

**SETAC North America Science Committee
2016 Annual Report**

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Submitted by:

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I. COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION / LEADERSHIP

The SNA-SC leadership style is 1-1-1 (adopted in November 2009; see SNA-SC SOP available at <http://www.setac.org/?page=SNAScienceCom>) where the Chair is supported by the Incoming and Past Chairs (who serve as Co-Chairs). As shown in Table 1 below and discussed later in this report, the SNA-SC leadership from 2016 will remain in place for 2017. As of September 2016 the Committee has 19 members (several inactive and long-time members rotated off the Committee in 2015) plus two student representatives. Regular participants include three Interest Group / Committee Liaisons (Meetings Committee, Membership Committee, Chemistry Interest Group), our Board representative and the Science Director. Our membership has tripartite representation (industry, academia, government) and also includes Non-Governmental Organization representation.

Table 1. SNA-SC members holding chair positions in 2016 – 2017 and beyond

Position	Name	Term Completed	Affiliation
Chair (2016) Co-Chair (2017)	Sue Robinson	2018	Business/Industry
Co-Chair (2017) Chair 2018	Markus Hecker	2019	Academia
Past Chair/Co-chair	Alan Samel	2017	Business/Industry

II 2016 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

The Committee identified three priorities to accomplish in 2016:

1. Priority 1. Identify Technical Champions and sponsoring Interest Groups to kick start the development of a Steering Committee for each of two prioritized Focused Topic Meeting subjects approved by the SETAC Board of Directors. These two prioritized topics were taken from the SNA SC's 2015 emerging scientific priority topic list.
2. Priority 2. Provide an updated (2016) list of emerging scientific priority topics (top three topics identified) to the SETAC Board of Directors to use as input for identifying priority North America Focused Topic Meetings.
3. Priority 3. Update the Committee's Standard Operating Procedure (last updated in 2011).

All Committee priorities above are complete and are included in the summary of Committee activities below.

III. 2016 COMMITTEE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- **Committee Priorities** – The Committee identified and agreed upon the three (3) 2016 priorities on its January 2016 Committee kick off call. Action on each of these priorities is summarized below.

Priority 1 – The Board of Directors asked the SNA-SC to identify potential topics from the Committee's annual list of emerging scientific topics that could serve for developing North America Focused Topics Meetings (as approved by the Board). Two topics were identified for FTM development in 2017:

- ❖ High Throughput Screening and use in Ecological Risk Assessment
- ❖ Mixtures (Exposure and Toxicity)

One of the first priority activities completed in 2016 was to establish an SNA SC subgroup for each of the two priority topics. Each subgroup was tasked with identifying topical Technical Champions and sponsoring AGs to serve as a source for populating a Steering Committee for each priority topic. Resulting from the work of these subgroups was a group of interested individuals and sponsoring Interest Groups that supported the development of a Steering Committee for each topic. This information was passed on to the Board in an email report dated February 27, 2016 and is posted on the SNA SC website. Both prioritized topics have had and submitted pre-proposals to the SNA SC for scientific merit reviews and Board recommendation for sponsorship. A recommendation was made to the Board for sponsorship of the Mixtures FTM. A sponsorship recommendation is pending for the HTS / ERA pre-proposal.

Priority 2 – The SNA-SC continued in 2016 to identify emerging scientific issues to bring to the attention of SNA. The SNA SC membership reviewed the 2015 list

of emerging scientific topics in July/August 2016 and added new topics to this list. Topics already identified for Focus Topic Meetings based upon the 2015 priorities (i.e., Mixtures, High Throughput Screening/ERA) were removed from the list. The top three (3) priorities were identified and submitted to the Board on September 1, 2016 (and included the Committee's full scientific topic list, including those newly added).

Priority 3 – The Committee, with the significant help from our Student Liaisons Ahmed-Abdel-Moneim and Lauren Kristofco, revised the SNA SC SOP, which had not been updated since 2011. The updated SOP was circulated to the Committee for review, edited with minor comments received and passed along to the SNA SC's Board Representative (Tom Augspurger) and SETAC Science Director (Bruce Vigon) for final review and to obtain any Board input. The final SOP is expected to be posted to the Committee web page in October 2016.

- **Workshop Reviews** – None completed (FTM pre-proposal reviews are addressed under Committee Priorities above).
- **Policy Reviews** – No Committee, SETAC or other policy reviews were conducted this year.
- **Globe Articles** – Article in the Globe for 2016 was the recurring 'Hot Topics' for SNA's Utah Meeting. This will continue following the Orlando World Congress meeting. Our SNA-SC Globe coordinator is Ryan Prosser.
- **Committee Webpage** – The SNA-SC webpage has been maintained regularly by our helpful student liaisons, Ahmed Abdel-Moneim and Lauren Kristofco. Quarterly call notes are regularly posted as are important reports to the Board of Directors. The posted Committee membership roster is routinely updated.
- **Membership** – In January – February 2016 the Committee contacted long-term and inactive members to seek concurrence on rotating them off of the committee. A significant update of the roster was then made based on this feedback, which reduced Committee overall membership size. Tripartite balance is maintained. A few additional members are being sought, as discussed under future plans.
- **Monthly Committee Leadership Calls** – These have been held every month this year and have been an important forum for discussing upcoming Committee assignments and concerns (e.g., discussion relative to retaining the current leadership structure for 2017 while membership engagement is worked on).
- **Quarterly Committee Calls** – Regular quarterly calls have been held this year with the most recent held September 28, 2016. Meeting minutes are typically posted on the Committee's webpage for member use and review. Our next meeting is scheduled on Monday November 7, 2016 during the Orlando World Congress. This meeting will be open for attendance to Global Science Committee and European Science Committee members in attendance or wanting to participate by phone. A final conference call may be held in early December to wrap up the year (if not there is a kickoff meeting held in January). Attendance on calls is often spotty (and sometimes disappointing for the size of the Committee), though the recent September call was better attended. Members are less engaged than desired and more participation is

sought in 2017. This was the reason for holding over the 2016 Committee leadership through 2017. A membership engagement plan is under development.

- **Annual Meeting Program Committee Calls** – Participated on regularly scheduled PC calls for Orlando World Congress. The SNA SC Chair (Sue Robinson) is also on the PC for the 2017 Minnesota annual meeting.
- **Global Science Committee** – Participated on regularly scheduled GSC calls and provided input to GSC’s annual emerging scientific topics list.
- **Science Manager Group Calls** – Participated on regularly scheduled Science Manager Group calls organized by SETAC’s Science Manger (Bruce Vigon). Calls include SETAC World Council representatives, SETAC Europe, Global Science Committee and North American Science Committee.
- **Interest Group Summit Group** – No formal calls or meetings on this in 2016 but there is a meeting scheduled at Orlando that the SNA SC Chair (Sue Robinson) and Vice Chair (Markus Hecker) will attend.
- **Work Shop, FTM and Symposia Coordination Calls** – The Chair (Sue Robinson) participated on regularly scheduled coordination calls as organized by the SETAC Science Manager (Bruce Vigon).
- **Global Horizon Scanning (GHS) Steering Committee Calls** – These have not yet occurred but it is anticipated that the SNA SC Chairs (Sue Robinson, Markus Hecker) will participate in a meeting at Orlando and beyond.

IV. FUTURE PLANS

- **Member engagement** – Develop a member engagement plan to increase involvement and ensure a sustainable Committee leadership pool.
- **Emerging Science** – Continue to inform the SNA Board of Directors of emerging science and other issues of potential importance to SNA (i.e., Focus Topics)
- **Committee Liaisons** – Continue to develop liaisons with Interest Groups and other SETAC committees as needed or requested. Our committee’s liaison activities are informal to retain flexibility. The goal of having liaisons is to capitalize on these outreach efforts in supporting other SNA SC activities.
- **North American Student Council** – Provide input to NASC leadership as needed.
- **Committee Web Page** – Continue to post ongoing business items to the web page for Committee member access, reference and use (e.g., the quarterly call schedule and access information is posted here).
- **Globe and ET&C Articles** – Currently evaluating this activity to assess methods for ensuring a pipeline of information to one or both of these venues. This activity’s support has been somewhat limited and spotty in recent years (exception: “Hot Topics” Globe article has recurred regularly).

V. BUSINESS AND PLANNING MEETINGS

- **Full SNA SC** – Quarterly conference calls were held in 2016 with the SNA-SC members to discuss ongoing activities as noted above under Committee Activities. This is expected to continue in 2017. Our annual face-to-face business meeting will be held on Monday November 7, 2016, 9:00 – 10:00 am (St Johns 32/33) at the World Congress meeting in Orlando.
- **SNA SC Leadership** – SNA-SC leadership (Chair) conference calls were and will continue to be held monthly to help steer the Committee's activities and receive updates from the Board and SETAC's Science Manager (Bruce Vigon, Incoming: Tamar Schlekot).

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

- **Meetings/Calls** – The SNA SC communicates primarily through emails, meets at SNA annual meetings, and holds quarterly conference calls. Monthly calls among the Chairs help to organize activities.
- **Liaisons** – SNA SC leadership is represented in several other SETAC science forums identified under Committee Activities above. Participation in these venues ensures coordination and communication of the SNA SC with broader science functions within the Society. These activities are communicated to our membership.
- **Web page** – The SNA SC membership web page continues to be updated regularly and serves as a source of information for members on Committee business. Blog entry posts on other issues of broader interest have been spotty but this should develop over time as the structure and function of the Committee continues to tighten. One idea is to ask SNA SC liaisons to post any updates on the SNA SC web page so that Committee members can readily see points of communication with and input to other SETAC Interest Groups and Committees.
- **Interest in the SNA SC** – There continues to be interest in participating in the SNA-SC. A new member rotating off the SNA BoD, Kim Fernie (Environment Canada), was highly recommended by our SNA Board Representative, Tom Augspurger, and was invited to join. We will be looking for 1-2 more members actively in Orlando. Members were asked to provide recommendations for new members (business/industry and academia) on the last quarterly call. None received as of the time of this report. A recruitment activity is planned in Orlando. Student representatives are likely to be looking for full time employment in the coming months so new student representatives will be sought in the near future.

VII. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

- Currently, there are 19 members of the NA SC; 5 from business / industry, 5 from government, 9 from academia/NGOs, and 2 student representatives. The geographic breakdown is: 14 from the United States, 6 from Canada, and 1 from Mexico.

VII. COMMITTEE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Communication with other SETAC Committees continues to be a goal to enhance coordination of efforts (Coordinated Sessions, FTM, and other activities).
- Membership engagement has been an issue and will be addressed through the development of an engagement plan. We believe this can easily be turned around.
- Active coordination with the other SETAC science focused venues (see Part III above on all the Committees and science focused groups that the SNA SC coordinates with). This includes active participation on the annual meeting Planning Committee for selection of plenary speakers, session proposal submittals, spotlight session identification (i.e., aligned with SNA SC emerging science topics), short course proposals, etc.
- Further consideration of ways to recognize hard work, especially students. The SNA SC is the most active committee within SETAC and our student representatives are an important part of this. The SNA SC continues to support nominations for presidential citations for participating student members.
- Greater representation from Mexico and Canada is a goal. Currently we have only one member from Mexico and several Canadian members. The SNA SC welcomes any recommendations that the SNA BoD may have for Mexico/Canada members for the Chair's consideration. We seek representation in Industry and Government sectors.