



Spring 2017

President's Message

Inside This Issue:

WIT Reception	2
WIT Webinar Recap	2
WIT Events of Interest	3
Annual Meeting Announcements	3
STEM Coloring Book	4
Science Policy	5
Thank you, volunteers!	6
Call for Proposals	6
Call for Undergrad Members	7
Celebrating Your Success!	7

WIT Officers 2016-17:

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Sharmilee Sawant



President-Elect

Laurie Couture Haws



Vice President

Betina Lew



Secretary/Treasurer

Brittany Baisch



Past President

Tao Wang



Councilors

Marie Fortin
Nadia Moore



Postdoctoral Representative

Alison Sanders



Student Representative

Lauren Walker



Dear WIT Members,

The 56th SOT Annual Meeting in Baltimore is next week! The WIT Executive Committee (EC) is looking forward to seeing you at this year's meeting. I cordially invite you to the **WIT reception on Wednesday March 15th from 5 to 7 pm at the Hilton Baltimore, Holiday Ballroom 3**. We give a special thanks to **MPI Research** for sponsoring the wine this year. Please plan to attend and enjoy the snacks and wine while networking. You will have the opportunity to meet the current and the newly elected WIT EC and provide suggestions to further strengthen WIT. Get your badge scanned at the door to volunteer for WIT subcommittees!

The main event during the reception is the awards presentation. This year we are introducing two new awards: *Outstanding Young Investigator Award* and *Smith and Hook Distinguished Service Award*. The *Outstanding Young Investigator Award* recognizes mid-career scientists for their significant contributions to the field of toxicology in the early stage of their career. The *Smith and Hook Distinguished Service Award* recognizes long-term dedication to promote career development opportunities, recognition of accomplishments, and service and support to SOT and/or WIT. These two awards will be presented along with the *Mentoring Award*, *Post-doctoral Achievement Award*, *Graduate Student Hudson Weisburger Scholarships*, and the *Celebrating Women in Toxicology (CWIT)* awards. Many thanks to **Charles River** for funding the Mentoring Award!

The WIT SOT Awards Nomination Committee has done a fabulous job of

supporting the applications of 18 outstanding women toxicologists over the past three years and it is my pleasure to announce that this year 3 of those applicants won SOT awards!

Congratulations to **Drs. Meryl Karol** for (Founders Award), **Debra Laskin** (Education Award), and **Linda Birnbaum** (Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award).

Recently, WIT hosted a webinar on "Achieving Work-Life Balance across Career Stages" with a great success on November 15th, 2016. Many thanks to the hostesses, **Drs. Nadia Moore** and **Alison Sanders**, and the speakers **Drs. Elena Hernandez-Ramon** and **Linda Birnbaum**.

Finally, it's never too late to start thinking about proposals for the 2018 SOT meeting!

In closing, I would like to thank the WIT membership for the opportunity to serve you as your President. It has been a privilege and honor to work with an amazing and dedicated EC. Thanks to **Ashley Black** and **Raul Suarez** (SOT HQ) for their assistance to WIT. Many thanks to all the volunteers who served throughout the year. Serving as WIT President has been an exciting and rewarding experience for me. Thank you for your continued support and interest in WIT and I look forward to seeing all of you in Baltimore!

Warm Regards,

[Sharmilee P. Sawant](#), PhD, DABT, RAC

President, WIT-SIG



*Annual WIT Reception
Wednesday, March 15
Hilton Baltimore, 401 W Pratt St
Holiday Ballroom 3*

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 5:00 – 5:30pm | Meet the EC, networking, volunteer sign-up and enjoy the food and wine! |
| 5:30 – 6:30 pm | WIT Presentation: updates and awards |
| 6:30 – 7:00 pm | Meet the EC, networking, volunteer sign-up and enjoy the food and wine! |

Special thanks to MPI Research for partial support of the reception and to Charles River Labs for Sponsoring the Mentoring Award



WIT Webinar Recap: Achieving Work-Life Balance across Career Stages

By Nadia Moore and Alison Sanders

In November, WIT hosted a webinar about achieving work-life balance across career stages. The topic of work-life balance reflected a goal shared by many members: to achieve a balance between work and non-work activities. Unfortunately, although most have heard the phrase “work-life balance,” there are no universal attainment criteria (i.e., where is the optimal balance) or attainment metrics (i.e., how does one know if she has reached optimal balance?). We sought to demystify the concept by drawing on the experience of outstanding female toxicologists.

The webinar included explanations from expert toxicologists, **Drs. Elena Hernandez-Ramon** and **Linda Birnbaum**. They described what work-life balance meant to them and how it



evolved and changed over their life and career stages. The webinar hosted 138 participants and included a question and answer session following the presentations. A [recording of the webinar](#) can be accessed at your convenience. WIT will be preparing another webinar in the coming months in response to the interests of our membership.

WIT Events of Interest at the 2017 Annual Meeting!

SUNDAY	
Student/Postdoctoral Mixer	7:30-9:00pm
MONDAY	
SOT mentoring breakfast (registration required)	6:15-7:45am
<i>In Vitro</i> Toxicology Lecture and Luncheon (ticket required)	11:30am-1:00pm
Merit Award Lecture	12:30-1:20pm
Improving Public Health through Innovations in Exposure Science (WIT sponsored session)	2:00-4:45pm
TUESDAY	
Past President's 5k Run/Walk	6:30-8:00am
Cardiopulmonary Consequences of Gestational Toxicant Exposure: Getting to the Heart of the Matter (WIT sponsored symposium)	9:30am-12:15pm
Postdoctoral Assembly Luncheon (ticket required)	12:00-1:15pm
Career Exploration through Speed Informational Interviews (ticket required)	1:20-2:40pm
Tox ShowDown	7:30-9:00pm
WEDNESDAY	
Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award Lecture	12:30-1:20pm
Communicating Toxicology to the Public	12:30-1:20pm
WIT Reception	5:00-7:00pm
THURSDAY	
Late Breaking Poster Session	8:30-11:45am

Annual Meeting Announcements

Child Care

Although many of us will be bringing children along as we travel to the SOT Annual Meeting, please note that it is a safety policy of SOT not to admit children under 15 years of age in the exhibit halls or scientific sessions (unless the session chair has provided consent).

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



Lactation Room

The lactation room is the [VIP East Meeting Room](#), located across from Ballroom II on Level 400 of the Baltimore Convention Center. The room has comfortable chairs, electrical outlets and a bathroom.

Saturday 12:00 Noon–7:00 PM

Sunday 6:00 AM–8:00 PM

Monday 7:00 AM–6:00 PM

Tuesday 7:00 AM–6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 AM–6:00 PM

Thursday 7:00 AM–12:00 Noon

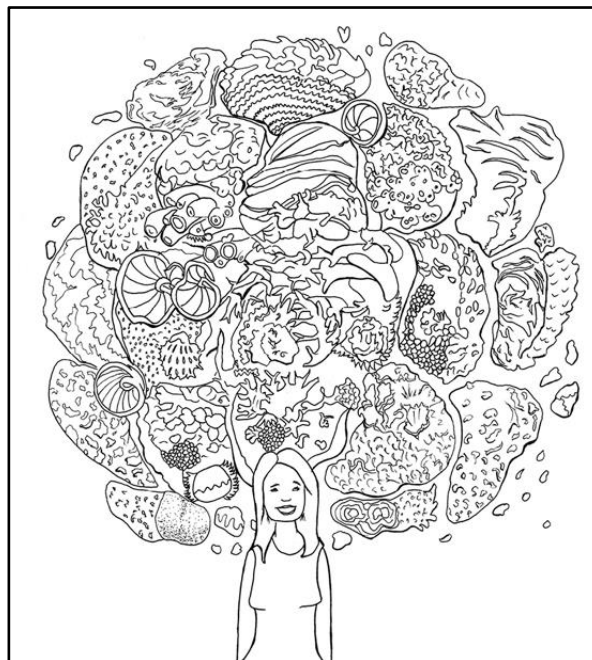


Super Cool Scientists Celebrates Women in STEM

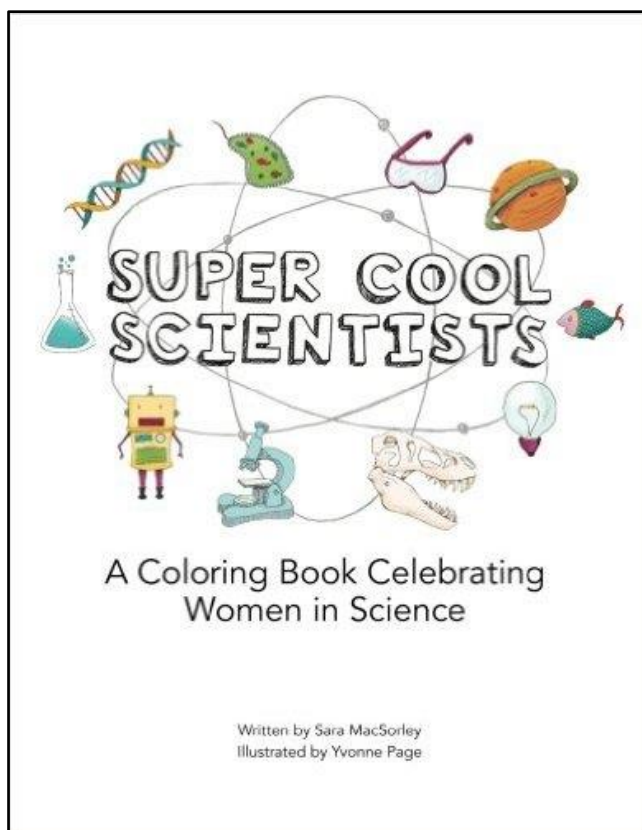
By Lauren Walker

If you visited your local bookseller online or in store recently, you have no doubt noticed the variety of coloring books on the market, with subjects ranging from sea life to popular travel destinations to pop culture icons. Yet, of the multitude of coloring books available, few are dedicated to scientific themes. Author of *Super Cool Scientists: A Coloring Book Celebrating Women in Science*, Sara MacSorley, noticed this lack of STEM-related coloring books and teamed up with a local illustrator, Yvonne Page, to create a coloring book that celebrated the contributions of women in STEM. "It's more than a picture and caption coloring book," said MacSorley about the book, "The complete person is represented from their upbringing through their scientific career development."

Women scientists working in diverse fields, from biology to engineering, are featured in the pages of *Super Cool Scientists*. In addition, women at varied experience levels are also included to underscore the



Super Cool Scientist, Courtney Mattison.



continuous development of scientists. Many of the scientists featured were interviewed personally by MacSorley to lend their stories to the book. Though *Super Cool Scientists* was originally envisioned for a 4th-8th grade reading comprehension level, the stories and coloring activities also appeal to undergraduate and graduate students. The broad appeal of *Super Cool Scientists* is perhaps due to the theme carried throughout the book: finding empowerment in a strong support community. "You can find your mentors anywhere," commented MacSorley, "They may not look exactly like you, have the same exact experiences, or work in the same department so you have to be open to finding those people who will support your advancement."

Super Cool Scientists is available for purchase on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), and Sara MacSorley's website and contact information can be found at: <https://supercoolscientists.com/>.

How Elections Influence Science and Environmental Policy

By *Katelyn Lavrich*

Former White House Science Policy Analyst, Kelly Kryc, PhD, highlights the importance of engaging with congressional representatives.



The 2016 elections brought a transition of power across the United States. As toxicologists are engaged in human and environmental health, we may see shifts in federal policies that shape our field.

On February 1st, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Science Policy Advocacy Group and the Environmental Sciences and Engineering Student Organization teamed up to host a panel discussion on “What’s the Future for 2017: How Elections Influence Science and Environmental Policy.” Panelists included: Kelly Kryc, PhD, former Senior Policy Analyst at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; David Goldston, Director of Government affairs at the National Resource Defense Council; Jason West, PhD, Associate Professor at UNC Chapel Hill studying climate change; and, Jennifer Mundt, MSPH, senior legislative analyst at the North Carolina General Assembly. Over 150 students, postdoctoral fellows, professors, and community members attended.

A few key points from the panel:

- **Elections are important, but they are not everything.** Traditionally, the actual percentage of funding for each scientific agency has not changed dramatically, even after party transitions. More indicative of available funding for science is the overall size of the “pot” of discretionary domestic spending.
- **This is not the first time a major shift in political party has happened.** Key science policy offices (e.g., OSTP, EPA, etc.) are

mandated by law. As such, new laws aimed at dismantling these offices would have to pass the House and Senate first to be enacted. While the role of these key science offices in influencing policies may change, their core missions will not.

- **State legislatures may become more important in developing environmental legislation.**

Overall, all panelists agreed that true optimism lies in the growing number of scientists engaged in advocacy. A few ways to become involved in advocacy include:

1. **Contact [congressional representatives](#)** to voice your opinion. Phone calls, personal letters and in-person visits are more effective than email.
2. **Reach out** to the general public to demonstrate what toxicologists do and why they are important. Aim to engage the public in conversation to understand what they value most.
3. **Protests**, such as the March for Science in Washington, DC (and other cities nationwide), on April 22nd, can be an effective demonstration of support as long as the central, non-partisan message of the value of scientific research is kept clear.

If you are interested in watching the full panel discussion, click [here](#).

Thanks to the 2016-2017 WIT Volunteers!

WIT Awards Nomination Committees: *Chaired by Marie Fortin and Nadia Moore*

Mentoring, Outstanding Young Investigator and Smith & Hook Awards Committee:

Emma Bowers
Michelle Horner
Meghan Rebuli
Nikaeta Sadekar
Alison Sanders

Trainee Awards' Committee:

Kelly Almond
Clara Chan
Michelle Horner
Kristin Klos
Alexandria Lau
Logeswari Ponnusamy
Nikaeta Sadekar

WIT SOT Awards Nomination Committees: *Chaired by Laurie Haws and Betina Lew*

Candidate Identification:

Barbara Beck
Lorrene Buckley
Leigh Ann Burns Naas
Ken Wallace

Application Assistance:

Virunya Bhat
Brittany Baisch
Alexandria Lau
Alison Sanders
Sharmilee Sawant
Phoebe Stapleton

2017 Annual Meeting Proposal Reviews: *Chaired by Laurie Haws and Betina Lew*

Virunya Bhat
Jaime Mirowsky
Laura Plunkett
Jessica Sapiro

Newsletter Committee and Contributors: *Chaired by Brittany Baisch*

Sarah Burnett	Katelyn Lavrich	Meghan Rebuli	Lauren Walker
Donna Davidson	Betina Lew	Alison Sanders	Dana Walsh
Dana Dolinoy	Shaun McCullough	Jessica Sapiro	Tao Wang
Marie Fortin	Colleen McLoughlin	Sharmilee Sawant	Elissa Wong
Laurie Haws	Jaime Mirowsky	Falgun Shah	Rola Zeidan
Nikita Joshi	Nadia Moore	Nisha Sipes	Katie Zychowski

Call for Proposals for 2018 SOT Annual Meeting

While we are making travel arrangements to attend the 56th SOT annual meeting, it is also time to start working on proposals for the 2018 annual meeting. The time to submit Scientific Session Proposals, Continuing Education Proposals, and Continuing Medical Education proposals for the 2018 Annual Meeting in San Antonio is from early March until May 15, 2017. The WIT Executive Committee encourages you to submit a proposal and to seek

WIT endorsement! Visit the SOT website [proposal guidelines page](#) to find information about preparing proposals, including instructions, as well as a link to the Proposal Submission Site. WIT's 2018 Program Committee will be happy to review your proposal prior to the formal submission and provide feedback to strengthen the proposal. You may email the draft proposal to the Chair of WIT's 2018 Program Committee, [Betina Lew](#), prior to April 30, 2017.

Undergraduate Students are Encouraged to Join WIT!

Undergraduate students can join WIT for free! Why become an undergraduate WIT member?

- Mentoring and networking opportunities with established toxicologists, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- Receive the WIT newsletter containing articles on leadership, education, mentoring and visibility
- Access to WIT webinars throughout the year
- Eligibility to apply for the Celebrating Women in Toxicology Award

To join, fill out the [Non-SOT WIT Membership Application](#), and mail it into SOT HQ. Please email the WIT Graduate Student Representative, [Lauren Walker](#), if you have any questions about WIT.



Celebrating YOUR Success!

By Colleen McLoughlin

The "Celebrating YOUR Success!" announcements are a great way to recognize the achievements and advancements of WIT members. The accomplishments below were earned October 2016-February 2017.
CONGRATULATIONS!

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 May 10, 2017. We look forward to hearing your good news!



Awards

Ofelia Olivero, PhD, ATS

NIH-NCI

NIH "Game Changer" Award in recognition for her leadership and commitment to NIH's equity diversity

Logeswari Ponnusamy, DVM, MS

Texas Tech University

President's Excellence in Diversity and Equity Award 2016

Janet Sangodele, MSc

Bingham University, Nigeria

Faculty of Science award for best Student friendly lecturer

Alison P Sanders, PhD

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

2017 Mount Sinai Alumni Leadership Award
And
ISMMS Postdoc Executive Committee rec'd Distinguished Service Award by the National Postdoc Assoc

Grants/Funding

Janet Sangodele, MSc

Bingham University, Nigeria

Angelo Furgiele Young Investigator Technology Award, a lump sum to buy reproductive equipment
Postgraduate fellowship award for women scientists from sub-Saharan Africa

Earned Degree

Cynthia Browning, PhD

Brown University

Graduated with PhD in Biomedical Science and Engineering from the University of Maine.

Grace Chappell, PhD

ToxStrategies, Inc

Completed PhD in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Natalie Holman, PhD

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Received Doctor of Philosophy in Toxicology from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Michelle Hernandez, PhD

New York University

World Trade Center Dust Exposure: ROS/RNS Dysfunction & Injury in Respiratory and Neurologic Tissue

Elected/Appointed Leadership

Natalie Holman

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Elected Chair of the Gordon Research Seminar on Drug Safety

DABT Certifications

Melissa Badding, PhD

Exponent, Inc.

Earned Diplomate, American Board of Toxicology certification

Sabine Lange, PhD

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Earned Diplomate, American Board of Toxicology certification

Colleen McLoughlin, PhD

SciVera, LLC

Earned Diplomate, American Board of Toxicology certification

Other

Irene Abraham, PhD

JT International

Listed on Swiss Register and EUROTOX Register

Alexandria Lau, PhD

The Hershey Company

Featured in a *Science* article, highlighting my unique career path in toxicology.

Judith Zelikoff, PhD

New York University School of Medicine

Member of NAS Panel on Potential Health Effects of Surface Coal Mining in Central Appalachia
National Academies' Board on Earth Sciences and Resources panel member
National Academy Board appointment for 2 years on Coal Mining

**Career Advancement
/Transitions**

Irene Abraham, PhD

JT International

University of California, Riverside

Promoted to Toxicology Director for Emerging Products

Cynthia Browning, PhD

Brown University

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Environmental Toxicology and Pathology, Brown University.

Michelle Hernandez, PhD

New York University

Director of Business Intelligence and Competitive Research at That's Nice Science Agency

Natalie Holman, PhD

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Manager of Nonclinical Safety Assessment, Roivant Sciences, Durham, NC

Divinia Nolasco Ries, PhD

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Toxicology specialist for the state on risk assessments of environmental exposures

Kathy Orsted, MS

Gilead Sciences

Study Monitor, Gilead Sciences

