

AACTion

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



EAPCCT News

AACT is proud that the EAPCCT is our trusted counterpart organization in Europe. These two organizations and their activities compliment each other, and the association between our organizations has been a source of pride for AACT as much as it enhances

AACT's mission of involvement in clinical toxicology on an international scope.

The 2009 EAPCCT Congress was held recently in Stockholm, Sweden. This Congress was one of the best European Association meetings ever and was held in one of the world's most beautiful settings. Stockholm provided a superb backdrop to what was an excellent Congress, with sessions that included such diverse and interesting topics as Controversies in Clinical Toxicology, Laboratory Investigations in the Poisoned Patient, Practical Problems in Clinical Toxicology (case discussion), Diversity of Poisons Centre activities, Toxicology, Heavy Metals, Adverse Drug Reactions and Toxicosurveillance. The Pre-Congress Symposium was equally interesting and included lectures and discussion with regard to "Poisoning in Special Groups".

Many AACT members from around the world took advantage of the opportunity to learn at this Congress and a good number added some Scandinavian travel to the beginning or the end of the Congress.

The Congress itself offered a great opportunity to experience some of the most interesting sites in Stockholm. A dinner was held for Congress attendees in the world famous Stockholm City Hall. In the "Blue Hall" of that building, the Nobel Prize

Banquet is held every year on December 10. This magnificent building, constructed from 1911-1923, is one of Stockholm's most visited sites. Congress attendees were treated to an enjoyable tour of the building halls after a magnificent buffet dinner in the "Golden Room".

The Congress Gala Dinner was held in a landmark Stockholm museum known as the Vasa Museum. This incredible museum is highlighted by the reconstructed warship, the Vasa, located in the museum's central hall. The Vasa is the only remaining, intact 17th century ship in the world. The lower rig has been rebuilt, complete with masts, stays and shrouds. So the ship now looks essentially exactly as the Vasa would have looked like when set for winter in harbor. The wreck of the Vasa, was salvaged in 1961 and after restoration, the Vasa museum was, in effect, built around the ship. Surrounding the ship are several permanent exhibitions, cinemas, a shop and a restaurant. The gala dinner was magnificent with the backdrop of the ship Vasa in the central museum hall.

The 2009 EAPCCT Congress was indeed an enjoyable success and everyone who attended agreed that the scientific content was interesting and well presented. The city of Stockholm was unforgettable.

The 2010 EAPCCT Congress is planned for Bordeaux, France. I urge you all to add this meeting to your plans for 2010. Be sure to check the EAPCCT website for details (www.eapcct.org). The opportunity to learn from colleagues in the setting of the beautiful city of Bordeaux in combination with the opportunity to travel in and around some of the most stunningly beautiful areas of France should make for another memorable experience. **L'espoir pour vous voir dans Bordeaux!Hope to see you in Bordeaux!!**

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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](#)

Sponsored by
[American Academy of Clinical Toxicology](#)
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[American Academy of Clinical Toxicology](#)
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[Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres](#) • [American College of Medical Toxicology](#)

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

Archives of the Drug Information Service at Upstate Poison Center SUNY Upstate Medical University; Syracuse, NY

Jamie Nelsen, Pharm.D. DABAT



What is the incidence of metronidazole-induced peripheral neuropathy and how long does metronidazole induced neuropathy take to resolve?

Background: 30YOF who was prescribed metronidazole 500mg TID by OB/GYN for vaginitis in January. Approximately 4 days after finishing treatment she developed numbness/ tingling in her arms and legs which comes and goes. She has had a computed tomography of head and spine with no significant findings.

Peripheral neuropathy has been reported as a rare side effect of metronidazole therapy. This usually presents as a predominantly distal sensory polyneuropathy, with patients often complaining of tingling, prickling, and burning in the balls of the feet or tips of the toes. Symptoms and findings are usually symmetric and graded distally and often precede objective motor or sensory signs. Electrophysiologic examination of nerve and muscle, including nerve conduction studies and electromyography are used to diagnose neuropathies.

The proposed mechanism for metronidazole-induced peripheral neuropathy is not well defined, although animal models suggest inhibition of RNA synthesis may be the cause of observed axonal degeneration.(1) Metronidazole induced peripheral neuropathy has traditionally been associated with high doses of drug given over several months.(1) A more recent case report however, describes toxicity in a 45-y-o female treated with metronidazole for vaginitis.(2) After three days of metronidazole (3.6 g total) the

patient reported severe burning pain in both feet and aching pain in the muscles of the thighs and calves. On day seven she reported similar findings in her hands and forearms. Electrophysiological studies on the 10th day of illness revealed prolonged distal motor latency of posterior tibial nerve, prolonged distal motor latency and mildly reduced compound muscle action potential amplitude of the peroneal nerve and decreased sensory nerve action potential amplitude of the posterior tibial nerve. The patient was treated with carbamazepine and gabapentin for symptom relief. A repeat nerve conduction study at three months did not show any improvement and the patient remained symptomatic at 24 months. Although a temporal relationship is suggested, cause and effect cannot be clearly established with a case report.

Boyce et al. reviewed the literature of metronidazole-induced peripheral neuropathy (n=33).(3) Of those cases, 12 patients continued therapy on the same or lower doses of metronidazole with worsening neuropathy in one, no change in five, and partially improved symptoms in six. Metronidazole was stopped in 21 patients with complete recovery in 11, partial recovery in 7, and no improvement in three. Significant patient variability with regards to susceptibility and resolution of symptoms may be related to genetic variables.

1. BMJ. 1977; 2(6087):610-1.
2. Neurol India. 2005; 53(3):372-3.
3. DCIP, The Annals of Pharmacotherapy. 1990;24(19):19-21.

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.

What Will Happen to the Archives of *Veterinary and Human Toxicology*?

Michael Mullins, MD



Many AACT members have authored articles over the years that were published in *Veterinary and Human Toxicology*. When the journal ceased publication in 2004, the fate of the archives has remained uncertain. *Vet Hum Toxicol* was published by the American College of Veterinary Toxicologists at Kansas State

University. The articles are no longer available, and the journal has not gone “open source” on PubMed. In its final issue, December of 2004, William O. Robertson, MD wrote an editorial about the uncertain future of the journal, and that uncertainty remains today, five years later.

Kansas State University, holder of the original copyright was contacted a few months ago. Dr. Fred Oehme of Kansas State advised that Kansas State had financially supported the journal until it became clear that subscriptions would never cover the costs of continued publication. VHT approached the AACT leadership at the time about having the Academy assume control and responsibility for the journal, which AACT was not able to do, so the journal ceased publication.

While it is unlikely that the journal would begin publishing again, there is still value in having the archives available. AACT has expressed an interest to Dr. Fred Oehme at Kansas State to place the Archives of *Vet Hum Tox* on the members-only section of the AACT website. Dr. Oehme expressed support for the project to make the archives available, but he could not authorize this, and advised that Kansas State Univ. administration is who would have the authority to allow this project to move forward. Currently, it is uncertain who at KSU would be able to

authorize the use of the *Vet Hum Tox* back issues.

Specific details would need to be hammered out if approval is obtained, but options for this would include:

- 1) Creating a separate PDF for each individual article.

This would create almost 3000 separate files with overlapping pages that would need to be scanned twice (once for the end of first article, once at the start of the following article), and would pose some indexing challenges.

- 2) Create a separate PDF for each issue

This would involve 6 files per year of publication or 120 files for the last 20 years of publication. The articles could be bookmarked within each PDF so that one can more quickly find the specific article of interest. Even without bookmarks, finding the desired page would not be very difficult.

- 3) Create a PDF for each table of contents (outside front and inside front cover of each issue) and a separate PDF file for the content of each issue. This might allow smaller file sizes for the content, which is in black-and-white, while preserving the color in the covers. A variation of this would be to have thumbnail picture files (GIF, JPG, etc) of the front cover of each issue with an embedded link to the PDF of the entire issue.

The Academy would like to proceed with the project as intended, to scan the back issues of VHT, and to archive them on the AACT website. But without the approval of the prior publisher and Kansas State, the project cannot move forward. Please stay tuned for further updates as to the progress of this intended project. Any AACT member that has some insight as to how we might be able to move forward with this would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me at mullinsm@wusm.wustl.edu

AACTion Wants Your News

AACTion is a member benefit of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. We want to hear from our members, and other members want to hear from and about you. Please send any Toxicology news of interest to the editor, Michael G. Holland, MD at hollandm@upstate.edu; or to Assistant Editor Jamie Nelsen at nelsenj@upstate.edu

AACT Board Aims for the Future Through Strategic Planning

Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, FAACT



The Board of Trustees continues the strategic planning process it began in 2007 with the help of an outside consultant, The TCC Group. The Board voted at its January 2009, meeting to accept a final rendition of the plan for 2009-2011.

Subsequently it has begun an implementation phase, directed by its leadership, along with the Strategic Planning and Executive Committees.

Among the plan's provisions are exciting new goals for improved member recruitment, retention, and benefits. Currently members take advantage of a variety of benefits that provide tremendous value, in terms of their life-long education, professional interests, and career development. Such ongoing AACT activities dedicated to its members include:

Life-Long Education

Meeting Discounts

AACT Pre-Meeting Symposium discounted registration

NACCT meeting registration discount

EAPCCT Congress registration discount

Website resources & links

Free Publications

Clinical Toxicology journal

AACTion Line newsletter

AACT Toxicology Question of the Day

Public Policy & Practice of Clinical Toxicology

Published clinical toxicology guidance and policies

Collaborations with other national toxicology organizations

Support for Toxicology Internationally

AACT Traveling Scholarship

Senior Editorial Board Membership, Clinical Toxicology

AACT Website announcements: international meetings

Participation in organizing annual EAPCCT Congress

Participation in organizing IUTOX Congress

Collaborations with international toxicology societies

Support for Toxicology Research

Research Funding

AACT Junior Investigator Research Grant award

Informa Award – Best NACCT Poster Abstract

Free Scientific Toxicology Literature Abstracting Services

AACT quarterly scientific literature abstracting service

AACT herbs/dietary supplements abstracting service

Publication of Scientific Abstracts Presented at NACCT

Promote Training in Toxicology & Related Fields

Free membership in AACT while in training

Trainee involvement in AACT committees & special interest groups

Research Abstract Presentations at NACCT

Original research selection by peer review

Trainee platform session

Promote collegiality through social networking at NACCT and other venues

Credentialing

American Board of Applied Toxicology

Medical Review Officer course offering

Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS) course offering

Promotion of Career Development

Special Recognition to Members

Lifetime achievement award

AACT Fellow designation (FAACT title)

Professional Organization Leadership

Opportunities for participation in:

AACT committees

AACT special interest groups

AACT committee or SIG chairs

AACT board and officers' positions

Maintenance of Certification

LLSA Workshops

Professional Networking & Social Collegiality Opportunities

Membership directory

Website resources & links

Listserv

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Member reception at NACCT

The BOT has already achieved one goal within the strategic plan by adding a new look and feel to its updated, revised website. Check it out at www.clintox.org. Look for additional improvements in AACT operations in the near future as the Board continues its hard work on behalf of its membership. If you haven't renewed your membership for this year yet, support your Academy and do it today! The Board welcomes member suggestions for additional benefits that would add value to their professional interests and careers. Your participation and support are both crucial to the success of AACT.

In Memoriam: Bryan Ballantyne, MB, MD, PhD, DSc, FAACT (1934–2008)

Tipton Tyler and Hon-Wing Leung



Dr. Bryan Ballantyne passed away on December 3, 2008, after injuries he sustained in a fall in his London, UK, home. Dr. Ballantyne was born on September 11,

1934, in Yorkshire, UK. He received his M.B., B.Sc., Ph.D., M.D., and D.Sc. degrees all from the University of Leeds. He was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, a Licentiate of the Royal College of Medicine, London, and a Fellow of eight medical societies, including the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.

Following his time in clinical medicine and surgery, Bryan started his career as a member of the academic staff at the University of Leeds with academic and research interests in histology, histochemistry, and biochemistry, particularly with respect to the biological functions of cholinesterases and the role of enzymes in monovalent cation transport. In 1968, he left Leeds to become Senior Medical Officer at the U.K. Chemical Defense Establishment, Porton Down, Salisbury, UK, with the position of Head of the Section of Toxicology and Pathology. In this position, he conducted research and gained wide knowledge in a variety of areas of toxicology and with multitudes of toxicologically interesting chemical moieties. He was one of the world's leading experts in the toxicology of cyanides and

riot control agents and had a particular interest in ocular toxicology.

Bryan left the UK in 1978 to become the Director of Applied Toxicology for the Union Carbide Corporation. This position took him to Charleston, West Virginia, where he maintained a home for the remainder of his life. He essentially designed and directed the corporate toxicology program for Union Carbide and nurtured a strong collaboration with the Union Carbide toxicology laboratory, initially with the Chemical Hygiene Fellowship of the Carnegie Mellon Institute that later evolved into the Bushy Run Research Center. This association gained him much respect and camaraderie with many members and staff of Bushy Run.

Notably Dr. Ballantyne was a prolific writer with over 500 major publications and 10 books, including co-editing the three volume set, **General and Applied Toxicology**, the 4 volume 3rd edition of which he was completing at the time of his death, and now is in press.

He encouraged and assisted all of his colleagues and co-workers to publish their findings and contribute their knowledge to the many books he edited. Dr. Ballantyne was a very private individual, yet he took an interest in his colleagues' careers and had compassion for their personal problems. He possessed a wry wit, as demonstrated in some of his classic letters probably yet found in the archives of upper management and corporate attorneys. He is survived by his wife and four living daughters. He will be missed by those of us who learned from and worked with Bryan for the last 30 years.

New *Clinical Toxicology* Editor Addresses AACT Members, Calls for Submissions

D. Nicholas Bateman, BSc, MD, FRCP, FRCP(E), FBPharmacoS, FBTS
Editor-in-Chief - *Clinical Toxicology*



Dear AACT member,
I would like to introduce myself as the new Editor-in-Chief of ***Clinical Toxicology***, the official journal of the AACT, the EAPCCT and the AAPCC. As part of your Society membership you receive **full access** to the journal online via the Society website.

Clinical Toxicology publishes 10 issues per year and presents high-quality scientific research, reviews and clinical articles on all facets of acute and chronic poisoning and its management, covering topics such as:

- research into toxicological mechanisms and treatment
- acute care of the poisoned patient
- poisons information systems and toxicology-epidemiology
- environmental exposures, their health consequences and management
- occupational toxicology
- analytical toxicology of clinical relevance

The journal is listed by all the major indexers including Medline/Pubmed, BIOSIS Chemical Abstracts, EMBASE, ISI, SCOPUS and Toxicology Abstracts, and has an **Impact Factor** of 1.706. As Editor-in-Chief it is with great pleasure that I invite you to contribute to ***Clinical Toxicology*** and I would like to make you aware of the publishing opportunities within the journal.

Why publish with *Clinical Toxicology*?

Official journal of three key societies - your paper will be seen by the leading scientists in the field.

Rapid turnaround - submission to publication decision in 4-6 weeks and acceptance to publication in 2-3 months.

Rigorous peer review by at least two independent referees within 2-4 weeks of submission.

Online publication ahead of print issue

Online publication of **supplementary data**

Open access policy for NIH/Wellcome-funded papers -

Please visit the journal website at: www.informapharmascience.com/ctx for further information and to view the instructions for authors.

To submit a paper, please do so via the journal's [Manuscript Central site](#). If you have any queries or would like to discuss a submission please do not hesitate to contact me (Nick.Bateman@luht.scot.nhs.uk), or the Associate Editor Dr. Martin Caravati (Martin.Caravati@hsc.utah.edu)
We look forward to hearing from you.

D Nicholas Bateman, BSc, MD, FRCP, FRCP(E), FBPharmacoS, FBTS
Editor-in-Chief - *Clinical Toxicology*
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EAPCCT Meeting in Stockholm- May 2009

Photos by M. Greenberg



World famous Blue Hall where the Nobel Prize Dinner is held each year



Hugo Kupfreschmidt, EAPCCT President addresses attendees during the EAPCCT reception at the Gold Hall in Stockholm



AACT Treasurer Marty Caravati and Past- President Donna Seger in the Gold Hall of Stockholm City Hall



The changing of the guard at Stockholm's Royal Palace



AACT President Mike Greenberg had the opportunity to address the attendees at the Gala Dinner in Stockholm's Vasa Museum



Charming fishing villages dot the coastline just 20 minutes by boat from Stockholm

Upcoming Meetings

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

The Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP)
2009 Annual Meeting
June 21-25, 2009
Washington, D.C.
<http://www.toxpath.org/AM2009/gen.asp>

The Teratology Society 2009 Annual Meeting
June 27-July 2, 2009
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
<http://www.teratology.org/am.asp>

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>