



CURRENT OFFICERS, 2009-10

President:	Laura Andrews
President-elect:	Suzy Fitzpatrick
Vice-President:	Brinda Mahadevan
Secretary/Treasurer:	Frances Crofts
Past President:	Stacie Wild
Junior Councilor	Leigh Ann Burns Naas
Senior Councilor	Melissa C. Rhodes
Postdoctoral Rep:	Louisa Hooven
Student Rep:	Courtney Kozul
New Officers – Brinda, Leigh Ann, Louisa, and Courtney	

WIT thanks **Maryka Bhattacharyya** (2008-2009 Past President), **Stacie Wild** (Past President) and **Kristina Chadwick** (Councilor) for their contributions to our SIG and for their continued support.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear WIT membership,

It is an honor to be this year's leader for a strong and productive group such as the Women in Toxicology. I have big shoes to fill as my predecessors are accomplished, respected and active leaders in their respective areas and I hope to continue to contribute to this group as they have in the past. I wanted to especially thank Stacie Wild

for her guidance and leadership to this group over the year preceding me. You have been an inspiration to all of us.

I wanted to share a few thoughts with you on my perspective of a specific aspect; in that I think the WIT organization has a unique opportunity to advance. No matter where you are in your career or academic pursuits, it goes without saying that having role models and mentors allow us to challenge ourselves, gain perspective and learn from those experienced beyond us. Each and every one of us must take an opportunity to invest in others as our mentors and leaders have invested in us. To this end I wanted to share a brief story about my experience with a woman who I will always see as my first inspiration, my first mentor in the field of Toxicology.

When I was a graduate student at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia we were lucky enough to have a Women in Science program that brought in speakers from different areas of science and the work force to share stories and philosophies of how to be successful in a competitive environment. The very first speaker that I had the opportunity to listen to and speak to was Mildred Christian. I was studying in the same department in which Millie received her PhD degree. If you had the opportunity to know Millie you can imagine that she told us a lot about the challenges and realities that we would face as women scientists. But it was her words of encouragement to "never lose sight of your goals and work hard" that I have carried with me today. She also said to us that there was nothing more valuable than a sympathetic ear and an objective observer. It was imperative if we wanted to be successful to find a mentor, to learn from them and listen. I didn't realize then how important that bit of advice would be to me.

I have had several mentors over my career and have found the value and the inspiration in each of them. It is the most worthwhile connection I have fostered and the

investment that people have made in me has been the groundwork for my successful career. Millie planted the seed and told us young students how important mentoring would be. It is my responsibility now to find a way to share those same experiences and a challenge each of us in this group to invest in each other through mentoring.

You will find several opportunities throughout this newsletter and throughout the coming months to involve yourself in the mentoring process. Take those opportunities as they are presented to you.

The WIT group has an exciting few months ahead of us, including generation of a ballot for the new officers, finalization of our meeting plans in Salt Lake City and continued efforts in the Special Interest group coordinating Council. I ask each of you to find ways to become involved and to have your voice heard with respect to how the WIT Special Interest group can provide opportunities for you.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Salt Lake City in March.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Andrews

HOLD the Date (To be confirmed)
WIT reception Wednesday March 10, 2010
4:30-6:00

More details to follow

WIT RECEPTION - 2009

The WIT Reception was well attended with over 100 attendees. Our event opened with an ice-breaker to meet 4 new people in 10 minutes. Many new connections were made – some that resulted in planning for SOT proposals for next year!

Our special feature this year was our guest speaker, [Elizabeth K. Weisburger](#).

Elizabeth established the endowment fund to honor Vera W. Hudson and her contributions to Toxicology. The endowment fund awarded its first winner this year and Elizabeth proudly presented the award (see later feature for winner details).

Elizabeth shared her experiences and motivated the group with her enthusiasm and support for the field. We are very grateful to Elizabeth for making the trip to the reception and presenting the first ever Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K Weisburger Award!!



Vera Hudson

To show our support for the endowment, we 'passed the hat' and collected \$267 for the fund. With matching gift and SOT endowment fund matches, we raised over \$1000 for this student fund!! Thank you WIT members for your generosity!

2009 WIT AWARD WINNERS

ELSEVIER MENTORING AWARD!

Congratulations to Dr. Yvonne Wan - this year's winner of the Elsevier Mentoring Award!

This award is made possible by a generous \$10,000 grant from the Elsevier Foundation. Its purpose is to further the WIT mission and the mission of the Society of Toxicology.

An important mission of WIT includes mentoring to support the career growth of women in toxicology and to guide young women considering careers in toxicology.

This award rewards and encourages individuals who, by their outstanding roles as mentors, have made important contributions to women in the field of toxicology. An award of \$3,300 is presented to the winner of the Elsevier Mentoring Award.



New Student Endowment Fund Award -- Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Award

- Fund established to honor Vera W. Hudson and her contributions to the field of toxicology, including development of the National Library of Medicine Hazardous Substances Database.
- A Scholarship to fund for individuals, with a preference for women, pursuing graduate studies in the field of toxicology.
- 2009 is the first year for awarding this scholarship and we're pleased to announce the winner:



**Dr. Yvonne Wan
with Dr. Curtis Klaassen
University of Kansas**

Courtney Kozul

Doctoral Candidate

Experimental and Molecular Medicine

Dartmouth School of Medicine

Advisor: J. Hamilton, PhD

WIT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The WIT Student Achievement Award recognizes SOT student members (graduate students or postdoctoral fellows) for achievements in two areas: 1) academic scholarship/research in toxicology and 2) leadership and service in their chosen field and the broader community. Winners receive an engraved plaque and cash award.

Congratulations to our 2009 winners!!

Elizabeth Vancza

Doctoral Candidate

School of Medicine,

New York University

Advisor: T. Gordon, PhD

Betina Lew, PhD

Postdoctoral Research

University of Rochester

Department of Environmental Medicine

Advisor: P. Lawrence, PhD



Hudson & Weisburger Award winner:

Courtney Kozul with Elizabeth K. Weisburger (left) & Melissa Rhodes (right)

Mentoring Committee

By Brinda Mahadevan

New Column: Message from a Mentor

We would like to initiate a new column called "Message from a Mentor" in the WIT newsletter. There are many WIT members

who have been in the field of Toxicology for a long time and have interesting perspectives and nuggets of advice to offer in planning for success and career satisfaction. If you would like to share your experiences on career development, networking, work/life balance or would simply like to reflect on your lives, please forward your contribution to brinda.mahadevan@spcorp.com (Brinda Mahadevan) for inclusion in the next WIT newsletter (January 2010).

Awards Committee Report By Leigh Ann Burns Naas

Some time ago, I attended the Awards Ceremony at the SOT Annual Meeting. I knew someone who was being recognized and, as a proud friend, I wanted to be there to see them get their award. As others received their awards I remembered thinking that I knew people whom I thought would be deserving of specific awards. I wondered if the SOT Awards Committee knew any of these people? At the time, that was the extent of my involvement – just a passing thought of deserving individuals. I was under the impression that since the Awards Committee selected the individuals; they must come up with the names as well. I wasn't aware then that I had an opportunity to influence the outcome of the selection simply by making the effort to spearhead a nomination of someone I thought would be deserving!

At the WIT reception during the Annual Meeting in Baltimore, both Laura and Stacie encouraged our WIT membership to take an active part in the submission of nominations of women for the variety of awards presented by the SOT, including those given at the National level and those presented by the Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups. On the SOT Awards website, you can also find links to the various awards provided by the Regional Chapters, Specialty Sections, and Special Interest Groups, along with the deadlines, criteria, and package information. In [Table 1 below is a summary of the awards presented by WIT.](#)

The deadline for submission of these awards is [January 11, 2010](#), and all packages should be submitted electronically directly to Leigh Ann Burns Naas (leighann.burns@pfizer.com).

Please think about deserving women in toxicology and nominate them for these awards! I know you know someone! If you need help with the submissions, feel free to contact anyone on the WIT Executive Committee.

Student's Corner By Courtney Kozul

The Women in Toxicology (WIT) Special Interest Group (SIG) is invested in promoting the recruitment and retention of women to a profession in the toxicological sciences. The group provides leadership and mentoring for career development opportunities for women toxicologists. In addition, WIT also promotes and recognizes the accomplishments of women toxicologists. This SIG is also responsible for sponsoring scientific and educational programs including symposia, poster and platform sessions, workshops, and continuing education courses, on current scientific information and scientific policy issues that advance the science of toxicology. At the 2009 SOT meeting in Baltimore, the WIT Reception was a grand success. The 2009 Student Award winners included: Elizabeth Vancza of NYU (Student Award), Courtney Kozul of Dartmouth Medical School (Hudson-Weisburger Award) and Betina Lew of the University of Rochester (Postdoc Award).

Please consider joining WIT and applying for a WIT award at the 2010 meeting.

Women in Toxicology SIG Student Awards

Student Achievement Award will be given to a SOT student member who has demonstrated academic achievement in the field of toxicology and who has provided leadership and service in their chosen field and/or their community. This award consists

of a plaque and \$300 cash.

Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Award will be given to a SOT graduate student member (current or pending member) engaged in full-time graduate study towards a Ph.D. degree in toxicology. The Award Committee's evaluation is based exclusively on scholastic achievement, demonstration of leadership, relevance of thesis to toxicology, and letters of recommendation. This award consists of a plaque, and a \$2000 cash stipend to be used for tuition payment, and/or other education and research-related expenses, including travel. All applications must be submitted electronically to **Leigh Ann Burns Naas** (leighann.burns@pfizer.com) by January 11, 2010. For details on these and other awards, please visit our webpage: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/sig/wit/index.asp>

As you renew your SOT membership, don't forget to join WIT-SIG and existing members renew your membership as we plan for exciting opportunities and activities at the SOT meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, 2010. Information about how to join WIT is available on our website. Student membership is open to all graduate students.

Monitoring and Visibility Committee By Stacie Wild

The Monitoring and Visibility Committee was established in 2007 to enable WIT to keep track of progress (or lack of progress) in receipt of SOT awards by women and appointment/election of women to leadership positions in SOT. The committee will promote visibility of women in leadership positions and encourage women to seek such positions and serve as role models for women entering the field. The Monitoring and Visibility Committee has been active over the last two years and supported the nomination of women for both

the Elsevier Mentoring award as well as SOT National Awards. These nominations allow women to be recognized for their contributions to the field of toxicology. Recent members of the Monitoring and Visibility Committee are:

MONITORING & VISIBILITY COMMITTEE

Michelle Hooth (Chair), Laura Andrews, Carol Auletta, Maryka Bhattacharyya, Linda Birnbaum, Ofelia Olivero, Melissa Rhodes, Sharmilee Sawant

I'd like to thank **Michelle Hooth** for chairing this committee for the last two years – the group has nominated several women for SOT Awards and have seen success in at least 2 winners... Thanks Michelle!

The Monitoring and Visibility is looking for new voices to join in and help in promoting this important initiative. The committee meets by teleconference several times a year and aids in nominating women for awards and monitoring the number of women in the society and their contributions. If you would like to participate in the Monitoring and Visibility Committee, please contact **Stacie Wild**, swild@amgen.com



New Mom...Young Children...SOT – Can it work??

If you want to attend SOT, but are trying to juggle the family too, don't miss the meeting in Salt Lake. Parents who require child care during the SOT convention may make arrangements by *calling your hotel concierge* who will be able to assist you with recommendations for child care services.

**Call for Officer Nominations
By Stacie Wild**

I've had the privilege to be a member of the WIT Council for several years and to have worked with several wonderful women that are very energetic, motivating, and inspiring. I am impressed by our WIT members and their commitment to our SIG. They support us by continuing to be members and attending our receptions. I encourage you to have the opportunity to work with a great group of women and to put your name on the ballot for one of our open positions for 2010-2011. Please consider:

Vice-President Elect (4 year term)

Councillor (2 year term)

Secretary Treasurer (2 year term)

Graduate Student Representative

Post-Doctoral Representative

Ballots will be submitted in December. If you are interested in running for one of these open positions, please contact [Stacie Wild, swild@amgen.com](mailto:swild@amgen.com)

SOT is turning 50!!!

Did you know that in 2011, the Society of Toxicology will be celebrating its 50th year?? And no, it's not over the hill.....we're just in our prime! Women in Toxicology would like to honor the women of our society at the SOT 50th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC in March 2011. We're looking for volunteers to participate in our WIT 50th Anniversary Planning Committee --- please contact Stacie Wild (swild@amgen.com) if you would like join in!!

Table 1. Awards Presented by the Women in Toxicology Special Interest Group

WIT Award	Description	Criteria	Information Required in Package
Elsevier Mentoring Award	<p>An important mission of WIT includes mentoring to support the career growth of women in toxicology and to guide young women considering careers in toxicology. The Elsevier Mentoring Award will be used to recognize and encourage individuals who, by their outstanding roles as mentors, have made important contributions to women in the field of toxicology.</p> <p>An annual award of \$3,300 will be presented.</p>	<p>An individual (male or female) in academia, government, industry, or a related field who has been a major influence in the mentoring of women scientists entering the field of toxicology and/or whose leadership and service have provided career development opportunities for women toxicologists or encouraged women to achieve their professional goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter of nomination that discusses the role that the nominee has played to support and promote women in the field of toxicology • CV of nominee • A minimum of 2 additional letters of recommendation <p>Letters should include documentation and description of the extent of mentoring impact, as partly reflected in numbers of individuals affected, quality of mentoring, and contributions to toxicology by individuals mentored.</p>
Student Achievement Award	<p>This award shall be given to a SOT student member who has demonstrated academic achievement in the field of toxicology and who has provided leadership and service in their chosen field and/or their community.</p> <p>Winner receives an engraved plaque and a \$300 cash award.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOT Student Member (current or pending member; graduate student or postdoctoral fellow) • WIT membership not required, but nominees are strongly encouraged to join 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of recommendation from the student's advisor • <i>Curriculum vitae</i> of the nominee which includes specific descriptions of the student's academic and leadership qualifications
Vera W. Hudson & Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Award (form online)	<p>Elizabeth K. Weisburger, a member of the SOT for over 35 years, has made pioneering contributions in cancer biology and toxicology. She has served as a role model for other women scientists. Vera W. Hudson was a Biologist and Information Specialist at the National Library of Medicine for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolled in Ph.D. program in the discipline of toxicology • Student member or pending student member of the Society at application deadline • Advanced to candidacy for PhD at the time of the application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 page narrative describing research hypothesis, background, and significance • Transcripts of current graduate study • Letter of support from research advisor/mentor and a second letter of support (one of which should be a member of SOT) • Copy of the nominee's CV

	<p>many years and had a key role in developing the NLM Hazardous Substance Database. This scholarship is made possible by the SOT Endowment Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund. This award shall be given to a SOT graduate student member engaged in full-time graduate study towards a PhD degree in toxicology who has demonstrated academic achievement in the field of toxicology and who has provided leadership and service in their chosen field and/or their community. Applicants for the Award are not precluded from applying for travel support or other SOT Awards.</p> <p>This award consists of a plaque, and a \$2000 cash stipend to be used for tuition payment and/or other education and research-related expenses, including travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of work to toxicology • Has an accepted abstract for the SOT Annual Meeting in which the award is given • Scholastic achievement • Demonstrated leadership (professionally and/or in the community) 	<p>The Award Committee's evaluation is based exclusively on scholastic achievement, demonstration of leadership, relevance of thesis to toxicology, and letters of recommendation. Finalists will be interviewed by phone prior to selection of the award winner. Nominees who are not WIT members are strongly encouraged to join.</p>
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