

Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting, March 10-14, Salt Lake City, USA

The NRS Young Investigator travel grant supported my visit to the largest toxicology meeting worldwide, the SOT Annual meeting. My abstract, entitled 'Assessing toxicity of amorphous micro- and nano-plastics on bronchial epithelial cells using air-liquid interface models' was accepted for an oral presentation.

Presenting my research during the platform session about microplastics was a very valuable experience. Our work received a lot of attention during this well visited session and I had great discussions afterwards about particle deposition, variations in cell culture systems and potential toxicity of microplastics with experts from the field. In addition, the other speakers gave some valuable insights on effects of microplastics on several human cells, including human bronchial epithelial cells. Techniques they presented included mRNA sequencing, exosome analysis and advanced imaging techniques. In addition, I attended presentations about air pollution, nanoparticle toxicity and wood smoke. I realized there is a tight relationship between inhalation toxicology and climate change. This sparked my inspiration for future research in this field.

I would like to thank the NRS to support my visit to the SOT. The SOT was a great opportunity to learn about new techniques and initiate new collaborations in the field of respiratory toxicology.