President’s Message

Dear WIT Members,

It’s hard to believe that the holidays are already behind us and the SOT Annual Meeting is less than 2 months away. Your WIT Executive Committee (EC) has been hard at work since my last message in the WIT Summer 2017 Newsletter. Our accomplishments since that time include: 1) working to nominate another slate of exceptional women for a variety of SOT-wide awards - we were thrilled to see that a number of women that WIT assisted with nominations, both those nominated this year and those whose applications carried over from prior years, were ultimately selected as winners of 2018 SOT Awards; 2) hosting another successful WIT webinar entitled “Communicating the Science of Toxicology”; 3) reviewing applications from a pool of exceptionally qualified individuals to ultimately select winners for each of the WIT Awards; and, 4) selecting candidates to run for the various open positions on the WIT EC for the 2018 election.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of both the WIT EC and the army of volunteers serving on our committees. I’m so fortunate to be able to work with such an incredibly talented, committed, and hardworking group of women on the WIT EC, including Betina Lew (President-Elect), Janis Hulla (Vice President), Brittany Baisch (Secretary and Treasurer), Sharmilee Sawant (Past President and Councilor), Nadia Moore (Senior Councilor), Jennifer Cohen (Junior Councilor), Alison Sanders (Postdoctoral Representative), and Lauren Walker (Student Representative). I want to extend my sincerest thanks to each one of them for all that they do behind the scenes for WIT.

I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to the many individuals who have served on the various WIT Committees (e.g., Program Committee, Election Committee, WIT Awards Committee, SOT Awards Nomination Committee, Newsletter Committee, and Outreach Committee). While it’s not possible to list the names of all of the many individuals who have served on these various committees in this brief President’s message, please know how grateful we are to each of you for all that you’ve done to contribute to the WIT mission. Each of you has played an import part in the success of WIT. I would like to encourage WIT members to continue to be involved and engaged by volunteering to serve on our various committees.

Finally, the WIT EC is currently working hard to prepare for the SOT Annual Meeting, which includes planning another highly successful and engaging reception. There will be more details related to WIT activities at the SOT Annual Meeting in our next newsletter, which will be distributed in early March. So, stay tuned!

In closing, I would like to encourage each of you to take the time to vote in both the SOT and WIT elections. This is an important part of being a member of both SOT and WIT.

Sincerely,

Laurie C. Haws, PhD, DABT
President, Women in Toxicology SIG
Click here to cast your vote for WIT Vice President, Junior Councilor, Secretary and Treasurer, and Postdoctoral Representative. Please be sure to cast your vote before the polls close on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

You will need to log in with your email address and SOT password in order to access the ballot. Please contact Ashley Black at SOT HQ with any questions.

WIT Webinar Recap: Communicating the Science of Toxicology

By Betina Lew, PhD, DABT, ERT – Reckitt Benckiser, and Lauren Walker, MS – University of California, Riverside

In early August, WIT hosted a webinar on effectively communicating Toxicology and Risk Assessment research to lay and technical audiences. Panelists Dr Jay Ansell, Vice President of the Personal Care Product Council trade association in Washington, DC, and Dr B Paige Lawrence, Chair and Professor of the Department of Environmental Medicine, and Professor of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Rochester, touched on the current challenges to effective scientific dialogue and discussed strategies toxicologists can employ to craft and polish their communication skills. The speakers also provided productive approaches to interacting in different settings.

The webinar was well attended, with over 100 participants, and a lively Q&A session at the webinar’s close. Of the questions asked, the most common was, “How can I further develop my communication skills?” To this end, our panelists recommend that anyone interested in additional development look into the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, Sharing Science, and/or FASEB’s Advocacy Tool Kit.

Next Webinar: “Tailoring the Resume Across Sectors”

WIT is pleased to announce our upcoming webinar, moderated by Drs Jennifer Cohen and Betina Lew, entitled “Tailoring the Resume Across Sectors,” scheduled for February 20 from 2:00-3:15 EST. Please register here.

The panelists are Dr Ronald Hines, PhD, ATS (Associate Director for Health of EPA’s National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory) and Terry Leyden (President of The Leyden Group, a private executive search firm which specializes in toxicology), who will provide insights on how to tailor resumes/CVs for government and industry positions, as well as general information on the job application process across sectors.

Additionally, tips on interview etiquette and how to deliver an impactful interview seminar will be covered. The intended audience is graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, and later stage scientists interested in making a career move across sectors.

WIT Encourages You to Nominate Yourself for WIT Awards

Each year WIT receives a fantastic pool of candidates for awards, but as our number of awards increase we want to be sure the most exceptional candidates put forth their applications.

Although the 2017 WIT Award cycle has concluded, WIT encourages you to nominate yourself for consideration during the next WIT Awards cycle in 2018!
Why should you self-nominate? YOU are your greatest advocate. You know the most about your credentials and activities that make you a competitive candidate. If you have conducted work and/or service which is among the criteria for an award, then you SHOULD be in the pool of nominees. We welcome applicants to highlight their own accomplishments and impact, as

If you are uncomfortable about self-nomination, or do not know where to start, here are some helpful hints:

• Prepare your application CV, resume and biosketch. Clearly and concisely address how you fit the award criteria.
• Channel your inner author and generate compelling drafts of nomination and support letters for your referees to build upon.

Still shy? Well, sometimes it is easier to get over the intimidation or perception of inmodesty of self-nomination, if you consider the consequences of NOT doing it! If you do not self nominate, and no one else nominated you for an award, then another candidate who is exceptional, although not quite as exceptional as you, may win the award. When this happens, the WIT EC, WIT Award’s Committee and broader WIT SIG are not able to meet our objectives.

We are looking forward to receiving your applications in the 2018 WIT Awards cycle!

Education and Outreach in Action: FLSEC K-12 Teaching Program

By Alison P Sanders, PhD, and Kathryn Bambino, PhD, MPH – Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

The Future Leaders in Science Education and Communication (FLSEC) program develops and improves Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) postdocs’ teaching and lay science communication skills. The FLSEC program was originally developed by WIT member Dr Alison P Sanders and was one of 7 Career Guidance for Trainees proposals funded by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund in 2015.

Dr Sanders identified a gap in teaching training opportunities for fellow postdocs at ISMMS and developed an intensive training program in core skills for teaching and science communication needed by the postdoc community, coalescing a robust team of specialists from Mount Sinai and wider NYC. The program established hands-on K-12 teaching opportunities with the Boys & Girls Harbor afterschool program in nearby East Harlem as well as within the ISMMS Graduate School (there is no undergraduate program at ISMMS).

The FLSEC program kicked off in Fall 2015 with 15 participants (~50% acceptance rate). Due to the demand and success among the trainees, the program was offered again in subsequent years and has continued with support from the ISMMS Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health. To date, nearly 50 postdoctoral scientists have trained through this program. Former trainees’ satisfaction with the FLSEC experience has been overwhelmingly positive and over 20% obtained a promotion or accepted a new position within the first year of participation. Combined, over 60% of trainees from cohorts 1 through 3 have attained new positions including tenure-track faculty (12%), teaching faculty (full or part time) (19%), instructor (19%), industry scientist (8%), as well as scientific editor, technical support engineer, research assistant professor, or new postdoctoral positions.

Participant Testimony: Dr Kathryn Bambino

In the fall of 2015, I participated in the first cohort of the FLSEC training program. Through the course, I received an introduction to major concepts in instruction, pedagogy, and science communication. We covered topics including course, syllabus, and assessment design, using interactive learning tools, public speaking and storytelling, navigating teaching challenges, as well as providing supportive peer feedback. As part of the program, I developed and delivered a K-12-level and a graduate-level module on the use of zebrafish in toxicology.

The modules I presented introduced the general concept of the use of animal models in development and
toxicology studies and specifically, the use of zebrafish to understand the physiological consequences of environmental exposures. The lessons were tailored for the two different audiences.

In the 5th grade classroom, I introduced the students to some vocabulary, we reviewed the differences and similarities between developing zebrafish and human embryos, observed the zebrafish at different developmental stages in petri dishes, and the students built zebrafish embryos out of craft materials.

The graduate level class focused on developmental and reproductive toxicology. My FLSEC peers observed each of my teaching experiences and provided me with meaningful feedback on what I did well and what to improve, through an automated digital survey.

This past fall, I served as co-director for the fourth iteration of FLSEC, which allowed me to take on an administrative and leadership role. As co-director, I scored and ranked applications, organized the course, and interacted with and evaluated participants. The program has provided me with experiences that are often overlooked during postdoctoral training, but are invaluable for the career progression of a postdoctoral researcher. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in and lead this course.

Reminder: Update Your SOT Profile!  

If you recently had an update to your title, employment or credentials, now is the time to update your SOT profile on ToXchange! This directory is one of the mechanisms that potential employers search for their candidates. Even if you are not actively searching the SOT Job Bank for a position, or even looking for a change, updating your profile is important for networking with former, current or even new colleagues you will meet in San Antonio. I recently updated my SOT Profile and it only took 5 minutes! If you are keeping your social media account profiles, like LinkedIn, up-to-date, you might as well spend the extra 5 minutes to update your SOT Profile!

New Segment Coming Soon:  
Showcasing Our Trainees!

WIT knows that it has amazing trainee members who are achieving great work in their laboratories as well as in their communities. If you have a recent research achievement/experience or outreach activity that you would like to share, consider submitting your story for the WIT Newsletter. WIT wants to showcase our inspiring leaders of tomorrow in a new newsletter segment entitled, “Showcasing Our Trainees.” We cannot wait to read all of your stories!

We Welcome Your Continued Support of the WIT Endowment Funds!

As one of the WIT Councilors and the WIT Endowment Fund Steward, I am very excited to announce that the Annual Meeting in San Antonio will be another year we will present The Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger, and Celebrating Women in Toxicology endowment fund awards during the WIT Reception. These very competitive awards are available to deserving candidates, who have shown dedication to science and leadership, due to the continued support of generous donors. Thank you all for your past contributions to keep these worthwhile and prestigious awards in our SIG. Your future contributions to either of these funds will enable WIT to continue to provide awards to remarkable individuals as a way to recognize them for their accomplishments in their fields, contributions to the Society, and to WIT. To review the Funds and make a donation, please visit the WIT website. Please use this form for your donation, and indicate which WIT Endowment Fund you wish to support. Don't forget about employer matching! Thank you!
WIT Members Balance Work & Life

By Ellen Glista-Baker, PhD – SC Johnson

Managing all of the responsibilities between work and home can often be challenging and stressful. After organizing a webinar on work-life balance, we wanted to know how you personally achieve balance in your life and what it means to you. Is there a hobby you enjoy? Do you take time for any self-care practices? The photos below showcase the different ways that our members find balance in their everyday lives doing what they love outside of work.
Thank you to our WIT members for uploading their pictures!

Marusia Popovech, Betina Law, Sumira Phatak, Mary Ellen Cosenza, Lauren Walker, Johanna Rochester, Lauren Aleksunes, Leigh Ann Burns Naas, Manushree Bharadwaj, and Alison Harrill
Women in Toxicology

Celebrating YOUR Success!

By Élyse Caron-Beaudoin, PhD, Université de Montréal

WIT is pleased to continue the Celebrating YOUR Success! announcements, a great way to recognize the achievement and advancement of WIT members. The accomplishments below were earned between May 2017 - October 2017. To have your recent accomplishments highlighted in the next edition of this newsletter, please click here and log-in. This link will remain active until February 20th. We look forward to hearing your good news! CONGRATULATIONS!

Awards (Employer)

Axelle Marchand, MSc
Université de Montréal
A mention for the Dean Award (School of public Health - Université de Montréal) for my involvement

Élyse Caron-Beaudoin, PhD
Université de Montréal
Universe of Montreal Public Health Research Institute Travel Award

Awards (Non-Employer)

Alison P Sanders, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
American Society of Nephrology, Karen L Campbell Fellow Mentor Travel Award

Sumira Phatak, BS
Utah State University
American College of Toxicology Graduate Fellowship recipient

Kazi Tasneem, Pursuing PhD
Vanderbilt University
Academic Leadership for Women in Engineering (ALWE) Program, Society of Women Engineers; and, Top 10 Finalist, Rapid Fire Research Presentation Competition, Society of Women Engineers

Jennifer Duringer, PhD
Oregon State University
Travel award to present on mycotoxins and Nodding Syndrome at the American Neurological Association

Grants/Funding

Vanessa A Fitsanakis, PhD
Northeast Ohio Medical University
R15ES027998 funded for 3 yrs (total award $468,000) for Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurodegenerative Disease

Alison P Sanders, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
NIEHS K99 Career Development Award; and, Burroughs Welcome Fund, Collaborative Research Travel Grant

Zelieann R Craig, PhD
University of Arizona
NIEHS R01 grant entitled: Environmentally Relevant Phthalate Exposures and Ovarian Function

Kazi Tasneem, Pursuing PhD
Vanderbilt University
ASSIST Travel Grant to attend ALWE, funded by NSF

Judit Marsillach, PhD
University of Washington
Obtained an ITHS (Institute for Translational Health Sciences) Early Investigator Catalyst Award

Alicia Timme-Laragy, PhD
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Awarded an R01 from the NIEHS

Earned Degree

Logeswari Ponnusamy, DVM, MVSc, PhD
Zoetis Inc
PhD in Environmental Toxicology from The Institute of Environmental & Human Health, Texas Tech University

Élyse Caron-Beaudoin, PhD
Université de Montréal
PhD in Biology from INRS – Armand-Frappier Institute (Laval, Canada)

Kristal Rychlik, PhD
John Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of Public Health
PhD in Toxicology from Texas A&M University
### Elected/Appointed Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution/Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sumira Phatak, BS</td>
<td>Utah State University Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society Epigenetics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SIG Graduate Student Co-Chair-elect</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane E Heck, PhD</td>
<td>New York Medical College Chair, Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leona D Scanlan, PhD</td>
<td>California Department of Pesticide Regulation Acting President for the Genetic and Environmental Toxicology Association of Northern California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Chappelle, PhD</td>
<td>International Isocyanate Institute Elected to SOT Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorrene A Buckley, PhD</td>
<td>Eli Lilly and Company Elected to position of Vice President of the American College of Toxicology (ACT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Bowers, PhD</td>
<td>School of Medicine, University of Arizona Elected chair of Gordon Seminar on Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity</td>
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### Career Advancement/Transitions

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane E Heck, PhD</td>
<td>New York Medical College Appointed Associate Dean for Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diana Ayueung-Kim, PhD, MBA, DABT</td>
<td>Genentech Director; Head of Genentech Research and Early Development Nonclinical Operations (gNO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logeswari Ponnusamy, DVM, MVSc, PhD</td>
<td>Zoetis Inc Started new position as Principal Scientist (Regulatory Toxicology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Sapiro, PhD</td>
<td>Allergan New Job: Non-Clinical Development Study Monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristal Rychlik, PhD</td>
<td>John Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health Transitioned to a postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Élyse Caron-Beaudoin, PhD</td>
<td>Université de Montréal Started a postdoctoral fellowship at Université de Montreal School of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nijwen Anyangwe, PhD</td>
<td>US Food and Drug Administration Appointed Adjunct Faculty at Howard University, Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Bowers, PhD</td>
<td>School of Medicine, University of Arizona Accepted postdoctoral research position in the lab of Dr. Ken Ramos researching LINE-1 biology</td>
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### Other

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colleen McLoughlin, PhD</td>
<td>Scivera Accepted as a European Registered Toxicologist with the UK Register of Toxicologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nijwen Anyangwe, PhD</td>
<td>US Food and Drug Administration Keynote Speaker, 14th International Symposium on Environmental Health Research, Jackson State University &quot;Investing in Girls and Women&quot;, EX-Sakerette USA 16th Annual Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda S. Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS</td>
<td>NIH/NIEHS Commencement speaker at North Carolina State University Department of Biological Science Graduation. Spoke of her career path at a graduation ceremony for several hundred students</td>
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Creating a Safer and Healthier World by Advancing the Science and Increasing the Impact of Toxicology