

SFTI Strategy Session, June 2, 2011

This meeting focused on facilitating participation in “work-life” panels and other activities sponsored by conference committees and the professional societies. In addition to advocacy letters to conference organizers, our grantees reminded us that they serve on committees of the professional societies. They are often called upon to serve on panels, or create programs about professional development. SFTI did not anticipate this avenue of potential influence and so at this meeting, we strategized about how best to take advantage of the opportunities.

Goals of the meeting:

- Articulate rationale for a pool of money to support travelers (even those who have no children, or who had already had SFTI funding) to present at conference sessions and meetings and participate on panels focused on women’s issues.

- Design materials to supplement the SFTI business cards for reaching out to people
 - concise powerpoint based on Santore’s October 2010 presentation;
 - an “acknowledgement slide” for people to put at the end of their presentations;
 - a library of advocacy letters;
 - sharing the definitions of “incremental costs” developed by SFTI.

- Begin inventory of existing mechanisms within professional organizations:
 - which societies have women’s issues committees, and/or
 - work-life programming at conferences.
 - Which societies offer travel scholarships, and to whom?
 - What level of flexibility do their scholarships permit? Do they allow reimbursement for childcare?
 - Who has newsletter where a small article could be placed?

Model presentations were made by Surita Bhatia (Women in Nanoscience, May 2011); Laura Cadonati (Ligo, March 2011); and Eve Vogel (AESS, June 2011). Sheila Patek pioneered the acknowledgement at the end of the presentation, reporting a lot of interest from both senior and junior colleagues. (Jan 2012). Li-Jun Ma is on the woman’s committee of the American Phytopathological Society and is investigating possibilities.