Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group
Society of Toxicology
Teleconference
16 October 2013
1:00 pm (EDT), 12:00 pm (CDT), 11:00 am (MDT), 10:00 am (PDT)

Attendees: Prathibha Rao, Brenda Faiola, Tao Wang, Kristina Chadwick, Laurie Haws, Kristy Kutanzi, Brittany Baisch, Phoebe Stapleton

Regrets: Heather Dowty

Agenda and Discussions:

1) Informational Announcement
   a) The South Central Regional Chapter held its annual meeting October 10-11th, 2013 at the Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Due to the government shutdown, many speakers and poster presenters from governmental agencies were unable to attend. The Regional Chapter introduced several new awards that were funded through UAMS in Little Rock, AR, for regulatory science.
   b) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter will be meeting October 23, 2013. The theme of the meeting is “Inhalation Toxicology – Current Risk Perspectives”.

2) Awards Committee Update
   a) Charles River will be continuing their support for the Mentoring ($1000) and Student Achievement ($500) awards. Susan Smith, their representative, will be attending SOT to present the award. She has kept in contact with last year’s Student Achievement award recipient as a mentor, and expressed her interest in becoming involved in the Mentoring Breakfast initiative as a mentor along with another colleague from Charles River Laboratories. Post-Meeting Note: Prathibha forwarded the link to the Mentor-Match database along with details of the mentoring program to Deb Curry.
   b) The WIT EC approved the dollar figure of the Mentoring ($1000), Student Achievement ($500) and Postdoctoral Fellow ($500) awards via an email vote.
   c) Brittany has confirmed her commitment to be on the awards committee.

3) Mentoring Breakfast Update
   The next meeting will be held November 1st, 2013.

4) WIT Budget
   Kristy received the WIT budget template from SOT to fill as an estimation of expenditures at the upcoming SOT annual meeting:
For the WIT reception, which is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 25th, 2014 from 4:30-6:30 pm, WIT will request 1 wired microphone and 1 data projector package. It is estimated that there will be approximately 150 attendees to be seated at round tables with ~8-10 chairs per table. Brenda, as President-Elect, is responsible for the planning of the WIT reception. 4 certificates will be ordered in appreciation of the outgoing Sr. Councilor, Past President, Graduate Student, and Secretary/Treasurer. Plaques will be ordered for the 2 Mentoring, 2 Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement, 2 Student Achievement, and 1 Hudson Weisburger award, as well as for the outgoing President. Heather, as Sr. Councilor, will be responsible for ordering and presenting the awards.

The officer’s meeting will be held separately from the SOT scheduled timeslot and no food or technology will need to be requested from the hotel.

WIT will fund the graduate student representative travel award ($350) if the EC is able to select a candidate for the 2014-2015 SOT year prior to the SOT annual meeting.

5) Upcoming Activities and Brainstorming Ideas
   a) Prathibha asked the WIT EC to be receptive to the needs of the WIT members and bring forward new ideas or initiatives that WIT can be involved with.
   b) The suggestion to develop a WIT-initiated webinar was tabled until the next teleconference.
   c) Kristina will send out a blast email to request nominations for Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Jr. Councilor. She also has a list of interested candidates from last year’s nominations that she will reach out to.
   d) Brittany will write a blurb regarding details for the position of WIT Student Representative. This information will help the EC select a new Student Representative for the 2014-2015 SOT year.
   e) Brittany brought up the need for childcare at the SOT annual meeting and suggested a survey to gauge the level of interest. Prathibha mentioned that SOT used to offer to arrange for childcare services, but the logistics were complicated and so the service was discontinued. Kristina and Brenda will voice the concern at the SIG-CG meeting, as childcare is an undertaking that would need national SOT support.

6) The next WIT EC meeting is scheduled for November 15th at 12 pm EST.