

Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2023–2024
May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

I. Officers:

2023–2024	2024–2025
President: Andrea Rodrigues Vice President: William Cook Vice President-Elect: Ling Huang Treasurer: Hiromi Hosako Past President, Councilor: Vladimir Bantseev Councilor: Zhechu Peng Councilor: Yu-Quan Wen Communications Officer: Christopher Schuetz Graduate Student Representative: Jonathan Lin	President: William Cook Vice President: Ling Huang Vice President-Elect: Neera Tewari-Singh Treasurer: Suvidha Menon Past President, Councilor: Andrea Rodrigues Councilor: Napoleon Alejandro Councilor: Yu-Quan Wen Communications Officer: Ewa Budzynski Postdoctoral Representative: Jonathan Luisi Graduate Student Representative: Oluchukwu Okoyeocha

Committees:

Membership Committee Chair - Ling Huang

Communication Committee Chair - Christopher Schuetz

Program Committee Chair - William Cook

Program Committee Membership: Napoleon Alejandro, Vladimir Bantseev, Helen Booler, Ewa Budzynski, William Cook, Anh Diep, Swati Gupta, Ling Huang, Qihong Huang, Patrick Kerstein, Jonathan Lin, Jonathan Luisi, Zhechu Peng, Andrea Rodrigues, Mercedes Salvador-Silva, Chris Schuetz, Ken Schafer, Neera Tewari-Singh, Yu-Quan Wen, and Krisha Yekkala

II. 2024 Membership total: 98

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2023–2024:

The Ocular Toxicology 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
- Trainee awards conferred
- Scientist investigator 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 Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

V. Communication Methods:

The Ocular Toxicology 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

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Ocular Toxicology 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
- Waive fees for meetings or membership due to financial hardship
- 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
- Provide volunteer activities for the membership to be engaged
- Use multiple approaches to communicate with membership

VII. Mentoring and Career Development Activities:

The Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Have a postdoc rep and a student rep that interface with other SOT groups

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	3
Early Career	3
Mid Career	
Late Career	

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

Program Committee much more active, and had more members; Virtual reception prior to SOT

X. Strategic Plan:

The Ocular Toxicology 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

XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:

The Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section is interested in seeing the following topic areas developed into sessions at future SOT Annual Meetings.

- A lot of support (and membership) to SOT comes from big pharma and biotech. Would like to see more emphasis on SOT awards and Key speakers from these groups, vs just academia

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?

Make it easier to post job descriptions through Specialty Section (ie do not have to post on SOT job bank). Easier to reimburse Executive Committee for Executive Committee functions (lunch or dinner at SOT). More logistical support at SOT meetings setting up equipment. Sponsor photos at SOT (headshots) for leadership and general membership. More coordination of possible mentoring activities, set up framework and cross specialty group sharing activities, ie just opt in to participate. Some Specialty Sections by themselves may not have enough students to warrant putting one on by themselves. We are looking for ways to do this.

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 process for approval of proposals for sessions and workshops seems cumbersome.