Women in Toxicology

May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015

I. Officers/Committees:

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<td>President:</td>
<td>Prathibha Rao</td>
<td>Brenda Faiola</td>
<td>Tao Wang</td>
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<td>President-Elect:</td>
<td>Brenda Faiola</td>
<td>Tao Wang</td>
<td>Sharmilee P Sawant</td>
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<td>Vice President:</td>
<td>Tao Wang</td>
<td>Sharmilee P Sawant</td>
<td>Laurie Haws</td>
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<td>Secretary/Treasurer:</td>
<td>Kristy Kutanzi</td>
<td>Courtney D Horvath</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Kristina Chadwick</td>
<td>Prathibha Rao</td>
<td>Brenda Faiola</td>
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<td>Sr. Councilor:</td>
<td>Heather Dowty</td>
<td>Laurie Haws</td>
<td>Alexandra Lau</td>
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<td>Jr. Councilor:</td>
<td>Laurie Haws</td>
<td>Alexandra Lau</td>
<td>Marie C. Fortin</td>
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<td>PDA Representative:</td>
<td>Phoebe Stapleton</td>
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<td>Jaime Mirowsky</td>
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<td>GSLC Representative:</td>
<td>Brittany Baisch</td>
<td>Jessica Sapiro</td>
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Committees:

1. Awards Nomination Committee (begun this term as ad hoc committee and made a standing committee per the by-laws amendments passed Nov 2014):
   a. Members:
      i. From WIT EC: Tao Wang (Chair), Sharmilee Sawant (Co-Chair), Alex Lau, Jessica Sapiro
      ii. From WIT membership: Ellisa Wong, Mary Francis, Natalie Holman, Arya Sobhakumari, Brittany Baisch
   b. Purpose: Identify outstanding female candidates for national SOT awards, facilitate application submission; included WIT endorsement letter with the submission
   c. Accomplishments: 5 candidates nominated in 2014 for 2015 Awards (one for each of the following awards)
      i. Achievement Award
      ii. Arnold J. Lehman Award
      iii. Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award
      iv. Education Award
      v. Merit Award

2. Program Committee:
   a. Members:
      i. From WIT EC: Tao Wang (Chair), Sharmilee Sawant (Co-Chair), Courtney Horvath, Jessica Sapiro
      ii. From WIT membership: Krishna Allamneni, Brittany Baisch
   b. Purpose: Review scientific and continuing education session proposals submitted for the 2015 Annual SOT meeting
   c. Accomplishments: 6 scientific session proposals seeking WIT endorsement; All were pre-reviewed, 4 were endorsed, 3 were ultimately accepted by the SOT Program Committee (see below); Call for proposals for the 2016 SOT annual meeting was made at the WIT reception on 25 March 2015.
3. Election Committee:
   a. Members:
      i. From WIT EC: Prathibha Rao (Chair), Brenda Faiola, Sharmilee Sawant, Tao Wang, Courtney Horvath, Laurie Haws, Alex Lau, Phoebe Stapleton, Jessica Sapiro
      ii. From WIT membership: N/A
   b. Purpose: Solicit qualified nominees for open WIT EC positions for election ballot
   c. Accomplishments: Selected 2 candidates for Vice President, 2 candidates for Jr. Councilor and 3 candidates for post-doctoral representative to be placed on the ballot; Election results announced at the WIT reception on 25 March 2015.

4. Outreach Committee:
   a. Members:
      i. From WIT EC: Brenda Faiola (Chair), Tao Wang, Sharmilee Sawant, Prathibha Rao, Courtney Horvath (in charge of newsletter), Laurie Haws, Alex Lau, Phoebe Stapleton (WIT liaison to SOT K-12 committee), Jessica Sapiro (WIT website liaison)
      ii. From WIT membership: Linda Rauch and Margaret Pratt (newsletter editing/formatting); Elissa Wong, Cara Sherwood, Brittany Baisch, Sol Bobst, Sneha Bhatia, Kristina Chadwick, Brinda Mahadevan, Mark Miller, William Mattes, Martha Moore and Julie Clements (authored or co-authored article for newsletter)
   b. Purpose: Communication with WIT membership
   c. Accomplishments:
      i. WIT newsletter: Published 2 issues (September 2014 and March 2015); started new feature called “Celebrating Your Success” to allow recognition of WIT member accomplishments.
      ii. K-12 outreach activities (that the WIT EC is aware of):
         1. Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Conference - Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program at the University of Arizona, October 2014; WIT Member participants: Jessica Sapiro, Cara Sherwood
         2. Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass STEM Conference and Expo., 15March 2015; WIT Member participant: Courtney Horvath
         3. Girl Scout Event in Northern California, April 2014; WIT Member participant: Tao Wang
         4. San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering Expo Day, 21March2015; 10+ WIT members participating
      iii. Website updates: Multiple updates throughout the term, particularly the awards page, upcoming events page, and others
      iv. SOT Communique: Brenda collaborated with Clarissa Russell on the following article in the Summer/Fall 2014 edition: “SOT Announces the Creation of the Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award Endowment Fund” (released 19June2014 as blog post)

5. WIT Awards Committee:
   a. Members:
      i. From WIT EC: Laurie Haws (Chair), Alex Lau (Co-Chair)
ii. From WIT membership: Sneha Bhatia, Kirby Tyndall, Jennifer Pierson, Ellen Baker, Alea Bunch (committee support; non-reviewer)
b. Purpose: Review applications submitted for all WIT awards and provide recommendations to EC for the winner(s) for each award
c. Accomplishments: 56 Application packets reviewed (breakdown below)
   i. Mentoring Award: 3
   ii. Hudson & Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Award: 14
   iii. Graduate Student Achievement Award: 28
   iv. Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement Award: 11
6. Ad hoc committee created for handling the rollout of the new Endowment Fund: Celebrating Women in Toxicology (CWiT) Award Fund
   a. Members:
      i. From WIT EC: Prathibha Rao (Chair), Brenda Faiola, Courtney Horvath
      ii. From WIT membership: Brittany Baisch
   b. Purpose: Raise awareness within WIT of this new Endowment Fund to facilitate raising funds for the endowment
   c. Accomplishments: Designed a logo for the fund; crafted email blasts and newsletter articles about the CWiT Award Fund. Announced creation of the fund to the general WIT membership in June, 2015.

II. Activities:
1. 2015 SOT Annual Meeting Reception was held in San Diego, California on 25 March 2015 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Approximately 200 people were in attendance. Dr. Brenda Faiola called the business meeting portion of the reception to order at approximately 5 pm following the initial 30 minutes of mingling and refreshment time. The agenda for the reception was as follows:
   4:30 – Networking/Socializing
   5:00 – Main Program
      WIT Executive Committee Introductions
      WIT Highlights
      Committee Updates
      Awards Nomination Committee
      Program Committee
      Election Committee
      Outreach Committee
      WIT Awards Committee
      Awards Presentation

WIT Award Winners:
  Mentoring Award – Judith T. Zelikoff, PhD; New York University School of Medicine; Dept of Environmental Medicine

  Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Award – 1st place: Andrée-Anne Hudon Thibeault, INRS-Armand-Frappier Institute (Laval, Canada)
  Honorable mention: Jessica Sapiro, University of Arizona
Graduate Student Achievement Award –
1\textsuperscript{st} Place (tie): Alexandra Colón-Rodríguez, Michigan State University
1\textsuperscript{st} Place (tie): Kristin M. Bircsak, Rutgers University

Postdoctoral Achievement Award –
1\textsuperscript{st} Place: Melissa A. Badding, Ph.D., National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
Honorable Mention: Jaime E. Mirowsky, Ph.D., University of North Carolina

SOT Award Winner from WIT EC: Jessica Sapiro, Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) Award

2. 2015 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions Endorsed by WIT:
   a. Workshop Session: Infant Formula Nutrition: Regulatory and Safety Evaluation of Ingredients Concerns
   b. Workshop Session: Toxicological Epigenomics: The Interface Between the Environment and Human Health
   c. Education-Career Development: Challenges in the Life Cycle of a Toxicologist

3. Endowment Fund Details:
   a. Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund – Established October 2007; fully funded; Award given to a graduate student
   b. Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award Fund - approved by Endowment Fund Board on 25 March 2014; Established May 2015; Announced to WIT membership in June 2015; $8000 initial donation; need to raise $17,000 within 3 years; if meet this goal of $25,000 then SOT will match with $25,000 and WIT will be able to use funds for award(s).

4. Newsletters: See above under Outreach Committee – 2 newsletters published

5. Teleseminars: None

6. White Papers: None

7. Contributions to SOT website: See above under Outreach Committee – several updates to WIT webpage throughout the term; collaborate on an article for the Communique

8. Other Special Interest Group 2014-2015 Activities:
   b. Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA): Phoebe Stapleton
   c. Graduate Student Leadership Committee: Jessica Sapiro
   d. Amend the WIT Bylaws – previously amended January 2008; updated to align with current practices and expand membership as follows:
      i. Added Graduate Student Rep and Postdoctoral Rep
         a. Both are full voting members of WIT EC
b. PD rep is elected position
   c. Grad Student rep is appointed
   
   ii. Extended WIT membership to Undergraduates
   iii. Updated Standing Committees
       a. Added Awards Nomination Committee (see above)
   iv. Bylaws amendment process and elections clarified

   e. WIT Executive Committee Teleconferences
   i. 24 April 2014 (transition meeting with outgoing and incoming EC members)
   ii. 03 June 2014
   iii. 01 July 2014
   iv. 05 August 2014
   v. 02 September 2014
   vi. 07 October 2014
   vii. 06 November 2014
   viii. 02 December 2014
   ix. 06 January 2015
   x. 03 February 2015
   xi. 03 March 2015
   xii. 24 March 2015 (Face to Face at National Meeting with dial-in for those not in attendance)
   xiii. 07 April 2015 (transition meeting with outgoing and incoming EC members)