

## **AG/Committee Name: Wildlife Toxicology Advisory Group**

**Submitted by: Nico van den Brink**

**Date: 10-11-2015**

**Council/Board Liaison: Bruce Vigon**

### **Executive Summary**

The Wildlife Toxicology Advisory Group (SETAC-World) was established in 2014. It's membership currently encompasses approximately 116, and still increasing. Currently the Steering committee consists of the initial set of people that initiated this AG (John Elliott, Mark Johnson, Kim Fernie, Derek Muir, Barnett Rattner, Richard Shore, Clémentine Fritsch, Renaud Scheifler, Rafael Mateo and Nico van den Brink). The coming year (2016) it is planned to organize elections after which an official Steering Committee can be established.

### **Organization**

Currently the WTAG is headed by a Steering Committee consisting of the group of people that initiated the AG. It is planned to organize SC elections in (2016). Based on other successful AGs, elected positions should involve the following for WTAG:

1. A Chair;
2. A vice-chair;
3. A secretarial function person and alternate;
4. A meetings' coordinator person and alternate;
5. A 'webmaster' type;
6. Student representation.

The alternates would involve representatives from North America and Europe. Each position would be elected every two years, with the vice-chair becoming the chair, to insure continuity. Elections will be held according to the Scope, mission and operating guidelines of the WTAG. A balance among government, academia, and industry, as well as geographical units, will be sought as much as possible.

### **Activities Summary**

The WTAG is in the process of establishment and initial development. In 2015 the following activities have been organized:

#### **Development of Strategic plan**

In 2015, an initial version of a strategic plan was published on the web-site. It describes the mission and objectives of the WTAG, future plans and implementation. This plan is designed to guide the activities and developments for the coming three to four years in establishment of the WTAG.

#### **Sessions at geographical branch meetings**

Members of the WTAG were involved in several sessions at SETAC-EU and SETAC-NA meetings (not all were necessarily promoted as WTAG sessions):

##### *SETAC-Europe meeting Barcelona*

- Wildlife ecotoxicology from molecular to population effects. Session chairs: John Elliott, Rafael Mateo, and Nico van den Brink

##### *SETAC-NA meeting Salt Lake City*

- Birds as Indicators of Ecosystem Health: Investigations of Molecular to Population Effects of Contaminant Exposure. Session chairs: Jonathan Verreault, Kim Fernie and Jessica Head
- One Health: Opportunities for SETAC Leadership in Integrating Environmental Human and Animal Health: Session chairs Thomas Augspurger and Nil Basu
- Wildlife Ecotoxicology: Molecular to Community Effects. Session Chairs: John Elliott and Miguel A. Mora
- Direct and Indirect Effects of Current-Use Pesticides on Wildlife. Session chairs: Christy Morrissey and Kathryn Kuivila

*For SETAC-EU 2016 in Nantes members of the WTAG proposed the following sessions:*

- Ecological traps for wildlife driven by pollutants. Session chairs: Rafael Mateo, Clémentine Fritsch and Richard Shore
- Polar ecotoxicology: hot issues in cold climates! Session chairs: Katrine Borga and Nico van den Brink
- Wildlife ecotoxicology: from food chain exposure to population effects. Session chairs: Renaud Scheifler, John Elliott and Kim Fernie

### **Business meetings**

At the Barcelona meeting (SETAC-EU 2015) a business meeting was organized. Approximately 25 people attended. At the meeting the WTAG was presented, and the plans for further development of WTAG were detailed. Based on the strategic plan, steps were taken to improve communication within the WTAG and to others. Focus is on the development of a searchable database on people involved in Wildlife Toxicology. Furthermore, a database was presented which was compiled by Barnett Rattner and Richard Erickson (both US Geological Survey) in which different links to webpages are presented that will be of value to scientists, regulators, and natural resource managers.

At the SETAC-NA meeting Salt Lake City a business meeting was organized, attended by 30-40 people. At this meeting WTAG was also presented to the people, including mission and scope. Participants wanted revisions to the mission statement and scope of the WTAG to provide equal emphasis to field- and lab-based wildlife toxicology studies, and to reference the support of conservation through wildlife toxicology research. Strong support was given to having all WTAG members identify: a special symposium for wildlife toxicology research at the 2016 World SETAC (Orlando, FL) (e.g., Endocrine Disruption); themes for future workshops and focus-topic-meetings at SETAC-NA and SETAC-EU; potential reviewers for wildlife-related manuscripts and hosting a related short course to teach the skills and art of being a good scientific reviewer; WTAG expertise in support of initiatives of other AGs.

### **Future Plans**

The WTAG has been established now, and the next step is to structure the AG. A total of 6-12 members of the Steering Committee will be elected, for which all AG members can run. The new Steering Committee will select a chair and c-chair, and other positions deemed needed.

Future activity plans will be based upon the strategic plan. It was decided to first focus activities on the further establishment of the WTAG. To enhance the WTAG web presence, several volunteers are working on the following:

- prepare a detailed who-is-who within the Wildlife Toxicology arena. This is currently being developed by Renaud Scheifler, University of Franche-Comté.
- best-practice inventory
- update and improve the WTAG website
- identify appropriate theme(s) for Special Symposium at World SETAC 2016, and for workshops and focus-topic-meetings in the near future;
- co-ordinate, identify and provide wildlife expertise to other SETAC Advisory Groups.

### **Business and Planning Meetings**

Business meetings will be organized at the SETAC EU meeting and the SETAC-NA meeting.

### **Membership Communications**

Channels of communications were as follows:

- Direct email to individual members
- Group email to all members via the WTAG web-site

Most communication was from WTAG-SC to the members, and within the WTAG-SC.

### **Issues/Problems**

The current Steering Committee is based upon the group that established the WTAG. To be representative of the membership, elections need to be organized, which is planned for 2016. This will be organized in coordination with SETAC World council according to SETAC operation procedures.

## **Current Steering Committee**

### Government

John Elliott, Environment Canada, Delta, BC

Kim Fernie, Environment Canada, Burlington, ON

Derek Muir, Environment Canada, Burlington, ON

Barnett Rattner, USGS-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Mark Johnson, U.S. Army Institute of Public Health, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

Richard Shore, Centre of Ecology and Hydrology (CEH-NERC), Lancaster, UK

### Academia

Clémentine Fritsch, University of Franche-Comté, Besançon, France

Rafael Mateo, Instituto de Investigación en Recursos Cinegéticos, Ciudad Real, Spain

Renaud Scheifler, University of Franche-Comté, Besançon, France

Nico van den Brink (acting chair), Wageningen University, sub-dept of Toxicology, Netherlands

No member of industry is involved in the Steering Committee. This will be a focal point for the first elections.

SETAC-World liaison: Bruce Vigon

***No. active members:15***

***Total membership: ±116 (increasing)***