

Participant Roles

Who are the participants and what are their roles?



Undergraduate Students

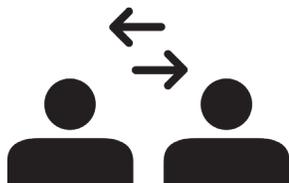
All undergraduate students who register for the Annual Meeting can also register for the Sunday Undergraduate Education Program. Some students, selected by the Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) based upon a nationwide competitive application, receive travel support to attend the meeting and have special activities on Saturday and Monday.

The role of the students is to interact with toxicologists, learn more about toxicology, consider strategies for success in applying to and completing graduate school, and to consider careers in the biomedical scientists.



Undergraduate Faculty Advisors

These are faculty members who have been involved with supporting the career development of undergraduate students, especially those from groups that are under-represented in the sciences. These participants are also selected by CDI from a national pool by competitive application. Faculty advisors can communicate readily with students, peer mentors, and the toxicologists. They play an important role in helping everyone benefit from the unique experience of the Undergraduate Program. At their home institution they assist with the graduate school application process as well as recruitment of future program participants.



Peer Mentors

Usually graduate students in toxicology or sometimes undergraduate students or postdoctoral scholars, these participants are important for the cohesiveness of the mentor groups. Some of the peer mentors participated in the SOT Undergraduate Program when they were baccalaureate students. Peer mentors are excellent resources for questions about what graduate school is really like and for good reasons to think about a career in toxicology.



Host Mentors

Host mentors are toxicologists who are established in a career in toxicology. These participants have a broad perspective on the benefits of a graduate research degree, employment opportunities in the biomedical sciences, and what life is like as a toxicologist. Group participants can network, network, network, during the program and in the future.



Committee on Diversity Initiatives

The members of this SOT committee have planned the Undergraduate Program, selected all the participants and speakers, and thought about all the details that make this program a well-rounded exposure to toxicology and graduate school. They are interested in the participants during the program, are available to contact in the future, and will follow up with the students to see what career paths student participants follow.