IUIS GEC Committee Introduction



Gender Equality and Career Development Olivera J. Finn, Ph.D., Chair Narinder Mehra, Ph.D., Co-Chair

Mission:

Encourage promotion of women immunologists around the world and help with career development issues of women and young scientists.

Activities:

Encourage and offer assistance to IUIS member societies to undertake activities that promote gender equality.

Compile and maintain current a list of outstanding women immunologists around the world, both young and established scientists, to aid organizers of important international meetings in selecting women speakers and assuring their proper representation.

Supports attendance of women trainees at various courses, in collaboration with other IUIS Committees.

Organize various educational and networking activities for women and trainees in association with IUIS member societies and Federations during their meetings and congresses.

Committee Successes



2014/2015

Selected and sponsored women participants at the following courses:

FOCIS (1), AAI Basic Immunology (1), AAI Advanced Immunology (1), Ceppelini School of Immunology (2), SEEIS Course (2)

Organized a highly successful Gender Symposium at the 9th FAIS congress in Nairobi, Kenya, December 2014. Local organizer: Dr. Lucy Ochola; Keynote speaker: Dr. Jane Kengeya-Kayondo.

Organized a Gender Symposium and Student Awards Ceremony at the ALAI congress Immunocolombia2015 in Medellin, Colombia, October 2015. Local organizer: Drs. Gloria Vasquez and Luis Garcia; Keynote speaker: Dr. Nancy Saravia.

Sponsored the Women in Immunology website hosted by the Australian Immunology Society and created by Dr. Roslyn Kemp. *Dr. Kemp is the 2015 recipient of the Association for omen in the Sciences (AWIS) Miriam Dell Award honoring mentoring efforts that inspire female immunologists across Australasia.

Committee Opportunities and Challenges



ICI 2016

Opportunity and a Challenge: Assist the Program Committee to create a gender balanced list of invited speakers.

Opportunity: Sponsor a highly visible special lecture by a woman scientist.

Challenge: Find a sponsor.

Opportunity: Organize a Gender Symposium (with Dr. Kemp as the local organizer).

IUIS Elections

Opportunity: Place more women on the ballot

Challenge: Getting nominations from the member societies that include women.