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President's Corner



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Member Recruiting: the once and future challenge for AACT

I'm writing this message, my second to final message as President, as a combination wake up call and cautionary tale for the members of AACT. The reality is that we, as an organization, are losing members. This saddens me greatly because one of my goals as your President was to increase membership and here we are losing members each year. The numbers don't matter as much as the fact that some folks each year are opting to not re-join AACT and new members are fewer and farther between than I had hoped. While it would be nice to find something or someone to blame for this situation; I can't seem to pin it down to one specific unmet need or shortcoming. I think the problem is multi-factorial and includes the economic pressures that have beset both individuals and institutions over the past few years. I feel a bit better about this (I think) as I have come to learn this attrition of members is not exclusive to AACT.

I was recently invited to a meeting of the ACGIH (American Conference of Governmental industrial Hygienists) held in Chicago. The ACGIH has been a stalwart leader in worker safety and health. They have been in business of over 60 years as a member-based organization, boasting more than 3000 members worldwide. Their mission involves advancing occupational and environmental health and protecting workers. Examples of their work along these lines includes their annual editions of the trademark regulatory standards known as TLV's (Threshold Limit Values) and BEI's (Biological Exposure Indices) as well as work practice guides in a variety of ACGIH signature publications. ACGIH invited a number of organizations to meet to discuss what they viewed as a matter of survival for their organization. They have lost over 30% of their members in the past 10 years and their revenue base has been under extreme stress. ACGIH believes they may be facing extinction if they are unable to reverse these effects. While AACT's extinction is not on the table at the moment, I can tell you that based on the experience of ACGIH, we could easily take a walk in their shoes if we are not extremely careful. The caution here is that ACGIH has many more members than does AACT and they have multiple evolved revenue streams. And yet, ACGIH is facing possible dissolution. The trend does not auger well for a smaller and less financially diverse organization such as AACT.

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AACT*ion* Wants Your News

This is your newsletter, so we want to hear from you. Any and all news is welcome: promotions, lectures, publications, moves, new positions, etc. Have you (or another member you know of) been in the news or interviewed by the press? We want to hear from you. News can be emailed to: cgray@clintox.com or the editors of AACT*ion*.

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EAPCCT Meeting: Bordeaux, France 2010



AACT: Who's In The News?



Susan Gorman, PharmD, DABAT has been elected the new President-Elect of the American Board of Applied Toxicology.

"I am currently the Associate Director for Science for the Division of Strategic National Stockpile in the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this position, I am responsible for oversight of the stockpile formulary and for providing pharmacological and toxicological advice and expertise regarding the medical countermeasures and supplies that would be used in a national emergency resulting from a terrorist event or other large scale public health disaster. I participate on numerous intergovernmental working groups on counterterrorism involving radiological, chemical, and biological agents. I also work part time at the Georgia Poison Center.

During my previous 6 year tenure on the ABAT Board of Directors, I enjoyed serving the organization and felt a great sense of accomplishment in working with others toward a better process for certification renewal. I previously chaired the nomination committee and the certification renewal committee, and have continued to actively participate on ABAT committees. I hope to bring that same enthusiasm to the organization as President-elect, and will work with the officers and board members to continue strengthening the membership and recognition of ABAT, enhance our strategic plan, and further our education mission."



Judith Aslop, PharmD, DABAT has been re-elected as a returning board member to ABAT.

"I am the Director of the Sacramento Division of the California Poison Control System. I have been an ABAT member since 1996. For several years I was a member of the ABAT credentialing committee and the ABAT symposium planning committee. Three years ago I was elected to the ABAT Board of Directors. I have also been involved in co-writing essay questions for the ABAT exam. I have been the Chair or Co-Chair of the ABAT Recertification Committee.

I have been an ABAT member since 1996. For several years I was a member of the ABAT credentialing committee and the ABAT symposium planning committee. Three years ago I was elected to the ABAT Board of Directors. I have also been involved in co-writing essay questions for the ABAT exam. I have been the Chair or Co-Chair of the ABAT Recertification Committee. I believe that I have learned a great deal in my past three years. I have enjoyed the interaction I have had with the other Board members and I really do enjoy the work I have been assigned. I would like to continue with my duties and responsibilities. I take my role as the Chair of the Recertification Committee seriously. I have very much enjoyed working with the committee members and the ABAT members who have been up for recertification. If elected, I will continue to do the best job I can as a Board member to make the ABAT group the best we can be."

AACT: Who's In The News?



Robert A. Palmer, Ph.D, DABAT has been re-elected as a returning board member to ABAT.

"I am in a full-time private practice in Denver, CO and serve as an attending toxicologist and faculty member for the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. I hold appointments at the University of Colorado, University of Wyoming and University of Northern Colorado. I am active within AACT as a session moderator, symposium organizer and frequent speaker at NACCT. I have been co-chair and a speaker in the NACCT Forensic Toxicology Symposium since 2004. I am a reviewer for Clinical Toxicology, the Journal of Emergency Medicine, the Journal of Medical Toxicology, and the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, among other publications. I am a contributing author, illustrator and reviewer of three toxicology textbooks and associate editor of two more. I am a Regional Director for AHLS and also serve as an instructor for this course. I have been on the ABAT Board of Directors since 2006, serving as chair of the Scientific Affairs Committee since 2008.

I am seeking election to the ABAT Board of Directors because I believe I can add an additional perspective to the organization. Having been initially trained as a medicinal chemist, my background is somewhat non-traditional for a clinical toxicologist. I believe a strong foundation in basic clinical sciences is essential to the continued success of the ABAT. Further, I believe my unique background can assist in broadening the base of ABAT membership, further strengthening the organization. Pursuing a career in clinical toxicology after training as a basic scientist reflects my passion for toxicology. I am dedicated to assisting in the advancement of the clinical and scientific aspects of the field. If re-elected to the ABAT Board of Directors, I would welcome the challenges, do my best to strengthen the organization and expand its membership."



Daniel J. Cobaugh, Pharm.D., FAACT, DABAT has been promoted to the position of vice-president of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation. In his new role, Daniel will be responsible for the Foundation's awards, education and research programs as well as oversight of practice tools.

AACT Announces Newly Elected Board Members:

The 2010 Elections have concluded and the following members have been elected by their peers to represent them for the upcoming term. **Karen Simone PharmD**, has been elected to the position of Secretary. **Ruddy Rose PharmD**, has been elected to the position of

Treasurer. **Kennon Heard MD, Ken McMartin PhD**, and **Rich Weisman PharmD** have been elected to the Board of Trustees. To those who ran but did not get elected we owe a vote of thanks for being willing to run and offer their time and efforts for AACT.

President's Message Continued

Continued from page 1

The last best solution for this problem, in my humble opinion, involves recruitment of new members at the grass roots level. I view this in the simplest terms and I see the answer as follows. If every single dues paying AACT member would recruit just one new member this year, we are out of the woods. We all know at least one person who would benefit from, and

enjoy being an AACT member. I urge you all to approach that one person and encourage them to join AACT. Tell them about the benefits of membership and tell them about NACCT. If each of us recruits just one new member we won't be condemned to suffer a continued slow attrition in membership that could threaten the very existence of AACT. This is not a goal for the future or only a stated part of our strategic plan. It is, in fact, a survival imperative for AACT.

Upcoming Meetings

NACCT 2010
October 7-12, 2010
Denver, CO
www.clintox.org

IUTOX 2010 Congress (XII International Congress of Toxicology)
 July 11-15, 2010
 Barcelona, Spain
<http://www.icoh2009.co.za/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?c=1600>

The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT)
 Joint Meeting with the Society of Toxicological and Forensic Chemistry (GTFCh)
 Bonn, Germany
 August 29-September 2, 2010
<http://tiaft2010.gtfch.org/>

Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT)
 October 18 - 22, 2010
 Richmond, VA
<http://www.soft-tox.org/>

ACMT Seminars in Forensic Toxicology: Opioids
 November 8&9, 2010
 Philadelphia, PA
http://acmt.net/cgi/page.cgi?event_id=48&_id=23&action=new

ACMT Seminars in Forensic Toxicology: Ethanol & Marijuana
 December 13&14, 2010
 San Francisco, CA
 San Francisco, CA

Pacifihem 2010
 The International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies Sponsors
 Honolulu, HI
 December 15-20, 2010
<http://pacifihem.org/>

2011 ACMT Spring Conference
 Tots, Teens & Toxicology:
 Current Drug and Environmental
 Threats to Children's Health
 March 18-20, 2011
 Clearwater, FL

XXXI International Congress of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists
 May 24-27, 2010
 Dubrovnic, Croatia
<http://www.eapcct.org/show.php?page=congress>