MSBSS
Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section



Dear MSBSS Members,
Thank you all for your commitment to and interest in the Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section. It has been my privilege to serve as your President. The contributions from the other officers and member base have been integral to the maintenance of our community that is committed to advancing systems-level approaches in toxicology and supporting our trainees.

The intellectual prowess of our community was on display at the 2026 SOT which featured several outstanding MSBSS-endorsed sessions. I want to congratulate all who submitted a session. We also had the pleasure of hosting an excellent trainee webinar in October of 2026, where our first-place trainee award winners presented their work in a series of eloquent short talks. The event showcased the exceptional talent within our trainee membership.

I encourage all members, especially our trainees, to start thinking about scientific session proposals for the 2028 SOT Annual Meeting. Sessions are due May 15, 2027, so you can also use the 2027 meeting to start conversations about exciting proposals for the next year. Our community is full of innovative ideas and emerging science that deserve to be highlighted at the annual meeting. Further, trainee-hosted sessions are among my favorite to both attend and participate in as they often inspire new and different lines of thought. MSBSS is eager to help support your proposals. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the leadership team for guidance and feedback as the spring approaches.

Last year, we had the pleasure of participating in the inaugural centralized mentoring event that is being organized by CAMAN titled "NetworX Night." It was an amazing event, and it was a great chance to interact with the next generation of scientists. I cannot wait for this year's event which will be on Monday March 15, 2027. I encourage all our trainees to participate and explore what career opportunities might fit them best!

As we look ahead to the 2027 SOT Meeting in San Antonio, I encourage you to stay engaged with MSBSS. We continue to offer research awards at undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels. We also give an award for Paper of the Year, open to all MSBSS members. Award applications are due December 4, 2026. If you are an associate, full, emeritus or retired MSBSS member, please feel free to contact any of the officers about judging awards.

Lastly, if you or your company are in a position to help support MSBSS, please consider donating (please follow the QR code). Your contributions of any amount are deeply appreciated and will help to directly support our trainee awards, mentoring activities, and community-building events that make MSBSS such a vibrant and impactful section.

Thank you for your engagement and support, and we look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Stay Connected!

In an effort to improve year-round communications, we have a MSBSS LinkedIn. Follow for award updates, features, and scientific content!

Follow us on LinkedIn

msbss.sot@gmail.com

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2025–2026 MSBSS Treasurer's Report

The MSBSS finances (as of the end of Fiscal Year 2025–2026) are below. Our General Fund is used to support the annual reception, mentoring event, and overrun award costs and the Endowment fund supports trainee awards. Our Specialty Section is in good financial standing with sufficient funds to support our meeting and award activities in the upcoming year.

	General Fund	Endowment
starting balance	27,346	67,204
trainee awards, plaques, etc.	(1,100)	(2,550)
mentoring activities	-	-
reception	(3,995)	-
membership dues	4,275	-
registration	1,351	-
earned interest	1,394	8,749
contributions	-	-

Help MSBSS Continue to Support Trainees!

Supporting trainees is a cornerstone of the MSBSS mission. We recognize outstanding research at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral stages; provide travel and Paper of the Year awards; and host the popular MSBSS Reception at the annual SOT meeting. Help MSBSS maintain this exceptional level of support for our trainees by making a tax-deductible donation to our specialty section. Some of your employers may have programs for matching employee contributions to charitable organizations like SOT, so check with your employers to maximize your giving. You can give directly to the Molecular Biology Student Award Fund or work through the MSBSS Secretary-Treasurer, Ozzy Lozoya, to coordinate your donation.

Don’t forget to vote in this year’s MSBSS elections!
Online ballots will be distributed in early 2027.

2026-2027 MSBSS Officers

President
Elizabeth Martin
CTEH



Vice President
Subham Dasgupta
Clemson University





Vice President-Elect
Josh Harrill
Corteva Agriscience

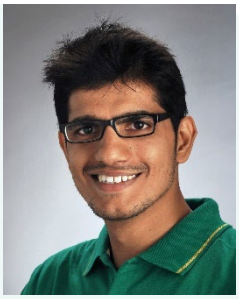


Secretary/Treasurer
Ozzy Lozoya
RTI International

Past President
Jessica Hartman
Medical University of South Carolina



Senior Councilor
Bharat Bhushan
University of Pittsburgh





Junior Councilor
Milan Prajapati
Ferris State University



Postdoctoral Rep.
Nicole McNabb-Kelada
RTI International

Senior Student Rep.
Syed Rubaiyat Ferdous
Clemson University



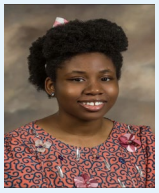
Junior Student Rep.
Gillian Williams
University of Pittsburgh



2026 MSBSS Award Winners

MSBSS

Travel Award



Oluwatosin (Pearl) Jegede

Georgia Southern University

Quantitative Assessment of Microbial Activity in a Veterinary Clinic Environment: Integrating ATP Bioluminescence Surface Assays with Airborne Culture-Based Sampling

Paper of the Year Award



Xiaojia He

UL Research Institutes

Multi-Omics Assessment of Puff Volume-Mediated Salivary Biomarkers of Metal Exposure and Oxidative Injury Associated with Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems · Environmental Health Perspectives · DOI: 10.1289/EHP14321

Undergraduate Research Award

3rd



Ally Sprague

Lindenwood University / Texas A&M University

Copper Isotope Ratios as Biomarkers of Combined Dietary and Environmental Stressors

2nd



Maryam Dawod

St. John's University

Luteolin promotes steroidogenesis in I-10 mouse Leydig cells exposed to atrazine

1st



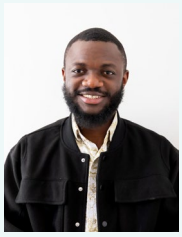
Reagan Roberts

College of Charleston / Medical University of South Carolina

CYP2E1 Influences GLO1 Abundance and Methylglyoxal Detoxification Across Multiple Organs

Graduate Research Award

3rd



Augustine Sobo

University of Massachusetts Amherst

*Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and glucose exposures alter pancreatic islet vascularization during development in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)*

2nd



Kanchaka Senarath Pathirajage

Clemson University

Aryl Hydrocarbon receptor pathway drives TBBPA induced Cartilage development and hemoglobin disruption defects

1st



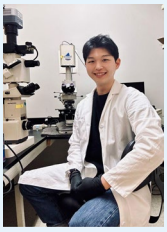
Syed Rubaiyat Ferdous

Clemson University

Perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) induced developmental toxicity is susceptible to photoperiod perturbations

Postdoctoral Research Award

3rd



Joe Lim

Institute for Systems Biology

Developmental TBBPA exposure exacerbated western diet-induced metabolic and immune disruption

2nd



Youjun (Eugene) Suh

Oregon State University

The Gut Microbial Metabolite S-equol Partially Protected against Cadmium-induced Neuronal Cell Death Associated with Transcriptomic Signatures involved in Neurogenesis

1st



David Leuthold

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ

Behavioral Effects and Bioaccumulation of Tire-Derived Compounds in Zebrafish: Unraveling the Chemical Drivers of Acute Sensorimotor Disruption

Hosted by the
Molecular and Systems Biology Specialty Section

2026 MSBSS Research Award Winners Webinar

Thursday, October 15, 2026 | **12:00 PM** (ET) | **Virtual Webinar**

This one-hour webinar will showcase all of our first-place award winners for the 2026 MSBSS undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral research awards.

Webinar Format

5	5 min	**Introduction from the MSBSS President** Elizabeth Martin, Onterris
12	12 min	**Undergraduate award presentation** *Followed by Q&A*
12	12 min	**Graduate award presentation** *Followed by Q&A*
12	12 min	**Postdoctoral award presentation** *Followed by Q&A*



Presentations

Undergraduate Award Winner	Graduate Award Winner	Postdoctoral Award Winner
Reagan Roberts Undergraduate Researcher, Medical University of South Carolina	**Syed Rubaiyat Ferdous** Graduate Student, Clemson University	**David Leuthold** Postdoctoral Associate, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ
CYP2E1 Influences GLO1 Abundance and Methylglyoxal Detoxification Across Multiple Organs	*Perfluorohexane Sulfonate (PFHxS) Induced Developmental Toxicity is Susceptible to Photoperiod Perturbations*	*Behavioral Effects and Bioaccumulation of Tire-Derived Compounds in Zebrafish: Unraveling the Chemical Drivers of Acute Sensorimotor Disruption*

Moderated by:

Nicole McNabb-Kelada
MSBSS Postdoctoral Representative

Gillian Williams
MSBSS Student Representative

We had a very successful MSBSS awards webinar, moderated by our trainee executive committee members!

MSBSS is looking for new Executive Committee officers

We are seeking nominees for the following positions:

- **Vice President-Elect** (Presidential chain, 4-year term)
- **Secretary-Treasurer** (2-year term)
- **Junior Councilor** (2-year term)
- **Postdoctoral Representative** (1-year term)
- **Junior Graduate Student Representative** (2-year term)

Please note that candidates for the Presidential chain and Secretary-Treasurer must be Full, Associate, Retired, or Emeritus members of SOT.

Contact Elizabeth Martin to submit nominations by **November 15.** Self nominations are welcome! SOT staff will contact nominees to collect information for the ballot.

!!!Upcoming MSBSS Award Deadlines!!!

MSBSS award deadlines are rapidly approaching! We are currently asking for applications for the following awards:

- Graduate Student Research Award
- Paper of the Year Award
- Postdoctoral Scholar Research Award
- Undergraduate Research Award

For more MSBSS Award information, please go to our website:
https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/msbss/awards.asp

Award applications are due December 4, 2026. SOT abstracts for the Annual Meeting are due November 13, 2026.

!!!Save the Date!!!

CAMAN NetworX Night at the SOT Meeting, San Antonio
Monday, March 15, 2027, 7:30- 9 PM

This speed-networking opportunity is for trainees to meet diverse professionals in toxicology, increase networks, and explore career paths and career-change options. This is an add-on event during registration.

!!!Save the Date!!!

MSBSS Reception at the SOT Meeting, San Antonio
Wednesday, March 17, 2027, 6- 7:30 pm
Texas Ballroom Salon E, Grand Hyatt

The event will include: a report of section activities in the past year, award announcements, introductions of the incoming officers, and ample networking opportunities to connect with colleagues.

We want to celebrate YOU!
Send us updates on your accomplishments on LinkedIn, or to our email address: MSBSS.sot@gmail.com

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