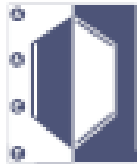


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Editor

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President's Corner Michael I. Greenberg, MD, MPH, FAACT



Rachel Donovan,
AACT Executive Director

It is my pleasure to announce that AACT has taken a giant leap forward with the employment of our first full time Administrative Director. The decision to terminate our

relationship with the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PMS) and to move towards a full-time Administrative Director was not an easy one. However, after careful study, the Board of Trustees voted that this is the direction that would best meet the needs of the members and would best fulfill the demands of the AACT Strategic Plan. A detailed transition plan has been worked out between AACT and the PMS and I would personally like to thank PMS for their excellent assistance throughout the years and for their professionalism and cooperation in planning the transition period.

In order to find the most qualified person for the role of AACT's new Administrative Director, an extensive regional search was completed with more than 100 candidates interviewed for the position. This process identified eight well-qualified finalists and these candidates were personally interviewed by a Search Committee made up of AACT Board members. This group of eight was pared down to two final candidates. These candidates were interviewed in person by the Board of Trustees and a hiring decision was made.

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Rachel Donovan to the newly formed position of Administrative Director for the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. Prior to joining AACT, Rachel worked in strategic planning, business development and physician relations for the Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) in Columbus, Ohio, the fifth largest freestanding children's hospital in the country. While at NCH, she worked hand-in-hand with both clinical and administrative leadership to help identify growth opportunities, including regional expansion, further develop clinical specialties, and grow relationships and communications with referring physicians.

Rachel brings to AACT more than 12 years experience in consumer and healthcare strategic planning and marketing. She received her Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a Master of Business Administration from Capital University. Rachel currently resides in Wynnewood, Pa.,

Please join me in welcoming Rachel to AACT. I am confident that adding her to our team will allow AACT to move again to the next level as the premiere organization representing clinical toxicology professionals. Rachel can be reached at rdonovan@clintox.org or via phone at the new AACT toll-free number 1-877-377-TOXX (8699).

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NACCT 2009 San Antonio Announcement- Register Now

Michael G. Holland, MD



The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology has released the official brochure for the yearly North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology to be held September 21-27 in San Antonio, TX.

The course offerings this year appear to be some of the finest in recent memory. This annual conference provides an opportunity for physicians, pharmacists, nurses and scientists from around the world to participate in the sharing of information on a wide variety of toxicological issues. In addition to platform and poster sessions, the program will offer a number of symposia, workshops, as well as other traditional and novel special sessions.

AACT Pre-Meeting Symposium - September 21

The Crossroads Between Pharmaceuticals & Toxicology

ACMT Pre-Meeting Symposium - September 22

Toxicology and the Media

Main Congress - September 23-26

AACT Post-Meeting Symposium - September 26-27

A Medical Review Officer (MRO) Course Plus Forensic Toxicology Course, sponsored by the AACT, will be held on September 26 and 27 immediately following the conclusion of the NACCT meeting. See future electronic brochure for details!

Conference Location

[The Grand Hyatt](#) San Antonio is located right on the famous Riverwalk - home to some of the city's most popular restaurants, bars, galleries and entertainment venues - making it the perfect place for the 2009 NACCT Conference. This San Antonio hotel sits less than one-quarter mile from Rivercenter Mall, the Alamo, Plaza Marketplace and Ripley's Believe It Or Not. [Click here](#) for things to do and see in San Antonio!

NACCT is Organized by
[American Academy of Clinical Toxicology](#)

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More information can be found at the AACT website at www.clintox.org, or by through the direct conference address: http://www.contemporaryforums.com/emails/820_meetingannoun.htm

Meet the New Executive Director of the AACT: Rachel Donovan, MBA



Dear AACT members,

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the dedicated and visionary leadership of AACT, as well as the talented members of this organization. It was clear during my time meeting with the Board, the pervasive aspiration and commitment for growth.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work for a variety of organizations, but it's my most recent experience at Nationwide Children's Hospital, that helped solidify my passion for working with those in the clinical and research arenas. Through the years I have worked in tandem with specialists, researchers and primary care physicians, to help bring their ideas and expertise, to fruition, in programs that weren't just groundbreaking, but also sustaining.

I am excited to translate this experience to the strategic plan the Board has developed. I am confident that with the hard work of our leadership, and the dedication and involvement of our members, that our plan will expand and enhance our organizational reach over the next few years; helping to propel the organization forward to become one of the pre-eminent toxicology organizations in the world. We are working diligently to execute a seamless transition from PMS, and to ensure that all of the services you have come to expect and deserve will continue.

I have attached my contact information, as well as the new mailing address for AACT in the blue box below (it is also now on the banner on page 2 of the newsletter). Please do not hesitate to contact us for any assistance we can offer to you, the members. I look forward to meeting you all at the 2009 NACCT conference in San Antonio, and encourage you to join us at the business meeting so that you can hear in more detail our plans for growth.

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Save the Date: The 2009 NACCT Meeting in San Antonio, TX will be held September 21- 26. A post-symposium MRO PLUS course on September 26 & 27, 2009 immediately follows NACCT 2009, and will satisfy the US DOT pre-requisites for certification as an MRO for workplace drug testing reviews, as well as expanding on necessary forensic testing and interpretation. More information can be found at the AACT website at www.clintox.org. Registrations are being accepted now.

A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR AACT?

Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, FAACT



Recently several Federal agencies, including DHHS, EPA, CDC, and ATSDR, announced an initiative to promote new ideas regarding chemical exposures in the United States. I was able to attend the 'kickoff' meeting of this 'National Conversation' held in Washington D.C. on

June 25, 2009, and wanted to report back to AACT members on some of the details I learned concerning this exciting venture.

The landscape surrounding the generation, safe use, disposal, regulation, monitoring, and understanding of the science and health and community-wide effects of chemicals has radically changed over the past 40 years. The United States has put into place a complex system of environmental laws and the work of many government, industry, research, academic, and non-profit groups to remediate situations involving hazardous chemicals and protect the public. However technology has advanced and the nature of chemical exposures has changed. Besides better ways to deal with waste sites, unexpected chemical release incidents, and air, soil, and water pollution, recent research suggests that new issues also deserve more attention. Examples of such new issues include chemical exposure pathways in foods and household products, environmental justice issues revealing disproportionate exposure patterns among underserved populations, new exposures such as nano-particles, issues of cumulative exposures and mixed exposures with additive or synergistic health effects, advances in genetics and 'omics' sciences underlying studies of vulnerability versus resilience to chemicals in gene-environment interactions, new computational modalities enabling advanced risk modeling techniques, advances in analytical sciences allowing detection of lower threshold exposures to chemicals, and issues of health outcomes now broadened from those of cancer to include recognition of environmental influences in neurological, immunological, reproductive, and developmental health outcomes.

The National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease

Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) is now soliciting input to develop a broad new dialogue regarding priorities in the public health approach to chemical exposures going forward into the future. It defines the public health approach to chemical exposures as inclusive of:

- **Surveillance and data collection** – monitoring of chemicals in environmental media (air, soil, water, household products, etc), biomonitoring, data collection on chemical exposures and releases, and tracking environmentally-related health outcomes.
- **Research** – especially basic, translational, and clinical toxicological research and epidemiological research
- **Investigation of incidents, releases, and clusters** – surveillance for early detection of chemical releases and the secondary prevention of untoward health effects
- **Emergency preparedness & response** – vulnerability assessment, risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response planning
- **Implementation and evaluation of interventions** – primary prevention measures, community-level interventions, 'green' chemistry, mitigation efforts, health screening and health care
- **Policies, laws, and regulations that protect public health** – risk assessment, decision support, promulgation, enforcement, and evaluation
- **Education & communication** – risk communication, public education, professional training and capacity-building

The National Conversation seeks to identify gaps, foster solutions, and encourage ways to change the national approach to chemical exposures. It is partnering in this needs assessment with multiple other stakeholders, including Federal, State, Local, and non-governmental agencies as well as academia, industry and community advocates. The process envisioned for having a productive conversation includes uniting a group of key environmental and public health leaders called the 'Leadership Council' to help guide the 18-month project. CDC and ATSDR are inviting ideas and feedback from a broad group of stakeholders by:

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 6

- Expert work groups
- Web-based forums
- Citizen conversation tool-kit
- Face-to-face meetings

It is anticipated that over the next 18 months the distillation of information will result in decision-making by key agencies towards the synthesis of an action agenda. The vision is that the United States will use and manage chemicals in ways that are safe and healthy for all people. The agenda will outline how the United States can meet important goals in pursuit of this vision:

- Collect information about chemical use, who is exposed, and the level to which people are exposed
- Gain more knowledge about how chemicals affect people's health
- Use policies and practices that inform us about risks, reduce harmful exposures, and create and use safe chemicals
- Increase efforts to prevent, prepare, and respond to chemical emergencies
- Protect all communities from chemical exposures
- Create a well-informed public and healthcare provider network so people understand chemical exposure risks
- Involve the public in government decision-making

- Encourage teamwork among partner groups and agencies

What does this mean for AACT members? Well, this is a unique opportunity for our members to get involved in all facets of an unfolding national re-examination of priorities and strategies in the control and prevention of chemical exposures. This is an opportunity to provide feedback at a time when public health officials are particularly attuned and attentive to innovative proposals, bold strategies, and new voices. AACT members have the diverse backgrounds in scientific research, public education and risk communication, health worker training and professional education, front-line sentinel case finding in clinics and poison control centers, and community-based outreach. We are a valuable group of experts whose considerable talents can be put to good use by the CDC and ATSDR as they seek input and direction. In short, we have a lot to offer. So I would encourage all AACT members to get in the mix and contribute your time and experience to the shaping of this national agenda. AACT members can learn more about the initiative and how they can get involved by going to the websites:

www.2009nationalconversation.com

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation

Keep up with the new developments in this National Conversation as they unfold over the next year or two and take the time both as a citizen and as an AACT member to make a contribution.

2009 Board of Trustees Election Results

At the completion of our first-ever online Board of Trustees election at www.clintox.org, we are happy to announce the following new Board members for 2010.

Board of Trustees:

John A. Curtis, MD

Jeff Nemhauser, MD

Sean Patrick Nordt, MD, PharmD, DABAT

Maria Mercurio-Zappala, RPh, MS, CSPI, DABAT

We would like to express our thanks to all who ran for office, and for their willingness to serve the AACT, as well as all of those who took part in this election.

NACCT 2009
September 21-26
San Antonio, Texas
www.clintox.org

238th ACS National Meeting & Exposition
August 16-20, 2009
Washington, DC, USA
<http://portal.acs.org/>

7th Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries
September 6-10, 2009
Sun City, North West Province, South Africa
<http://www.7ctdc.co.za/>

Society of Forensic Toxicology
SOFT 2009
October 18 - 23, 2009
Oklahoma City, OK
<http://www.soft-tox.org/>

Societe Francaise pour l'Etude des Toxines
17th Meeting on Toxinology
"Toxins and Signaling"
Pasteur Institute, Paris, France
December 2-3, 2009
<http://www.sfet.asso.fr/>

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

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>