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President's Corner



Ethics: What have we been forgetting?

Michael I. Greenberg,
MD, MPH, FAACT

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines the word "ethics" as follows: "A set of moral principles; a theory or system of moral values; the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group; a guiding philosophy; a consciousness of moral importance." Reading this definition makes one realize just how important ethics or having a "guiding philosophy" and a "consciousness of moral importance" is to any group of people or any organization. I am struck by the fact that AACT as an organization has not, to date, addressed for itself their "guiding philosophy" in ethical terms. Neither have we set out ethical canons for our own clinical practice or other activities in the name of clinical toxicology. It is for these reasons, and others, that I have, recently appointed a Committee on Ethics. The Chair for this Committee will be Chris Holstege, MD. Chris has experience working with/on other

Ethics Committees and as an active member of the AACT Board of Trustees for a number of years is a well-respected member of the community of clinical toxicologists. Other members of this Committee will include Rob Palmer, Ph.D., David Eldridge, MD, Jill Michaels, PharmD and myself. I have initially charged the Committee to undertake to define the ethical issues involved in the practice of clinic toxicology as well as the areas of ethical concern we as an organization may wish to address. The Committee on Ethics will convene in the next few weeks and will report back to the Board of Trustees in June, 2010, with a proposed work agenda for consideration. I expect the Board as a whole to offer input and I am also asking the members at large to contact Chris regarding questions they might like to have on the agenda of this Committee. I am hopeful that this Committee will begin the work of helping AACT define the ethical canons and address the pressing ethical concerns of not only our members, but also of the many constituencies that interface with AACT and its members. It is my goal to see this Committee become a Standing Committee of AACT as soon as possible. I know that all AACT members will join me in encouraging the work of this important new Committee.

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AACT*ion* Wants Your News

We want to hear from you regarding promotions, lectures, publications, moves, new positions, etc. Have you (or another member you know of) been in the news interviewed by the press? We want to hear from you. News can be emailed to: cgray@clintox.com

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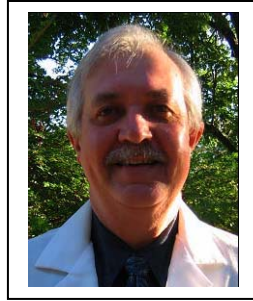
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EAPCCT PLANS WONDERFUL SPRING SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

Alan D. Woolf, MD,
MPH, FAACCT,
FACMT

I had the opportunity to attend, on behalf of our members, the winter meeting of the Scientific Committee of the European Association of Poison Centres & Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT) held in January at the Swiss poison center in Zurich, Switzerland. The Scientific Committee plans the curricular content for the annual EAPCCT meeting. It is a gracious and collegial gesture on the part of EAPCCT to include an AACT officer as a representative on its Scientific Committee. It was a pleasure to renew the long-standing and close ties between AACT and our colleagues in the EAPCCT leadership, including the current president, **Hugo Kupferschmidt**, Chair of the Scientific Committee, **Martin Wilks** and the EAPCCT's able secretary, **Alison Good**.

The Scientific Committee has planned an outstanding four days of learning at the **XXX International Congress of the European Association of Poison Centres**, including a pre-meeting day-long seminar. This year the Congress will be held in the Bordeaux Convention Center in Bordeaux, France, during May 11-14, 2010. The AACT is proud to be a co-sponsor of this event. We provide the continuing medical education (CME) credits for the participants in the

meeting under the auspices of AACT.

The educational curriculum for this year's pre-congress meeting to be held on May 11th is *investigation of the Poisoned Patient*. It will surely be a source of practical information for the practicing toxicologist.

Topics at the main congress on May 12-14 include: *paracetamol toxicology – what's new? Optimizing research in poisons centres, Preparedness for unusual toxic outbreaks, Toxic alcohols, Management of drug and alcohol withdrawal, and Critical care toxicology*. The planned speakers are all experts in these areas of toxicology. It will be well worth hearing what updated information they bring for participants.

The Scientific Committee received a record number of scientific abstracts of original toxicological research submitted to this year's meeting. The peer review process has selected the best for inclusion as posters or platform presentations; so the usual very high scientific quality of the meeting will be well-preserved.

AACT members are invited to attend this extraordinary meeting. Details and registration materials can be found at www.eapcct.org. There is also a link to the website at the AACT's own website, www.clintox.org.

See you there!



AACT Member Edward Boyer, MD Appointed to NIH Panel

Edward W Boyer MD PhD, chief of the division of medical toxicology at the University of Massachusetts, has been invited to become an inaugural member of the NIH College of CSR Reviewers. The College seeks to proactively engage high quality, experienced reviewers so that NIH may better match expertise to applications. Membership is restricted to senior respected members of the scientific community with a strong commitment to peer review and is by invitation only.

Dr. Boyer has also been invited by Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to participate in a summit entitled "Buprenorphine in the treatment of Opioid Addiction: Reassessment 2010". This is the fourth buprenorphine summit for which SAMHSA has sought Dr Boyer's participation.

Nominations: President Elect of AACT

The nominating Committee of AACT has selected **Elizabeth Scharman**, PharmD and **Robert Hoffman, MD**, as the nominees for the position of AACT President=Elect. AACT will be holding an online election for the office of President-Elect.

The election will begin April 1, 2010 and members will be permitted to vote for 30 days until the last day of April. Detailed instructions regarding the election and candidate profiles will be sent to members electronically during the second/third week of March. The elected candidate will be installed as President-Elect of AACT at the business meeting at NACCT/2010 in Denver this Fall.



Dr. Hoffman



Dr. Scharman



New AACT

Administrative Director: Connie Gray

This is to advise all AACT members that Ms. Rachel Donovan, who has served as Administrative Director for AACT, has resigned her position. We wish to thank Rachel for her service and we wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

Ms. Constance Gray has been hired as Interim Administrative Manager for AACT. Connie is an experienced administrator with over 25 years of experience working with the pharmaceutical industry, medical professionals, and non-profit organizations. She will be assisting AACT in day-to-day administrative functions effective immediately. Please join me in welcoming Connie to our staff.

Connie can be reached during business hours, Monday through Friday, at 877-377-TOXX (8699) and via e-mail at: admin@clintox.org

AACT Online Membership Renewal: 2010

As we continue to find new ways to grow our services, we also are always looking to grow the clinical toxicology community of AACT.

This year we are pleased to announce the launch of online membership renewals at www.clintox.org. As a member, you can now login to your online account, and automatically be taken to the page that allows you to renew your subscription. Additionally, members can specify what SIGs they are currently part of, or would like to become a part of. Updating this information ensures that you are receiving the most up-to-date and pertinent information for your needs. If you still need a username and password to the new site, click "Need a Password" in the upper right corner. Follow the instructions and you will get online "Member Only" access immediately.

If you need any assistance logging in, please don't hesitate to call or email: cgray@clintox.org.

And, to help make that commitment even easier, we are offering two great incentives for you to take advantage of:

- **10% Savings**: Receive 10% savings off your membership dues when you pay for two years of dues at once.
- **Even More Savings**: Receive 10% refund on your paid dues for every new full member you refer, up to 10 members, for a possibility of a complete refund!
 - Referral discounts will apply for referrals of new members that are applying for FULL membership, and using your name as the referral source on the application.

NAACT 2010: Get Ready!

Time to think of NACCT, 2010 in Denver! Abstract submissions are currently being accepted for the 2010 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT), being held, October 7-12, 2010, in Denver, CO. NACCT offers an online abstract submission program that allows submitters to see guidelines, track their submission, and make updates. **The deadline for all submissions is April 7, 2010.** Notification regarding abstract

acceptance and platform or poster designation will arrive the beginning of June. All abstract submission and meeting information will be posted at www.clintox.org. All abstract presenters, for both poster and platform sessions, must register for the NACCT.

Upcoming Meetings

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

American College of Medical Toxicology
 8th Annual Spring Conference
 March 12-14, 2010
 Scottsdale, AZ
<http://www.acmt.net>

Midwest Association for Toxicology and
 Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (MATT)
 April 29-30th, 2010
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
<http://www.midwesttox.org/annualMeeting.html>

Southwestern Association of Toxicologists
 Spring 2009 SAT Meeting
 April 30 - May 2, 2009
 San Antonio, TX
<http://www.sat-tox.org/index.php>

American Occupational Health Conference
 ACOEM Annual Scientific Meeting
 May 2 - 5, 2010
 Orlando, FL
 H <http://www.acoem.org/aohc2010.aspx>
<http://www.acoem.org/aohc2010.aspx>

California Association of Toxicologists
 Spring Meeting
 May 2010
 Sacramento, CA
<http://www.cal-tox.org/>

XXX International Congress of the European
 Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical
 Toxicologists
 May 11-14, 2010
 Bordeaux, France
<http://www.eapcct.org/show.php?page=congress>

The Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP)
 2010 Annual Meeting
 June 19-24, 2010
 Chicago, Illinois
<http://www.toxpath.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/>