



AACT*ion* News & Announcements

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American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

Message from the President: *Karen Simone, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT*

The AACT Board made a number of strategic decisions this year. Academy members worked on several exciting educational and collaborative projects. The AACT remains committed to building our future leadership, providing grant support for young and developing toxicologists, and fostering larger collaborative relationships. We have also been very busy reinvigorating clinical guidelines, enhancing educational opportunities, and building the new Academy website. Additionally, the AACT administrative office now has a dedicated phone number, which is (571) 488-6000.

Election Results:

Thank you to all who ran for positions on the AACT Board of Trustees. We had an excellent slate of candidates and the races were extremely close.

The new AACT Board members are:

- President-Elect: Mark Kostic
- Treasurer: Shawn M. Varney



Several Yogi Berra quotes point in a general direction that is good for most toxicologists, young and old.
You can observe a lot by just watching.
How can you think and hit at the same time?
You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there.
Sometimes we are so busy managing patients, advising colleagues, researching, teaching, publishing and chasing sufficient funding that we forget to reevaluate our position to determine whether we are on the right path, or any path at all, and making progress. Take a few minutes now and then to clear your mind and reconsider your direction. It will pay great dividends.
If you are able to do that on a kayak in the Finger Lakes of Upstate New York, I highly recommend it.
Slow down, observe, consider and make a careful plan.
Be sure to have measurable outcomes to prove your plan is worthy.

- Board Members: Christopher Hoyte, Robert Hoffman, Tammi Schaeffer, Susan Smolinske

Grant Awards:

Ken McMartin and the Research Awards Committee worked very hard this year, determining the winners of nearly \$100,000 worth of research and travel awards for toxicologists early in their careers. Look for details on the projects and the recipients in future AACTions.

The recipients are:

- Junior Investigator Grant/Lampe-Kunkel Memorial Award: George Sam Wang (\$45,000)
- Junior Investigator Grant: Benjamin Willenbring (\$45,000)
- Toxicology Trainee Research Grant: Sean Boley (\$5,000)
- Student and Trainee Travel Awards: Kristen Gruenther, Daniel Lasoff and Meghan Spyres (\$1,000/award)

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Important Dates to Remember!

Date (s)	Event
September 12-16, 2016	NACCT <i>Meeting in Boston</i>
September 18-23, 2016	International Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in Miami Beach
October 4, 2016	Section Webinar: Erica Liebelt, MD – “The Psychotropic Medication Epidemic in Children – Acute and Chronic Toxicity”
October 26, 2016	ABAT Webinar: Christine Stork & William Eggleston - “Managing Chronic Digoxin Toxicity with Anti-Digoxin Antibodies”
November 1, 2016	Section Webinar: Katie O’Donnell, MD – Pediatrics Section
November 17-20, 2016	APAMT <i>Meeting in Singapore</i>
December 6, 2016	Section Webinar: Jenny Lu, MD and Bryan Hayes, PharmD – Acute & Intensive Care Section
May 16-19, 2017	EAPCCT <i>Meeting in Basel</i>
May 18, 2017	4th Annual Venom Conference in Houston
October 11-15, 2017	NACCT <i>Meeting in Vancouver</i>

Upcoming Continuing Education Events

AACT will be offering continuing education webinars that will occur on the 1st Tuesday every month at 1:00pm Eastern. Please contact Shawn M. Varney at smvarney@gmail.com with ideas for topics and/or speakers for the webinars. Stay tuned for more details!

Question of the Day: Editor’s Favorite

Did you know that the question of the day has now surpassed 2000 questions? AACT gives a special thanks to Michael Greenberg, MD, who has been volunteering to do this for more than 8 years.

What is “snake wine”?

According to the cited reference, “snake wine” is a beverage that “contains more than 45% ethanol and whole venomous snakes”. These authors further note: “Snake wine is generally preserved in an airtight, sealed container before it is drunk. Snake wine is consumed in certain Asian countries, including South Korea, for its presumed effect of invigorating one’s energy level.” The cited reference reports on severe coagulopathy after the ingestion of “snake wine”. (Moon JM and Chun BJ. Severe coagulopathy after the ingestion of “snake wine” 2016 J Emerg Med 50(6): 848-851)

From the President, continued from page 1

APAMT Added as Fourth Sponsor for *Clinical Toxicology*:

The AACT worked with the AAPCC and EAPCCT to develop a formal agreement with the APAMT to join our *Clinical Toxicology* Journal as a fourth sponsor. This will widen the reach of our journal around the globe. As a sponsor of the Journal, we count on your contributions. If you have a new study or thoughts for a review, consider our journal first. To submit an article or learn more about our journal: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ictx>.

Clinical Recommendations in Clinical Toxicology Collaborative:

Clinical Recommendations are replacing our Position Statements. The recommendations are determined based on newer methodology using GRADE and AGREE II. This is a thorough and labor-intensive process that requires diligence, management of challenging logistics and teamwork. Once involving the AACT and EAPCCT only, the new versions include APAMT as well to increase our reach into Asia and the Pacific. The lipids recommendations team has published one piece at a time and will publish final recommendations soon. Upcoming projects include the use of activated charcoal and drug-induced QTc prolongation. This effort also includes collaboration with the AAPCC, ACMT, the CAPCC and other teams required based on content. The AACT Scientific Chair, Sophie Gosselin, is the AACT lead on these collaborative projects.

Section Webinars:

The Academy offers one-hour toxicology webinars with continuing education credit at least every month on the first Tuesday of the month at 1PM Eastern Time. Topics covered to date include: postmortem toxicology, lipid emulsion in poisoning, navigating the National Library of Medicine's TOXNET, pharmacogenomics, performance enhancing pharmaceuticals and athletes, occupational metals exposures, pit vipers and pediatrics. Shawn M. Varney spearheads this effort.

ToxNow:

The AACT is the proud sponsor of *ToxNow* with Matt Zuckerman. These entertaining and informative podcasts involve interviews with various toxicology and other experts about topics of interest and controversy. Podcasts currently available include performance-enhancing drugs, marijuana and driving, lipid rescue and mushroom poisoning. Access ToxNow *via* the AACT member section of the website.

Website and Logo:

Last but not least, we continue to work diligently on the new AACT website. The website and logo project has been a long and arduous endeavor, but is nearing completion. Watch for previews at the upcoming North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. The public side is mostly complete and we are working now to enhance features such as editable member profiles on the member side. Based on work to date, the new website is more attractive, functions better and is easier to navigate. Also, the new website will allow us to add content more easily and in real-time. Jeanna Marraffa is leading this labor-intensive effort. We are now seeking timely toxicology-relevant content. It can be informal and in the form of a blog. The target audience is healthcare professionals and government agencies with whom we interact. If you would like to contribute now or in the future, contact Jeanna Marraffa at marraffj@upstate.edu

Stop by the AACT booth at the upcoming NACCT this September in Boston. Let us know how you feel about the changes. Have a look at the new logo and website. Don't forget to suggest educational content that you would like to see at future meetings.

North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

NACCT 2016 – Boston, MA

The North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology is just around the corner. Join us for the AACT Pre-meeting Symposium, Business Meeting, Fellow's Reception, Keynote Presentation, Career Achievement Award Lecture, Scientific Symposium, and the New England Aquarium Tour & Dinner. All current toxicology Fellows-in-Training are also invited to a free luncheon with AACT leaders.

Available Resources

NACCT Mobile App: Download the NACCT mobile app to your iOS or Android. Download the NACCT mobile app to your iOS or Android mobile device from the Apple Store or Google Play. Search "NACCT," download, and install. If you already have the NACCT 2015 app, tap the "settings" icon on your device, select "Back to All Events", and then select "NACCT 2016." Make sure to enable push notifications after you download the NACCT app in order to stay up on new content and other alerts related to the meeting. The app also includes the full text of abstracts, session titles, meeting rooms and locations, and much, much more. Leave the app on your device throughout the year for updates and deadline reminders for NACCT 2017.

AACT Website: The AACT website (www.clintox.org) contains valuable information including the complete meeting brochure, meeting schedule grid, registration and fee structure, and general meeting information.

AACT Pre-Symposium:

It's All Grey & White: Fundamentals in Neurotoxicology
Monday, Sept 12, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

AACT Membership Meetings:

AACT Business Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 13, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

FAACT Induction Ceremony & Reception

Tuesday, Sept 13, 8:00 – 9:00 PM

Keynote Presentation:

Think Big: My Approach to Overcoming Obstacles

Jennifer Arnold, MD, MSc, FAAP

Dr. Arnold is a neonatologist, Director of the Simulation Center at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, and star of TLC's docudrama, *The Little Couple*.

Wednesday, Sept 14, 7:30 – 8:30 AM

Career Achievement Award Lecture:

Wednesday, Sept 14, 7:30 – 8:30 AM

AACT Scientific Symposium:

The Neuroscience of Addiction

Wednesday, Sept 14, 7:30 – 8:30 AM

Fellows-in-Training & AACT Leaders Luncheon: This luncheon is free to all residents and fellows enrolled in clinical and medical toxicology training programs, and offers trainees a unique opportunity to meet and talk with current and former AACT leadership

Thursday, Sept 15, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Fellows-in-Training Brief Oral Presentations:

Thursday, Sept 15, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

New England Aquarium Tour & Dinner: Enjoy the world-class aquarium exhibits, have cocktails with seals and sea lions, and dine with friends and colleagues beneath a waterfront canopy. Transportation will be provided to and from the hotel, with buses beginning to board at 5:45 PM. A ticket is required. Space is limited, so get your ticket today by contacting Contemporary Forums. A small number of tickets may be available at the NACCT registration desk. This will be an event to remember!

Thursday, Sept 15, 7:00 – 11:00 PM

Section Updates

Envenomations Special Interest Section Update

Chair: Keith Boesen, PharmD, CSPI
boesen@pharmacy.arizona.edu

Goals:

The goal of the AACT Envenomations Special Interest Section is to serve as a forum for AACT members with an interest in venomous animals and envenomations. There are currently over 100 members who participate in email discussions.

Objectives:

1. To encourage intellectual discussion among members
2. To promote clinical and scientific research regarding venomous animals and envenomations
3. To increase awareness of issues that affect the public health and clinical response to envenomations
4. To provide a central resource of information for AACT members
5. To form partnerships with other organizations that share common interests and goals

Recent activities:

Coral Snake Antivenom Update

Effective October 15, 2009 Pfizer Inc. acquired Wyeth. Pfizer Inc. has an unspecified number of vials of Antivenom in stock from lot #4030024 that originally expired back in 2008. They have extended this expiration date to April 2017. There is discussion of Pfizer producing a new lot of Coral Snake Antivenom in the future.

For more information, please see FDA Links:

Lot 4030024 has a new expiration date of April 2017

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/ucm445083.htm>

Lot 4030026 has expired with no further expiration date extensions.

Antivenom Index

Members of the ENVSIG through a HRSA grant continue to manage a national strategic exotic antivenom system to enhance and maintain the online Antivenom Index. This index is available to Poison Control Centers for the purposes of locating and obtaining exotic antivenoms.

Annual Meeting

At the annual NACCT conference, the Envenomation Section meets to discuss ongoing research in the field of envenomations, including interesting cases. Our discussions are always lively and informative, often leading to great discussions about new areas of research and thoughts on patient care.



Environmental Occupational Special Interest Section Update

Chair: David Vearrier, MD, MPH
dvearrier@gmail.com

Recent Activities:

Our section recently facilitated/hosted (November 2015) an AACT Webinar on welding fume exposure and arterial compliance in the Harvard Boilermaker's cohort. Members can view archive material at any time at this link: <http://www.clintox.org/SIGWebinars/> (you must be logged in to the Members Area of the website).

The section will be hosting an NACCT symposium "Lessons in Metal Toxicity from an OEM Clinic" by Dr. Rose Goldman, MD, MPH, Cambridge Hospital Macht Center, Cambridge, MA.



Geriatric Toxicology Special Interest Section Update

Co-Chairs: Thomas L. Kurt, MD, MPH, FAACT
TomKurtMD@comcast.net

Mark Thoman, MD, FAACT
paro1795@aol.com

In view of the rapidly increasing proportion of the ageing and departments of geriatrics being founded in most medical schools that stress medication reviews, it is appropriate for this Section to increase awareness of AACT members on the toxicologic issues of the elderly. These include problems associated with polypharmacy, the pharmacogenomics of related drug interactions, prolonged drug half-lives, enhanced AUCs and poorly tolerated medications.

Continued on next page

Section Updates, continued from previous page

With this in mind, an excellent speaker has been recruited for the 2016 NACCT in September to speak on “Drug Safety in the Elderly”.

Joanne Doyle Petrongolo, PharmD
Geriatric Pharmacologist, Department of Geriatrics
Massachusetts General Hospital
Friday, September 16, 2016, NACCT Boston
2:00 pm-3:00 pm

Dr. Petrongolo has spoken on this topic throughout other hospitals in the Harvard teaching hospital system and the Boston area. She has served as president of the Massachusetts Pharmacists’ Association. She will especially interest poison center medical and clinical toxicologists as well as specialists in poison information, since poison center calls deal with increasing numbers of the elderly.

Activities of the Geriatrics Toxicology Section are directed toward:

Goal: The goal of the Geriatric Toxicology Special Interest Section is to increase AACT member awareness and consideration of the toxicologic issues affecting the elderly population, including concerns about polypharmacy, pharmacogenomics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics

Objectives:

1. To implement and organize education on geriatric toxicology, including drug safety concerns, in the elderly at North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology, in toxicology grand rounds and other conferences
2. To encourage research on geriatric toxicology in toxicology fellowships and poison centers internationally
3. To promote inclusion of geriatric toxicology information while collaborating with professional societies, pharmaceutical companies, pharmacy benefit managers, drug utilization review boards, institutional review boards and hospital pharmacy and therapeutic committees
4. To encourage the Food and Drug Administration to include the elderly in clinical trials and labeling, with special attention appropriate prescribing and dispensing labeling
5. To promote the editing and publishing of appropriate literature to better inform the health community on geriatric toxicology issues

New Contact Information for AACT!

AACT is getting a new phone number! Beginning immediately, you can dial 571-488-6000 to reach the AACT headquarters directly. But don't worry, if you dial the old number (703-556-9222) you will be transferred to AACT and will not need to redial.

Remember, questions regarding registration for the upcoming North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology should be directed to AACT's meeting organizers at Contemporary Forums: (800) 377-7707.

Advice to Graduating Fellows

Steven J. Walsh, MD, FAAEM, FACEP, FACMT

Like most graduating fellows, I completed an emergency medicine residency and an acute care medical toxicology fellowship. Also similar to most graduating fellows, I was privileged enough to have wonderful and supportive mentors at my training program. These mentors encouraged me to consider my post-fellowship plans very early on in my medical toxicology training. What follows is a short list of unsolicited pointers from a young toxicologist for those in training who are beginning their post-fellowship career.

Plan. Figure out what's important to you. Any major choice begins with introspection. Be honest with yourself regarding what it is you're looking for, both personally and professionally. If you need to be in a particular geographic area, then look at positions in that area. If you have critical family considerations, take those into account. If compensation is important to you, don't downplay that. While recent statistics state that more than 70% of new graduates will leave their first post-training job in the initial two years, do your best to maximize your happiness!

Trust your mentors. You chose your fellowship based on many things; the type of training program ("bedside" versus poison-center-centric), geography, and program history being important to most applicants. However, it's not a stretch to state that one of, if not the most critical reason you chose your program was based on the people! If you're anything like me, you chose your fellowship primarily due to the way you fit with the faculty, so trust them. Solicit and listen to their advice, leverage their contacts at other programs, and learn from their mistakes. Make contacts at meetings. National meetings are a great place to network. It's much easier than you think – toxicologists are generally a friendly lot! Go to most of the sessions to get an idea of who's doing what and where. That way, you can align your clinical, teaching, and research interests with what's happening at given programs and centers. Strike up a conversation at an interesting poster, say "hello" and introduce yourself to names you recognize (most everyone wears their name badge). Don't be shy – that seemingly minor conversation may hold the key to your next job!

Stay up-to-date with the literature. As mentioned above, keeping current with who's doing what and where

is helpful in getting a "lay of the land" with respect to career planning. Fluency in today's research and literature will help you find a mentor whose interests are aligned with yours. Similar to fellowship, you want to end up somewhere that you'll fit in from a clinical/research/teaching standpoint. 5. Be open to various career options. The most "obvious" career choice for most of us is to pursue an appointment and associated core faculty position at an academic division of medical toxicology in a department of emergency medicine. Many of these opportunities are advertised and therefore easy to find, and your fellowship mentors will likely have a myriad of contacts. However, other career routes are available! Research-based careers (particularly for those with MD-PhD degrees) and other opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry are out there. These offer a "change of pace" from the typical clinical medical toxicology career, and may prove very attractive to those with business backgrounds. A variety of governmental consulting positions also exist. Additionally, consider striking out on your own and venturing into the world of private practice medical toxicology. Understand that this option may be best suited for adventurers, since much of the private practitioner's income is dependent upon legal/industrial/other consultative work, independent medical evaluation, and other nonguaranteed revenue sources.

Keep your curriculum vitae and teaching portfolio up to date. This could be an entire editorial in itself – in fact, Dr. Alan Woolf provided a great list of CV tips and tricks in the last issue of AACTion! While your CV is obviously critical, don't neglect the teaching portfolio. More and more academic institutions are interested in your non-research contributions to our field; the teaching portfolio is a great way to demonstrate your academic involvement. There are many online resources regarding constructing a teaching portfolio. A few quick tips would be to keep your didactic evaluations, seek out correspondence from your learners, and try to accept invitations to lecture or teach at extramural institutions. The bottom line is that it's always a good idea to keep your application materials current. You never know when your dream job will come available, and it's best to be prepared.

Again, this list is based simply on my own experience as a young faculty member; while it's certainly not comprehensive, I think it's a good starting point!