

**AG/Committee Name: SETAC NA Chemistry Advisory Group (NACAG)**

**Submitted by: Alan Jones, 2015 NACAG Chair**

**Date: 10-29-2015**

**Council/Board Liaison: Wendy Hillwalker**

### **Organization**

Membership in the North America Chemistry Advisory Group is open to all SETAC members, and to all professionals and students interested in the topics addressed by the NACAG. Members must have a commitment to the purpose, goals, and operating guidelines of the Chemistry Advisory Group and commit to supporting the NACAG. The NACAG's activities are guided by the Chemistry Steering Committee (CSC), the leadership of the advisory group. The 2015 CSC included 15 active members divided between government, industry, and academia. One student member was elected and added to the steering committee in January 2014 to increase involvement and ensure future SETAC representation by the NACAG, and she has maintained her membership through 2015. According to the SOP, the CSC is comprised of at least 10 and no more than 15 organizers that are SETAC members in good standing, and provides representation of professionals from government, industry, and academia. (Operating Guidelines for the SETAC North America Chemistry Advisory Group, Approved Aug 18, 2010).

### **Current and Future Activities Summary**

Chemist Travel Award- The 2015 NACAG New Chemist award was presented to Christina Bottaro, Department of Chemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland. The award provides for registration and hotel for the annual North America SETAC meeting and was instituted to introduce chemists and their students/mentees to SETAC.

SETAC-ACS ENVR student exchange award- We received 14 excellent applications this year and have narrowed that field down to five to be judged in Salt Lake City. The 2014 winner was Johnathan Challis (University of Winnipeg). The award provides \$1000 in travel support for the student to present their research at an American Chemical Society (ACS) national meeting.

In addition, to improve recruitment and retention of awardees, an informal NACAG buddy system has been implemented for these two awards. This system is voluntary and is similar to SETAC North America Buddy System with the added benefit of a shared interest in chemistry. Steering committee members have drafted standard operating procedures (SOPs) to help facilitate and standardize the award process from year to year, and they were formally adopted by the committee in 2015. All documents are now uploaded to a shared folder accessible by all committee members on the NACAG website.

Sponsored SETAC NA sessions- The steering committee selected three session proposals to sponsor at the 2015 SETAC NA 36<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. This year we focused on novel and innovative chemistry session proposals that promote broad reaching science with a trans-disciplinary and integrated approach. The two sessions selected were:

- Antidepressants and Perfluoro- chemicals: Divergent Chemistries, Convergent Environmental Persistence and Effects
- Advanced Analytical Methods for Contaminant Discovery
- Antibiotics in Agricultural Ecosystems: Fate, Treatment, Analysis, and Ecological Effects

Global Horizon Scanning Project. The NACAG Steering Committee was asked to assist in identifying future research questions for the Global Horizon Scanning Project and has been promoting

involvement through the website and emails. The NACAG continued to support the GHSP throughout the year and by co-sponsoring a session regarding the project at the August meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Establishment of the Global Chemistry Advisory Group. The NACAG continued to support the establishment of the GCAG through 2015. Members of the group provided insight and feedback to the global group and many of the members of the CSC have also agreed to serve on the GCAG steering committee.

Outreach and Social Activities. The CSC hosted a very well received NACAG social event in Vancouver (Congregation Ale House) to promote interactions between SETAC chemists attending the national meeting. The event was supported using both external (industry/exhibitor) and internal (NACAG members) donations. The overall turnout was greater than 100 people and led to additional interest in NACAG and support for an annual social event in conjunction with the business meeting. The NACAG is planning a similar event, and has generated interest and support from additional sponsors to help with external funding of the event in Salt Lake City.

The CSC solicited nominations from the NACAG and subsequently submitted nominations for the most recent call for nominations for a USEPA Science Advisory Panel.

The CSC provides liaisons to SETAC Membership, NA Science, and Mentoring Committees.

#### Outreach outside SETAC-

The SETAC-ACS Student exchange award increases visibility and interactions with ACS. We have formed a small workgroup to further advance and solidify the relationship between ACS and SETAC-NACAG.

The NACAG Steering Committee co-sponsored four symposia with the Division of Agrochemicals (AGRO) at the Fall ACS meeting held August 16-20, 2015 in Boston, MA. The symposia were well attended and the NACAG provided flyers and other literature regarding the NACAG and SETAC to be distributed at the corresponding poster sessions.

- Global Research Needs: Identifying and Prioritizing Efforts to Sustain Environmental Quality (SETAC Global Horizon Scanning Project)
- Degradation of Halogenated Compounds in the Environment
- Environmental Fate, Transport, and Modeling of Agricultural Chemicals
- Biomonitoring for Pesticide Exposures

#### **Business and Planning Meetings**

In 2015, Steering committee meetings were held monthly (except December) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. The 2014 annual business meeting was held at the Vancouver meeting. The 2015 annual business meeting will be held Tuesday November 3, at 9:00am in Room 251E of the SLC Convention Center.

#### **Membership Communications**

There is a monthly to quarterly email update sent to the NACAG membership to announce opportunities, publicize upcoming scientific meetings, request volunteers, and solicit feedback. We continue to develop the NACAG presence on the SETAC website with updates, announcements, and postings.

A face-to-face business meeting (open to everyone) was held in Vancouver with ~30 attendees. A similar meeting will be held in Salt Lake City. Nearly all steering committee email communications are also shared with several SETAC staff members. They are invited and often attend the monthly meetings.

**2015 Steering Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Locale</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Term</b>
Alan Jones	USA	Industry	2015 Chair	2011-17
Dan Snow	USA	Academia	Past Chair (2014)	2011-17
Sascha Usenko	USA	Academia	Past Chair (2013)	2010-16
Elin Ulrich	USA	Government	Past Chair (2012)	2009-15
Charles Wong	Canada	Academia	Past Chair (2011)	2009-15
Angie Perez	USA	Industry		2012-15
John Kucklick	USA	Government	2016 Chair-Elect	2011-17
Ping Sun	USA	Industry	2015 Chair-Elect	2011-17
Jonathan Martin	Canada	Academia		2013-16
Pamela Rice	USA	Government		2013-16
Wendy Hillwalker	USA	Industry	SNA BoD liaison	2013-16
Katie Albanese	USA	Academia	Student Representative	2014-17
Amina Salamova	USA	Academia		2015-18
Craig Butt	USA	Academia		2015-18
Robert Letcher	Canada	Government		2015-18
Bruce Vigon	USA	SETAC		No Term

***No. active members: 200***

***Total membership: 312***