WIT Officer’s Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2003, 7:10 am MST
Salt Lake City, UT

Members in Attendance:
Kristina Dam, Michelle Hooth, Julie Kimbell, Ginger Moser, Eva Oberdörster,
Stephanie Padilla and Rita Turkall

1. WIT Reception
   Wednesday night, 6-7:30 pm, Salt Lake Palace Ballroom I. Michelle will
   provide an introduction to WIT and then introduce Marion Ehrich (SOT
   President elect) and Linda Birnbaum (SOT Vice President elect) to
   address “How SOT can help WIT achieve its goals”.

   There was a discussion about the role of WIT in developing scientific
   symposia and continuing education courses given that most of our
   members belong to additional Specialty Sections related to their
   disciplines. In addition, the concern is that WIT may get ‘pigeon-holed’
   into only representing women’s health issues. While WIT will support
   these efforts, there was a consensus among the members present to work
   with the Education committee and Placement committee to support
   mentoring and career-related topics that are more consistent with the
   mission and goals of WIT.

2. Finances
   The registration fee to attend the SOT annual meeting was increased by
   $10 for regular members, $20 for non-members and $5 for students so
   that the Specialty Section membership fee could be decreased to $15.
   Further, the revenue from the increased registration fee will go directly to
   the Specialty Sections, based on the number of Specialty Section
   members that attend the national meeting (28.5 people for WIT). If
   attendees are members of more than one Specialty Section, the $10 will
   be divided amongst the multiple Sections.

   2003 is the last year WIT will receive funding from SOT (aside from dues
   and meeting registration fee portion).

3. Childcare
   Located in the Marriott across from the Salt Palace and run by KiddieCorp.
   Julie Kimbell indicates that the facilities are very nice, clean and well
   staffed. At drop-off, a picture is taken of the parents and children together
   and only the people in the picture may pick-up the children. There were
   9 children pre-registered. Approximately 14 children were there on March
   10, 10 on March 11 and 10 on March 12. The cost of childcare is
   $7.50/hour/child, which is significantly less than in-room babysitting and
   provides multiple activities for the children that would be absent with in-
room care. SOT has already subsidized >50% of the cost for childcare and will also make-up any amount that the parent contributions do not cover.

In the future, WIT would like to see the broadcast of childcare availability improved. The official SOT photographer took pictures of the children and SOT HQ received permission from the parents to use the pictures in future publications.

4. WIT Awards
Rita Turkall and Stephanie Padilla will put together a committee for establishing the criteria for WIT awards. We discussed the early framework for the awards that was written by Michelle Hooth. We are thinking there will be an award for established scientists (male or female) and for a student WIT member. For the student the amount of the award is being discussed (a goal of the award is to provide financial support to the student without having a major impact on WIT’s finances). Stephanie Padilla suggested investigating outside sponsorship for the awards. For the established scientists, a ‘service’ award for general mentorship (don’t want to restrict ourselves to females only), something like “mentorship of early career scientists, particularly women”. Letters of support would provide a good method for evaluation.

5. Hormone Replacement Therapy Symposium
The proposal is due to SOT by April 30 with an additional week to get endorsements and prioritize. The program committee meets May 20.

Ginger Moser has contacted the Risk Assessment, Epidemiology, Regulatory and Safety Assessment and Reproductive/Developmental Specialty Sections for symposium co-support with WIT. All are willing to endorse, at least. SOT will pay the travel expenses of one outside speaker.

WISE is also setting up a similar symposium, may be able to get speaker recommendations from them. Ginger spoke to Lisa Rarick an OB/Gyn from FDA, she may be able to provide a clinical and FDA prospective. Other possible topics include: overview of why the clinical trials were stopped, toxicology issues (animal vs. human studies, rodent models), differences in formulations, how to harness the beneficial portion of estrogen while avoiding the negative side effects (Donald McDonnell from Duke?), how to use these results from a risk management point of view.

Addendum to the Minutes:
The WIT reception was attended by 55-60 people.