

Ocular Toxicology

ANNUAL REPORT: 2022–2023

May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

I. Officers/Committees

Officer

President:

Vice President:

Vice President-Elect:

Treasurer:

Past President:

Councilors:

Postdoctoral Representative:

Graduate Student Representative:

2022–2023

Vladimir Bantseev

Andrea Rodrigues

William Cook

Hiromi Hosako

Qihong Huang

Ling Huang

Zhechu Peng

Jonathan Lin

2023–2024

Andrea Rodrigues

William Cook

Ling Huang

Hiromi Hosako

Vladimir Bantseev

Zhechu Peng

Yu-Quan Wen

Jonathan Lin

Committees:

Program Planning Committee:

William Cook (Chair)

Napoleon Alejandro

Vladimir Bantseev

Helen Booler

Ewa Budzynski

William Cook

Anh Diep

Swati Gupta

Ling Huang

Qihong Huang

Patrick Kerstein

Jonathan Lin

Jonathan Luisi

Andrea Rodrigues

Ken Schafer

Chris Schuetz

Mercedes Salvador-Silva

Neera Tewari-Singh

Yu-Quan Wen

Membership Committee Chair:

Ling Huang

Communications Committee Chair:

Christopher Schuetz

Nominating and Award Committee Co-Chairs:

Zhechu Peng & Yu-Quan

Wen

I. 2022 Membership total: 95

II. Key Outcomes in 2022–2023:

- A. Supporters of the OTSS, which include Biomere, Charles River, Greenfield Pathology Services, Labcorp, and Ocular Services on Demand (OSOD), have agreed to support awards for trainees and excellence in vision science indefinitely. We recently had to revise our award descriptions and add additional awards for trainees, including monetary funds.

- B. We are engaging more of our membership to get involved with the Program Committee. It has grown substantially over the next year by getting the word out through email blasts, LinkedIn, and meetings. This means a greater percentage of our membership is getting involved with the Specialty Section activities.

III. Activities

A. SOT Annual Meeting Activities (e.g., courses, scientific sessions, receptions):

At the 2023 SOT Annual Meeting in Nashville, OTSS sponsored an exciting symposium on “Opening Our Eyes: Ocular Gene Therapies from Theory to Practice” with Ken Schafer (Greenfield Pathology Services) and Hellen Booler (Novartis) serving as Co-Chairs, from the Program Committee. The symposium was well attended, and the speakers and topics from this program were:

- Nonclinical Considerations in the Development of Ocular Gene Therapies, Jacqueline Brassard, Brassard Toxicologic Regulatory Consulting
- Preclinical Development Strategies for Ocular Gene Therapies, Eva Andres-Mateos, Atsena Therapeutics
- Regulatory Aspects and Opportunities in the Development of Ocular Gene Therapies, Rondine Allen, US FDA
- Clinical Aspects of Ocular Gene Therapy Development: Maximizing Benefit/Risk, Aaron Osborn, Nanoscope Therapeutics

A reception was well attended the evening before the symposium where program updates were shared, and award recipients were announced. There was ample time for networking and catching up among colleagues.

B. 2023 Awards Recipients:

- OTSS Career Achievement Award: Dr. Ken Schafer, Greenfield Pathology
- Taylor and Francis Paper of the Year Award: Particulate matter 2.5 promotes inflammation and cellular dysfunction via reactive oxygen species/p38 MAPK pathway in primary rat corneal epithelial cells
Da Hye Kim
- I2 (Innovation and Impact) Award by Biomere: Concentration-associated pathology of alkali burn in a mouse model using anterior segment optical coherence tomography with angiography
Jonathan Lin
- Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award by Labcorp-OSOD:
Jonathan Lin
- Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Trainee Support Award: Ebenezar Okoyeocha

- OTSS Best Poster Award
Poster Title: Progression of chloropicrin induced ocular injury: clinical and biological effects
Lead Author: Ebenezar Okoyeocha

C. Other Educational Activities Conducted (e.g., webinars, in-person meetings):

Webinar with FDA Reviewer Maria Rivera (2022)

Many in preparation (at least 1 webinar, and symposium ideas out to 2026)

D. Communication Activities:

1. Newsletter publication frequency: Twice annually
2. Communication Highlights: Newsletter mailed out at the beginning of the summer.
Email blasts to recruit nominations for officers and award nominations.
3. Highlights of website enhancements: None

E. Mentoring Activities: None.

IV. Feedback and Ideas:

- A. In what ways is your group fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment? Please give examples of any current practices used to support inclusion in processes such as 1) leadership selection and promotion, 2) award descriptions and selection, and 3) endorsement of proposals for the Annual Meetings.

We have a diverse executive board as well as a program committee from many sectors and backgrounds. We have been asked to pre-endorse up to 3 symposium abstracts, and we are working on harmonizing the feedback for these proposals.

- B. What is one thing 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?

SOT could advertise open positions on elected committees or other ways to volunteer at SOT. Many people do not know who to contact to join SOT committees.

- C. What is one thing that the Society is currently doing that impacts your component group that should be changed (e.g., stopped, modified, etc.)?

We'd like to add special circumstances to our budget (which is healthy for a SS), including gift cards or small tokens for speakers who volunteer a lot of their time to present symposia or webinars for OTSS, and a Board dinner at a restaurant during the SOT meeting.