

Template for AG and Committee Annual/Semi-Annual Report (limit to 2 pages if possible)

AG/Committee Name: Pharmaceuticals Advisory Group

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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 215 PAG members. In 2015, the PAG organized a workshop in SETAC Salt Lake City and a special issue in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (due for publication in 2016).

Organization

The PAG 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 Salt Lake City workshop entitled "Global Distribution of Pharmaceuticals in the Environment–Implications for Monitoring and Management Strategies" will be held on 1st November. Around 30 delegates have registered.
- A PAG business meeting has been scheduled for the Salt Lake City meeting; future activities of the PAG and organizing committee membership will be discussed
- A special issue on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment has been organized to be published in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in 2016; 65 manuscripts were received in February 2015; approximately 30 accepted for inclusion.
- There has been a notable increase in PAG membership since the last year (~175 to ~215)

Future Plans

Planning for a symposium during the SETAC world congress (November 2016) has begun although a theme has not been decided on.

Business and Planning Meetings

Organising committee members had a teleconference 25th June 2015, as well as ongoing discussions relating to planning of Salt Lake City symposium (fortnightly to monthly). A business meeting will be held in Salt Lake City to discuss future directions of PAG activities, preferred avenues of communication between all members of the PAG, potential change to the organizing committee membership 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). Between PAG steering committee emails are the most common method, since they are the most convenient way to cover all time zones represented. We have discussed alternative methods of communication (e.g. social media) but no decisions have been made.

Issues/Problems

Unfortunately, one of the organizing committee members, Joe Robinson, passed away in May 2015; a dedication was published in SETAC Globe. Another member, Graham Rattray, has been seconded to another position but has maintained contact with the committee where possible. We no longer have a student representative since Kristin Connors has graduated and commenced a post-doctoral position (although remaining on the committee). 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. We have discussed more effective ways of communication without resolving the issue.

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: ~215