Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group

Society of Toxicology

Teleconference Meeting

24 April 2014

2:00 pm (EDT), 1:00 pm (CDT), 12:00 pm (MDT), 11:00 am (PDT)

Attendees: Prathibha Rao, Brenda Faiola, Heather Dowty, Kristy Kutanzi, Brittany Baisch, Phoebe Stapleton, Courtney Horvath, Sharmilee Sawant, Jessica Sapiro

Regrets: Laurie Haws, Alex Lau, Tao Wang, Kristina Chadwick

Agenda and Discussions:

1) Rotation of WIT EC Members

The WIT EC welcomes Courtney Horvath (Secretary/Treasurer), Alexandria Lau (Jr. Councilor), and Sharmilee Sawant (Vice President). Thank you to Kristy Kutanzi, Kristina Chadwick, Heather Dowty and Brittany Baisch who will be rotating off the WIT EC as of May 1st, 2014, for their time and commitment.

2) Leadership Connection Webinars

Courtney and Jessica volunteered to attend and report back on the April 29th Leadership Connection Webinar offered by SOT to help EC members learn more about their role as an Officer and to become familiar with SOT resources and administrative processes. Two additional Leadership Connection Webinars will be held on May 27th and June 17th.

3) SOT Annual Meeting Update

a) The reception was well attended with ~150 people present throughout the evening (as estimated by the number of WiTrio stickers handed out at the door by Brittany, Jessica, and Phoebe). It was noted that there were many men in attendance as well.

b) Prathibha reported on the informational session, “Leadership in Science: Skills and Styles”, chaired by Brinda and co-chaired by Prathibha on Wednesday, March 26th from 4:30 pm-5:50 pm. Kevin was able to scan the badges of ~half the attendees as they left the session and surveys were sent out to them for feedback. Approximately 30 people responded, some asking for real-life examples. Brinda would like to follow-up with another sessional entitled, “Adaptive Leadership: Anticipating, Initiating and Responding to Change”. In the future, it is foreseeable that this theme may be adapted for a CE course.

c) The WIT poster received a lot of traffic during the Student/Postdoctoral Mixer, largely due to the interactive game set up by the GSLC to encourage attendees to view the posters displayed.
4) **WIT Endowment Fund Update**

Prathibha has suggested that the small core group that has been set-up to establish the groundwork for the endowment fund (using the money recently bequeathed to WIT) remain on board to ensure continuity and a smooth progression forward. The current core members include Prathibha Rao, Kristina Chadwick, Brittany Baisch, Heather Dowty, Tao Wang, and Brenda Faiola.

5) **SOT Photo Contest**

WIT awarded Phoebe Stapleton, Postdoctoral Representative, the $500 from the SOT ToXchange photo contest for her outstanding service to WIT.

6) **Mentoring Breakfast Update**

Courtney reported on the success of the 3rd annual Mentoring Breakfast at the SOT meeting in Phoenix. The event required pre-registration and the spots were filled up quickly. To note, there was a number of males participating in the event, either as mentees or facilitators, as compared to the previous years. The Mentoring Breakfast facilitators will have a follow-up teleconference on May 9th to announce the mentee-mentor matches and to provide feedback to next year’s planning committee.

7) **Proposals Committee Update**

Three pre-proposals have been received by the WIT Proposal Review Committee, comprised of Courtney, Brittany, Krishna (general member), Tao, Jessica, and Sharmilee. The deadline for members to submit proposals to the SOT program committee is April 30th, 2014. **Post-meeting note:** The committee will meet May 8th to review 6 proposals. Their recommendations will be given to the WIT EC on a teleconference call May 9th, prior to the May 13th deadline for formal review submission to SOT HQ.

8) **WIT Newsletter Update**

Kristy reviewed the list of material generally posted in the WIT Fall Newsletter:

- President’s Message – Brenda
- WIT award deadlines for 2015 and write up of the award winners for 2014 – Laurie
- Summary of WIT-sponsored and related events at the 2014 SOT Annual Meeting – photos already posted in ToXchange by Brittany and more soon to be made available from the SOT professional photographer; WIT Reception, WiTrio networking event, and photographs of outgoing and ingoing officers if available
- 2014 Mentoring Breakfast – Courtney
- SOT Fun Run Top Female Athletes – ask SOT HQ to release the names of the 3 top female runners
- Female SOT member accomplishments (career milestones, graduations, promotions, etc)

Courtney, as the incoming chair of the newsletter committee, will hereafter be responsible for coordinating the newsletter efforts. Materials will tentatively need to be submitted to
Courtney by August 1st so that the articles can be put together for the WIT EC review late August, prior to releasing the newsletter in September/October. Kristy will reach out to Margaret and Linda to see if they are once again willing to volunteer their time and expertise for the upcoming WIT newsletter. Post-meeting note: Both Margaret and Linda have kindly agreed to share their expertise and time on the 2014-2015 WIT newsletters.

9) Update on Increasing Visibility of WIT Members
Brittany has communicated with SOT HQ on means by which to increase the visibility of WIT members. It was suggested that SOT HQ could send out tweets and post photographs or blurbs on the SOT website in addition to having WIT announce it via their own mechanism (ie. WIT website and newsletter).

10) Update on Undergraduate Membership in WIT
Brittany has been in contact with Betty Eidemiller to determine how undergraduates can connect with and/or become official members of WIT. She reported that there is no formal means by which undergraduates can enroll as members of WIT, as SOT bylaws are written such that membership is restricted to those who have shown substantial contributions to the field of toxicology (membership thus begins at the graduate level). WIT, however, could change its bylaws to incorporate non-SOT members for undergraduates, specifically so that they could then be affiliated with WIT and receive announcements via the WIT list-serve and the WIT newsletter.

11) The next WIT EC meeting TBA by Brenda, the 2014-2015 President of WIT.