Dear WIT Members,

I am truly honored to serve as your president this year and am humbled to work with an incredibly talented and committed group of women on the Executive Committee (EC). I would also like to extend my thanks and gratitude to our outgoing officers, Tao Wang (Past President) and Marie Fortin (Senior Councilor), for their substantial contributions and dedication to the WIT mission.

Throughout the years, the WIT EC worked diligently to increase the nomination of incredibly accomplished, and deserving women for prestigious SOT National Awards, and we are beginning to see the fruits of our labor. The WIT EC remains committed to enhancing the recognition of female toxicologists within SOT by making this a priority again this year.

Your WIT EC is already working hard by: endorsing proposals for the 2018 Annual Meeting, planning WIT Webinars on topics of interest to our membership, publishing newsletters, and putting together committees to review both WIT and SOT National award packages. As we are a volunteer army, our success with these initiatives is dependent on the involvement of our membership. To that end, I would like to encourage WIT members to be involved by volunteering on our various committees.

As we work to identify additional initiatives to further strengthen and enhance our mission of promoting the visibility, leadership, education, and mentoring of women within SOT, I would like to encourage you to share your ideas with us. As the WIT EC is here to serve you, we want to know what matters most to you.

In closing, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve as WIT President. I look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Sincerely,

Laurie C. Haws, PhD, DABT
President, Women in Toxicology SIG
Congratulations to the 2017 WIT Award Winners!

By Grace Chappell, PhD – ToxStrategies, Inc

Award recipients are pictured with Sharmilee Sawant, PhD, DABT, RAC – Haylard Health

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<th>Mentoring Award</th>
<th>Outstanding Investigator Award</th>
<th>Smith and Hook Distinguished Service Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jodi Flaws, PhD</td>
<td>Dana Dolinoy, PhD</td>
<td>Carol S Auletta, MBA, DABT</td>
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<td>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>Envigo</td>
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<tr>
<th>Vera W Hudson and Elizabeth K Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Award</th>
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<td>Katelyn Lavrich, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>Lisa Weatherly, University of Maine</td>
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<td>Kristal Richlyk, Texas A&amp;M University</td>
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<th>Postdoctoral Achievement Award</th>
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<td>Priyanka Trivedi, PhD</td>
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<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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| Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award Postdoctoral Award Graduate Student |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alison Sanders, PhD         |
| Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai |
| Jessica Sapiro              |
| University of Arizona      |
Three female toxicologists were recognized with SOT National Awards: Dr Linda Birnbaum (Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award, nominated in 2014), Dr Meryl Karol (Founders Award, nominated in 2015), and Dr Debra Laskin (Education Award, nominated in 2016). WIT is not only proud of these deserving female toxicologists for winning the prestigious awards, but also takes great pride in the part we played in supporting their nominations!

These successes are not by chance, but can be traced back to efforts initiated 3 years ago, when Tao just became the President-Elect and Sharmilee became the Vice President of WIT. At the 2014 SOT Annual Meeting, Drs Ofelia Olivero and Janis Hulla approached Tao to brainstorm how to increase the recognition of accomplished female toxicologists within SOT, since very few award applications were for female toxicologists. Soon after, a WIT subcommittee for SOT National Awards Nomination was established to help nominate female toxicologists.

2014: Sharmilee and Tao co-chaired the new subcommittee, which included Drs Alexandria Lau, Arya Sobhakumari, Brittany Baisch, Natalie Holman, Mary Francis and Elissa Wong. The subcommittee received five outstanding recommendations from the WIT membership. The subcommittee assisted these individuals by putting their application packages together, which included updating CVs, obtaining references, and preparing WIT supporting letters. Although none of the candidates we put forth were selected for the 2015 National Awards, efforts continued the following year.

2015: We improved our process by involving more senior toxicologists, including Drs Leigh Ann Burns Nass and Janis Hulla. The subcommittee consisted of Drs Jaya Chilakapati, Brittany Baisch, Alexandria Lau, Mercedes Salvador, Phoebe Stapleton, Stacie Schulze, Jessica Sapiro and Nikita Joshi who brainstormed a list of 30 potential candidates. Our experienced colleagues provided guidance for ranking the nominees. The subcommittee helped prepare the award applications for the 6 top candidates. Although none of the candidates won the 2016 National Awards, WIT was undaunted in our goal to get more female applicants into the candidate pool next year.

2016: WIT continued to improve the process by meeting with a past Chair of the SOT Award Committee, Dr Barbara Beck for feedback. Following the discussion, Drs Laurie Haws (WIT President-Elect) and Betina Lew (Vice President) assembled a group of senior leaders (Drs Ken Wallace, Leigh Ann Burns Naas, Barbara Beck and Lorrence Buckley) to redefine and refine a list of candidates. The subcommittee worked with additional WIT volunteers to help prepare award applications, as well as update applications that were previously submitted. The expanded committee included Drs Phoebe Stapleton, Alison Sanders, Sharmilee Sawant, Varunya Bhat, Brittany Baisch, and Alexandria Lau.

The sustained efforts by WIT over the past three years were driven by the belief that WIT could help gain recognition for our deserving female colleagues. Thank you to our volunteers!

WIT looks forward to continuing its mission of advocating for the well-deserved recognition of the many outstanding women in toxicology.
Engaging with WIT at the Student and Postdoc Mixer

Hosted annually by the Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC), the Student and Postdoc Mixer creates a space at the SOT Annual Meeting where undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs can form new and strengthen old connections with other trainees. Throughout the mixer, attendees have the opportunity to interact with representatives from Special Interest Groups, Regional Chapters, and Specialty Sections to learn about and how trainees can become more involved in SOT through each group. This year, our poster had over 40 attendees visit to inquire about current initiatives in WIT and opportunities for trainee involvement.

The three most common questions we received were as follows:

1. **What year-round activities do WIT members participate in?**
   - Engage in WIT-sponsored webinars
   - Participate in STEM education outreach (e.g., ToxScholar, STEM Expos, etc.)
   - Serve as mentors or become mentees in [SOT Mentor Match program](#) or facilitate matching at the Mentoring Breakfast
   - Serve on WIT SOT Award Nomination Subcommittee to help WIT facilitate female SOT Award nominations
   - Participate in Chat with an Expert—both as experts and trainees
   - Attend Undergraduate Education programs at the Annual Meeting—both as mentors and trainees
   - Serve as chairs and/or speakers for scientific sessions at the Annual Meeting

2. **How do undergraduate students join WIT?**
   - Fill out the “Non-SOT WIT Membership Application” form on the “[Join WIT](#)” page on the WIT website and email the completed form to SOT HQ. There is no fee to join WIT as an undergraduate student.

3. **How can students or postdocs become more involved in WIT?**
   - Volunteer to serve on committees for WIT activities! Interested trainees can sign up online by filling out the [WIT Volunteer Sign Up Survey](#).
   - Attend the WIT reception at the SOT Annual Meeting to connect with other WIT members.
   - Graduate students and postdocs can serve as the WIT Student Representative or Postdoc Representative, respectively.
   - Announcements are made each fall for any open position(s). If you are interested in learning more about either position, please contact the current representatives, Student Rep, [Lauren Walker](#), or Postdoc Rep., [Alison Sanders](#). If you have additional questions or were not able to visit us at Mixer, feel free to contact Lauren.

The Mentoring Breakfast: 6 Years Young and Growing Strong!

During the 56th Annual Meeting, we celebrated the 6th anniversary of the Mentoring Breakfast. Despite the cold, early Monday morning in Baltimore, the event was extremely well attended with about 60 mentees and facilitators mingling, getting to know each other and brainstorming to better understand how to successfully match mentees with their future mentors. The program was created by WIT and is now endorsed by the Career Resource and Development (CRAD) committee, the GSLC and the Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA). The Mentoring Breakfast is one of the many successful mentoring events offered by WIT.
SOT to help future toxicologists develop their careers and pursue their professional dreams. During the event, mentees (mostly postdocs and graduate students) exchange information about their career interests, goals and passions with facilitators. Facilitators then use this information to identify possible mentors from the CRAD-maintained Mentor Match Database as well as other resources including their own professional networks.

This year, the event was planned by Drs Brenna Flannery (Chair), Betina Lew, Erica Bruce, Elena Ramon, Kelly Almond, Erica Clark, Bryan Delaney (CRAD), Gabriel Knudsen (PDA), and Susanne Martos (GSLC). The Mentoring Breakfast “sold out” fairly quickly with all the available tickets claimed in January. During the event, SOT President Dr John Morris provided a thoughtful opening talk in which he shared his thoughts on networking and why it is important for mentees to get involved and to seek every opportunity, even if it is not always comfortable. Dr. Morris also reminded us that having strong mentors and supporters is extremely important throughout our careers and lives, and that both parties benefit from the mentor-mentee relationship. The trainees and facilitators then enjoyed breakfast and conversations about their ideal mentors. In all, the event was fun and interactive, and the feedback received by mentees and facilitators has been extremely positive. Although, the mentor-mentee matching from the Annual Mentoring Breakfast is completed by the end of May, you can always visit the mentor-match website to try to find a mentor or a mentee.

If you have any questions about mentoring programs at SOT, or if you attended the Mentoring Breakfast and would like to give your feedback, please contact Kimberly Von Brook.

WIT Endorsed Symposium – Cardiopulmonary Consequences of Gestational Toxicant Exposure: Getting to the Heart of the Matter

By Lynette Rogers, PhD – The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital/The Ohio State University and Phoebe Stapleton, PhD, ATC – Rutgers University

This highly successful symposium co-chaired by Dr Lynette Rogers (The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital/The Ohio State University) and WIT member Dr Phoebe Stapleton (Rutgers University) focused on the impairments to the fetal cardiovascular system that could develop after maternal xenobiotic exposures. The session opened with a brief introduction by Dr. Rogers welcoming our audience and providing an overview of our distinguished panelists. The session opened with discussions of the fetal impacts to common maternal exposures: nanoparticles, particulate matter (PM 2.5), and nicotine. Initially, Dr Chris Wingard (Bellarmine University) described the alterations to maternal vascular reactivity impacting fetal growth outcomes after maternal nanomaterial exposure during gestation. Findings of
impaired fetal growth were echoed by WIT member Dr Judith Zelikoff (NYU) after maternal exposures to PM 2.5 during crucial organogenesis stages of development. Dr. Zelikoff continued to describe cardiac contractility dysfunction within the offspring. These findings further resonated in the work presented by Dr Alison Holloway (McMaster University), who described lasting metabolic effects within the offspring, including obesity, hypertension, and dysglycemia, after maternal nicotine exposure during gestation.

Dr Timothy Nurkiewicz (West Virginia University) shifted the groups’ attention from the direct outcomes associated with maternal exposures to providing new mechanistic and epigenetic insights into coronary health of the F1 generation. This was followed by a discussion of higher throughput technologies and new insights in risk assessment by Dr Reza J Rasoulpour (Dow AgroSciences) which may be used to enhance our understanding of developmental toxicities. Capping the session was Dr Thomas B Knudsen (EPA) describing advances in predictive and virtual modeling systems to help identify the effects of toxicants on angiogenesis within the developing cardiopulmonary system. Despite the Tuesday morning snow, the symposium was well attended by about 75 attendees, sparking audience interaction during the time allotted and interesting discussions surrounding the developmental onset of disease after the presentations.

WIT Endorsed Workshop – Improving Public Health through Innovations in Exposure Science

By Cecilia Tan, MBA, PhD – US EPA and Alicia Paini, PhD – EU Joint Research Center

WIT sponsored a workshop on “Improving public health through innovations in exposure science” on March 13th at the SOT’s Annual Meeting. This workshop was organized and chaired by two female researchers, Dr Cecilia Tan (US EPA) and Dr Alicia Paini (EU’s Joint Research Center). Besides Dr Paini who presented an overview on EU’s strategies to integrate exposure with hazard data, another female researcher, Dr Julia Rager (ToxStrategies, Inc), presented her work on non-targeted screening analysis to identify chemicals in house dust samples. This workshop brought together 6 presentations to introduce several innovations in exposure science to the toxicology community. In addition to Dr. Rager’s non-targeted study, Dr Manish Arora (Mount Sinai) presented his work on using teeth to obtain biomarkers for reconstructing the exposome during prenatal and early childhood development. Dr Edmund Seto (University of Washington) presented his study on using community crowdsourcing efforts, low-cost sensors, and personal monitors to collect air quality data. Dr Justin Teeguarden (Pacific Northwest National Laboratories) presented a study that compares the relative contribution to the total estrogenicity from endogenous and exogenous estrogens during pregnancy. Finally, Dr Stephen Edwards (US EPA) presented an “Aggregate Exposure Pathway” framework for organizing data and information. Overall, the workshop brought together both exposure and toxicology communities to improve the efficiency in the risk assessment process to achieve better public health safeguarding.

What’s Brewing?

By Betina Lew, PhD, DABT, ERT – Shiseido Americas and Lauren Walker – University of California, Riverside

Communicating science in an easy-to-understand way is one of our most important responsibilities, although not always easy. Communicating your science in an approachable and compelling manner is crucial to creating a healthier, safer world and advancing the science of Toxicology.

The WIT EC is developing a webinar for August (date
Dr Jamie Bernard, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology (Michigan State University) was teaching a science communications class when she came across a startling fact: Most people do not know a single scientist. How can that be? Well, we as scientists are busy people who can get lost in the world of grant writing, teaching, and lab work. Additionally, we may tend to interact only with other scientists. Jamie saw an immediate need for more effective communication between scientists and the general public. This led her to the creation of her blog, Civilians of Science.

Jamie believes that people form their decisions about science based on their own relationships with people. Civilians of Science aims to foster a much needed interaction between scientists and people in order to help the public’s perception of scientific research. The goal of Civilians of Science is to humanize scientists, dismantling their labels and making them more relatable.

“Science isn’t black and white and neither are scientists,” says Jamie. Scientists contributing to the blog are from academia, industry and government at different stages in their careers. The readers can see what inspired these scientists to follow their passions as well as the struggles they may have faced along the way. Jamie hopes that people will be able to relate better to scientists and acquire knowledge about science through these real life stories on the blog.

Civilians of Science highlights that every person goes through a unique journey through their pursuit of a career in science. For any scientists going through a difficult time, Jamie advises you to open up about your struggles, and to not go through it alone. Surround yourself with good mentors and allies.

If you would like to share your own journey through science on the Civilians of Science blog, please contact Jamie Bernard.

Snapshot of the "About" page of the Civilians of Science blog.

I’m from Rochester, NY and am an Assistant Professor in academia. In my lab, we study the obesity-cancer connection and how environmental exposures influence carcinogenesis. I am passionate about my work, my family, dancing, and science communication. This blog came as a result of a science communication class I directed. I feel that having scientists profiled for their humaneness is important for the public perception of scientific research. Science isn’t black and white and neither are scientists.

I hope this blog inspires you to learn more about science and connect with others!
WIT Members March for Science
By Lisa Prince, MS – University of Rochester

On April 22nd, WIT members and their colleagues went to the streets of DC, other major cities and their local towns to show their support for science. The principles and goals of the March for Science include: fostering a diverse and inclusive scientific community, improving science outreach and communication, strengthening the role of science in policymaking, and advancing science education and scientific literacy. SOT was an official partner of the March for Science.
Thank you to the WIT members for uploading their pictures!

Dorothy Colagiovanni, Monika Roy, Karen Stine, Marissa Sobolewski, Peter Goering, Mary Ellen Cosenza, Candace Wong, Jan Hulla, Betina Lew, Alison Sanders, Laura Van Winkle
Celebrating YOUR Success!

By Elizabeth Corteselli, MSPH – UNC Chapel Hill

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 February 2017 - May 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 September 15th. We look forward to hearing your good news! CONGRATULATIONS!

Awards (Employer)

Laura M Patrone, PhD, DABT
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Recognition for co-leading the STEM Education and Outreach program for middle-school children

Careers Advancement /Transitions

Alexandria Lau, PhD
E&J Gallo Winery
New Job: Toxicology Program Manager at E&J Gallo Winery

Emily Rogers, PhD
Environmental Protection Agency
New Job: Toxicologist in the Human Health Risk Assessment Branch of the EPA Office of Water

Elected/Appointed Leadership

Dana Dolinoy, MSc, PhD
University of Michigan
Appointed Director of the University of Michigan Epigenomics Core, and Appointed Associate Chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences at University of Michigan

Leona D Scanlan, PhD
California Department of Pesticide Regulation
Elected President-Elect of the Genetic and Environmental Toxicology Association of Northern California, and Passed probationary period as an Associate Toxicologist

Tracey Zoetis, MS
SciLucent LLC
Currently serving as President of the American College of Toxicology

Grants/Funding

Judit Marsillach, PhD
University of Washington
 Obtained an ITHS Early Investigator Catalyst Award to study paraoxonase-1 in Alzheimer’s disease

Kari Sant, PhD
University of Massachusetts
Received a F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship funded by NICHS

Other

Joanna Kreitinger, PhD Candidate
University of Montana
Received a national Philanthropic Educational Organization Scholar Award with accompanying $15,000 scholarship to finish doctoral studies

Awards (Non-Employer)

Kristin Bircsak, PhD
University of Pennsylvania
SOT Mechanisms Specialty Section
Postdoctoral Travel Award, and
SOT Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section Postdoctoral Poster Award

Jan Chambers, PhD
Mississippi State University
2017 Southeastern Conference (SEC)
Faculty Achievement Award for Mississippi State University

Monika Roy, MSPH
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Corinne A Johnson Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Health Sciences

Jessica Sapiro, PhD
University of Arizona
WIT Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service

Nikaeta Sadekar, MS
St John’s University
SOT Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section Student Travel Award

Alison P. Sanders, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
WIT Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service

Electa S. M. Sant, PhD
Takeda California
Elected Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section Councilor, 2017-2019, and Elected WIT Junior Councilor, 2017-2019

Zelieann R Craig, PhD
University of Arizona
Elected Junior Councilor for the SOT Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section

Earned Degree

Jessica Sapiro, PhD
University of Arizona
Received Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology/Toxicology from the University of Arizona

Manushree Bharadwaj, DVM, PhD
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Elected Vice-Chair of SOT Postdoctoral Assembly

Jennifer Cohen, PhD, DABT
Takeda California
Elected Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section Councilor, 2017-2019, and Elected WIT Junior Councilor, 2017-2019

Dana Dolinoy, MSc, PhD
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Appointed Director of the University of Michigan Epigenomics Core, and Appointed Associate Chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences at University of Michigan

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Editors: Brittany Baisch, PhD – Henkel North America, Marisa Pfohl – University of Rhode Island, Katelyn Lavrich – University of North Carolina, and Elissa Wong, MS – University of Rochester