

Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Marusia Popovech Vice President: Todd Stueckle Vice President-Elect: Elaine El Hayek Past President, Councilor: Phoebe Stapleton Secretary-Treasurer: Dhimiter Bello Councilor: Rebekah Kendall Councilor: Mariana Farcas	President: Todd Stueckle Vice President: Eliane El Hayek Vice President-Elect: Priscila Falagan Lotsch Past President, Councilor: Marusia Popovech Councilor: Mariana Farcas Councilor: Jonathan Shannahan Postdoctoral Representative: Skashi Patil Graduate Student Representative: Abu Eabrihim

Committees:

Awards Committee

II. 2026 Membership total: 101

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

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

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Poster session for trainees
- Trainee awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)

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.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters

- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn
- Other Social Media (Facebook, X, etc.)

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
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

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

- Speed networking
- Networking luncheon/reception

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	1
Early Career	1
Mid Career	0
Late Career	0

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

- A. We are enhancing our social media presence to raise awareness within the scientific community about NAMSS and the support and awards available to scientists in toxicology, nanomaterials, and nanodrug delivery.
- B. We have seen an increase in membership.
- C. We restarted our Newsletter to members aiming at 2 issues per year.
- D. The mentee and mentor event at this year's SOT annual meeting was a great success, with 15 to 20 participants. We addressed topics related to professional and personal growth, as well as the benefits of engaging in SOT activities. Participants also discussed how building networks and friendships within the field can support future job applications and career advancement.

X. Strategic Plan:

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

- Proactively pursue impactful scientific content

- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- 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.

- Pitfalls of incorporating AI into research pipeline (effectiveness vs. questionable/unethical practices and outcomes)
- Communicating science to the general public, Encouraging the public to use their critical thinking skills and not relying on sound bites and misinformation
- Advocating for science in the political arena
- Effective collaboration to attract funding from non-traditional sources
- Advanced materials for use in NAMs research

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?

Motivate SOT members to actively participate in various Specialty Sections, with a special focus on senior members whose experience can spark growth and innovation. Many Specialty Sections have thrived thanks to their active involvement in the society. SOT leadership can empower members from these successful sections to connect with executive committees of smaller, newer, or struggling specialty sections. These delegates could attend a few meetings to inspire lively discussions, brainstorm fresh ideas, and even collaborate on webinars. This approach will strengthen engagement across the society, foster connections between Specialty Sections, and unite individual members, all without requiring a major time commitment from the delegates.

- 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.)?

Requiring Specialty Sections to hold their reception onsite at the Annual Meeting. The cost of food is becoming prohibitive to us holding this event for our members. We are repeatedly having to find new ways to keep face-to-face engagement with membership and keep costs low. NetworX Night and some financial support has helped.