Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Society of Toxicology
Executive Committee (EC) Teleconference Call
16 Oct 2017
1:00 pm (EDT), 12:00 pm (CDT), 11:00 am (MDT), 10:00 am (PDT)

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. SOT Awards Committee status update-final slate (BL/JH)
   a. Completed and uploaded four strong applications for SOT National Award nominations, but one is tabled to next year due to the storm activity in the Gulf.
   b. If WIT EC is able to identify candidates for awards, the strength and excellence of applications needs to always be considered

2. WIT Awards Committee status update (NM/JC)
   a. Email sent from SOT HQ on October 10th, detailing the deadlines and instructions

3. Next WIT webinar-update (BL/JC)
   a. BL and JC are meeting later today to discuss next webinar on CV and resumes
      i. One speaker with expertise in recruiting for industry and consulting and potentially another to address needs for academia.
      ii. BB proposed possibility of a speaker for government type applications due to the specificity and length of the applications. JH and BL mentioned Peter Gehring as a potential resource due to his position and experience at FDA.
      iii. Target date for the webinar is for this budget year (which ends next May or June), in January after the holidays may be better for attendance. Update after the meeting: the webinar will be in February.

4. Creating resources to respond to sexual harassment in the workplace (JH/AS) – WIT EC should review slides and reply with comments to JH within 1 week
   a. Background - SOT policy in place for employees of SOT, does not seem like a resource for those who are members of SOT. WIT wants to create a resource, something to be posted for our members to utilize.
   b. JH resent sets of slides on sexual harassment – resources of where to go if harassed. WIT EC agreed to provide feedback to JH on content and which slides are of interest for a potential webinar, newsletter article/announcement, WIT Reception slides, for the WIT website, ToxChange blog announcement, or for the SOT website.
c. John Norman “Norm” – contact at ELSI SS who was interested in this topic as well. BL will follow up with Norm to see if she can pass his contact info onto JH.
d. General feedback
i. AS - Regardless of how this is shared, it will be a step forward when compared to what is in place today. Perhaps not all methods of sharing or educating on this knowledge base need to happen at once.
ii. BB - Expressed that recommendations should be formalized and come to completion before sharing with membership.
iii. LH - Noted that for SOT website there may need to be additional approvals within SOT HQ and that the content or format may influence how we share with our membership. SS added that webinar Q&A may be tough to facilitate.
iv. BL - Noted that you need to request SOT HQ resources and HQ may be able to help gauge the format.
v. JC - Advocated to highlight this at the SOT WIT reception, because many of our members can be reached at one time and the and critical information can be made available after the meeting.

5. Other business – newsletter (BB)
a. President’s Message – LH
b. WIT Webinar recap and announcement for spring webinar – LW and BL
c. WIT Endowment Fund update – JC
   i. CWiT there is ~107k, we can use $4,200 (4%) for awards, and in H-W there is 86k, so $3,450 available for awards.
d. Thank you to 2017 volunteers – LH and WIT EC committee chairs
e. Announcement for updating profiles - BB
f. Ideas for future Mentoring article – Mentors who are not your manager/PI/advisory committee
g. Ideas for Education/Outreach activities – maybe a spotlight on several individuals rather than a single article – profile pictures of volunteers with a who/what/where/when/how/why quick synopsis of the education activity.
h. Celebrating Your Success – ballot extended to 10/31 so more members can respond. A future opportunity to highlight graduate students by adding sections for internships, scholarships and modifying the career transitions section to include acceptances to graduate/medical schools and postdoc positions. Some may be hesitant to include this information – we can send a blast email to membership when the next survey is announced to encourage members to fill in those accomplishments.

6. WIT Call for officer nominations – SS
a. Nominations for the ballot for 2018-2019 before the holidays.
b. Two people on the ballot for each position is appropriate based on the number of voters. Voting will be in December/January.
c. Whoever is on WIT EC can be a part of the nominating committee. Strong candidates are desired but not necessarily past WIT service – just strong service in other areas of SOT or professionally is good. The membership will then decide between choices from there.

The next WIT EC call is scheduled for Monday, November 20th at 1:00 EDT (12:00 CDT, 11:00 MDT, 10:00 PDT), using LH’s call-in information. The November WIT EC call was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.