Wildlife Toxicology Advisory Group  
SETAC North America, Salt Lake City  

Minutes of Meeting, 2 November 2015, 6-7 pm

Steering Committee Members present:  
John Elliott (JE), Barnett Rattner (BR), Kim Fernie (KF)  
SNA Staff and Board of Directors present: Bruce Vigon (BV), Tom Augspurger

1. WTAG scope and objectives, activities and outcomes to date presented (JE):  
   a. All aspects of wildlife, species included except for fish;  
   b. Open to everyone with an interest in wildlife, not only experts. Expertise may range from students/young professionals through mid- to senior-level researchers. Also open to non-professionals with wildlife interests;  
   c. Focus: field-oriented studies supplemented with lab studies. The imbalance between field- and lab-based studies caused extensive discussion.

Action items:  
I. Reword WTAG description/objectives to provide equal weighting to “field-oriented” and “lab-oriented” studies.  
II. Incorporate “conservation” into wording since much of wildlife toxicology research supports conservation of wildlife (Christy Morrissey).

2. Immediate and longer-term future actions to unite WTAG and initiate/provide focus. Following was presented by JE and/or generated by BR/KF/WTAG attendees:  
   a. Identify/create a Special Symposium focusing on Wildlife Toxicology for 2016 World SETAC, Orlando, FL. Due Date: 25 February 2016.  
   b. Identify themes for future SETAC-NA and SETAC-EU workshops and Focus-Topic Meetings (FTMs). Correct format (i.e., workshops vs FTMs) and potential funders need to be identified.  
   c. Create list of potential reviewers for wildlife-related manuscripts.  
   d. Short course to teach WTAG, especially students, on how to create/write a good review of a manuscript for peer-reviewed journals. Suggestion came from graduate students/young professionals. BR to take up with SETAC World Council; Christy Morrissey to bring to the attention of Short Course Committee. Also needs to be brought to the attention of Publications and Education Advisory Committees. KF brought it to the attention of the other Advisory Groups at the meeting led by BV to create more linkages among AGs (4 November 2015).  
   e. Identify how WTAG expertise supports/helps initiatives of other Advisory Groups. E.g., Upcoming Endocrine Disruption FTM had very
limited knowledge of appropriate wildlife toxicology experts due to lack of awareness.

3. Presentation by Christine Bishop from the Amphibian & Reptile Advisory Group (ARAG) outlined activities that directed, focused and brought together ARAG, and that could/should be applied within WTAG.
   a. ARAG meetings and related sessions at annual conferences;
   b. ARAG provides networking opportunities for young scientists (graduate students, young/mid-career scientists);
   c. Rotating student on the ARAG Steering Committee [strong support by WTAG students];
   d. Write Focus & Perspective Articles, and Critical Reviews, for ET&C or IEAM e.g., Brought ARAG-related issues forward to a broader community through ARAG. Regulators were not using amphibian/reptile data in their risk assessments. This became a major theme for ARAG whose members co-authored a peer-reviewed paper identifying the value of amphibian/reptile data in risk assessment by risk assessors.

4. WTAG/Audience members suggested following ideas for FTMs, Workshops, Special Symposium 2016:
   - Endocrine Disruption risk assessment
   - Neonics and wildlife
   - Terrestrial bioaccumulation and wildlife
   - Multi-stressors / cumulative effects
   - Other listed wildlife ecotox issues:
     - Lead shot
     - Mercury (increasing global mercury)
     - Selenium
     - Generic mining issues
     - Nano
     - Rodenticides
     - New POPs

**Action Items:**

a. Contact WTAG members to submit potential themes for future FTMs, workshops, and the 2016 Special Symposium.

b. Need to identify a system/means that would allow centralized submissions visible to all WTAG, e.g., a place on the WTAG website.

c. Need to identify who will monitor/coordinate these submissions.

5. Although not discussed during the WTAG meeting (2 Nov 2015) due to lack of time, but based on post-meeting discussions with B. Vigon, an elected WTAG
Steering Committee is strongly recommended initially by election or other process during 2016 for the following positions:

- A Chair;
- 2 co-chairs;
- A secretarial function person and alternate;
- A meeting person and alternate;
- A ‘webmaster’ type;
- Student representation.

6. For each of these functions, as is implied from the chair and 2 co-chairs, there should be an alternate, possibly from a different GU, as part of a succession plan. Tri-partite representation (i.e., Government, Academia, Industry) and representation from the various geographical units, is sought within WTAG when possible. The proposed structure above partially reflects the original WTAG mission statement (September 2013), with some modifications made now (November 2015). Members to date are largely from government and academia.

**Action Item:** Establish a WTAG Steering Committee through elections in 2016.

7. Development of an SOP, which would incorporate the objectives already developed and discussed above. This would codify the above action items. The Rep and Amphib one could be used as a template.

**Action Item:** Solicit volunteers to develop the SOP from the existing R&H template.