Dear WIT Members,

The increasing demands for social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID19 resulted in the cancellation of the SOT 2020 meeting. Of course, this is a great disappointment, but it does not negate the hard work of our members. SOT will be presenting all Continuing Education courses and select Workshops, Symposium or other sessions via webinar over the coming weeks. Stay tuned to the Virtual Meeting Program site for the most up-to-date details and schedule! Although the efforts of the WIT Executive Council and Volunteers during the past year cannot be shared in person as traditionally done at the WIT reception, they are outlined below and elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year, WIT’s SOT Nomination Committee members (page 12) facilitated the nomination of four of the major award winners. Also, the WIT Awards Committee (page 12) reviewed nominations for the 4 WIT sponsored awards (pages 6-10) and the WIT Ballot Nomination Committee reviewed several applications for the WIT elected positions. The winners are announced on page 11.

The Council’s Program Committee pre-reviewed and provided comments on draft SOT Annual Informational Sessions, Workshops, Symposia and Continuing Education Courses. Four of the draft proposals that were endorsed by the WIT Executive Council were accepted by the SOT Program Committee for presentation during the 2020 Annual Meeting. Hopefully, more of these sessions will be presented via webinar in the coming weeks. The volunteers who served on the Program Committee are gratefully acknowledged on page 12.

The Mentoring Event Committee members (page 12) were delighted that Dr. Linda Birnbaum accepted their invitation to be the keynote speaker during the WIT-sponsored mentoring event, which will now be presented instead as a future webinar (see page 4). Dr. Birnbaum is not only a Past-President of SOT, she is a founding member of WIT.

The WIT Executive Council is spearheading an effort to address salary inequities. We will first attempt to document the salary trends reported in the Triennial Toxicology Salary Surveys that, in cooperation with the SOT, Shayne C. Gad has published over the last three decades. Since 1989, nine salary surveys have been published. Once the data are obtained and analyzed, we will develop a strategy to address the long-standing gender-based salary inequities revealed.

While there is some good news, there is still much to do, and we continue to develop topics and strategies for action. I encourage your participation. A single good idea can be the spark that eventually advances the human condition.

Finally, a big thank you to the outgoing WIT Officers: Lauren Lewis, Grad Student Rep.; Meghan Rebuli, Post-Doctoral Rep.; Jessica Sapiro, Senior Councilor; Virunya Bhat, Secretary/Treasurer; and Betina Lew, Past-President. You all have contributed so much!

Soon, Susan Emeigh Hart and I will be transitioning to our next roles in WIT’s presidential chain. It’s been an honor to serve as the WIT President and I look forward to the coming year, Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Jan Hulla, PhD, DABT, ERT
WIT President
How It’s Made: Science Policy Fellow Edition
By Andrea R Hindman, PhD – AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Department of Defense; AGC Science Communication Fellow

It is a dream that my work lets me link science to policy. As an American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science and Technology Policy Fellow (AAAS STPF) supporting the Department of Defense (DoD) and a Science Communication Fellow, supported by Advancing Green Chemistry (AGC), I aim to foster a network of trust to help people feel in control of their lifespan health. I strive to fill gaps in science linking chemical exposure to health outcomes and inform risk-based decisions. This statement of purpose helps me identify projects with the greatest impact for human health and the environment.

Before this, I needed scientific and technical training. How? I was a first-generation college student. My success stems from following my scientific passions and learning about the passions of others to guide my way.

Would you believe I did not declare an undergraduate major until my third year at the University at Buffalo? Fate guided me to an analytical environmental chemistry lab in my second year where my research interests focused on hormone-disrupting chemical effects in largemouth bass in the Great Lakes. I later landed in a biochemistry lab, took the GRE, applied to graduate schools and also, found my husband.

While learning technical skills and critical thinking at THE Ohio State, I was delighted to select a lab focused on molecular mechanisms of early-life endocrine disruption and breast cancer. Early on, I met a student with similar science policy interests who told me about the AAAS fellowship and mentored me, with one key recommendation- engage with OSU’s student government. I went to Washington, DC to advocate for graduate student interests. My student government peers recognized me for leading the Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee. On brand, right?

During this time, my graduate advisor connected me with a toxicologist working for the Air Force. “Wow, exactly what I wanted to do” - connect my science to public health– toxicology seemed like the way forward. So, I invited her to our Career Day. Six years later, many wonderful things have come from this bond, including joining SOT and vastly expanding my network.

I had my son a month after defending my thesis. Four months later, I went from basic molecular biology research, to a postdoctoral fellowship at the intersection of environmental health and social sciences at a non-profit. I learned systematic review methods, adverse outcome pathways, community-based research and grew my network. I also joined Toastmasters to practice public speaking. Coming from non-profit training to the fellowship at DoD was a unique chance to collect diverse perspectives.

As an AAAS fellow, I have contributed to interagency reviews and attended a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) meeting in Norway (picture) to brainstorm the impacts of evolving environmental regulations with international and industry partners. I never thought I would go to a NATO meeting. My co-fellow (middle) said, “You’re not thinking big enough.”

I am forever in awe of the Washington monument as it comes into view from the Metro, tracking across the Potomac. Saying “I am going to the Pentagon...” and roaming its halls will never get old. Being in the constant embrace of a wonderful network of fellows is a dream. I savor every moment I have in DC and learn from the many perspectives that drive society’s thinking around chemical and material use. Going forward, I can use these experiences to inform risk-based decision-making and empower end-users/ the public with information to make decisions about their health. My path to Defense was different than my parents who both served in the Army, but this connection now motivates me to serve our selfless servicemembers.

How it’s made: Talk to people, invest in relationships, persevere in your goals; and do Toastmasters or improv! The PhD granted me freedom to uniquely follow my passions and prioritize prevention in ways that are accessible to all stakeholders.

Follow me on Twitter: @andrea_hindman
Skype-a-Scientist is a program created by a graduate student, Sarah McAnulty (@SarahMackAttack on Twitter) at the University of Connecticut, to match scientists with classrooms around the world. This program was initially designed to improve science education, combat scientific mistrust, and show children of diverse backgrounds that there are scientists out there that look like them. Skype-a-Scientist was founded in 2017, but currently has thousands of classrooms signed up and scientists from all 50 states and 17 other countries. Typically, after a classroom and scientist are matched, a video conferencing tool (Skype or similar) are used to connect the two and complete a 30-60 min question and answer (Q&A) session or presentation with Q&A session.

This spring, I answered a call on the Skype-a-Scientist twitter page (@SkypeScientist) for a scientist researching e-cigarettes. I was matched with a high school biology teacher, Alex Bernier (@SPRHS_Bernier), in Alberta, CA, and did a 30 minute presentation on the e-cigarette research being conducted in the lab of Dr. Ilona Jaspers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed a Q&A session after the presentation. The students were engaged in the presentation and asked interesting questions about our work and the risk of e-cigarette use in adolescence. The buzz around the school about the first presentation resulted in an additional presentation that same afternoon, but instead of being in a classroom, they needed a theater to fit all those interested in attending!

Overall, I had a great experience. The students’ enthusiasm about our work reminded just how interesting our research has the potential to be and the impact it can have on public health. It also gave me the opportunity to practice my science communication skills and explaining our research at a level that the general public can understand. This is a skill that scientists can use to better engage the public who are paying for much of our research through taxes and improve public trust in scientists and the scientific process. I am excited to have been invited back for another session in the fall by Mr. Bernier and I am eagerly awaiting my next Skype-a-Scientist match.

If you are interested in being matched with a classroom, fill out the simple Google Form at skypeascientist.com. At skypeascientist.com you can also find pictures and mini-descriptions of previous sessions, science communication resources, lesson plans, scientist features (@skypeascientist on Instagram), and much more!
2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual WIT Mentoring Event for All Career Stages

With Dr. Linda Birnbaum PhD, DABT, ATS, Director of National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (retired)

The in-person event originally scheduled during the SOT Annual Meeting in Anaheim will be held via webinar. Stay Tuned for Details.

Call for Proposals for the 60\textsuperscript{th} Annual SOT Meeting

Consider WIT endorsement when proposing sessions for the 2021 SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. \textbf{ALL TOPICS WELCOME.} WIT proposal review committee provides feedback if submitted for pre-review prior to the WIT deadline, April 24, 2020. Send to courtney.sulentic@wright.edu
Although we were unable to honor the SOT and WIT Award Winners at SOT2020 or during our WIT Annual Reception, their achievements are certainly not diminished. Of the 11 SOT 2020 awards, five were awarded to women and the Honorary membership was also awarded to a woman! Well done ladies! WIT continues to be active in facilitating the number of women nominees for the SOT awards. Please consider contacting the WIT President-elect, Courtney Sulentic (Courtney.sulentic@wright.edu), if you have a strong candidate in mind for the 2021 SOT National Awards and we will help facilitate her nomination.

Congratulations to the WIT-supported 2020 SOT National Award Recipients!

Arnold J. Lehman Award
Annie M. Jarabek

Toxicologist Mentoring Award
Ofelia A. Olivero, PhD, ATS

Bruce A. Fowler Undergraduate Educator Award
Christine Perdan Curran, PhD
Congratulations to our 2020 WIT Awardees!

Some highlights of our incredible members

Smith and Hook Distinguished Service Award:
Leigh Ann Burns Naas, PhD, DABT, ATS, ERT

- President/Owner Magnolia Toxicology Consulting
- President of SOT, American College of Toxicology, Academy of Toxicological Sciences
- Key advocate of formation of WIT SOT Awards Nomination Committee
- Numerous service positions to SOT
- Long history of mentorship
- Established Investigator with extensive publication and presentation record

Outstanding Young Investigator Award:
Jennifer Freeman, PhD

- Associate Professor at Purdue University
- Investigator in School of Health Sciences using the genetic model organism zebrafish to understand environmental health risks of metal exposures
- Numerous career and research awards, grants from multiple scientific agencies, publications, and service obligations.
Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger
Student Scholarship Award:

Monika Roy – 1st Place
Affiliation: University of Massachusetts – Amherst
Advisor: Alicia Timme-Laragy, PhD
Abstract: The Sulfate Metabolite of 3,3’-Dichlorobiphenyl (PCB-11) Impairs Cyp1a Activity and Increases Hepatic Neutral Lipids in Zebrafish Larvae (Danio rerio)
• High academic achievement
• Wide range of leadership and service commitments
• NIH NRSA F31 Predoctoral Fellowship
• 7 peer-reviewed articles and 20 abstracts

Jeanine D’Errico – 2nd Place
Affiliation: Rutgers University
Advisor: Phoebe Stapleton, PhD
Abstract: Maternal Health and Placental Outcomes After Pulmonary Nanoplastic Exposure
• High academic achievement
• Wide range of leadership and service commitments
• Coordinator for Rutgers High School Toxicology Health and Environmental Disease Summer Program (THED)
• 4 peer-reviewed articles and 10 abstracts

Postdoctoral Achievement Award:
**Colette Miller, PhD**

Affiliation: US EPA  
Advisors: Jan Dye, PhD and Urmila Kodavanti, PhD  
Abstract: Ozone Exposure during Implantation Impairs Offspring Metabolic Processes in a Sex-Specific Manner in Rats  
- High academic achievement  
- Volunteers through EPA’s community engagement initiatives and outreach programs  
- EPA Pathfinders Innovation Project Phase 1 Award  
- 21 peer-reviewed articles  
- Numerous Student and Postdoc. Awards based on her research

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**Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award: Meghan Rebuli, PhD**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Affiliation: UNC – Chapel Hill  
Advisors: Ilona Jaspers, PhD  
Workshop Chair: Sex, Lungs, and Air Pollution  
- Volunteers at local, university, national, and international levels  
- Skype-A-Scientist – met with HS students from Alberta Canada about e-cigarettes  
- Active in the Executive Committees of Graduate Women in Science, Society for Neuroscience, Women in Toxicology SOT
Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award: Rachel Speer

Graduate Student
Affiliation: University of Louisville
Advisors: John Wise, Sr, PhD
Abstract: Chromate-Induced Loss of E2F1 Inhibits RAD51 Response in Homologous Recombination Repair

- 15 different volunteer and community engagement organizations, including: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky Science Fair, and Girls Rule STEM+Health Summit.
- Volunteers with the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust, Vieques, Puerto Rico

Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award: Anne Turco

Graduate Student
Affiliation: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Advisors: Chad Vezina, PhD
Abstract: In Utero and Lactational Dioxin Increases Noradrenergic Axon Density and Nerve-Evoked Smooth Muscle Contraction in Mouse Prostate

- Has identified and pursued leadership opportunities, specifically the Graduate Women in Science
- STEP award, Society of Toxicology to travel to the TERA dose response bootcamp
- Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Student Leadership
Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award:
Victoria Salemme

Undergraduate Student
Affiliation: University of Massachusetts – Amherst
Advisors: Alexander Suvorov, PhD
Abstract: Identifying Molecular Pathways Highly Sensitive to Chemical Exposure Using Bioinformatic Methods
• Acted as a liaison for the Office of Undergraduate Research to help students coordinate and select research laboratories
• Chartered Student Organization called the UMass Science Policy Team

Thank you to our WIT awards review committee!
(See page 12)

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2021 WIT AWARD SEASON!

Changes are ahead! Look for deadlines in your inbox and our summer newsletter.

See you in Orlando!
Margaret Rossiter Writes Women Scientists’ Accomplishments Back into History

By Janet Thompson, MS
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Susan Dominus offers us a first-hand glimpse into Margaret Rossiter’s lifelong passion of research and documentation of the history of women in science in her article “Women Scientists Were Written Out of History. It’s Margaret Rossiter’s Lifelong Mission to Fix That” in the Smithsonian Magazine. As a graduate student at Yale in 1970, Rossiter quickly learned that women’s scientific accomplishments were historically downplayed, overlooked, or just credited to their male colleagues. In 1993, she named this phenomenon “the Matilda Effect” after Matilda Gage who was a prolific writer, suffragist, and activist in the late 1800’s. Gage wrote profusely regarding the invisibility of women’s accomplishments in science throughout history, and ironically was almost overlooked for her contributions to the women’s movement as well. Dominus also highlights some of the most notable female scientists cited in Rossiter’s works including cytogeneticist Barbara McClintock (1902-1992), mathematician Grace Murray Hopper (1906-1992), Marie Maynard Daly (1921-2003) who was the first African-American woman in the United States to be awarded a PhD in chemistry, and Maria Mitchell (1818-1889) who discovered a comet in 1847. Dominus’s article is refreshing and enlightening as she shares her one on one interview of Margaret Rossiter Ph.D., who at 75 years young, is an American historian of science at Cornell University. You can read Dominus’s full article in the Smithsonian Magazine, October 2019.

Welcome, New Officers

Vice President-Elect
Brittany Baisch

Secretary/Treasurer
Grace Chappell

Junior Councilor
Judy Zelikoff

Post-Doctoral Rep.
Katelyn Lavrich

Graduate Student Rep.
Samantha Goodman

Thank you, Outgoing Officers

Past-President
Betina Lew

Secretary/Treasurer
Virunya Bhat

Senior Councilor
Jessica Sapiro

Post-Doctoral Rep.
Meghan Rebuli

Graduate Student Rep. Lauren Lewis
### MUCH THANKS TO OUR WIT VOLUNTEERS!

For your dedicated service on 2019-2020 WIT Committees

**WIT Awards Review Committees**
- **Mentoring, Outstanding Young Investigator, Smith & Hook Distinguished Service Awards**
  - Mentoring: Jessica Sapiro-Chair
  - Outstanding Young Investigator: Phoebe Stapleton
  - Smith & Hook Distinguished Service Awards:
    - Jessica Sapiro-Chair
    - Phoebe Stapleton
    - Angelique Braen
    - Sharon Meyer
    - Meghan Rebuli

- **Vera W. Hudson & Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund Student Awards**
  - Chair: Michelle Horner
  - Iona Raymond
  - Jennifer Shing
  - Krisa Camargo

**Celebrating Women in Toxicology Awards**
- Phoebe Stapleton-Chair
- Alexandria Lau
- Colleen McLoughlin
- Claire Neilan
- Caroline Moore
- Brittany Karas

**Postdoctoral Fellow Achievement Awards**
- Jessica Sapiro-Chair
- Michelle Horner
- Iona Raymond
- Jennifer Shing
- Krisa Camargo
- Courtney Sulentic

**2020 WIT Ballot Nomination Committee**
- Betina Lew-Chair
- Laurie Haws
- Jessica Sapiro

**Summer 2019**
- Jan Hulla
- Lauren Lewis
- Meghan Rebuli

**Spring 2020**
- Lauren Lewis
- Grace Chappell
- Kristin Licko

**2020 SOT Mentoring Event Committee**
- Nadia Moore-Chair
- Linda Birnbaum
- Meghan Rebuli
- Lauren Lewis
- Betina Lew
- Virunya Bhat

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**Thank You for your generous contributions in 2019-2020 to the WIT Endowment Funds!**

Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation (on behalf of Kristina Chadwick)
- Barbara D. Beck
- Betty J. Eidemiller
- Janis E. Hulla
- Sharon A. Meyer

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!
Women in Toxicology

Celebrating YOUR Success!

“Celebrating YOUR Success!” announcements are a great way to recognize WIT member achievements and advancements. These accomplishments were earned September 2019- February 2020. CONGRATULATIONS!

To have your recent accomplishments highlighted in the next newsletter edition, click here and log-in. This link will remain active until August 15, 2020. We look forward to hearing your good news!

Career Advancement/ Transition

Andrea Rodrigues, PhD, DABT
ToxStrategies
Managing Scientist

Jessica Sapiro, PhD
Sage Therapeutics
Project Toxicologist

Nicole Kleinstreuer, PhD
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NICEATM Director (acting)

Lauren Lewis, PhD
Takeda Pharmaceuticals
Investigative Toxicologist

Linda Birnbaum, PhD
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US National Toxicology Program and US Environmental Protection Agency
Retired after 40 years

Meghan E. Rebuli, PhD
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, Department of Pediatrics and Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma and Lung Biology
Assistant Professor

Sarah Carratt, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University
Post-doctoral Fellowship

Tao Wang, MD, PhD, DABT
Coherus Biosciences
Executive Director of Preclinical Development

Virunya Bhat, PhD, DABT
ToxStrategies
Senior Scientist, Mechanistic and Computational Biology

Awards (Employer)

Britney Geter, MS
The Coca-Cola Company
Independent Thinker 2019 Award for exhibiting entrepreneurial behaviors in the North America Technical Team.

Prathyusha Bagam, MS
Southern University and A&M College
Meeting Graduate Student Travel Support Award

Sarah Carratt, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University
Young Investigator Award, SOT Carcinogenesis Specialty Section and Collins Medical Trust

Elected/Appointed Leadership

Tao Wang, MD, PhD, DABT
Coherus Biosciences
Adviser on IUTox Finance and Fundraising Committee

Meghan E. Rebuli, PhD
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill
Selected as Early-Career Reviewer for Endocrinology (Endocrine Society Journal)

Grants/Funding

Sarah Carratt, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University
Knight Cancer Institute’s Scientific Operations Collaborative Research Grant

Earned Degree

Lauren Lewis, PhD
Texas A & M University
PhD Toxicology

CONGRATULATIONS on these accomplishments!

Other

Kazi Tasneem, PhD candidate
Vanderbilt University

Krista Greenwood, PhD, DABT
INDS Inc
Certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology

Elizabeth M. Vancza, PhD, MS, DABT
SafeBridge Consultants, Inc.
Invited Speaker, “Occupational Toxicology” Lecture in Gaithersburg, MD, as part of the American College of Toxicology’s “Advanced Comprehensive Toxicology Course,” a preparatory course for toxicologists planning to take the American Board of Toxicology certification exam

Thanks for reading!

Editor-in-Chief Virunya Bhat, PhD, DABT – ToxStrategies
Assistant Editors: Lauren Lewis, PhD – Takeda
Kristin Licko – Water Quality Association
Grace Chappell – Frontiers

Interested in contributing to future WIT newsletters? Reach out to the WIT Secretary-Treasurer