**Policies and procedures**

**Background**

Although our membership meets once a year at the SOT annual meeting, our mission ties us to each other at all times throughout the year. The objectives of the Women in Toxicology (WIT) Special Interest Group of the Society of Toxicology are:

- To promote the recruitment and retention of women to a profession in the toxicological sciences.
- To provide leadership for career development opportunities for women toxicologists.
- To promote and recognize the accomplishments of women toxicologists.
- To sponsor and/or endorse 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.

Terrific resources are readily available through SOT such as ToXchange, JobBank, and the Communique. While promoting the usage of these available online resources, after much discussion and test runs, we are now releasing a private LinkedIn group that would provide a platform for WIT members to discuss scientific questions, and to network. The LinkedIn group can also complement those resources by capitalizing on a network for our members at all career stages.

**Purpose and Use**

The purpose of the LinkedIn group is to facilitate networking and mentorship through the course of the year by providing a platform that is convenient and accessible. Possible specific uses include:

- Enable scientific discussions among WIT members
- Facilitate networking and mentoring among WIT members
- Share information on available jobs that have been published in JobBank
- Share SOT meeting and other meeting announcements that have been posted on ToXchange
- Share links to SOT communiqué and SOT Blog articles that are located on ToXchange
- Share links to WIT newsletter

**Group owner and manager**

The group “owner” is womenintox@gmail.com. A member of the WIT EC will serve as the manager.

Group name is SOT – Women in toxicology
Members

WIT members only (if not a WIT member, admission to the group will be denied until WIT membership is obtained).

Membership settings options

Request to Join: Users must request to join the group and be approved by the manager. Group manager must review each request and cross reference with the WIT membership roster.

Member permissions and restrictions

Job postings will be limited to the jobs that have already been posted in JobBank. Promotions and Jobs Features will not be enabled. If the Jobs and Promotions tabs are enabled, LinkedIn moves job postings and promotions from the Discussion tab into these tabs. By not enabling it, job postings and promotions will be added to the submission queue for Moderator approval. No restrictions on posts of scientific discussions and comments. The screening occurs by allowing only WIT members to be part of the group. Manager is responsible for monitoring the posts on a regular basis and may remove posts deemed by the WIT EC to be inappropriate.

Group settings options

Display this group in the Groups Directory. Allow members to display the logo on their profiles.

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ToXchange is SOT collaborative resource and business tool!

- It helps facilitate the important work that is accomplished by the membership and the efforts of the volunteer leaders.
- It serves as a historical reference. As members rotate or change their activity level, the discussion forum, announcements, and files are available as resources to gain an understanding of why decisions were made or as a refresher.
- It is a central location to conduct SOT business and leadership activities.
- It is a central location to disseminate and locate information about SOT and related activities.
- It helps facilitate sharing information with others—whether it is a specific group, the SOT membership, nonmembers, or social media such as Twitter or LinkedIn.

Every leadership group within SOT has a community established that is restricted to the approved participants—typically members of the respective group. SOT leadership activities are enhanced through ToXchange. Each group has:

- A **distribution list** that enables easy communication via your email—and the messages are recorded in the ToXchange discussion forum within the community.
- A **file library** to store information pertaining to your group.
- A **group roster** with pictures—it's an easy way to put a face with a name.