Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group  
Society of Toxicology  
Face-to-Face in San Antonio, Texas  
11 March 2013  
3:00 pm (EDT), 4:00 pm (CDT), 5:00 pm (MDT), 6:00 pm (PDT)


Regrets: Prathibha Rao, Brinda Mahadevan.

Agenda and Discussions:
1) Mentoring Breakfast  
Kristina reported on the success of the 2nd annual Mentoring Breakfast that was held earlier in the morning. Although only 36 of the 50 mentees checked in (preliminary count), those that participated were very enthusiastic. Don Fox and Ivan Rusyn attended as representatives from SOT Council, with Don Fox speaking to the support that SOT had for the Mentoring Breakfast and for the possible expansion of the mentoring program. SOT had a photographer on hand to capture some photos for the website. Matt Price will see if Xi Yang and Pedro del Valle, the mentee and mentor from last year’s Mentoring Breakfast who spoke to this year’s mentees, will write an article for the SOT Communiqué. If so, perhaps we can re-use the article for the WIT fall newsletter. Mentees were provided with a hard copy of the “The Mentee’s Guide: Making Mentoring Work for You” by Zachary and Fischler. Next year the planning committee will investigate opportunities for publishers to donate mentoring books in exchange for recognition of their sponsorship. As of the SOT meeting, the CRAD-maintained Mentor Match database was searchable, but not keyword searchable. It is anticipated that updates will be made in April, in time for the Facilitators to match their mentees.

2) SOT pavilion  
Various WIT EC members were present in the SOT Pavilion throughout the Expo. The number of chairs around the pavilion was limited; more should be requested for next year. The WIT sticky post-it notes were placed around the pavilion and at the WIT reception.

3) WIT reception  
The Charles River representative, Susan Smith, is at the SOT meeting and is available for photos with the award recipients. Brittany and Tao volunteered to take photos, with Sharmilee presenting the awards. A photograph of current and former officers will also be taken for the WIT fall newsletter. Kristina will give everyone 20 minutes to WITwork at the start of the reception before the official business of the reception will take place.

4) Student/postdoctoral fellow mixer  
Brittany and Kristy presented the WIT poster at the mixer. They received a lot of questions from students and postdocs, largely due to the GSLC-initiated networking event which required everyone to talk to at least two SIGs, SSs, or RCs in order to be entered into their draw for door
prizes. Some of the questions related to gender: whether males could also join WIT and whether or not they could apply for WIT awards. At the EC meeting, Kristina answered that men and women were welcomed by WIT, as the WIT mission of education, leadership, and mentoring can be applied to both. Additional questions were asked that we may want to bring up in the fall newsletter: Can international members join WIT? Can international members be a mentor/mentee? Can non-WIT members attend the WIT reception?

5) SIG/CG
Kristina reported on the SIG/CG meeting held earlier in the day, in which the SIG/CG asked its representatives to brainstorm ideas of how to attract international membership, particularly from those members that do not fit into the existing SIGs (for example, the Middle East and Eastern Europe).

6) WIT bylaws
An action item recommended for the 2013-2014 SOT year is to update the WIT bylaws. Tao can help lead the revisions, with the draft going through SOT for approval.

7) PDA teleconference
The PDA teleconference was held on February 22\textsuperscript{nd}, in which the PDA announced their involvement in hosting student/postdoc-oriented sessions on August 10-11\textsuperscript{th} at this year’s Gordon Conference at Proctor Academy, Andover, NH. The PDA asked the postdoctoral representatives to reach out to the broader SOT student and postdoctoral fellow membership to encourage registration. The speaker deadline is May, 2013 and the application deadline is July 13, 2013. Kristy suggested sending an email out to the WIT membership in April to encourage students and postdoctoral fellows to register, as some of the sessions will be especially beneficial for them, including presentations on building a curriculum vitae and finding grants for early career scientists.

8) Next WIT EC meeting is scheduled for April 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2013.