Vol 16 Iss 2 September 2026

MIXTURES SPECIALTY SECTION

A mixture of business, social, and news

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From the Past President

Dear SOT Mixtures Specialty Section (MixSS) members,

It has truly been a pleasure working with the MixSS and as Past President I'd like to give our membership an update on the achievements and exciting things to come for 2026-2027.

Over the past year, as I noted in the Spring newsletter, the officers of the MixSS have contributed to the field of mixtures toxicology in a variety of ways. The most important of which has been to support the science of young investigators. I am always inspired when I read about the legacy of Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons, in whose memory we award a travel stipend to a young investigator after a competitive webinar. As was written about her in a memorial in EHP, "Beyond her tremendous scientific contributions, Jane Ellen was dedicated to mentoring and supporting both trainees and colleagues, and to building a scientific community in mixtures toxicology. She was an exuberant teacher and communicator, with a completely unique voice." (Rider et al., 2022. PMCID: PMC9608555).

I would also like to put a "bug in your ear," about interesting mixtures questions, like…how can we adapt mixtures toxicology to the push for NAMs-based regulatory science? How do we design human-relevant mixtures for both *in vivo* and *in vitro* experiments (thank you, Kristen Eccles, for the inspiration)? How do we facilitate the understanding of the toxicology of PFAS mixtures, when their chemistry continues to evolve?

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Also looking forward, I am excited that the MixSS helm has been passed to Dr. Allison Phillips and that we have members new to our Executive Committee. One of my "jobs" as Past President is to recruit people to run in our elections. Those of you who were at the reception… I know who you are 😊 … and you will be getting an email from me in October. But also, I'd like to encourage everyone to consider running for the MixSS Executive Committee. I will be reaching to everyone via email and LinkedIn.

And, speaking of young investigators, running for a position in a Specialty Section Executive Committee is a GREAT way to network! The positions that will be open for the 2027-2028 year for the upcoming term starting May 1, 2026, are:

- Graduate Student Representative (1-year term),
- Postdoctoral Representative (1-year term),
- Junior Councilor (1-year term but then transition to Senior Councilor),
- Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term) and
- Vice President-Elect (4-year term transitioning through VP, P and PP)

I know that we've just heard the news on sessions that were accepted for the 2027 meeting, but I propose to you all that now is the time to start thinking about what to propose for 2028! I think that a great process may be to get your ideas for sessions outlined (in your head or on paper) over the Fall/Winter so that you can make the contacts that you need in person and really start the organization in San Antonio (March 14-17, 2027).

Our SS is a small one, so we would greatly appreciate any efforts in helping us to identify sponsors. They make our trainee awards possible. And here's to a great year to do science!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Schlezinger, PhD
President, MixSS (2025-2026)
Past President, MixSS (2026-2027)

MIXTURES SPECIALTY SECTION

Incoming Officers

2026-2027



Past President
Jennifer Schlezinger



President
Allison Phillips



Vice President
Justin Conley



Vice President-Elect
Craig Nicholas Harvey



Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher D. Kassotis



Senior Councilor
Kristin M. Eccles



Junior Councilor
Amelia Craze Smith



Postdoctoral Rep
Jennifer Toyoda



Graduate Student Rep
Sarah Miller

2025–2026

Outgoing Officers



Past President
Courtney Roper



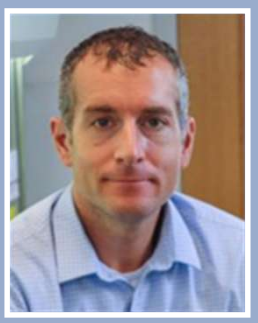
President
Jennifer Schlezinger



Vice President
Allison Phillips



Vice President-Elect
Justin Conley



Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher D. Kassotis



Senior Councilor
Rachel Dee



Junior Councilor
Kristin M. Eccles



Postdoctoral Rep
Paul Deford



Graduate Student Rep
Olga Skende

Meet Your New Officers



Vice President-Elect
Craig Nicholas Harvey, PhD, DABT, ERT

Craig Nicholas Harvey is a board-certified regulatory toxicologist with 14 years of experience ensuring the safety and compliance of diverse consumer products. Currently serving as a Senior Associate Principal Toxicologist at Mondelēz International, Craig holds a PhD in Toxicology focused on reproductive toxicology (2012) from Rutgers University and UMDNJ, an MS in Environmental Science (2002) from New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers, and a BA in Chemistry (2001) from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Throughout his career, which includes previous roles at Edgewell Personal Care, Colgate-Palmolive, and as a lecturer at Rutgers, he has specialized in identifying and mitigating chemical risk across food, medical devices, cosmetics and over-the-counter ingestibles. Craig is deeply committed to advancing the understanding of complex chemical mixtures, a focus he champions within the Society of Toxicology's Mixtures Specialty Section. Passionate about scientific literacy and effective communication, he leverages his background to translate intricate toxicological data into clear, actionable insights for both business stakeholders and the broader public.
Craig loves to eat BBQ and Maryland Crabs with friends and family. Enjoying movie night with his wife and kids, going to the pool, and learning more about the history of New Jersey are some of his interests.



Postdoctoral Rep
Jennifer Toyoda

Jennifer Toyoda earned her PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Louisville, with a research focus on the molecular mechanism of metal-induced carcinogenesis. Currently at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL, she studies how marine ecosystems are affected by naturally-occurring toxins and man-made chemicals. Numerous chemical stressors such as harmful algae toxins, pesticides, PAHs, pharmaceuticals, and other compounds inundate coastal environments and threaten the health of marine animals, aquatic plants, and human health. Jennifer uses analytical chemistry and toxicological assays to discern what harmful environmental exposures exist, how they cause harm, and how we can prevent those harms. Outside of the lab, Jennifer enjoys paddleboarding, hiking, concerts, and her cat, Keanu.



Junior Councilor
Amelia Craze Smith

Amelia Craze Smith earned her PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences with an emphasis in Environmental Toxicology from the University of Mississippi in 2024. As a graduate student research assistant in the Roper Lab, she investigated the chemical composition and potential health impacts of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) in the southeastern United States while also supporting community engagement and science communication initiatives within local communities. Currently, Amelia is a Research Chemist in RTI International's Analytical Sciences group, where she supports the Chemical Speciation Network (CSN) and IMPROVE Air Network, conducts environmental monitoring studies, and contributes to the development of analytical screening methods for emerging environmental contaminants. She enjoys spending time with her two Australian Shepherds, Copper and Elko, baking (and eating) complicated pastries, and reading anything and everything.



Graduate Student Rep
Sarah Miller

Sarah Miller is a 5th year PhD candidate in the Curriculum in Toxicology and Environmental Medicine at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Under Dr. Julia Rager, she primarily studies the toxicity of wildfire smoke-relevant mixtures in addition to molecular connections between wildfire smoke exposure and respiratory disease using *in vitro* and computational approaches. She obtained her BS in Cell, Molecular, and Developmental Biology from University of California Riverside in 2019. Before beginning her PhD studies, she worked as a research laboratory technician at University of Southern California under Drs. Brad Spellberg and Brian Luna for 3 years. While there, she studied how modified culturing conditions for antimicrobial susceptibility testing could unmask new applications for existing antibiotics against multi-drug resistant bacterial clinical isolates. Her research interests largely lie at the intersection of computational toxicology, mixtures toxicology, New Approach Methodologies, and human health risk assessment. Outside the lab, Sarah enjoys practicing yoga, tending her community garden plot, playing pickleball, and hosting dinner parties for her friends and loved ones.

Upcoming Webinars

Jointly Sponsored Webinar
Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS)
And Mixtures Specialty Section (MixSS)

Roots to Neurons:
Evaluating Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) Potential of Botanicals

Zakiyah Henry, PhD
IRTA Postdoctoral Fellow
Systems Toxicology Branch
Division of Translational Toxicology
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Research Triangle Park, NC

Wednesday September 9, 2026
3:00 to 4:30 p.m. (EDT)
Registration is required for this free webinar

Botanical use is widespread and growing in the United States, yet the developmental neurotoxic (DNT) potential of most botanicals remains poorly characterized. Using a refined version of the DNT *In Vitro* Battery (DNT IVB), which incorporates multiple assays evaluating key neurodevelopmental processes and neurobehavior, we screened 22 samples representing eight botanicals—Aconite, Bupleurum, Cassava, Guarana, Kratom, Oleander, Wormwood, and Yohimbe—and comparatively evaluated potency, selectivity, and activity confidence using Pareto frontier analysis. Oleander demonstrated the greatest potential for DNT effects, exhibiting high potency and selectivity across multiple assays, whereas Fu Zi (Zhi), a processed Aconite root, showed no activity. Botanical activity varied across ingredients, preparations, and lot numbers, highlighting the influence of processing and chemical composition on biological activity. Only five samples were active in the zebrafish neurobehavioral assay, suggesting limited effects on neurobehavior among the samples tested. Overall, these findings demonstrate diverse and variable neurodevelopmental activity across botanicals and underscore the challenges of characterizing DNT hazard for complex botanical mixtures.

Stay tuned for the Spring Webinar topic

Sponsored by our friends in Exposure SS
ESS 2026 Award Winners Webinar
Monday, September 28, 2026
12:00-1:30 PM (US EDT, UTC -4)
Registration is required for this free webinar

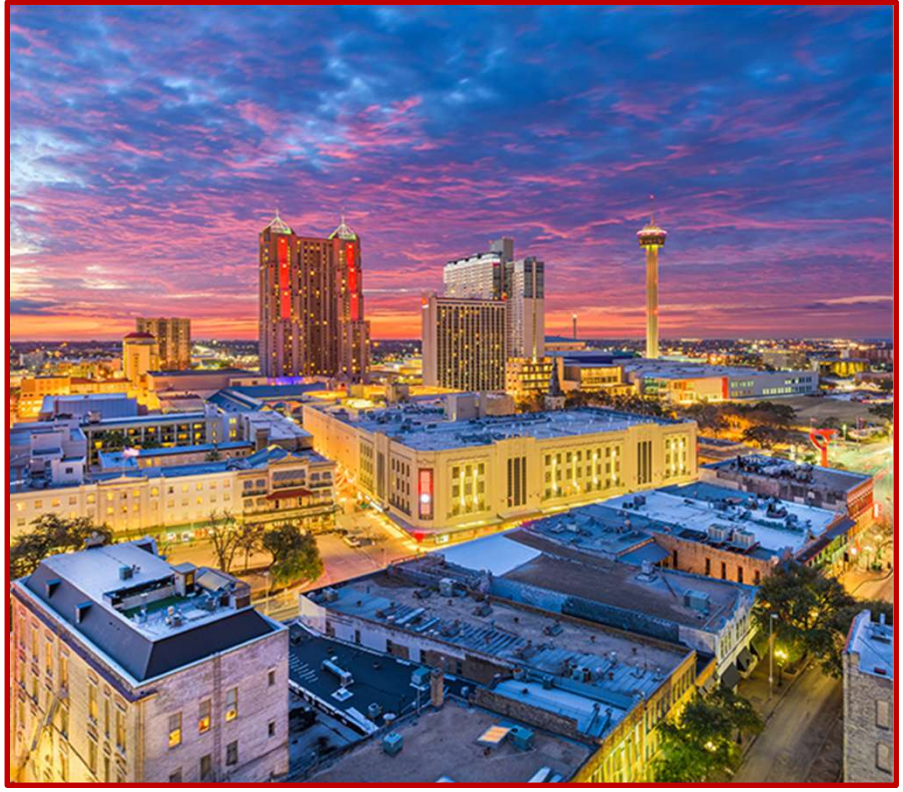
This webinar showcases innovative research from emerging leaders in exposure science and provides attendees with insights into new approaches for understanding human exposures and addressing complex environmental health challenges.

Tri Huynh, ESS Best Abstract Award: *"Coexisting with Toxic Legacies: Assessing Soil Metal Levels, Sources, and Health Risks Associated with Living Amid Contamination Within a Superfund Site"*
Dr. Yongcheng Li, ESS Postdoctoral Travel Award: *"From Numbers to Mechanisms: A Unified Framework for Interpreting and Predicting Urinary Excretion Fractions"*

MIXTURES SPECIALITY SECTION

We'll see you there!

SOT
SAN ANTONIO, TX
66TH ANNUAL MEETING
& ToxExpo • March 14–17, 2027



Take note of these endorsed events!

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

- **Data-Driven Computational Approaches to Complex Chemical Mixtures.** Endorsed by Mixtures SS and Computational Toxicology SS.
- **Exposome-Informed Approaches for Advancing Mechanistic Toxicology and Risk Assessment.** Endorsed by Mixtures SS, Mechanisms SS, and Risk Assessment SS.
- **Food Safety in the Real World: Why Cumulative Risk Matters.** Endorsed by Food Safety SS, Regulatory and Safety Evaluation SS, and Mixtures SS.
- **Leveraging Advances in the Neural Exposome to Study Mixtures and Cumulative Risk in Neurotoxicity.** Endorsed by Neurotoxicology SS, Exposure SS, and Mixtures SS.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

- **Welcome to the Jungle: An Overview of Botanicals and Considerations for Toxicity Testing.** Endorsed by Food Safety SS and Mixtures SS.

SOT San Antonio, Texas 2027

March 14-17, 2027.	**SOT 2027 San Antonio**
October 9, 2026	SOT Awards Deadlines
November 12, 2026	JES Award Deadline
November 13, 2026	Abstract Submission Deadline
January 22, 2027	Early Bird Registration Deadline
January 31, 2027	Mixtures SS Best Abstract Deadline
February 12, 2027	Housing Reservation Deadline

AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

Jane Ellen Simmons SOT Travel Award

The SOT Mixtures Specialty Section (MixSS) strongly believes that the future of mixtures research is dependent on today's students, postdocs, and young investigators. MixSS will host a virtual meeting where students, postdocs, and young investigators will have the opportunity to present projects related to the mixtures field and compete for a cash award to support their travel to the SOT Annual Meeting. The travel award will be conferred in honor and remembrance of our dear colleague, Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons. Jane Ellen deeply cared about the protection of the environment, contributed immensely to the field of mixtures research and risk assessment, and supported young scientists during their career development. She also helped found the MixSS and served in the Presidential chain from 2007 to 2010. We are indebted to her service and legacy.



Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons, 1952–2022

If you would like to be considered for this award, find out more and apply here. We look forward to receiving your applications! The application deadline is **November 12th, 2026.**



Student and Postdoc Abstract Award Applications are open!

The MixSS will recognize two outstanding Student and/or Postdoc abstracts involved in research related to the toxicology of mixtures. The winner of each will receive an achievement certificate and a cash award. Find out more and apply here.
Apply by January 31st, 2027!

CONNECT, ENGAGE, SUPPORT

Are you on LinkedIn? Now we are too! Connect with the Mixtures Specialty Section on LinkedIn to stay up to date on announcements, SOT Annual Meeting deadlines, and upcoming webinars.

Find the MixSS LinkedIn Page HERE

It's easy to donate to MixSS!

Scan the QR code to donate any amount or donate online and see how much we've raised.

Funds support events and awards!