVALI)**

Symposia:

- “From Inhaled Particles to Neurodegeneration and Toxicity: Evidence from Studies in Volunteers, Experimental Animals, and Cell-Based Systems” (3/16/2021 at 11:15 AM ET)
- “It Is Not Just Air: Exposure to Indoor Air Pollution, Diagnostic Tools, and Evaluation of Health Effects” (3/17/2021 at 11:30 AM ET)

Workshops:

- “Standardization of *In Vitro* Inhalation Exposure for Regulatory Acceptance” (3/15/2021 at 11:15 AM ET)
- “Precision-Cut Lung Slices: A Versatile Tool for Pulmonary Toxicology” (3/16/2021 at 11:15 AM ET)
- New Approaches for the Identification and Evaluation of Chemical Respiratory Sensitizers” (3/22/2021 at 11:15 AM ET)

Continuing Education:

- “Establishing Confidence in Organ-on-a-Chip Systems for Toxicity Testing: Lung-on-a-Chip as an Example” (3/26/2021 at 11:00 AM ET)

VI. Activities:

A. 2021 SOT Virtual Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, or virtual receptions):

Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section Virtual Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm ET

Summary: The IRSS virtual evening reception included the following professional and academic activities:

- Welcome note by the President
- Introduction of the executive committee; election results (President, VP, and VP-Elect)
- Secretary / Treasurer’s report
- Presentation of Awards (VP-Elect)
- Presentation of Career Achievement Award (Nominee)
- Education/Outreach Activities (Councilors)
- Mentoring Activities (Postdoc and Predoc Reps)
- Sponsored Events and Other Business Activities (President, VP)
- Closing Remarks (President)

B. 2021 Awards Information:

- **Paper of the Year Award:** Samantha Snow, US EPA
- **Postdoctoral Award:** Gagandeep Kaur, University of Rochester
- **Mary Amdur Student Award:** Eva Vitucci
- **Student Award:** Carmen Lau, Texas A&M University
- **Career Achievement Award:** John Morris, University of Connecticut

- **Donald E. Gardner Inhalation Toxicology Education Award:** Keith Rogers, University of North Carolina
- **Young Investigator Award:** Meghan Rebuli, University of North Carolina

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g., webinars, in person meetings):

IRSS Webinar: COVID-19: Impact of Inhalation Based Exposures on Respiratory System

Date: August 5, 2020

Duration: 1 hour

Speaker 1: Robert Foronyj, PhD

Speaker 2: Gagandeep Kaur, PhD

Attendees: 192

IRSS Webinar: A respiratory look into COVID-19 pediatric health and adolescent health risks of behavior

Date: November 18, 2020

Duration: 1 hour

Speaker 1: Matthew McGraw, BS, MD Assistant Professor at University of Rochester

Speaker 2: Ilona Jaspers, PhD Professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Attendees: 75

IRSS Webinar: Microplastics and Pulmonary Risk: Environmental Prevalence, Exposure and Mechanisms of Pulmonary Action

Date: April 13, 2021

Duration: 1 hour

Speaker 1: James McGrath, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Rochester

Speaker 2: Eliseo Castillo PhD, Assistant Professor, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, University of New Mexico

Attendees: 92

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: November 2020 and April 2021
2. New or Significant Announcements/blogs:
3. Highlight of Website enhancements: IRSS Bylaws are in the process of revision. The IRSS website has been maintained and updated as needed.

Other Specialty Section 2019-2020 Activities:

- **Irfan Rahman, PhD** (than VP-elect and VP) served as a member for Specialty Section Collaboration and Communication Group (SS CCG) of the SOT from 2018-2020 where he worked with other Specialty Section groups on increasing the membership, visibility of webinars and seminars, nominating key speakers and suggesting proposals, ethical aspects of members, diversity and inclusion and communicated the exchange of ideas to IRSS.
- **Marusia Popovech, PhD** (IRSS councilor) is now a member of SS-CCG on Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues for 2019-2021.

- Congratulations to **Amie Lund, PhD** (our IRSS councilor) who is recognized as
 - Lone Star Society of Toxicology (LSSOT) Regional Chapter- President (2020-2021)
 - SOT Regional Chapter Communication and Collaboration Committee (RC4) - co-Chair (2020-2021)
 - LSSOT - FUTURE Liaison (2020-2021)

E. Mentoring activities: N/A

V. Feedback and Ideas:

- A. **In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment?**
 - *Increased membership and heavy involved with inclusive and diversity (see our EC members).*
 - *We take diversity into account with speakers in symposiums we sponsor.*
- B. **How might SOT better support your group's activities (perhaps something the Society should be doing that we currently do not do, or do not do effectively, that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?):**
Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.
 - *Increased international exposures and membership*
 - *Greater international exposure*
 - *SOT should liaise with local societies internationally to help with increased visibility.*
- C. **What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?**
 - *Raise endowments and philanthropy funds via Specialty Sections*
 - i. *A larger proportion of money raised from endowment funds and/or philanthropy should go to the SS, itself*
 - ii. *Also, we should be supported/encouraged for raising our own funds*
- D. **What changes do your component group anticipate making in the way in which it operates in the coming year?**
 - *Creating sub-groups (see above)*
 - *Delegating tasks to our EC and IRSS members*
 - *Meeting subgroups, delegating tasks to committees*
 - *Increasing membership engagement in the EC and including members in the discussion (1-1 contact (survey) and town hall meetings)*
 - *Help IRSS members and leadership to write their portfolio and nominations for SOT at-large*