

Risk Assessment Specialty Section

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025–2026

May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

I. Officers:

<u>2025–2026</u>	<u>2026–2027</u>
President: Anne Loccisano Vice President: Kan Shao Vice President Elect: Kathryn Page Past President, Councilor: Bernard Gadagbui Secretary-Treasurer: Nikolaos Georgiadis Councilor: Alexandra Cordova Councilor: Melissa Heintz Postdoctoral Representative: Chi-Yun Chen Graduate Student Representative: Disha Gupta	President: Kan Shao Vice President: Kathryn Page Vice President-Elect: Katy Goyak Secretary-Treasurer: Nikolaos Georgiadis Past President, Councilor: Anne Loccisano Councilor: Belinda Cridge Councilor: Alexandra Cordova Postdoctoral Representative: Paul Kruse Graduate Student Representative: Disha Gupta

Committees:

Career Advancement/Mentoring/Networking Committee

II. 2026 Membership total: 666

III. Key Outcomes and Accomplishments in 2025–2026:

The Risk Assessment Specialty Section accomplished the following activities throughout the year.

- In-person meeting/mixer
- Virtual meetings
- Endorsed session(s) at the Annual Meeting
- Mentoring/career development events
- Trainee awards conferred
- Paper of the year award
- Newsletter(s)
- Webinars
- Business meeting (communicated operations/finances to members)
- Utilized/expanded Endowment Fund(s) for Component Group

IV. Collaborative Partnerships with Other SOT Organizations:

The Risk Assessment Specialty Section collaborated with the following organizations within SOT.

V. Communication Methods:

The Risk Assessment Specialty Section stayed in contact with its members throughout the year through the following mechanisms.

- Emails through SOT Headquarters
- Specialty Section website
- Newsletter(s)
- LinkedIn

VI. Promotion of Inclusivity

The Risk Assessment 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
- 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 Risk Assessment Specialty Section hosted the following mentoring activities throughout the year for its membership.

- Networking luncheon/reception

VIII. Awards Given:

Trainee	10
Early Career	0
Mid Career	2
Late Career	0

IX. Key Outcomes and Improvements:

A. The RASS reception at the SOT Annual Meeting was more organized this year, which improved efficiency.

X. Strategic Plan:

The Risk Assessment Specialty Section supported the following SOT Strategic Priorities.

- Support the development and application of tools that advance toxicology
- Provide training and education that reflects the needs of members
- Enhance member recognition and visibility at all levels

XI. Scientific Topics of Interest:

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

- One interesting topic could be the inconsistency between the advocacy for NAMs and reducing animal use, and the rising cost of testing animals—specifically, what’s driving this trend and its implications for risk assessment.

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?

It might be helpful for SOT to develop a reviewer pool for RASS awards, which could streamline the process of eliciting reviewers during the award evaluation season

- 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 guaranteed acceptance of session proposals should be allocated to each Specialty Section based on either the section's size (e.g., number of members) or the number of proposals that select the section as the primary endorser—rather than granting one proposal per section equally