Spring 2023

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President’s Message

Dear WIT members,

I do not know about you, but I am really looking forward to SOT this year! Whether you are an undergraduate, postdoc, early career, mid-career or well-seasoned toxicologist, WIT has many programs and awards we will celebrate together in Nashville!

Please join us for the WIT Career Agility Panel on Monday March 20th from 6-7pm (CDT) to hear from WIT members who have been climbing the ladder and absolutely crushing it in their roles in industry, government, and academia. They will provide you with tips and tricks for how to set your goals at work, and how to shine like the star you are in your mid-year and year-end performance reviews.

The WIT Reception will be on Wednesday March 22nd from 4:30-6:30pm, and we will share big news in the WIT award space, including WIT award winners, WIT members who received SOT Awards and are serving on SOT committees, and announce our incoming WIT officers.

Read on for more details about the Annual Meeting and how to get involved with WIT. We are a powerhouse of programming and initiatives, and we could not do any of this without our wonderful volunteers and the most dedicated Executive Committee. It has been a pleasure to serve you and thanks for your support and participation in WIT.

Stay well, bring peace, be bold,

Brittany Baisch, PhD, DABT
As women scientists we are acutely aware of the significantattrition of outstanding scientists from STEM fields after graduate school. While we are incredibly supportive of our trainees and early career researchers, we don't have many opportunities to scientifically support and reinvigorate our junior-to-mid career scientists where they can expand their arsenal of experiences and techniques. With the support of Annie Jarabek (WIT Vice President) and the WIT EC, I am incredibly thrilled and humbled to be able to announce a new WIT award called Leadership, Experience, Application, and Practice (LEAP). The purpose of this award is to support an established early- or mid-career woman scientist so they may broaden their skill set via an in-person laboratory or computational experience. Hybrid in-person and virtual opportunities can also be pursued to suit building the skill sets required.

My inspiration for this award is rooted in recent experience where I was awarded the Microcirculatory Society’s (MCS) “Travel Award for Outstanding Young Investigators.” The intent of this award was not a summer long fellowship nor a semester sabbatical, but a brief immersive experience that lasted only a week or two, promoted collaborations, and enhanced my technical training as a junior investigator. Since many of us at this junior to mid-career stage have young children and small laboratories, this is a perfect timeframe to be away from home. For my award I visited the laboratory of Dr. Sandra Davidge at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada.

Since my graduate training, Sandy has consistently been an author whose work ran in parallel to my own. I would track her publications like some may mark a new release from their favorite actor/author. More recently, her studies into the generational effects of maternal pre-eclampsia are similar to my questions pertaining to the impacts of maternal exposures. While I have been focused on coronary vascular perturbations in our progeny, her laboratory was assessing ex vivo working heart function. This skill was incredibly well described, but impossible to functionally imagine. Consequently, I had so many questions for her, both professionally (When running statistics, do you really count each progeny based on the mother? Why do you use a fatty acid buffer instead of a glucose buffer for your heart studies?) and personally (How did you end up in Alberta?).

Before COVID, we met at an Experimental Biology meeting (FASEB) and after my scientific fan-girl moment (“I have read all your papers”), Sandy graciously invited me to join her group for a post-conference day drink. The conversation was easy, as our science was so closely related, yet so far apart. Afterwards we kept in touch and discussed collaborative projects,
but the distance and the need for fresh tissues in our assays made these challenging to put into reality. The MCS award allowed us to put these conversations into practice.

Once I returned home and I had a chance to reflect on my trip, I realized that this MCS Award had afforded me this remarkable experience. This type of experience was not a program that we currently had in the SOT and it propelled me to propose the LEAP award to Annie and the WIT EC. Now we need your help!

1. **WIT is holding a logo design competition for the LEAP Award (details below).** I know there are WIT members who are significantly (I don’t use this term lightly) more creative and skilled in the graphic design department than I am!

2. The **first round of LEAP Award applications** will be **due on Monday May 1st, 2023**. Please review the application packet requirements on page 4 and apply!

Thank you for reading and I’ll see you in Nashville!

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**Calling for Creativity!**

We need YOUR creativity to help us design a suitable logo to showcase this new award! Below are the criteria to guide and help develop your original work to the best of your ability as a submitter:

- Resonate with the spirit and purpose of the award
- Support SOT’s DEI mission
- Reflect the pillar(s) of WIT’s mission of visibility, education, mentoring and leadership
- Appeal visually from a distance (e.g., presentation, poster) as well as smaller materials (e.g., letter heads)

**Submissions are due:** April 1st, 2023

Email your submissions to Krisa Camargo (WIT Secretary/Treasurer)

Logo selection will be a vote by WIT membership!
Leadership, Experience, Application, and Practice (LEAP) Award

The LEAP Award is presented to an established early- or mid-career scientist who identifies as a woman based on the merit of their applications and research contributions in the field of toxicology. Preference will be given to toxicological studies focused on women’s health. It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify the laboratory/research experience that will enhance their career and knowledge of a specific toxicological issue.

Location: Training may be within their country of origin or abroad

Purpose: Allow the recipient to broaden their skillset while gaining mentorship from their host.

Experience Type: Computational Center OR Laboratory Training (some components may be virtual)

Award: $5,000 to defray travel costs, hotel, and per diem costs to support the recipient during their visit, or software fees

Application Packet Requirements

- Must be a WIT Member and an SOT Associate or Full Member
- CVs of the applicant and host
- Provide a nomination letter describing how the award will benefit your career and advance your toxicology career
- Letter of support from your Host/Mentor (this individual can be of any gender, but the applicant must identify as a woman)
- Share a tentative itinerary that outlines the laboratory or facilities to be visited or the virtual training experience
- Provide a detailed budget (e.g., hotel, flight, per diem, software purchase)
- The experience should be completed before March 2024

Submit to: sot.wit.awards@gmail.com with subject line “Lastname_LEAP Award Application”

Deadline: Monday May 1, 2023 (awards will be announced end of May 2023)

Applications will be vetted by the WIT Executive Committee (EC) and the recipient will present a brief presentation of their experience during the 2024 WIT Reception.
WIT’s two Endowment Funds are the Celebrating Women in Toxicology (CWiT) and the Vera W. Hudson and Elizabeth K. Weisburger Scholarship Fund (H+W Scholarship Fund).

CWiT recognizes and encourages women developing in their early toxicological careers and is selected based on scientific merit, leadership, and service. This award goes to outstanding SOT WIT undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral student members.

Elizabeth K. Weisburger created H+W Fund in memory of Vera W. Hudson which supports an SOT WIT graduate student member. It is awarded to those pursing a PhD in toxicology and applicants must demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and service.

Please consider donating to CWiT Award Fund and/or the H+W Scholarship Fund by using this form and indicate which WIT Endowment Fund you wish to support. We thank you for your continued support!

**WIT is seeking to establish a LEAP Award Endowment, and we need your help!!**

To establish a temporary fund: we need to raise $10,000

To make the Endowment permanent: we need to raise $40,000 over 3 years

Please consider asking if your company can match your donations to help us establish this new Endowment for early and mid-career women! WIT is excited Dr. Stapleton suggested this opportunity and we hope you consider donating and applying!

If you are interested in donating to the LEAP Award, please send an email titled “Donating to LEAP Award Endowment” to Krisa Camargo (WIT Secretary), Brittany Baisch (WIT President), and Martha Malone (SOT Endowment).
SOT 2023 Annual Meeting and ToxExpo Reminder

The 62nd SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo is approaching!

The meeting will be held at Music City Center in downtown Nashville. Check out the [meeting website](https://www.nashvillemusiccitycenter.com) for the program, registration, ToxExpo Exhibits, and information about Floor Plans.

**On-Site Services**

**Child Care**

SOT had earlier contracted with KiddieCorp to provide childcare during the 62nd Annual Meeting and ToxExpo. However, this on-site childcare program has been canceled because of lack of enrollment.

Child care services are not being provided by SOT during the Annual Meeting, but we suggest contacting the concierge desk at your hotel for assistance with child care arrangements.

**Nursing Mothers and Families**

There are multiple family-style restrooms on Level 1

Two nursing mothers’ Lounges are available at the Music City Center:

- One on Level 1
- Second on Level 3

The rooms lock from the inside, have a few comfortable chairs and electrical outlets. Keys are not required for access, and therefore the rooms should be accessible during all regular hours of the Annual Meeting.

**Note:** Childrens are allowed in Scientific Sessions and the ToxExpo Exhibit Hall.

For more details on on-site services, please visit [On-Site Services—2023 SOT Annual Meeting](https://www.toxicology.org)
Interested in highlighting your job posting in the WIT Newsletter?

Send the position and any additional details to:
kmcamargo@aggienetwork.com

Job Postings MUST already be posted to the SOT Job Bank to be considered!

Scientific Director, Division of Translation Toxicology (DTT)

Application Review Start: March 27th, 2023
Contact: Dr. Joni Rutter (joni.rutter@nih.gov)
SOT Job Board ID: 67913495
Location: Research Triangle Park, NC, USA
Job-type: Full-Time
Degree/Experience: Ph.D, M.D., D.V.M., or equivalent
Min Experience: 5 – 10 years
How to Apply: Submit materials via email to int-appls@nichs.nih.gov with subject line including “AC1553”

Qualifications: Applicant’s degree should be in biomedical sciences or possess an exceptional research record in toxicology or a related field. Applicants should have a record that demonstrates the ability to lead and manage diverse research-based programs, establish they are an internationally recognized subject matter expert, and the applicant is committed to a diverse, open, and transparent approach to overseeing research.

As Director, this position offers the opportunity to develop and implement strategies to support the NIEHS Strategic Vision. Additional responsibilities include: recruit and lead research faculty; create and maintain a dynamic research environment that fosters creativity and collaboration; nurture an inclusive and diverse environment for trainees; effectively provide administrative management; and be an active and valued member of the NIEHS senior leadership team. Additional details about the position can be found on the SOT Job Bank and more details about the DTT group can be found here.

NEW Photo Opportunity: WITness Vault

WIT will now have a new image uploading corner! We are excited for WIT Members to share their photos

Links will be made available once we receive them!
WIT at SOT 2023 - All times are in Central

Sunday March 19th:
- 8:15am – 12pm AM02: A Training on the OECD Guidance for Characterizing, Validating, and Reporting Physiologically Based Kinetic Models
- 8:15am – 12pm AM04: Beyond the Powerhouse: Investigating Mechanisms of Mitotoxicity
- 8:15am – 12pm AM07: Unique Applications of Systematic Review Methods: Assessment of Ecotoxicity, Environmental Fate, Exposure, Mechanisms, and Comparison of Test Methods
- 7:30pm – 9:30pm Student/Post-Doctoral Scholar Mixer

Monday March 20th:
- 9:15am – 12pm Mechanistic Insights on Gene x Environment Interactions in Autism
- 1:45pm – 4:30pm Placenta as a Target of Environmental Exposures: From Bench to Society
- 6pm – 7pm WIT Career Panel: Goal Setting and Performance Review Strategies (Omni Nashville Hotel Legends Ballroom F)

Tuesday March 21st:
- 8:00am – 10:45am How to Be an Active Ally and Upstander for Promoting an Inclusive Environment in Toxicology

Wednesday March 22nd:
- 4:30pm – 6:30pm WIT Reception (Onmi Nashville Hotel Broadway Ballroom E)

Thursday March 23rd:
- 8:30am – 11:15am What’s All the Buzz about Tungsten?

Check for exact locations using the online planner!
A How to for Graduate Students

Wonder how to become more involved in the Women in Toxicology Specialty Interest Group?! Check out some ways below!

LinkedIn

- Join our LinkedIn page and feel free to introduce yourself!
- Tag us in your achievement posts by either using the @ or #!
- Check out and reshare our #WITWonderWomanWednesday

Volunteer!

There are 4 committees that are constantly seeking help

- **WIT Program Review** - reviews and evaluates Annual Meeting proposals
- **SOT Awards Nomination** – facilitate the nomination of the most deserving women for SOT National Awards
- **WIT Awards Review** - reviews and scores WIT Award applications
- **WIT Newsletter** - writes, edits, and formats newsletter articles for the bi-yearly WIT newsletter

SOT/WIT Reception

- Plan every hour of each day using the online planner!
- **Reception** – Omni Nashville Hotel, Broadway Ballroom E; Wed, 4:30-6:30pm CDT
- **WIT Mentor/Mentee session** – be on the lookout for more information!
- **Student/Postdoc Mixer** – Davidson Ballroom B; Sun, 7:30-9:00 pm CDT
- Drop by our Reception, poster, or other events and network with other WIT members!

Nominate

- Check for emails from the WIT listserv for open positions!
- Want to learn more about positions? Contact current Reps!

Wish to join WIT? There is no fee to join WIT as an undergraduate student! Please indicate membership when updating SOT dues!

If you have additional questions about getting involved as a trainee WIT member, feel free to contact the current Graduate Student Rep., Danielle Kozlosky or Postdoc Rep., Lauren Walker.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-23 COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS!!!

WIT SOT Awards Nomination Committee

Barbara Beck
Amy Clippinger
Sarah Belperain
Claire Neilan
Lauren Lewis
Mindy Reynolds
Jennifer Rayner
Marion Ehrich
Lindsay Denluck
Toufan Parman
Jalissa Nguyen
Lauren Walker
Kimberly Wise-White

WIT Awards Committee

Aleksandra Buha
Deacquinita Diggs
Chiedu Onwordi
Michelle Horner
María-Carmen Rubio-Armendáriz
Lindsay Frankart
WIT volunteer committees are the driving force behind several activities ahead of the SOT Annual Meeting and their efforts are very much appreciated!

Please consider joining one (or two!) committees for the 2023/2024 cycle. Keep an eye out for the link to our Annual WIT Survey coming out soon.

Thank you all again for your help!
CONGRATULATIONS! These announcements are a great way to recognize WIT members’ achievements and advancements.

Please share your recent accomplishments to be highlighted in the next newsletter edition! Click HERE to fill in a short questionnaire. This link will remain active until July 31st, 2023. We look forward to hearing your good news!

Keep an eye out for the link to our Annual WIT Survey coming out soon! We use this survey to select our WIT Program Review Committee, SOT Awards Nomination Committee, WIT Awards Review Committee, and WIT Newsletter Committee.

~ Thanks for reading! ~

Editor-in-Chief:
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Interested in contributing to a future WIT newsletter? If you have an interest in sharing a story, opinion, experience, or comment in a future newsletter, send us an email (kmcamargo@aggienetwork.com). We want to hear from you!

Contact WIT Secretary-Treasurer: kmcamargo@aggienetwork.com

Remember to check out our new LEAP Award Application (page 4) and consider submitting a logo design for our contest (page 3)!

Logo Contest Deadline: April 1st, 2023
LEAP Award Application Deadline: May 1st, 2023