Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group
Society of Toxicology
Teleconference
9 August 2012
3:30 pm (EDT), 2:30 pm (CDT), 1:30 pm (MDT), 12:30 pm (PDT)

Attendees: Kristina Chadwick, Brittany Baisch, Sharmilee Sawant, Heather Dowty, and Kristy Kutanzi

Regrets: Brinda Mahadevan, Brenda Faiola, Prathibha Rao

Agenda and Discussions:
1) Facilitator’s feedback from the mentoring breakfast
Kristy reported on the facilitator’s teleconference held July 17th, 2012. The goal of the teleconference was to get feedback from the facilitators regarding what aspects should be continued with future Mentoring Breakfasts and which aspects should be revised. Brinda had suggested that we send out a survey to obtain feedback from the mentees and mentors from this year’s Mentoring Breakfast. Matt Price from SOT headquarters will send out a template of potential questions to ask in the middle of August which the facilitators can look over and add suggestions for additional questions prior to sending out the survey. Kim von Brook from SOT headquarters informed us that they are in the process of revising the Mentor Match database to make it more user friendly. CRAD had suggested that mentees be given a (published) book on mentoring at next year’s Mentoring Breakfast. A few titles were discussed during the meeting. In general, it was felt that there needs to be more facilitators at next year’s Mentoring Breakfast, thereby reducing the mentee-to-facilitator ratio.

2) Mentoring breakfast plans for the 2013 SOT annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas
A separate teleconference has been scheduled for August 14th to discuss next year’s Mentoring Breakfast among committee members. Brinda is in discussion with CRAD members, and may be able to provide more information on the collaborative efforts to organize the Mentoring Breakfast. At the moment, it is unclear as to who will be responsible for organizing the event. Kristina reported that John Lipscomb had communicated that CRAD will help finance the event and member representation from SS and SIGs may be solicited to help facilitate.

3) Awards committee update
Heather and Sharmilee, as WIT councilors, are the co-chairs of the awards committee. Kristina suggested that they recruit volunteers from the list of people who indicated interest in volunteering for WIT committees at the 2012 WIT reception. In the past, three volunteers from the WIT membership were involved in ranking applications. Sharmilee suggested Tao as a potential volunteer to recruit as she has two years of experience on the committee already. Brittany suggested that one of the volunteers be a student member of WIT, since her prior experience as a student reviewer for the award’s committee for the Nanotoxicology SS was rewarding to her, and perhaps other students are looking to be involved in WIT. Also, Brittany mentioned that if a student reviewer is applying for one of the awards they should not review...
any applications for that particular award due to conflict-of-interest. Brittany also informed us that, for the 2011-2012 SOT year, she had put a notice in the Student Graduate Leadership Committee newsletter about WIT and the awards that WIT offers so that students would exclusively be reminded about potential award opportunities. Sharmilee noted that the application deadlines for the 2013 WIT awards are as follows:
   a) November 18th - Mentoring Award
   b) December 16th - Graduate Student Achievement Award, Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Award, and the Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement Award

4) Fall newsletter
Kristina set a tentative deadline of August 15th for submission of newsletter sections to Margaret and Toufan. The Mentoring Breakfast article and pictures of the awards winners from the 2012 WIT reception have been submitted to Margaret and Toufan for inclusion in the WIT newsletter. Sharmilee will include information about the WIT awards and their deadlines.

5) SIG-CG teleconference update
Kristina reported on the SIG-CG teleconference from August 9. One of the goals of the SIG-CG is to help toxicologists, especially students, from under-developed countries join SIGs without having to necessarily join SOT (due to financial constraints). Achievement of this goal is nearly complete with a majority of the SIGs updating their by-laws. Once all by-laws have been updated (WIT is exempt), SOT membership will be notified of this new opportunity. SIG-CG is currently reviewing the Global Task Force Initiatives, one of which has been fulfilled with the Mentoring Breakfast. They are also working on a mission statement. At the teleconference, Kristina had raised the question of how to deal with sponsorship requests for SOT applicants by SSs/SIGs members, especially if the sponsor doesn’t know the applicant. She had asked SOT if it was acceptable to send out such messages to the WIT membership to ask if anyone knows the applicant who is seeking sponsorship. The response is pending. Kristina had informed us that SOT has revised the sponsorship form, with boxes for the sponsors to check: a) whether the sponsor knows them; or b) whether they are sponsoring based on the applicant’s CV. Discussion has been taken up to the Membership Committee.

6) Next WIT Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 13th, 2012, from 3:30-5:00 pm (EDT).