Dear WIT Members,

Greetings! It is hard to believe that the 58th SOT Annual Meeting in Baltimore is approaching in a couple weeks! Let’s hope for great weather for all to enjoy this harbor city, its amazing seafood and vibrant living. The Annual Meeting has many scientific and career development sessions and mentoring/networking opportunities, such as the annual Mentoring Breakfast. Chat with an Expert, and Poster Tours with Trainees, hosted by CRAD, PDA, and GSLC. Did you know that some of these events were initiated by WIT? This year WIT is hosting a new career development session targeting mid-career, but open to all career stages. The session, “Improving your negotiation skills to close the salary gap”, is Tuesday, March 12, 2:30-3:30 pm (Convention Center Room 343). Topics include advice on pursuing a fair salary; developing negotiation strategies to use for obtaining a raise or promotion; and identifying and articulating one’s personal value. The event is sold out with a waitlist (preregistration was required). I thank our postdoctoral rep, Samantha Snow and student rep, Lauren Lewis, for organizing the event under Virunya Bhat’s guidance.

Our annual WIT Reception is Wednesday, March 13, 4:45-7:00 pm, in Hyatt Regency Baltimore, Constellation F. On behalf of the WIT Executive Committee (EC), I cordially invite you to come enjoy appetizers and refreshments while networking with WIT members from across the globe. The reception will update our members on WIT’s accomplishments this year and importantly, recognize winners of the Mentoring, Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement, Celebrating Women in Toxicology, Smith and Hook Distinguished Service, and Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Awards. We will also introduce and welcome the newly elected EC members that begin their terms on May 1, 2019.

Speaking of elections, I was thrilled with the results of the SOT elections! Many of the newly elected officials are WIT members, and some are members of the WIT EC.

Congratulations to the incoming council elected-officials but especially the WIT members: Myrtle Davis (elected SOT VP-Elect); Suzanne C. Fitzpatrick (elected SOT Secretary-Elect); Virunya Bhat (WIT Secretary/Treasurer; elected SOT Councilor); Cynthia Rider (elected SOT Councilor); Marion F Ehrich (elected member of Nominating Committee from Past Presidents); Jennifer L Freeman (elected member of Nominating Committee from Regional Chapters); Jennifer Diane Cohen (WIT Senior Councilor, elected member of Nominating Committee from Special Interest Groups). It is an immense pleasure to have strong representation from WIT on SOT council.

As this is my last President’s Message, please allow me this opportunity to thank the incredibly talented and committed women on the WIT EC with whom I’ve had the honor of working. This EC was an extremely dedicated team, and each of you are an inspirational leader. Your enthusiasm and hard work have truly been outstanding. I extend a special thank you to our outgoing officers – Laurie Haws (Past President), Jennifer Diane Cohen (Senior Councilor), Samantha Snow (Postdoctoral Rep). Words can’t express my gratitude for all that each of you have done for WIT. I truly enjoyed working with each of you and will truthfully miss you!

The WIT EC would like to continue encouraging our membership to volunteer, partnering with the WIT EC to further strengthen and enhance the WIT mission of promoting the visibility, leadership, education, and mentoring of women within SOT. I would like to thank all the WIT members who volunteered throughout the year. We are fortunate to have so many individuals willing to step up and serve.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve as your WIT President. Thank you for your vote and confidence! This has been a truly rewarding and memorable experience and one I am grateful for! I am looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore!

Warmly, Betina Lew, WIT President
Nomination of WIT Members for National and International Awards

By Sharon Meyer, PhD – University of Louisiana - Monroe

The 2018 year was a good one for WIT member recognition as three were selected for SOT awards, presented at the San Antonio Annual Meeting (see WIT Summer 2018 newsletter). These awards are in recognition of the candidates’ outstanding contributions and credentials as presented to the SOT Awards Committee in portfolios highlighting their attributes. Preparation of winning portfolios was facilitated by WIT’s Awards Nomination Committee. Continuation of this momentum now needs future engagement of WIT members to identify additional opportunities. Further, we can broaden our perspective to other national and international awards with priorities in which we think our membership excels. See page 9 of this newsletter, for example, honoring Dr. Ofelia Olivera. WIT members are encouraged to nominate a colleague, to self-nominate, or to seek help from the WIT Awards Nomination Committee to locate a competitive candidate. For example, an earlier call for nominations was posted for the Weizmann Women & Science Award. Although the October deadline has passed for the recent biennial award, there is a competition every other year, so it’s not too early to begin identifying prospective applicants for the 2021 application cycle. The Weizmann award is a highly prestigious award with most awardees having a specialty area in a STEM field. Examples include Elizabeth Blackburn (2008), Nobel Laureate, discoverer of telomerase, and cancer researcher Mary-Claire King (2006). To place a WIT member among this esteemed group would not only reveal the quality of our membership, but also expose other STEM disciplines to toxicology. Application materials are not too cumbersome, being: 1. a nomination letter that outlines the major scientific contributions and a short account on why the nominee is an exceptional role model for young women scientists, 2. CV and list of publications, and 3. two letters of recommendation.

I hope this brief calling will stimulate others to identify awards to which our membership can apply and WIT can anticipate a growing list of national and international awardees.

Signs the Leaky Pipeline May be Drying Up

By Samantha J. Snow, PhD, DABT – US Environmental Protection Agency

For decades, the metaphor of the “leaky pipeline” has been used to describe the dropout of women from science and engineering careers leading to underrepresentation in these fields worldwide. This has been attributed to various factors such as cultural gender roles experienced at a young age (i.e. boys are better than girls at math), lack of female role models/mentors, gender bias when applying for jobs (i.e. male candidates are commonly ranked higher than equally-qualified female candidates), and family responsibility resulting in a greater impact on a women’s career for bearing and parenting children.

There are signs that this leaky pipeline, at least in part, may be drying up. In a recent study published in PNAS, NIH researchers investigated whether women remain funded at the same rate as men after receiving their first major research grants. First the bad news: women only make up 1/3 of new NIH grant applications and compose only 31% of NIH grantees despite earning half of the biomedical science PhD degrees. The good news is that funding longevity (i.e. the ability to land that second grant) is comparable between sexes with no detectable differences between the most recent group of men and women researchers.

Overall, this is encouraging news for women scientists as it suggests that receiving funding will be no more difficult than it is for male scientists after they land that first grant. More work is needed to obtain equal representation of men and women in STEM careers but at least one of the holes in the leaky pipeline seems to be plugged.
They say when opportunity knocks, you should answer. This past Fall, despite being content at my then job, I did just that—I answered! After 5 years at a risk assessment consulting firm where I worked on everything from consumer and medical product safety to environmental risk assessment and responding to emerging regulations, I made the switch to the biotechnology industry. And not just any biotech sector, but specifically to the rapidly evolving world of gene therapy. This sector has intricacies that distinguish itself within the greater biotech industry. To say it was a big change of scenery would have been an understatement, but this was an exciting opportunity I was both nervous and eager to explore.

Some of the changes I encountered were obvious, like the increased time spent on designing and implementing robust toxicology studies. Other things were subtler: my mind no longer translates “BD” to ‘business development,’ but instead to ‘biodistribution,’ for one. I would now be the client to vendors instead of the service provider, and working at a young, growing company has a very different rhythm than an established firm. In some ways, it feels like I’m starting my career all over again, but in many others, it’s a clear next step in challenging myself to apply a strong technical and people-oriented skill set in a completely new environment.

Exciting as it may be, changing industries is not without its challenges. As someone who had a clear idea of both my role and a career path forward at my previous job, my initial reaction in this new role presented a kind of crisis of confidence that left me asking how to be a successful toxicologist in this new arena. My understanding of my role of advancing a program that can effectively bring pre-clinical decisions forth to a program team continues to evolve. Interfacing with the (brilliant) research scientists has been a throw-back to graduate school lab meetings where I find myself trying to rapidly digest and integrate newly generated data into future study plans. This is exciting – I’ve learned I missed being involved in the science as it was developing; however, it’s also daunting as it’s ‘been a minute’ since I plunged into raw data or thought critically about assay development.

Challenges aside, I’ve also recognized how my past experience has really bolstered me in my new role. While my transition is still relatively new, success in any career move is to identify and hold on to your strengths and then to determine how to bring them to the new table. The adaptability and ability to creatively apply core toxicology concepts to a wide variety of scenarios, for example consulting experience, lends nicely to the non-prescriptive space of pre-clinical gene therapy drug development. Strong organization and communication skills can help bring structure and efficiency to a growing team. Openness to feedback and asking questions when you’re uncertain doesn’t hurt, either.

If you’re interested in expanding your career options or moving to a different sector, you can use the same framework in order to accurately present yourself and your skillset. On LinkedIn, highlight big-picture skills that will contribute to strengthening a team in addition to your specific technical expertise. Are you a strong writer? Motivated, independent worker? Can you interface with people of diverse technical backgrounds or think creatively to solve complex problems? Many industries are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary and dynamic, and, as in my case, a wide breadth of skills can be the right foot in the door.

Daniella Pizzurro, PhD, DABT is the Associate Director of Pre-Clinical Toxicology at AVROBIO, Inc., a clinical stage gene therapy company based in Cambridge, MA.
Wednesday, March 13
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
Constellation F

4:45-5:30pm Meet the EC, networking, and volunteer sign-up
5:30-6:30pm WIT presentation: updates and awards
6:30 -7:30pm Meet the EC, networking, and volunteer sign-up

Come enjoy the food and beverage with your fellow WIT members!

1st Annual WIT SOT mentoring event for all career stages

“Improving your negotiations skills to close the salary gap”

Tuesday, March 12, 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Convention Center Room 343

Topics include:

- Advice on pursing a fair salary
- Developing negotiation strategies to use for obtaining a raise or promotion
- Identifying and articulating one’s personal value

Event is Sold Out & currently has a Waitlist (prior registration required)
People are exposed to complex and dynamic arrays of chemical and nonchemical stressors over the course of their lives. Traditionally, evaluation of toxicity and risk have been based on single chemicals or classes of similar chemicals. While reducing the targets to individual chemicals or manageable groups of related chemicals simplifies the problem, it does not reflect the complexity of real-world exposures. As our knowledge of biological systems has grown, so has our ability to approach mixtures using a more sophisticated framework. Instead of starting with a chemical, we can begin with the disease of interest and think about what kinds of exposures are likely to impact that disease. In this workshop, speakers will present various research efforts that apply knowledge of systems biology to understand the risk posed by mixtures. In the first presentation, Julia Rager (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) will discuss advances in our understanding of how perturbations in pathways can be related to disease outcomes.

Next, Justin Conley (US Environmental Protection Agency) will present work on assessing the joint action of chemicals that target male reproductive tract development through diverse mechanisms. Danielle Carlin (US National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS) will then discuss a joint effort by NIEHS and NHLBI focusing on chemical and nonchemical stressors that contribute to atherosclerosis. Alfonso Lampen (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, BfR) will present work from the EuroMix effort that employs an adverse outcome pathway approach to explore how multiple chemicals can lead to steatosis. Finally, Cynthia Rider (US National Toxicology Program, NTP/NIEHS) will describe a project aimed at using cancer pathways to prioritize and test chemicals for their cumulative contribution to cancer development. These presentations will highlight advances and challenges in approaching risk from exposure to mixtures using a systems biology perspective.

Monday, March 11, 2019
CC Room 309
1:45pm - 4:30pm

2019 SOT WIT-Endorsed Workshop Session:
Applying Systems Biology Approaches to Understand the Joint Action of Chemical and Nonchemical Stressors

By Julia E. Rager, Ph.D, MSEE – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
and Cynthia V. Rider, Ph.D, D.ABT – National Toxicology Program

Call for Proposals for the 59th SOT Annual Meeting

Consider WIT endorsement when submitting session proposals for the 2020 SOT Annual Meeting in sunny Anaheim, California. All topics welcome. WIT proposal review committee provides feedback if submitted for pre-review prior to the deadline.
Maximizing Access and Experience for Graduate Internships in Toxicology
By Natalie Johnson, PhD – Texas A & M University

According to recent job market surveys in the field of toxicology, the majority of graduates with toxicology PhD degrees pursue careers outside of academia. A recent National Academies of Sciences’ report on graduate stem education for the 21st century stresses the significance of “real-life” experience for graduate students through internships. Likewise, research findings highlight how graduate internships contribute to confident career decisions without increasing time to graduation. Numerous benefits of graduate students conducting internships include improving work-related skills, growing networks and connections within industry, government, or NGO scientists, and increasing competitiveness for employment after graduation. However, students have voiced concerns for pursuing internships, such as lack of PI approval and loss of research time.

To help educate students and mentors on opportunities, benefits and overcoming challenges related to internships, the SOT Education Committee will host an education-career development session at the upcoming 2019 SOT Annual Meeting, “Stepping Out of the Lab: Maximizing Access and Experience for Internships in Toxicology.” We invite all stakeholders to this conversation, including students, mentors, and potential internship hosts across all sectors, to our session on Wednesday, March 13, from 11 AM to 12:20 PM in Room 309 of the Baltimore Convention Center.


The WIT Endowment Funds

Our two Endowment funds, the Celebrating Women in Toxicology (CWiT) Fund and the Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund are two permanently restricted endowment funds enabling WIT to award outstanding toxicologists who have shown dedication to science and leadership. Your contribution to either of these funds enables 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. Thank you!

Thank You for your generous contributions in 2018-2019 to the WIT Endowment Funds!

Kristina D. Chadwick
Betty J. Eidemiller
Jan Hulla
Sharon A. Meyer
Brinda Mahadevan
MUCH THANKS TO OUR WIT VOLUNTEERS!
For your dedicated service on 2018-2019 WIT Committees

2019 SOT Session Proposal Review Committee
Jan Hulla (Chair)
Susan Emeigh Hart (Co-chair)
Ofelia Olivero (Co-chair)
Katie Chiang
Elizabeth Corteselli
Claire Neilan
Thu Annelise Nguyen
Kristin Noel
Daniella Pizzurro
Ruth Wangia

WIT 2019 SOT Awards Nomination Committee
Jan Hulla (Chair)
Susan Emeigh Hart
Brittany Baisch
Manushree Bharadwaj
Elizabeth Corteselli
Mary Ellen Cosenza
Pam Lein
Suzanne Martos
Saniya Rattan
Sharmilee Sawant
Samantha Snow
Phoebe Stapleton

WIT Awards Review Committees
Jenny Cohen (Chair)
Jessica Sapiro (Co-Chair)
Mentoring, Outstanding Young Investigator, Smith & Hook Distinguished Service Awards
Vera W. Hudson & Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Awards

WIT 2019 SOT Awards Nomination Committee
Jan Hulla (Chair)
Susan Emeigh Hart
Brittany Baisch
Manushree Bharadwaj
Elizabeth Corteselli
Mary Ellen Cosenza
Pam Lein
Suzanne Martos
Saniya Rattan
Sharmilee Sawant
Samantha Snow
Phoebe Stapleton

Celebrating Women in Toxicology Awards
Emily Martell
Nadia Moore
Claire Neilan
Jalissa Nguyen
Kathy Orsted
Marisa Pfohl
Jennifer Shing
Laura Van Winkle

Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement Awards
Brittany Baisch
Brianna Cagle
Krisa Camargo
Michelle Horner
Colleen McLoughlin
Logeswari
Ponnusamy
Arya Sobhakumari

Summer 2018
Aaron Bowman
Amy Mihalchik-Burhans
Krisa Camargo
Betina Lew
Lauren Lewis
Meghan E Rebuli
Samantha Snow
Olivia Stephenson
Sharon Meyer
Danniell L. Pizzurro
Jenny Cohen
Marina Fernandez
Rachin Ghaffari
Jan Hulla
Betina Lew
Lauren Lewis
Brinda Mahadevan
Meghan E Rebuli
Jessica Bombar
Samantha Snow
Olivia Stephenson

Spring 2019
Amber Bowman
Amy Mihalchik-Burhans
Krisa Camargo
Betina Lew
Lauren Lewis
Meghan E Rebuli
Samantha Snow
Olivia Stephenson

Some Trainee Events at 2019 SOT

Sunday, March 10
6:30-7:30 PM Welcome Reception
7:30-9:00 PM Student/Postdoctoral Scholar Mixer *

Monday, March 11
6:15-7:45 AM Mentoring Breakfast*
9:30-11:30 AM IUTOX Global Collaboration Coffee
12:00-1:30 PM In Vitro Toxicology Lecture & Luncheon*
4:45-6:00 PM SOT/EUROTOX Debate

*Ticket/pre-registration required

Tuesday, March 12
7:00-8:00 AM Past President’s 5K Fun Run/Walk*
12:00-1:00 PM Postdoctoral Assembly Luncheon*
1:30-2:50 PM Career Exploration through Speed Informational Interviews*
2:30-3:30 PM Improving your Negotiation Skills to Close the Salary Gap*
7:30-9:00 PM Tox ShowDown

Wednesday, March 13
11:00-12:20 Stepping Out of the Lab: Maximizing Access & Experience for Internships in Toxicology
4:45-7:00 PM WIT Reception


**Earned Degree**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay A. Holden, PhD</td>
<td>Army Public Health Center</td>
<td>PhD degree</td>
<td>April 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juyoung Katherine Shim, PhD</td>
<td>University of Maine</td>
<td>PhD degree</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadil Al Muhisen, MS</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>MS degree</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Career Advancement/Transitions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Position/Role</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krisa Camargo, BS, PhD Candidate</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhengxi Wei, PhD</td>
<td>National Institutes Health</td>
<td>Toxicology CU</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Jeanne Kallman, PhD</td>
<td>Kallman Preclinical Consulting</td>
<td>Distinguished Service Award</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Awards (non-employer)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Award/Recognition</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Lau, PhD</td>
<td>E. &amp; J. Gallo Winery</td>
<td>University of Arizona 2018 Alumni of the Year Award for the Honors College Oct 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Aleksunes, PharmD, PhD</td>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>NJ Heath Foundation’s 2018 Teaching Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Hall, PhD</td>
<td>Lincoln Memorial University</td>
<td>Appointed as Chair of Biology Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Kobos, PhD</td>
<td>Purdue University</td>
<td>1st Place PhD Platform Presentation, Ohio Valley SOT Regional Chapter Meeting Nov 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine Lange, PhD</td>
<td>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</td>
<td>Appointed as chartered member of US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Sept 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Other
| Krisa Camargo, BS, PhD Candidate | Texas A&M University                  | Student volunteer, US Environmental Protection Agency, evidence-based systematic reviews |
| Zhengxi Wei, PhD      | ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc.  | Earned Diplomate status of American Board of Toxicology (DABT) Nov 2018 |

**Awards (employer)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Award/Recognition</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer D. Cohen, PhD, DABT</td>
<td>Takeda California, Inc</td>
<td>Scientific Excellence Award June 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ofelia Olivero, PhD</td>
<td>National Cancer Institute</td>
<td>National Cancer Institute Director's Administrative Performance Award for exceptional performance within the Diversity Task Force of NCI</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Grants/Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jody Flaws, PhD</td>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>Two NIH grants: effects of water disinfection by-products or phthalates on female reproduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria L.Z. Dagli, DVM, MS, PhD</td>
<td>University of Sao Paulo, School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science</td>
<td>Sao Paulo Research Foundation ($50,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazi Tasneem, PhD candidate</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
<td>Women’s Initiatives Committee Travel Award for AIChE Annual Meeting and NSF and Henry Luce Foundation ASSIST Travel Grant to attend Academic Leadership for Women in Engineering Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krisa Camargo, BS, PhD Candidate</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>Awarded NIEHS Superfund Research Program KC Donnelly Externship Supplement Award for 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Aleksunes, PharmD, PhD</td>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>Two new R01 grants from NIH to study the placental barrier (NIEHS) and kidney drug-drug interactions (NIGMS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other**

- **Krisa Camargo, BS, PhD Candidate**
- **Zhengxi Wei, PhD**
- **Mary Jeanne Kallman, PhD**
- **Ofelia Olivero, PhD**
- **Jennifer D. Cohen, PhD, DABT**
- **Kazi Tasneem, PhD candidate**
- **Krisa Camargo, BS, PhD Candidate**
- **Lauren Aleksunes, PharmD, PhD**
- **Maria L.Z. Dagli, DVM, MS, PhD**
- **Jody Flaws, PhD**
- **Marausia Popovech, PhD, MPH, DABT**
- **Zhengxi Wei, PhD**
- **Marina Aleksunes, PharmD, PhD**
- **Mary Jeanne Kallman, PhD**
- **Ofelia Olivero, PhD**
- **Jennifer D. Cohen, PhD, DABT**
- **Kazi Tasneem, PhD candidate**
- **Krisa Camargo, BS, PhD Candidate**
- **Lauren Aleksunes, PharmD, PhD**
- **Maria L.Z. Dagli, DVM, MS, PhD**
- **Jody Flaws, PhD**

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**Celebrating YOUR Success!**

“Celebrating YOUR Success!” announcements are a great way to recognize WIT member achievements and advancements. These accomplishments were earned August 2018-January 31, 2019. CONGRATULATIONS!

To have your recent accomplishments highlighted in the next newsletter edition, click [here](#) and log-in. This link will remain active until July 31, 2019. We look forward to hearing your good news!
Closing the Gender Gap for SOT Awards

By Lauren Lewis, Texas A&M University

As evidenced by the chart below, women have historically tended to receive less SOT awards compared to men, particularly for senior-level awards, such as the SOT Achievement, Arnold J. Lehman, Education and Merit Awards. The gender gap appears to be less prevalent for the student and early-career awards. One way to begin closing the gender gap is to increase the number of women nominated. **WIT encourages qualified and exemplary women to nominate themselves (self-nomination eligibility depends on award) or their well-deserving peers** for these great recognition opportunities!

SOT Awards

- Male
- Female

Nursing Mothers Room at 2019 SOT

Available during SOT in Convention Center **VIP East, Level 400** across from Ballroom II during the hours of:

- **Sunday** 4:00pm - 6:00pm
- **Monday** 7:00am – 5:30pm
- **Tuesday** 7:00am – 5:30pm
- **Wednesday** 7:00am – 5:30pm
- **Thursday** 7:00am – 5:30pm

**It requires a key for entry.** The key can be picked up from the **SOT Office** (Room 328) nearby and should be promptly returned afterwards so that others can also use the room. The SOT Office Hours are: 7:00am – 5:30pm on Sunday through Wednesday and 7:00am – 11:30am on Thursday.
WIT Member Wins Prestigious National Mentoring Award from SACNAS!

By Virunya Bhat, PhD, DABT – NSF International

WIT is proud to have amongst its members Dr. Ofelia A. Olivero, the recipient of the national 2018 SACNAS Distinguished Mentor Award. The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) presented this award to Dr. Olivero at the 2018 National Diversity in STEM Conference in October in San Antonio, TX. Upon receipt of the award, Ofelia remarked “More than having a career, I always wanted to make a difference with my work—help others. This distinction is a testament and a celebration of that life mission. I am grateful to my peers and colleagues for their recognition and dedicate this award to the next generation of SACNISTA game changers.”

Dr. Olivero obtained her Ph.D. in cytogenetics in Argentina and subsequently joined the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 1987. She pioneered the discovery of anti-AIDS drug-induced carcinogenesis and is author or co-author of more than 75 scientific articles among authoring the book Interdisciplinary Mentoring in Science. Dr. Olivero has been a remarkable mentor, particularly for underrepresented minorities. She was chosen by the State Department to represent the USA in Brazil as part of an exchange of women in science and to attend a summit focused on the contributions of women in research in Colombia. She is the recipient of the Leading Diversity Award given by the NCI Director in appreciation of efforts furthering diversity and equal employment opportunities. She has received a Mentor award from AWIS in 2013 and the NCI Women Scientific Advisory Committee in 2017. NIH also recognized her as a “Game Changer”. Congratulations Ofelia!

Thanks for reading!

Editor-in-Chief: Virunya Bhat, PhD, DABT – NSF International
Assistant Editors: Krisa Camargo, BS – Texas A&M University
AJ (Azita) Cuevas, PhD, MPH, MS – Henkel Corporation

Lauren Lewis, BS – Texas A&M University
Amy Mihalchik-Burbans, PhD – Gad Consulting Services
Meghan E Rebuli, PhD – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Olivia Stephenson, BS – St John’s University

Interested in contributing to future WIT newsletters? Please email Virunya (bhat@nsf.org)