

Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2020-2021

May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
President:	Hiromi Hosako	Qihong Huang
Vice President:	Qihong Huang	Vladimir Bantseev
Vice President-Elect:	Vladimir Bantseev	Andrea D. Rodrigues
Treasurer:	Neera Tewari-Singh	Neera Tewari-Singh
Past President	Kathleen L. Krenzer	Hiromi Hosako
Councilors:	Andrea D. Rodrigues	Christopher Schuetz
	Christopher Schuetz	Ling Wang
Communications Officer:	Christopher L. Steele	Christopher L. Steele
PDA Representative:	Vacant	Vacant
Grad Student Representative:	Vacant	Vacant

Committees:

Program Planning Committee Chair: Qihong Huang

Membership Committee Chair: Vladimir Bantseev

Communications Committee Chair: Christopher L. Steele

Nominating and Award Committee: Andrea D. Rodrigues and Christopher Schuetz

II. 2020 Membership total: 98

III. Key Outcomes in 2020-2021:

Activities:

- A. 2021 SOT Annual Meeting Virtual Activities (e.g. courses, scientific sessions, or virtual receptions):

Courses/Sessions: The OTSS organized a Symposium, entitled “*Nonclinical Safety Toxicology Strategies for the Development of Novel Ocular Biotherapeutics*” which was presented on March 17th. The Chairs of the symposium were Qihong Huang (Boehringer Ingelheim) and Vladimir Bantseev (Genentech), and the symposium was endorsed by the OTSS and Biotechnology Specialty Sections. Speakers were Seung-Wook Chung (“Toxicokinetic modeling approaches to informing dose selection for intravitreal biotherapeutics”), Helen Booler (“Ocular inflammation in nonclinical intravitreal toxicity studies with biologics: types, timing and translatability.”), John Sinclair (“Development of KSI-301, An Ultra High Molecular Weight Phosphorylcholine Biopolymer Antibody Conjugate for Treatment of Retinal Diseases by Intravitreal Administration”), Daniel Chung (“Pre-clinical pearls for successful gene therapy development, Past and Future”), and Theresa Chen (“Nonclinical Toxicology Strategies for Development of Novel Ocular Biotherapeutics”). The session was well-attended (over 200 people) and had a lively Q&A discussion in the end.

Receptions: OTSS reception was held virtually on March 14th. The President welcome everyone and introduced the Executive Committee. Each of the committee chairs (2020-2021) gave a summary of the achievement this year. All the award winners from last and this year were invited

to the virtual reception to receive their awards, which was the highlight of the reception. There was also a networking opportunity for everyone at the breakout rooms.

OTSS co-hosted a virtual career panel with MDCPSS on September 21, 2020. At this event, three panelists each from academia, government, industry, and consulting would address career development and questions from graduate students and postdocs.

B. 2021 Awards Information:

Ocular Toxicology Best Poster Award

Awarded to: Jonathan Lin

Poster Title: Assessment of Corneal Alkali Injury in a Murine Model with Anterior Segment Optical Coherence Tomography

Annual “Paper of the Year” Award by Taylor & Francis

Awarded to: Validation of the OptiSafe™ eye irritation test.

Authors: Neepa Choksi, Stewart Lebrun, Minh Nguyen, Amber Daniel, George DeGeorge, Jamin Willoughby, Adrienne Layton, Donnie Lowther, Jill Merrill, Joanna Matheson, João Barroso, Krystle Yozzo, Warren Casey & David Allen, Volume 39 (3): 180-192. 2020

Ocular Toxicology I2 Award (Innovation and Impact) Sponsored by Biomere

Awarded to: Neera Tewari-Singh, MS, PhD

Authors: Pate KM, Goswami DG, Lake M, Lake S, Kant R, Ammar D, Tewari-Singh N. ‘A Supersaturated Oxygen Emulsion for the Topical Treatment of Ocular Trauma’. Mil Med. 2020 Mar 2;185(3-4). PMID: 31865377

OTSS Career Achievement Award

Awarded to: Brian Short, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Brian Short Consulting, LLC

C. Communication Activities:

Newsletter publication frequency: OTSS 2020 Summer newsletter

Key Announcements/blogs: None

Website highlights: The OTSS website was updated.

An OTSS LinkedIn group named SOT OTSS Student/Postdoc Outreach Group was formed

D. Mentoring activities: None

E. Other Specialty Section Activities: A new OTSS logo was designed and replaced the old logo

IV. Feedback and Ideas:

- A. **How might SOT better support your group's activities (perhaps something the Society should be doing that we currently do not do, or do not do effectively, that would be of importance/benefit to the members of your component group?):**

Note: If funding is listed, please provide detail on the membership need that the funding would support.

In order to attract new members and grow OTSS, OTSS will try the Graduate Student/Postdoctoral free membership pilot program. According to SOT, OTSS will need to seek new donations this year to be able to move forward with this program. The Specialty Section Staff Liaison will need to track the donations and the free memberships. This data can be used in the future to measure the success of the program. It would be nice if SOT would remove this requirement for us so we can fund it without needing new donations. Can SOT consider this?