

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 2025-2026 for the MixSS. Over the past year, the officers of MixSS have contributed to the field of mixtures toxicology in a variety of ways including providing educational opportunities, highlighting trainee research, and providing a network of mixtures researchers. I was incredibly fortunate to work with the phenomenal MixSS officers throughout the years and cannot emphasize enough how dedicated the officers are to supporting the various projects related to mixtures toxicology.

This year, the MixSS provided several awards for mixtures related research including our annual Best Abstract competition as well as awards for outstanding students and postdocs based on their SOT submitted abstracts and letters of recommendation. We also hosted our second annual virtual award competition where students, postdocs, and young investigators had the opportunity to present projects related to the mixtures field and compete for an award to support their travel to the SOT Annual Meeting.

Cont'd on pg 2

From the Past President, continued

The travel award was conferred in honor and remembrance of our dear colleague, Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons. We are hoping to continue providing the Jane Ellen Simmons Travel Award annually as early career researchers in the mixtures field need opportunities to present their work and develop a network more than ever. If you would like to consider sponsoring or contributing toward the Jane Ellen Simmons award, please send an email to SOTmixSS@gmail.com or [Donate Here](#).

Now looking forward, the MixSS will be in great hands with our new president, Dr. Jennifer Schlezinger, as well as the other continuing and newly elected officers. I am certain that the officers will continue promoting mixtures toxicology research, but we can always use more ideas and support.

If you are interested in serving as a MixSS officer, or if you would like to nominate someone, please reach out to us via sotmixss@gmail.com. We have new positions available for Graduate Student Representative (1-year term), Postdoctoral Representative (1-year term), Junior Councilor (1-year term), and Vice President-Elect (4-year term) for the upcoming term starting May 1, 2026.

Please follow our announcements for the 2026 Annual Meeting award applications if you would like to be considered for MixSS student, postdoc, or young investigator awards. Also, check out our MixSS home page and LinkedIn Page to stay up to date on MixSS events and webinars.

Sincerely,
Courtney Roper, PhD
President, MixSS (2024-2025)
Past President, MixSS (2025-2026)



SOT 2025 Annual Meeting Recap

Mix SS Endorsed 2025 SOT Sessions

Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, Room W202A, Convention Center

W Workshop Session: Exposure Assessment Strategies for Susceptible and Vulnerable Communities

Chair(s): Eva Vitucci, Texas A&M University; and Samantha Snow, ICF International Inc.

Primary Endorser: Exposure Specialty Section

Other Endorser(s): Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section; Mixtures Specialty Section

Monday, March 17, 1:45 PM to 4:30 PM, Room W203A, Convention Center

S Symposium Session: Living in a Chemical World: Identification and Characterization of Emerging Contaminants of Concern and Need for New Regulatory Approaches

Chair(s): Christopher Kassotis, Wayne State University; and Katherine Pelch, Natural Resources Defense Council.

Primary Endorser: Mixtures Specialty Section

Other Endorser(s): Mechanisms Specialty Section

Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, Room W203A, Convention Center

S Symposium Session: Reproductive and Endocrine-Disrupting Effects of Legacy and Emerging PFAS and Their Mixtures

Chair(s): Barbara Wetmore, US EPA; and Shuo Xiao, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

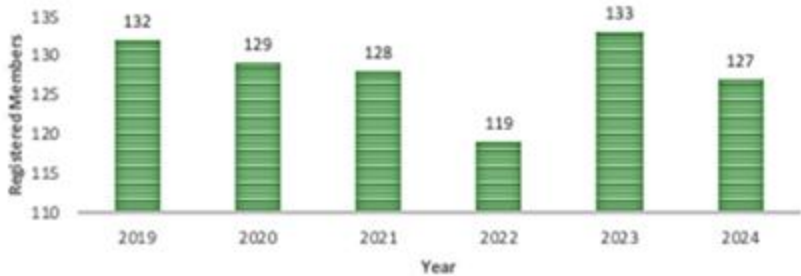
Primary Endorser: Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section

Other Endorser(s): Mixtures Specialty Section

86

abstracts that were mixtures related at SOT 2025

MIXTURES SPECIALTY SECTION MEMBERSHIP



Employment Sector

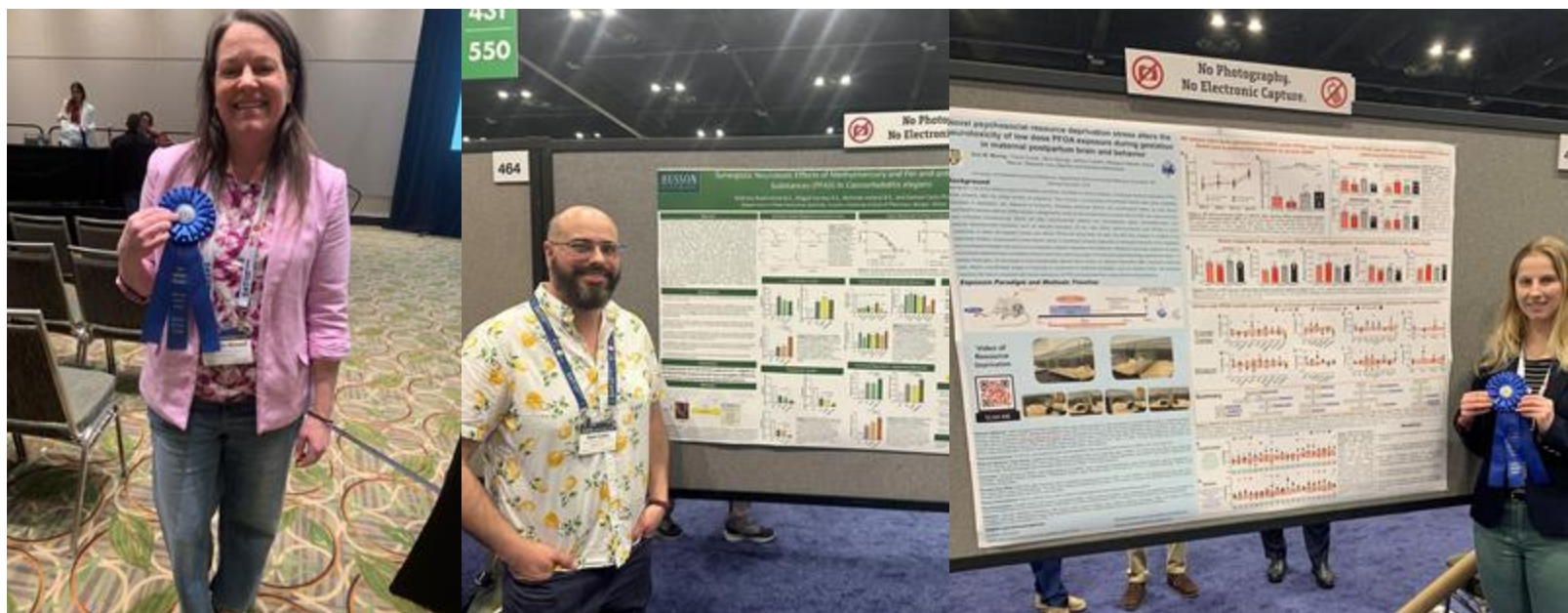


Join
Mixtures
SS!



You can join at any time during the year!
Membership fee of \$20
SOT Student and Postdoc members receive one FREE Specialty Section membership with their SOT membership

SOT 2025 Best Abstracts



Best Abstract: **Samantha Lapehn**, Seattle Children's Research Institute **Title:** Development of an Endocrine Disrupting Chemical Associated Multi-omic mRNA-microRNA Network in the Placenta

2nd Place: **Erin Murray**, University of Rochester **Title:** Novel Psychosocial Resource Deprivation Stress Alters the Neurotoxicity of Low Dose PFOA Exposure During Gestation in Maternal Postpartum Brain and Behavior

3rd Place: **Kyle Burns**, Oregon State University **Title:** Investigating the Response of Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons from Wildfire Smoke in the Presence and Absence of THP-1 Macrophages

4th Place: **Samuel Caito**, Husson University **Title:** Synergistic Neurotoxic Effects of Methylmercury and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in *Caenorhabditis elegans*

5th Place: **Tara Sabo-Attwood**, University of South Carolina **Title:** Two Sides to Every Story: The Toxicity of Dyed Microplastic Fibers to the Pulmonary System

SOT 2025 Award Winners

Jane Ellen Simmons Travel Award Winner:
Jennifer Thies

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

*Essential Oil Vape Aerosols Induce Inflammation
and Alter Estrogen Receptor Expression in
Human Respiratory Epithelial Cells*



Student Award Winner:
Marc Rodriguez

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

*Sex Specific Effects of Wood Smoke Condensate
Exposure on Cytokine Profiles and Transcriptional
Pathways in Primary Human Bronchial Epithelial
Cells*

Postdoc Award Winner:

Lucie Ford

Texas A&M University

*An Analytical-In Vitro Workflow to
Characterize Uptake and Toxicity of
Defined PFAS Mixtures*



Incoming Officers

2025-2026



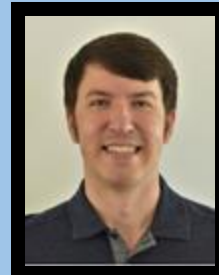
Past President
Courtney Roper



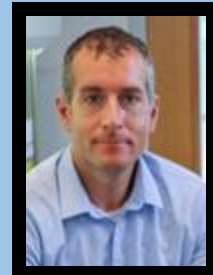
President
Jennifer Schlezinger



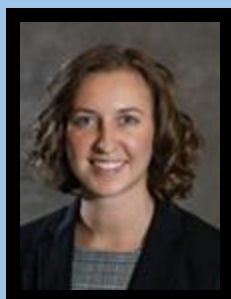
Vice President
Allison Phillips



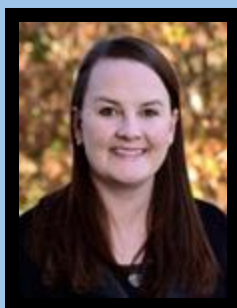
Vice President-Elect
Justin Conley



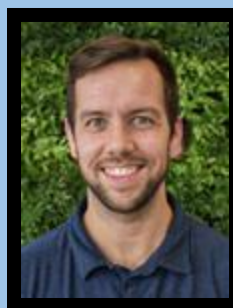
Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher D. Kassotis



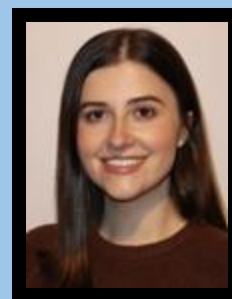
Senior Councilor
Rachel Dee



Junior Councilor
Kristin M. Eccles



Postdoctoral Rep
Paul Deford



Graduate Student Rep
Olga Skende

2024-2025

Outgoing Officers



Past President
Esra Mutlu



President
Courtney Roper



Vice President
Jennifer Schlezinger



Vice President-Elect
Allison Phillips



Secretary/Treasurer
Shannah Withey



Senior Councilor
Christopher D.
Kassotis



Junior Councilor
Rachel Dee



Postdoctoral Rep
Thomas Jackson



Graduate Student Rep
Samantha Heldman

Meet Your New Officers

Paul Deford, *Postdoctoral Rep*

Dr. Paul Deford is an investigative toxicologist at Corteva Agriscience. In this role, Dr. Deford serves as a subject matter expert in mammalian toxicology, investigating modes of action pertaining to mammalian toxicity, both from exposure to active ingredients as well as mixtures in the form of formulations. Before joining Corteva, Dr. Deford received his Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of Cincinnati under the mentorship of Dr. Susan Kasper, where he studied differential phosphorylation of Stathmin and how it contributes to the promotion of prostate cancer. For his postdoc work, Dr. Deford has investigated endometriosis at the University of Cincinnati to identify novel, non-invasive protein biomarkers, as well as investigated new approach methodology *in vitro* liver models, to promote the reduction in animal testing in regulatory submissions for agrochemicals. Dr. Deford is passionate about science and mentorship, and outside of work, he enjoys cooking, baking, running, and spending time with his wife and 3-year-old son.



Olga Skende, *Graduate Student Rep*



Olga Skende is a Pharmacology/Toxicology Ph.D. student at the University of Rhode Island, conducting research in Dr. Angela Slitt's laboratory on the mechanisms governing PFAS absorption, distribution, and retention. Her research aims to elucidate the biological factors influencing PFAS toxicokinetics, with a particular focus on transporters and albumin as key determinants of plasma PFAS concentrations and tissue accumulation. Her research employs a validated PFAS mixture model to explore how these compounds interact with biological systems to influence exposure and persistence. Prior to graduate studies, Olga held a position at Leica Biosystems, where she contributed as a research associate in the Companion Diagnostics group. There, she supported feasibility and development studies using immunohistochemistry to advance diagnostic assays in collaboration with pharmaceutical partners. Outside of the lab, Olga enjoys hiking with her dog, practicing yoga, and exploring antique shops.



Looking to the Year Ahead

SOT San Diego, California 2026

March 22-25, 2026.	<u>SOT 2026 San Diego</u>
August 1, 2025	Registration and Housing open
November 13, 2025	Abstract submission deadline
October 9, 2025	SOT Awards deadlines <u>See app site!</u>
November 12, 2025	JES Award deadline <u>See app site!</u>
January 31, 2026	Mixtures SS deadline <u>See app site!</u>

Mix SS Jane Ellen Simmons SOT Travel Award

This year the Mix SS is organizing a virtual event in early 2026, where students, postdocs, and young investigators will have the opportunity to present their projects related to the mixtures field. The competition will provide an award to support travel to the 2026 SOT meeting in San Diego. This award will be conferred in honor and remembrance of our dear colleague, Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons. We are indebted to her service and legacy.



If you would like to be considered for this award, please follow MixSS announcements via member emails, MixSS [home page](#), and [LinkedIn Page](#). We look forward to receiving your applications! The application deadline is November 12th, 2025, and the competition will be in January 2026.

Fall Webinar

September 10th 2025 (3-4:30 pm EST):

2025 Risk Assessment & Mixtures Specialty Sections Student Award Winners:
Assessment Approaches to Wildfire Mixtures

Kyle Burns, *MixSS 2025 Best Abstract Winner*

PhD Candidate, Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, Oregon State University

Sarah L. Miller, *RASS 2025 John Doull Award Winner*

PhD candidate, Julia E. Rager PhD Laboratory, Curriculum in Toxicology & Environmental Medicine, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill



Please consider donating to the Mixtures SS so that we can continue to offer exciting events and awards!

Email: SOTmixSS@gmail.com

[Donate Here](#)

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

[Find the MixSS LinkedIn Page HERE](#)



**We'll see
you there!**

