

**AG/Committee Name:** Pharmaceuticals Advisory Group

**Submitted by:** Mike Williams

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**Council/Board Liaison:**

### **Executive Summary**

The PAG steering group was renewed in December 2013 and now has a total of 12 members from 4 different SETAC global units. The steering group represents approximately 175 PAG members. In 2014, the PAG organized a workshop in SETAC Basel and a special issue in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (due for publication in 2015). Future activities being planned for include a SETAC Europe Special Science Symposium (proposed for 2015) and a workshop for the upcoming meeting in Barcelona.

### **Organization**

The PAG steering group was renewed in December 2013; with 3 members continuing from the previous term. The steering group is comprised of 12 members, with 3 members representing business, 6 representing government and 3 representing academia, with 1 student member recently completing their study and being employed by a government agency. There is a broad regional representation, with 3 members from Asia-Pacific/Australasia, 2 from Europe and 7 from North America, with Mike Williams (Australia) acting as chair.

### **Activities Summary**

- SETAC Basel workshop entitled "Weighing up the environmental costs of pharmaceutical use against the benefits to human and animal health and costs of risk management". The session was well attended and the meeting summarized in SETAC Globe
- A special issue on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment has been organized to be published in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in 2015 (manuscripts due February 2015)
- A business meeting in Vancouver (SETAC North America meeting) has been organized

### **Future Plans**

The PAG has submitted a proposal to hold a SETAC Europe Special Science Symposium in 2015. The idea of organizing this SESSS is to inform regulators and industry, particularly in relation to a number of new EU initiatives on pharmaceuticals in the environment, such as updating the Priority Substance List of the Water Framework Directive where pharmaceuticals have been identified as a special challenge. The PAG is currently finalizing discussions for a workshop theme for the upcoming Barcelona meeting in 2015.

### **Business and Planning Meetings**

No formal meetings between committee members have been undertaken. A business meeting will be held in Vancouver to promote ET&C special issue, discuss future workshop proposals (especially in Barcelona), preferred avenues of communication between members

of the PAG and any areas of pharmaceuticals research that should be promoted through future activities.

### **Membership Communications**

Communication to members of the PAG to notify them of events/initiatives has been through direct email contact to members (through bulk email). SETAC Globe was used to provide an overview of the Basel workshop.

Between PAG steering committee emails are the most common method, since they are the most convenient way to cover all time zones represented. A number of phone meetings were used to organize the Basel workshop and face to face informal meetings at regional SETAC meetings have also been used.

### **Issues/Problems**

At the moment there doesn't seem to be any serious issues. Due to broad geographic representation it is difficult to personally meet all committee members and time zone differences make real-time communication difficult, which could make decision making more efficient.

### **Current Steering Committee**

Tim Verslycke (Gradient)	Business
Silke Hickman (UBA)	Government
Rai Kookana (CSIRO)	Government
Thomas Backhaus (University of Gothenburg)	Academic
Craig Bowe (College of the Bahamas)	Academic
Graham Rattray (Health Canada)	Government
Joe Robinson (Zoetis)	Business
Mike Williams (CSIRO)	Government
Kristin Connors (USEPA)	Student
Ruth Marfil Vega (American Water)	Business
Wesley Hunter (US FDA)	Government
Kyungho Choi (Seoul National University)	Academic

As the committee was renewed at the end of 2013, all member's terms will expire at the end of 2015.

**Total membership:** ~175