

The Role of the Student Representative

Introduction to the Graduate Committees:

Each Regional Chapter (RC), Special Interest Group (SIG), and Specialty Section (SS) elects one graduate student representative to serve a one- to two-year term as an officer of the group. The student representatives are also members of the respective Graduate Committees (GC): the RC/SIG-GC and the SS-GC. These committees serve as liaison between graduate student membership, the component groups, and the Society of Toxicology, as well as working to plan student activities. They aim to both increase student membership in the Society and to provide the means with which students can further their academic careers through networking and increased mentoring. The elected officers of the two Graduate Committees form the membership of the Student Advisory Council, the coordinating body for graduate student activities.

In addition, members of the GCs are invited by committee chairs to represent student interests as liaisons on select national SOT Committees. As student representatives, they have a unique opportunity to interact with SOT leaders and to serve our peers in the Society, and allow these Committees to consider the student perspective on their activities.

The Role of the Student Representative within your Group:

Student representatives can be valuable leaders in their respective Regional Chapter, Special Interest Group, or Specialty Section, and part of their duties is to work to increase student involvement in those groups. They serve by creating student programming such as poster sessions and networking opportunities at group events (such as RC meetings and SIG and SS receptions). Many student representatives have contributed to their RC, SIG, or SS by finding speakers for meetings and symposia. Additionally, student representatives communicate news such as award information and deadlines to both undergraduate and graduate students in their groups as well as to all SOT student members. Finally, student representatives are an extremely useful recruitment source, and work very hard to increase student membership in SOT. They can participate in the Tox Scholar program, and act as diplomats for SOT to institutions which may not have a large presence in the Society. They also can educate undergraduate and high school students about careers in toxicology.