



Newsletter
October
Fall 2025

President's Message

Greetings and welcome to the Fall 2025 Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section (OTSS) newsletter. I hope everyone has had a great year since our last newsletter. This year, I am honored to serve as your President, and I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the OTSS Board for their dedication and active participation in advancing the mission of the Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section (OTSS). Together, we continue to forge new frontiers in ocular toxicology and foster a vibrant community committed to excellence, innovation, and collaboration.

This past year has been a testament to the resilience and growth of our section. We have successfully organized engaging webinars focusing on mentorship, providing perspectives from leading ocular toxicologists and opening pathways for early-career scientists to connect and thrive. Our featured sessions at the recent SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando included the workshop "Seeing Ocular Pathology: Best Practices for Ophthalmic Endpoints in Ocular Toxicity Studies" and the symposium "Beyond Inflammation: Toxicities Associated with Ocular Therapeutics," both fostering critical discussions and knowledge exchange.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on this momentum. Our Program Committee is diligently working on innovative events, including webinars and symposia, designed to promote scientific advancements and professional development in ocular toxicology.

We also encourage every member to stay actively involved—whether through volunteering on committees, participating in upcoming events, or nominating deserving colleagues for our 2026 OTSS awards. These recognitions celebrate excellence and inspire continued innovation within our field. Your contributions are essential to strengthening our community and elevating the impact of OTSS. We welcome fresh ideas and the energy you bring to our community to further strengthen our section.

Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to working with all of you this year as we continue our dedicated efforts to advance ocular toxicology and serve the broader toxicology community.

Wishing you a productive and rewarding Fall season!

Sincerely,

Ling Huang, PhD, OD

President, OTSS, 2025-2026

[OTSS Website](#)

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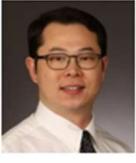
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Officer Transitions

2025-2026 Officers are: Ling Huang (President), Neera Singh (Vice President), Yu-Quan Wen (Vice President-Elect), Suvidha Menon (Treasurer), Ewa Budzynski (Communications), Napoleon Alejandro (Councilor), Gayathri Chadalapaka (Councilor) Jonathan Luisi (Postdoc Rep), and Ebenezar Okoyeocha (Student Rep). Officers who completed their terms on the OTSS Executive Committee in 2025 included: Andrea Rodriguez (Past President).

2025-2026 Officers

President	Vice President	Vice President-Elect	Treasurer	Communication	Councilor	Councilor	Past - President
							
Ling Huang Johnson & Johnson	Neera Tewari-Singh Michigan State University	Yu-Quan Wen AbbVie	Suvidha Menon AbbVie	Ewa Budzynski Akkerti	Napoleon Alejandro Labcorp	Gayathri Chadalapaka Labcorp	William Cook Merck
Post -Doc Rep				Student Rep			
Jonathan Luisi Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB)				Ebenezar Okoyeocha Michigan State University			

Program Committee Update

In 2025, the OTSS Program Committee organized a webinar focusing on mentorship:

Eyes on your Career Goals, Perspective from Ocular Toxicologists. Speakers included: Simon Blanco (FDA), Lew Betina (J&J), and Kathleen Krenzer (IUVO Biosciences) chaired by Ebenezar Okoyeocha.

OTSS also sponsored two well-attended sessions at the 2025 SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL:

1. Continuing Education Course titled “Seeing Ocular Pathology: Best Practices for Ophthalmic Endpoints in Ocular Toxicity Studies” chaired by Napoleon Alejandro and Jonathan Luisi
2. Symposium titled “Beyond Inflammation: Toxicities Associated with Ocular Therapeutics” chaired by Eunice Musvasva and Helen Bootler

Upcoming Events:

1. **January 12, 2026:** Cell and Gene Therapy for Retinal Dystrophies, Models, Delivery, and Imaging in Preclinical Research by **Sandeep Kumar, PhD**
2. **2026:** Comprehensive Ophthalmic Normative Dataset for Healthy Adult African Green Monkeys by **Bibiana Iglesias, PhD**
3. **2026 Annual Meeting Ocular Symposium:** Visionary Foresight: Pioneering Cell-Based Therapies chaired by Ewa Budzynski and Andrea Rodriguez

We would like to thank all the presenters and organizers for dedication to preparing original and engaging presentations.

If you would like to join OTSS program committee, please reach out to Neera Tewari-Singh at [mailto:tewarisi@msu.edu?subject=OTSS Program Committee](mailto:tewarisi@msu.edu?subject=OTSS%20Program%20Committee).

Awards and Executive Committee Nominations:

1. Deadline for Executive Committee Nominations by **November 15**, contact **Yu-Quan Wen** at yuquan.wen@abbvie.com with your nomination. Open positions include:
 - a. Treasurer – 2-year term
 - b. Communications Officer – 2-year term
 - c. Councilor – 2-year term
 - d. Vice President-Elect – 4-year term
 - e. Postdoctoral Representative – 2-year term
 - f. Graduate Student Representative – 2-year term
2. Deadline for Award Nominations:
 - a. **January 15:** Paper of the Year, Career Achievement, I2
 - b. **March 26:** Best Poster, Early Career

Japanese Society of Comparative and Veterinary Ophthalmology (JSCVO) Update

The 49th JSCVO Fundamental Seminar, Nagoya, December 21, 2024:

Dr. Yoshiki Kuse (Gifu Pharmaceutical University): “Application of human retinal organoids in drug discovery”

Workshop: Review and discussion of emerging ocular toxicity and their mechanism (MEK, BRAF, Hsp90, BACE1 etc.)

The 44th JSCVO Annual Conference, Yokohama, July 26 and 27, 2025:

- **Special Lecture:** Dr. Keiko Miyadera (Michigan State University): “Investigations into Inherited Eye Disease in Dogs: From Gene Hunting to Gene Therapy”

- **The 50th JSCVO Fundamental Seminar: Frontiers in Ocular Disease Research Using Animal Models:**

Dr. Ichiro Masai (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University): “Studies on Photoreceptor Degeneration and Neural Regeneration Using Zebrafish”

Dr. Takayuki Harada (Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science): “Therapeutic Research Aiming for Functional Recovery Using Glaucoma Animal Models”

2025 SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL

At this year's Annual Meeting, OTSS sponsored the Ocular Toxicity Poster Session, a CE course and a symposium session, as described in the Program Committee Update above.

We were also fortunate to reconnect with many of our members at the Wednesday reception where the Best Poster and Early Career awards were announced. We also recognized many of our award winners in person.



2024-2025 OTSS Officers at the reception.



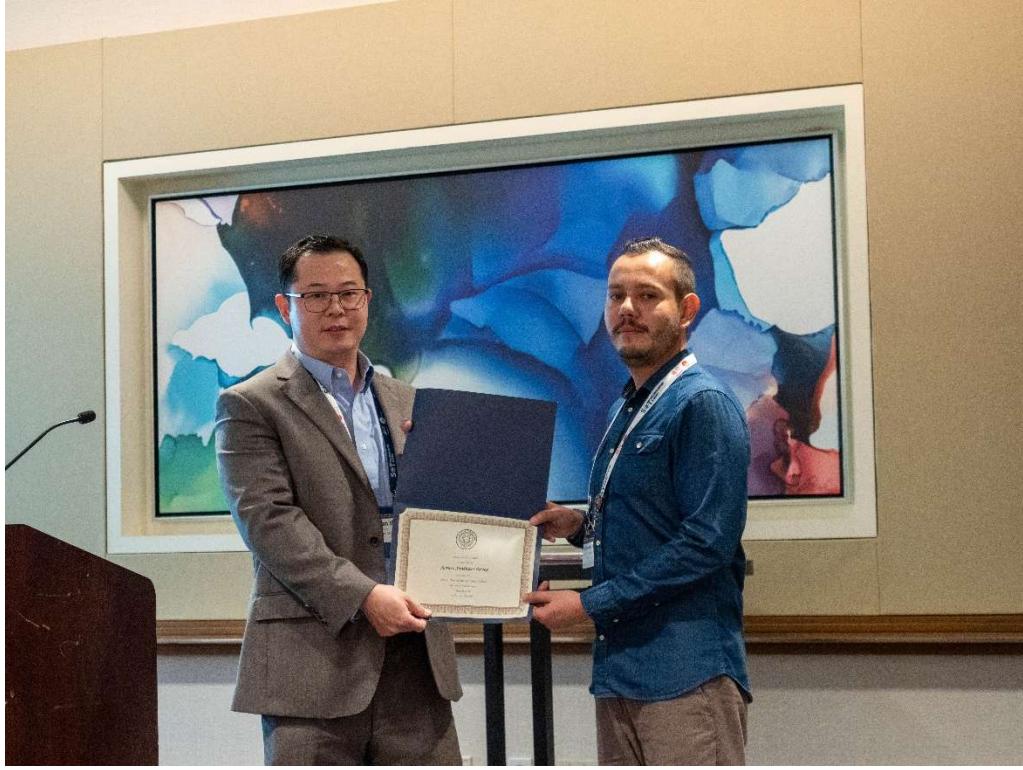
Passing the mallet to incoming OTSS President Dr. Ling Huang.



Dr. William Cook recognizing Dr. Rodrigues (Past President) for her outstanding service and commitment to OTSS.



Dr. Napoleon Alejandro recognizing Dr. Helen Booler (I2 award recipient).



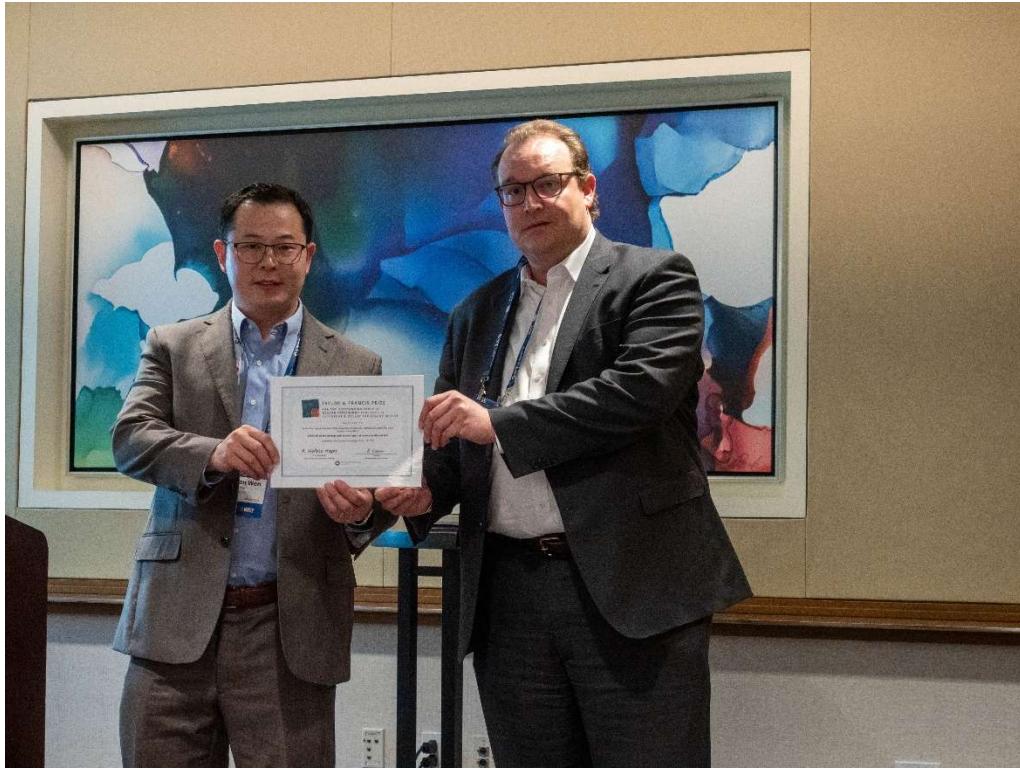
Dr. Yu-Quan Wen recognizing Jose Jimenez Chavez (Early Career Achievement Award).



Dr. Yu-Quan Wen Recognizing Ebenezer Okoyeocha (Early Career Achievement Award)



Dr. Napoleon Alejandro Recognizing Brandon Ossont (Best Poster)
Marianna Bacellar-Galdino accepting award on behalf of Brandon



Dr. Yu-Quan Wen and Dr. Simon Kaja presenting Taylor & Francis Paper of the Year Award.

Spotlight on Science: Congratulations to Our 2025 Award Winners!

Taylor & Francis Prize for Outstanding Paper in Ocular Toxicology published in *Cutaneous & Ocular Toxicology* in 2024:

Hanzhu Zhao, Aiping Song, Liyan Wang, Xiaolu Hou, Dongmei Cui, Xiaotong Sun, Lingzhi Niu, Lin Jin, Haoyuan An, and Wei Li: "Research on the damage and wound repair of cornea by GO and ZnO." *Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology*, 2024

OTSS Best Poster Award: "Evaluation of Formulaiton pH Tolerability in New Zealand White and Dutch Belted Rabbits Post-Intravitreal Administration." B. P. Ossont, Q. Plumlee, N. Makori, and S. Iwabe. *The Toxicologist* Vol 204 Issue S1 (March 2025) P 4163

OTSS Early Career Awards:

"Ocular Differential Fibrosis Induction in Female and Male C57BL/6 Mice after Exposure to Ultrafine Particles." A. Jiménez-Chávez, R. Morales-Rubio, D. A. Herman, M. T. Kleinman, and A. De Vizcaya-Ruiz. *The Toxicologist* Vol 204 Issue S1 (March 2025) P 4173

"Genetic Loss of Nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 Modulates Chloropicrin-Induced Inflammatory response in the Corneal Tissue." O. E. Okoyeocha, N. Tewari-Singh, S. Ojha, A. Roney, M. Suresh, and K. Liby. *The Toxicologist* Vol 204 Issue S1 (March 2025) P 4170

OTSS I2 (Innovation and Impact) Award sponsored by Joinn/Biomere

Booler HS, Lejeune T, Turner O, Saravanan C, Bartoe JT, Bolon B. "Pathology Findings and In-Life Correlates in the Nonclinical Development of Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV)-Based Retinal Gene Therapies." *Toxicologic Pathology* 2024

Helen Booler BSc(hons), BVetMed, Diplomat ECVP, PhD, MRCVS graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, University of London with degrees in veterinary medicine and veterinary pathology and is a European board-certified veterinary pathologist with a PhD in neurodevelopmental pathology. Dr. Booler has 18 years of experience in toxicologic pathology, at various large pharmaceutical companies, with roles ranging from individual contributor and matrix lead to group head. She is currently working as a director of nonclinical safety and pathology at Novartis in Switzerland. For the majority of the last 10 years, she has had a focus on ocular pathology and ocular drug development. She established and led the Society of Toxicologic Pathology Special Interest Group for Ophthalmology and Special Senses, chaired the STP SRPC ocular sampling working group and co-chaired the STP SRPC ocular adversity working group. She has served as a chair/scientific organizer of a number of highly successful symposia and educational courses, and has presented at numerous scientific meetings, including ARVO, SOT, STP, ESTP, BSTP and ACT. Since 2015 she has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and several book chapters.

OTSS Career Achievement Award sponsored by Greenfield Pathology Services:

Brian Christian, PhD, is a board-certified toxicologist whose 30-year career has



profoundly shaped the field of ocular toxicology. During his tenure at Covance (now LabCorp) as the scientific lead for ocular toxicology services. Dr. Christian was instrumental in setting up a collaboration between Covance (a world-class Contract Research Organization) and OSOD (experts in clinical and veterinary ophthalmology and vision science) delivering comprehensive ophthalmic drug development services to clients across the world. His groundbreaking work has advanced our understanding of ocular diseases and contributed to the development of safer, more effective ocular therapeutics, and most importantly touched the lives of many patients across the world.

Dr. Christian's leadership and mentorship guided and inspired a generation of young scientists, fostering talent and curiosity in the field. His active involvement in

the Society of Toxicology, including serving as President of the Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section, has strengthened collaboration and driven innovation across the discipline.

Moreover, his expertise has influenced regulatory and safety assessment decisions, helping shape policies that protect patient health and ensure therapeutic efficacy.

OTSS Member Suggestions

Please send an email to SOTHQ@toxicology.org, if you have any questions about the Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section or call 703.438.3115.

Supporters

We sincerely thank you for your generous support!!

2024-2025 Supporters



Taylor & Francis
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