Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group  
Society of Toxicology 
Teleconference  
10 May 2013  
10:00 am (EDT), 9:00 am (CDT), 8:00 am (MDT), 7:00 am (PDT)

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

**Regrets:** Heather Dowty

**Agenda and Discussions:**

1) **Welcomed Incoming WIT EC Members**  
Prathibha welcomed the incoming WIT EC members: Tao Wang (VP), Laurie Haws (Jr. Councilor), and Phoebe Stapleton (Postdoctoral Representative).

2) **Mentoring Breakfast Update**  
Kristina reported that the mentee-mentor matches have been made and emails sent out encouraging the mentees to initiate contact with their mentors. Barb Kaplan, as Chair of the 2013 Mentoring Breakfast Committee, sent out an email to mentees to confirm that they have been contacted by their Facilitator with their mentor match. A Chair for the 2014 Mentoring Breakfast Committee is being solicited, preferably from WIT, as WIT piloted the event. Those interested should contact Prathibha or Barb.

3) **Leadership Webinars**  
The first leadership webinar was held Thursday, April 25th at 12 pm EDT to provide information on general training, ToXchange, and the role of postdoctoral fellow and student representatives. The second leadership webinar, on the topic of SOT endowment awards, RC/SS/SIG awards, and ToXchange will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd, at 12 pm EDT. Tao and Kristy will attend the second leadership webinar, and anyone else interested is welcome to join. The third will be held on Wednesday, June 19th, at 12 pm EDT. All webinars will be recorded and made available for playback on the SOT website. EC members should communicate their attendance to fellow EC members to ensure adequate WIT representative attendance.

4) **WIT Newsletter**  
Articles for the WIT newsletter (tentative release date: September 2013) were discussed:  
a) **Message from the President – Prathibha**  
b) The Girl Scouts Day of Science (held April 7th), organized by Toufan Parman (NorCal SOT regional chapter member, WIT-SIG member), was sponsored by the NorCal Chapter, SOT and WIT. Tao, (NorCal and WIT-SIG member) as an attendee at the event, volunteered to
submit an article for the newsletter. Submission of the article for the SOT Communique on behalf of NorCal SOT and WIT was discussed and agreed by the EC.

c) Write-ups on WIT-sponsored and -endorsed sessions at the 2013 SOT annual meeting – Kristy

d) 2013 Mentoring Breakfast – Kristy

e) WIT reception and award ceremony – Brittany

f) Reminder of upcoming 2014 award deadlines – Heather Dowty, Laurie Haws, and Phoebe Stapleton

g) Reminder for submission of proposals – Tao

h) Resources for WIT members: Brittany volunteered to review the book recommended by Betty Eidemiller "From Ph.D. to Professoriate: The Role of the Institution in Fostering the Advancement of Postdoc Women", a new resource book developed by the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) and write a short summary article. Kristina will write a summary of Sheryl Sandberg’s “Lean In”.

i) Questions from the membership that arose from the Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Mixer at the 2013 SOT annual meeting. Brittany will email the list out to the WIT EC and the answers will be compiled and included into the newsletter.

j) Additional articles could potentially be solicited from the WIT membership.

5) WIT Initiatives

Prathibha asked the WIT EC to brainstorm ideas for new events that could be initiated or sponsored by WIT. In the past, WIT was involved in organizing a session on the 50th anniversary of the Pill, encouraging and supporting the creation of proposals regarding women’s and children’s health, participated in K-12 outreach activities, initiated the Mentoring Breakfast at the SOT annual meeting, and helped finance the Girl Scouts Day of Science organized by the NorCal Regional Chapter. Kristina mentioned that there was interest for repeating a similar event as the NorCal’s Girl Scouts Day of Science in New Jersey. Brittany suggested that WIT create their own group on Linked-In or on Facebook to help connect with new and existing members. Post-meeting note: Prathibha will contact SOT headquarters to see if this is acceptable.

6) 2014 Proposals for the SOT Annual Meeting

Brenda outlined the process of proposal submission and review. The official deadline to submit proposals for the 2014 SOT annual meeting was April 30th. The WIT proposal review committee is comprised of Brenda, Tao, Prathibha, Sharmilee, and a volunteer from the WIT membership (from the sign-up sheet at the WIT reception at the annual SOT meeting). The committee received 5 proposals for sponsorship, 4 of which were submitted to WIT for pre-review (conducted by 2 members of the committee). The committee is meeting on May 13th and their proposal rankings and feedback will be compiled by Brenda and submitted to SOT by the May 15th deadline.
7) The next WIT EC meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 14th at 10 am EDT. Post-meeting note: Meeting scheduled for Friday, June 21st, at 11 am EDT.