Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Society of Toxicology

Executive Committee (EC) Teleconference Call
13 Dec 2017
1:00 pm (EST), 12:00 pm (CST), 11:00 am (MST), 10:00 am (PST)

Attendees:

Janis Hulla (JH, Vice President)
Jenny Cohen (JC, Junior Councilor)
Brittany Baisch (BB, Secretary/Treasurer)
Alison Sanders (AS, Postdoc Rep)
Lauren Walker (LW, Student Rep)
Laurie Haws (LH, President)
Nadia Moore (NM, Senior Councilor)
Betina Lew (BL, President Elect)
Sharmilee Sawant (SS, Past President)

Agenda:

1. Annual Meeting preparation – BL, SS and LH EC breakfast meeting, WIT reception, food, poster, slide deck, Charles River follow up re: award support, MPI follow up re: wine for reception (Sharmilee, Laurie, Betina)
   a. EC Breakfast Meeting and WIT Reception: Hotel reservations were set up, including times and rooms.
   b. 200 attendees expected, BL will check with Ashley Black to determine if there is a commitment minimum for the food and beverage - SS and LH noted this was nonstandard based on historical WIT receptions and that there should be follow up to clarify. BL will check with Ashley Black regarding SOT Council and keeping the receptions at the hotels to check on financial incentives.
   c. SS reached out MPI Research regarding the wine and is pending a response.
2. WIT Election Committee update - SS
   a. The Nominating Committee reviewed candidates’ biosketches and CV’s and provided scores.
   b. Based on the scoring, the two top candidates for each position were chosen for the WIT election ballot. The positions are: Postdoctoral representative, vice-president, junior councilor, and secretary/treasurer
   c. Out of the pool of graduate student representative candidates, the Nominating Committee selected Lauren Lewis as the top candidate and recommended that the EC support her selection as the incoming graduate student representative
3. WIT Awards Committee status update – NM and JC
   a. Now reviewing the awards that were due December 4th.
   b. Award packets – dollar amounts need to be determined, possibly $1,000 each
      i. Charles River is sponsoring $500 of the Mentoring Award, thus far
ii. CWiT – potentially one for postdoctoral fellow and one for a graduate student

iii. H-W Award – the number of awards will depend on the quality of submissions and how many candidates emerge as most excellent

iv. Young Investigator – no applicants this year

c. In WIT Reception slide deck have suggestions for how to be nominated and apply for awards – JH volunteered to draft slides to encourage members to self-nominate for WIT Awards

4. Mentoring Initiative matching funds - LH and BL (see email from Marie Fortin on 11/22/17) – applications are due 12/31
   a. WIT can put money forward and can be potentially matched by CRAD
   b. BL proposed a platform/presentation for resources for dealing with harassment and possible webinar roll out
   c. The WIT EC noted that the application deadline was rapidly approaching and due to the holidays are not able to commit to assisting with the initiative.
   d. The WIT EC voted to table this item to after the new year, since it appears there will be other rounds for this initiative

5. WIT winter newsletter update - BB
   a. President’s message – Laurie to provide 12/27
   b. Announcements – reminder to update your profile for SOT
   c. Interview Marie on mentoring initiative – perhaps for future newsletter
   d. Webinar recap – BL and LW, recap on webinar
   e. New webinar announcement – upcoming webinar – JC and BL scheduled for February. Link for registration can be provided in the newsletter.
   f. Awardee spotlight from who was past winner and where are they now (5 years ago...) – LW – perhaps for annual meeting newsletter
   g. Cluster collage of WIT members doing the hobbies they love- as a follow up to the work-life balance webinar. JH proposed to have these photos repurposed as the background on the projection screen to show during the social portion of the WIT Reception.
   h. Self-promotion and self-nomination is acceptable – JH and JC
   i. Endowment Fund Update – JC – can provide after 1/5
   j. Celebrate your success – standard article

6. Next WIT webinar-update BL and JC
   a. Recruiter for toxicologists and US EPA Director to discuss resumes as related to job interviews

7. Creating resources to respond to harassment in the workplace (JH and AS) – article discusses empowering the bystander which is a different focus from educating members on what is harassment and how to identify it from a victim’s standpoint.

8. Other business (All) – Ashley Black’s email from 12/7 – ordering checks and plaques
   a. Update – NM and JC have ordered the checks and plaques for the 2018 WIT Award winners