

Nanoscience and Advanced Materials Specialty Section

**ANNUAL REPORT: 2024–2025**

May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

**I. Officers:**

<u>2024–2025</u>	<u>2025–2026</u>
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	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 Graduate Student Representative: Talia Seymore

**Committees:**

Communication Committee (Phoebe Stapleton, Marusia Popovech, Rebekah Kendall), Awards Committee (Elaine El-Hayek, Todd Stueckle), Scientific Programming Committee (Todd Stueckle, Dhimiter Bello), Mentoring and Networking Committee (Marusia Popovech, Phoebe Stapleton)

**II. 2025 Membership total: 113**

**III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2024–2025:**

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

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Sponsored session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- Updated standard operating procedures
- In person platform for presentation of research by Trainee Award winners

**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
- Through Graduate Student/Postdoc Representatives
- LinkedIn

**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)
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- 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.

- Career panel(s)
- Soft skills training (e.g., CV review, mock interviews, etc.)
- Mentoring luncheon/reception
- Providing trainee award winners a platform to present their research, hone soft skills, and network

**VIII. Awards Given:**

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

**IX. 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

- Effectively communicate scientific advances
- Foster connectivity across scientific disciplines
- Develop a talent pool of toxicologists for the future
- Provide training and education that reflects the needs of members
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities for all career levels
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

**X. 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.

- Chemicals in food contact materials, recycled materials (contamination and microplastics lens)

**XI. 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?

Revive the Specialty Section Communication and Collaboration Group. At one point this served as a great place to share best practices, learnings, insights across leadership. Having a formalized place to share and learn is critical.

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.)?

We have found it particularly challenging to get member volunteers to serve on our EC and subcommittees. It would be very helpful if the Society could help Specialty Sections identify new and innovative ways to incentivize volunteering.