

WIM Panel at I2MTC 2015

WIM Panel 2015 was held in Pisa on May 13th during the IMS flagship conference I2MTC 2015. The two hour panel session, moderated by Ferdinanda Ponci (Professor at RWTH Aachen University), featured five panelists who discussed with the audience on the topic “What Actions Advocates can Take.” The discussion revolved around actions that male and female advocates of women’s advancement in science in engineering can take in daily professional life. Take a look here and act starting today! “WIM Panel - Action Advocates Can Take”. Available: http://iee-ims.org/sites/iee-ims.org/files/documents/wim_panel_action_advocates_can_take_5-13-15_1.pdf.

Panelists who kindly served in Pisa are: Elisa Bertolucci (Ph. D. student at University of Pisa), Loredana Cristaldi (Professor at Politecnico di Milano), Maria del Pilar Gomez-Gil (Researcher at National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics of Mexico), Sabrina Grassini (Professor at Politecnico di Torino), and Ruth Dyer (Professor and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Kansas State University).

Ruth provided a set of slides summarizing some of the most effective and immediately applicable actions, such as using inclusive language or validating female colleagues when introducing them. Each point was accompanied by examples, which were then supported in a very lively and interactive way by panelists and audience, who reported real life experiences of their own.

The discussion was also spiced up with skits, brought to life by Kristen Donnell (Missouri University of Science and



Technology), Max Cortner (Senior Fellow Engineer with Boston Scientific Inc.), and Steve Dyer (Professor at Kansas State University) to illustrate some of the examples.

All of the participants had the opportunity to bring home usable, small, easy actions to take immediately and a much deeper breath understanding of how diversity, and not just gender diversity, can be facilitated and understood.