

American
Academy
of Clinical
Toxicology,
Inc.



Editor
Elizabeth Scharman, PharmD

President's Corner

Michael McGuigan, MD



Spring is coming (at last!) and with its arrival comes Spring cleaning. In organizational terms, this means taking a close look at how the AACT and its Board of Trustees function.

Many organizations, like the AACT, have run on tradition, oral history, and institutional memory. Although all the decisions and policy details are documented in the notes or

minutes of Board meetings, it is still necessary for someone to remember that something happened in order to find the documentation. The need for a "Policies & Procedures" manual is

obvious. Compiling the policies (complete with appropriate copies of relevant documents) will facilitate consistency and provide important reference material for policies and procedures long after the "gray-beards" have retired. This process may also identify specific areas that need to be addressed or codified by the Board.

Similarly, there is a need to develop a "Board Operations" manual. Every organization should have a thorough, easy-to-use manual that Board members can use throughout their terms. The manual provides useful information about the organization, Board structure and operations, and fellow Board members and staff. In addition, the manual should include the organization's mission and vision statement, a strategic framework or plan, and the current annual operating plan.

The AACT will be working over the coming months to complete these projects.

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Award 2005
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People Behind the Scenes: Jan Meulenbelt, MD, PhD



Dr. Meulenbelt has been a long time member of the Executive Committee of the EAPCCT (General Secretary 1996-2000; President-Elect, President, and Past-President, 2000-2006). For two years he was the Chairman of the Scientific and Meetings Committee of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT). Apart from the scientific planning of congresses, the Scientific and Meetings Committee is responsible for meeting planning, site selection, and execution. Dr. Meulenbelt has been very involved with these activities beginning with the EAPCCT Congress, Amsterdam 2000 until now. Dr. Meulenbelt notes that the ability to be active for so long with the Executive Committee of the EAPCCT can only be realized with the help from his colleagues from the Poisons Centre, who have also been of great help in taking part in the organization of EAPCCT Congresses in the last number of years.

He has put a lot of effort into the strong collaboration between the AACT and EAPCCT, which has developed into a close and fruitful one. This is probably most noticeable at the Congresses. The AACT now makes a huge contribution to the annual International Congress of the EAPCCT, as the co-sponsoring society, and the EAPCCT reciprocally is one of the participating societies in the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT). Dr. Meulenbelt indicates the friendships that have been made between members of the EAPCCT and AACT over the years will certainly further enhance EAPCCT and the AACT collaboration and increase their individual and joint credibility and profile.

Jan is pleased that the societies also share sponsorship of the *Journal of Clinical Toxicology*, published by Taylor and Francis, Inc. This mutual responsibility is ensuring that quality research and science in the field of clinical toxicology continues to be published regularly. The positive result is that the impact factor has gradually increased in the last number of years and is now around 1.6.

The following is a small portion of Dr. Meulenbelt's accomplishments:

Registered as Internist-Intensivist-Toxicologist

Registered as Internist-Intensivist-Toxicologist

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Louis Roche Award 2005

Each year at the EAPCCT meeting, an award is given to a distinguished clinical toxicologist in honor of Professor Louis Roche, a major force in forensic toxicology and in the formation of the EAPCCT. It is interesting that now three past Presidents of the AACT have received this award: Edward Krenzelok in 2000, Milton Tenenbein in 2003, and the 2005 award went to Jeffrey Brent.

Congratulations to all of them but especially to Jeff!

EAPCCT Meeting Notes

The XXV International Congress of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists was held in May in Berlin, Germany. This meeting is co-sponsored by the AACT.

The Pre-Congress Symposium was:

“New Evidence in Managing Toxicity from Drugs of Abuse.”

Topics included:

“Pharmacology of Drugs of Abuse” (Dr. JA Henry),

“Management of Toxicity from Cocaine and Other Sympathomimetics” (Dr. RS Hoffman),

“Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault — Epidemic or Urban Myth” (Dr. TG Martin)

“Problems of Managing Drug Mules (Dr. M Balali-Mood),

“Drug Abuse and Pregnancy (Dr. PR McElhatton),

“Opioids — Current Issues” (Dr. DL Seger), and

“Pharmacotherapy of Ethanol Abuse” (Dr. LS Nelson).

Other major session topics were environmental pollution and pesticides, and clinical trials in toxicology.

Mark your calendars — next year’s EAPCCT International Congress will be in Prague, Czech Republic April 19 to 22, 2006.

Don't Forget!

Don't forget! The North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology takes place in Orlando, Florida on September 9 to 14, 2005.

This promises to be a truly spectacular meeting, complete with the AACT Pre-Meeting Symposium (“The Handling of Radiation Emergencies”) and the ACMT Pre-Meeting Symposium (“The Dark Side of Pharmaceuticals”). The AAPCC Symposium is titled “Trends in Substance Abuse: An Analysis and Interpretation of Existing Data”. In addition, there will be the always enlightening and entertaining Toxicology Quiz Bowl and Toxicology History Society Symposium.

The deadline for advance registration is July 29.

People Behind the Scenes

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- 1986- Senior Consultant in Intensive Care and Clinical Toxicology, University Medical Centre Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- 1989- Director of the National Poisons Information Centre, the Netherlands. This is the only centre in the Netherlands. It serves 16 million inhabitants.
- 1989- Head of Human Research Unit, which was awarded with Good Clinical Practice Certificate in 2002
- 1989-1996 Deputy Head Intensive Care and Clinical Toxicology University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands
- 1993-1997 Deputy Head National Centre for Medical Toxicology and Emergency Medicine, the Netherlands

Commissions:

- Commission Member of several governmental commissions on risk assessment concerning public health in cases of incidents with chemical agents and ionizing radiation.
- Commission Member of several governmental commissions on disaster relief.
- Commission Member of a governmental commission for assessment and monitoring of new drugs.

Editorial Board:

- Deputy Editor of *Journal of Toxicology Clinical Toxicology* since 2004 (before, Senior Editorial Board Member from 1997 to 2004)
- Senior Editorial Board: Toxicological Reviews (2002-present)