

## Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section

### **ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024**

May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

#### **I. Officers:**

<b><u>2023–2024</u></b>	<b><u>2024–2025</u></b>
President: Christie Sayes Vice President: Phoebe Stapleton Vice President-Elect: Marusia Popovech Secretary-Treasurer: Vamsi Kodali Past President, Councilor: Salik Hussain Councilor: Andrew Ottens Councilor: Marusia Popovech Vice Student Representative: Talia Seymore	President: Phoebe Stapleton Vice President: Marusia Popovech Vice President-Elect: Todd Stueckle Secretary-Treasurer: Dhimiter Bello Past President, Councilor: Christie Sayes Councilor: Rebekah Kendall Councilor: Andrew Ottens Postdoctoral Representative: Mohammad Siddiqi Graduate Student Representative: Talia Seymore

#### **II. 2024 Membership total: 123**

#### **III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:**

The Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred

#### **IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:**

The Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

#### **V. Communication Methods:**

The Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- ToXchange
- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives

#### **VI. Promotion of Inclusivity**

The Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section maintained an inclusive organization through the following activities.

- Nominate a diverse slate of candidates for elections

- Solicit equitable input from all executive committee leaders
- Utilize virtual meetings for convening Specialty Section leadership
- Utilize standardized rubrics for judging awards/posters
- Include inclusive descriptions of Awards
- Prioritize diversity in selection of speakers/panelists
- Highlight trainee research
- Solicit member feedback for development of Specialty Section activities (such as webinar topics)

## **VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:**

The Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Ice breaker activity led to trainee mentor selection meetings at the mixer

## **VIII. Awards Given:**

<b>Trainee</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Early Career</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mid Career</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Late Career</b>	<b>1</b>

## **IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:**

First Key Outcome in 2023–2024: With the help of SOT, this year we presented membership with the updated NAMSS website.

Second Key Outcome in 2023-2024: Given the focus and emerging concerns regarding micro- and nanoplastic particles, we organized a membership discussion during the SOT 2024 Meeting in Salt Lake City of how to best employ the expertise within the SS toward this contaminant.

## **X. Strategic Plan:**

The Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content
- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

## **XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:**

The Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- Continued connectivity across disciplines. (NAMSS and mixtures and risk assessment)  
Highlight how expertise in past tenets may be beneficial to new and emerging areas.

## **XII. Feedback to the Society:**

- A. What is the one thing the Society should be doing that it currently does not do (or does not do effectively) that would be of importance/benefit to the members of the Specialty Section?

We are struggling with membership, as many are. The name change a few years ago was meant to invite more members with particulate interests (i.e., micro- and nanoplastics, incineration, burn pit) to NAMSS. Unfortunately, the advertisement of this name change and openness was dampened by COVID and the necessity of virtual meetings. Helping to identify means by which to increase (and maintain) membership would be beneficial.

- B. What is the one thing the Society is currently doing that impacts the Specialty Section that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

The society is serving its component member groups very well. The communication with HQ is outstanding.