

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,
The 2026 annual SOT meeting in San Diego was a great success!

The MixSS had a rockin' reception, supported the Career Advancement, Mentoring, and Networking (CAMAN) Committee joint mentoring event, endorsed the *Diet and Toxicology: Examining the Novel and Underappreciated Interaction* workshop and hosted a poster session.

Speaking of the poster session, five mixtures-related studies were selected as the Top 5 MixSS abstracts among 68 abstracts considered. Congratulations to Xuelian Jia (Tulane University) winner of the Best Mixtures Abstract of 2026 for their presentation of: *Modeling female reproductive toxicity of endocrine disruptor mixtures: insights from targeted chemicals*. Please see page 4 of the newsletter for more details on those abstracts.

I had the opportunity to participate in the MixSS endorsed workshop! Organized by Dr. Kymberly Gowdy (The Ohio State University) and Dr. Petra Haberzettl (University of Louisville), we aimed to raise awareness of diet as an underappreciated contributor to toxicant effects, acting as a partner in a complex exposure. The primary goal of this workshop was to advance nutrition research in the field of toxicology and ensure that future investigations are conducted to best model human dietary intake.

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From the Past President, continued

We were proud to support the professional development of Sumira Phatak, a young investigator (University of New Mexico), who presented her work on *Sex, diet, and micro/nano-plastics: enhancing translational fidelity in toxicological models*.

Supporting trainees and young investigators is an important theme for the MixSS. As such, we presented three awards to Students/Postdocs at the annual meeting. For our Best Student and Postdoc Abstract competition, we received 17 applications (4 from Postdocs and 13 from students). Each application is reviewed by three MixSS officers who consider the research design and analysis, originality and significance, presentation of all necessary elements of an abstract, and the letter of recommendation. It is quite a hard task to select the best abstracts! Please see page 5 to meet the winners.

For the third year now, the MixSS has hosted a virtual competition in honor of [Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons](#) with 18 excellent applications! The goal of the competition is to give students, postdocs, and young investigators an opportunity to present projects related to the mixtures field and compete for a travel award to the Annual Meeting. Each finalist presented their research virtually in January via an SOT organized webinar. Congratulations to Chloe Chou (University of North Carolina), winner of the Jane Ellen Simmons Travel Award for 2026, for her work on *Deriving a mixture of combustible materials in American homes and fire-prone biomass to elucidate the toxicity of wildland-urban interface fires*. Special thanks to Dr. Justin Conley for organizing the webinar! We would also like to recognize the continued support of this award by Dr. Cynthia Rider. I encourage all of you to consider donating to this award so we can continue to carry on this tradition. To contribute, send an email to SOTmixSS@gmail.com or [Donate Here](#). Please see page 6 to learn more about the winner and Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons.

The MixSS also hosts webinars throughout the year, in collaboration with the Risk Assessment Specialty Section. Our tradition is to host trainee winners in the September webinar and to invite a speaker to discuss a hot topic in the January webinar. This year's hot topic webinar was given by Dr. Nishad Jayasundra (Duke University) who addressed the complex exposures that are likely contributing to the epidemic of chronic kidney disease of unknown origin. Please see page 8 to learn more about the 2025-2026 webinars!

I have had a great year working with the Executive Committee of the MixSS! This is a dedicated group of people who have worked hard to support research on Mixtures. I need to thank Dr. Chris Kassotis for going above-and-beyond to make sure that we have strategies in place for a small specialty section to be financially sound. I am looking forward to continuing to work with this great group of people in my role as Past President.

Last, you can stay up to date with MixSS events and upcoming awards through our [website](#) and [LinkedIn page](#). Please reach out to us if you have any suggestions or ideas!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Schlezinger, PhD

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SOT 2026 Annual Meeting Recap

MixSS Endorsed 2026 SOT Session

Workshop Session: Diet and Toxicology: Examining the Novel and Underappreciated Interaction

Other Endorser(s): Cardiovascular Toxicology Specialty Section; Comparative Toxicology, Pathology, and Veterinary Specialty Section

Topics/Speakers:

- Nutrition to Mitigate the Adverse Impact of Exposures. S. Sumner
- PFAS and Diet Interactions: The Good, the Bad, and Maybe the Ugly. J. Schlezinger
- Diet and Eating Pattern as Determinants of Air Pollution Susceptibility. P. Haberzettl
- Sex, Diet, and Micro/Nanoplastics: Enhancing Translational Fidelity in Toxicological Models. S. Phatak
- Modeling Interactions Between Diet and Xenobiotic Exposure for Translation to Human Health. B. Mickelson

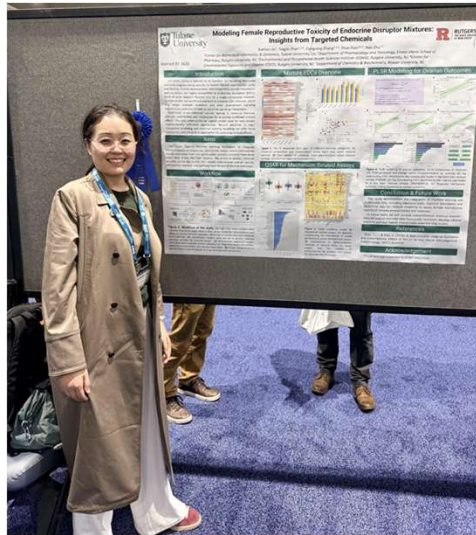
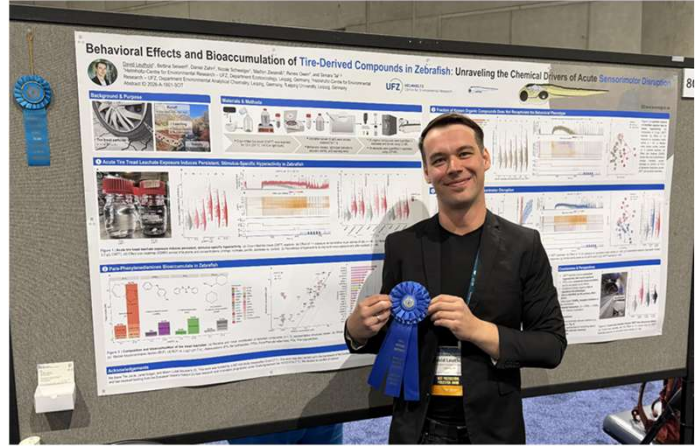
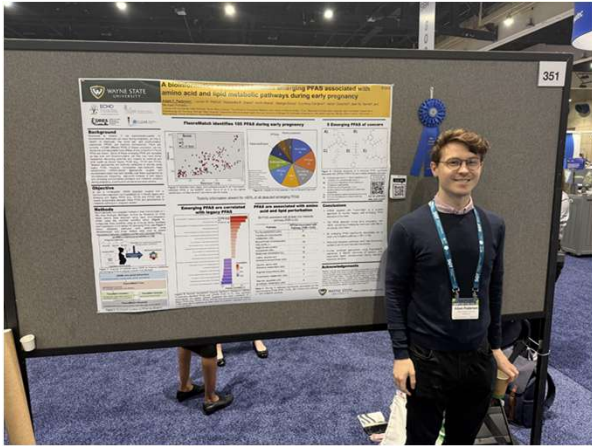


Join MixSS at any time during the year!

Membership fee of \$20

SOT Student and Postdoc members receive one FREE Specialty Section membership with their SOT membership

SOT 2026 Best Abstracts



Best Abstract: Xuelian Jia, Tulane University, Modeling Female Reproductive Toxicity of Endocrine Disruptor Mixtures: Insights from Targeted Chemicals

2nd Place: Renee Owen, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Individual chemical concentration-responses predict neurobehavioral effects of a human-relevant PFAS mixture in larval zebrafish

3rd Place: David Leuthold, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Behavioral Effects and Bioaccumulation of Tire-Derived Compounds in Zebrafish: Unraveling the Chemical Drivers of Acute Sensorimotor Disruption

4th Place: Paxton Brizendine-Ames, University of Louisville, Strain-Dependent Effects of Trichloroethylene Exposure and Western Diet in Wild Type and Humanized PPAR α Mice

5th Place: Adam Pedersen, Wayne State University, A bioinformatics approach identifies emerging PFAS associated with amino acid and lipid metabolic pathways during early pregnancy

SOT 2026 Award Winners

Calling all early stage scientists! The Mixtures Specialty Section wants to support you!

An important theme for the MixSS is supporting trainees. Each year we support two best abstract awards - one for graduate students and one for postdocs. Be on the lookout for the application in SOT Apply!



Student Award Winner:
Kyle Siegel (Wayne State University)

Title: *In vitro endocrine and adipogenic effects of oil and gas-associated metal mixtures: intersections with glucocorticoid signaling*

Postdoc Award Winner:

Zakiyah Henry (National Institute of Environmental Health Science)

Title: *Roots to Neurons: Evaluating Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) Potential of Botanicals Using an In Vitro Testing Battery*



Jane Ellen Simmons Travel Award Winner:

Chloe Chou (University of North Carolina)

Title: *Deriving a mixture of combustible materials in American homes and fire-prone biomass to elucidate the toxicity of wildland-urban interface fires*



Dr. Julia Rager accepting on behalf of Chloe



*Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons,
1952–2022*

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 inaugural Presidential chain from 2007 to 2010. We are indebted to her service and legacy.

Outgoing Officers

2025-2026



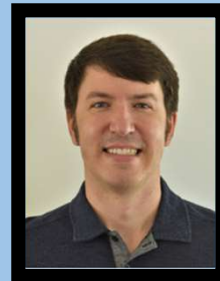
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Courtney Roper



President
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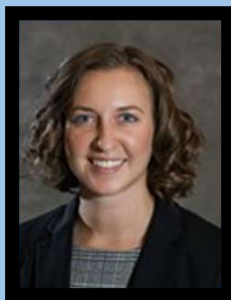
Vice President
Allison Phillips



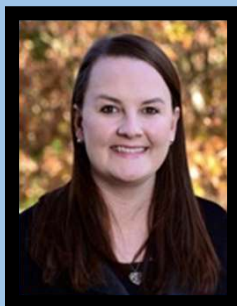
Vice President-Elect
Justin Conley



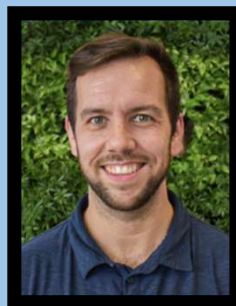
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Junior Councilor
Kristin M. Eccles



Postdoctoral Rep
Paul Deford



Graduate Student Rep
Olga Skende

2026-2027

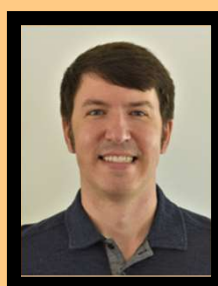
Incoming Officers



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President
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Secretary/Treasurer
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Smith



Postdoctoral Rep
Jennifer Toyoda



Graduate Student Rep
Sarah Miller

Recent Webinars

The Risk Assessment Specialty Section (RASS) hosts monthly webinars and twice a year, RASS graciously teams up with MixSS to co-host seminars at the intersection of risk assessment and mixtures toxicology.

September 2025

Student Award Recipients: Assessment Approaches to Wildfire Mixtures

Kyle Burns, *MixSS 2025 Best Abstract Winner*

PhD Candidate, Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, Oregon State University

Sarah 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

January 2026

Nishad Jayasundra, PhD, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University

Mixture Toxicity and Kidney Health in Vulnerable Communities

Access these presentations and other past MixSS webinars [HERE](#).



MIXTURES SPECIALITY SECTION

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!**

