Farewell from the Past-President:
Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, FAACT, FACMT

THE WINDING ROAD OF TOXICOLOGY
You and I have covered a lot of ground on our journey down the long and winding road, forging new directions for the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. This will be my last column as your AACT President and I want to thank all of our colleagues who have volunteered, worked so hard, and contributed in so many ways to moving AACT forward. I won't name names for fearing of overlooking someone, but you know who you are. We have accomplished a lot together over this past 2 years.

We now have a new central office in Virginia, a new management company (Degnon Associates), a new Executive Director (Sarah Shiffert), a new Manager (Ellen Pak), a new look to our website, a new budgeting process, a new investments advisor, a new accounting process, a new member database, a new format for this newsletter, two new special interest groups (Food Safety and the Toxicology History Society), a new contract with the publisher of our professional journal, a re-invigorated North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology, a new orientation handbook for the Board of Trustees, new policies guiding our educational activities, and a new 4-year accreditation cycle as a CME provider. Whew!

We have forged ahead with plans to offer new distance learning activities for the benefit of our members: for example, new ABAT-developed educational modules in a cyber-place called “ACADEMIA” at www.clintox.org that will soon be open and freely available to all active AACT members. Many thanks to all of the ABAT members who have contributed to that mighty effort, including the leadership of Cynthia Morris-Kukoski, president of ABAT, and Kristin M. Engebretsen as the Chair of the ABAT Education Task Force, Jeanna M. Marraffa, chair of the Life Long Learning subcommittee, the ABAT Education Modules Subcommittee, chaired by Bruce Ruck, and including module reviewers (chaired by Mary Ann Howland), module development (chaired by Bryan Hayes), and technology/IT (chaired by Christian Lintner).

Championed by the initiative of Deborah Larison and Keith Boesen of the AACT Envenomations SIG, we have embarked on a new 3-part webinar series on venoms and

Editors’ Note: At the time of final production for this issue of AACTion, Hurricane Sandy left a devastating effect on the Northeast. AACTion and the members of AACT send our thoughts to all those affected.
pharmaceutical development that will first air in the early part of 2013. More such webinars by other groups within AACT are planned for the benefit of all our members. We have also begun to explore ways to make team-centered, toxicology-focused clinical simulation exercises available in modular form for use in health professional training.

We have opened up a new era of dialogue with other societies around the world. There are now representatives of AACT on committees of such distinguished bodies as the Society of Toxicology (SOT) and the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX). We have continued our enduring and close relationships with our two sister American societies: partnering in a variety of ways with the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) and the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT). And we have explored new opportunities with colleagues in the European Association of Clinical Toxicologists and Poisons Centres (EAPCCT), as well as continuing to serve on their Scientific Planning Committee. Moreover, we have signed new agreements with the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicologists (APAMT), the Indian Society of Toxicology, the Latin American Toxicology Association, and the Iranian Toxicology Society. These letters promise to continue to find ways for the societies to collaborate with each other as scientists and professionals and to engage with each other in pursuits related to education, research and scholarship in clinical toxicology.

But we of course cannot rest on the laurels of these successes. There is much work to be done. And it is time to transition to new leadership in AACT, anchored by our capable next president, Bob Hoffman. He is joined by our new president-elect, Karen Simone, our returning treasurer, Ruddy Rose, and our new secretary, Maria Mercurio-Zappala, and a Board of 9 seasoned and highly motivated Trustees. These are extraordinarily qualified and smart leaders who will move our organization forward in its mission in clinical toxicology. But they cannot do it alone.

Our new AACT Leadership will require the participation of a membership of gifted and creative, innovative volunteers. We must all help them to meet the challenges and opportunities that will present themselves down the road ahead, down that long and winding road. I’m encouraged and I promise to give it my best. I hope you will too. Together we’ll get there.
Thank you for electing me to the presidency of the AACT. It is a great honor to follow in the footsteps of so many remarkable leaders and to have the opportunity to work with an outstanding Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and Association Management team. Together, with your help, it is my sincere hope that we can set the Academy on a course of growth and modernization. In future columns of AACTion I plan to update you on current events, activities of the board and seek your opinion for new endeavors, but today I would like to share with you a little philosophy that I hope we can all try to embrace.

We call ourselves “toxicologists”, which loosely defined means those who study the effects of xenobiotics on living organisms. While many of us choose to preface that term with other words such as “clinical”, “medical”, “applied”, “research”, “forensic” and others to denote aspects of our interest, certification, or practice we all have the same last name, meaning that we are a family. In fact, compared to other families we are very small – the Academy has less than 1000 members and many if not most of us belong to at least one or more organizations that have “toxicology” in their names.

In between my clinical responsibilities, teaching, research and writing I have had the privilege of serving on the boards of the AAPCC, the AACT, and the ACMT as well as working on smaller committees of EAPCCT and most recently APAMT and IUTOX. While each of these organizations is unique, in reality we are all very much the same with significant shared goals, missions, and values. My objective for the next two years is to celebrate those differences while finding common areas where we can work together on important issues. In the global arena, all of the organizations listed are small but if we can find areas of commonality, we can speak together in one loud voice and perhaps make a difference.

Unfortunately I am only the president, the strength, direction and future of the Academy belongs to you, the members. The only way we can be successful is through your participation. Many avenues are open to you and the Board is working to enhance them all. We have multiple committees in need of member support, and special interest groups (SIGs) where you can develop ideas and participate in projects with members who share your interest. For those of you with interests outside the existing SIGs, it only takes a few members to form a new group. Please visit the website and consider where and how you would like to participate.

For all of you who work with other toxicology associations I request that you ask them to consider including the Academy in their projects in much the same way I hope to include all other interested groups in Academy activities. Look for many new activities on the horizon, with chances for learning and CME all year round. Please consider writing to me with any idea you have to expand the benefits that the Academy gives you because only through your participation can the Board make informed decisions about the future direction.
These past years for the AACT have been exciting and we have accomplished much. As the AACT transitions to a new leadership led by Bob Hoffman, the work and progress continue.

It is with great pleasure that I will serve the AACT as the editor of AACTion. As I enter this new role, I am indebted to former editor, Dr. Barbara Kirrane’s excellent work. Her efforts have solidified the success of AACTion. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Sarah Shiffert during my transition into this role. She has been, and will continue to be, a driving force for the success of AACTion, and I know that I will not be able to do this job without her guidance and support.

This is a new and exciting time for AACT. We will continue to make AACTion a valuable resource for you, the members, by underscoring the important issues, as well as highlighting some of the strengths that you bring to the Academy. Look for our new interview column as we strive to learn more about our members and acknowledge all that they bring to the Academy through both their professional and personal contributions.

I will continue to ask for Member News and encourage each of you to submit information. It is important that we recognize your accolades and accomplishments.

AACT is very excited to be moving forward with continuing education and innovative ways of education. The Envenomation SIG will be hosting their first of three webinar series in the early part of 2013. Stay tuned for more details.

AACT/ABAT will hold its first National Journal Club on December 4, 2012 at 1300 (Eastern Standard Time). This is open to all AACT members and will be available as a live webinar as well as will be placed on the AACT website for later viewing. More details to follow.

These are just a few examples of what’s ahead. I am excited to be a part of the Academy and to serve as editor of AACTion. I promise to give it my best effort. Please feel free to contact me by email: marraffj@upstate.edu or phone: 315-464-7076.
EXTRIP

EXTRIP (EXtracorporeal TReatment In Poisoning) had its first and very successful face-to-face poison review in Bromont, Québec, Canada from June 6-11th 2012. During this meeting, 28 experts in emergency medicine, intensive care, nephrology, pharmacology and toxicology discussed the role of various extra-corporeal removal techniques in the poisoning of 15 different xenobiotics. The EXTRIP methodology (published in Clinical Toxicology earlier this spring) details the strict criteria to appraise evidence and the voting process used to derive EXTRIP’s guidelines.

Born of Dr Marc Ghannoum’s incredible energy and motivation, and supported by a strong team including Dr Valéry Lavergne epidemiologist and biostatistician and EXTRIP’s other co-chairs Dr Sophie Gosselin, Dr Robert S. Hoffman and Dr Thomas Nolin, EXTRIP has been an ongoing work since 2010. EXTRIP is now supported by over 30 professional societies, making EXTRIP one of the most comprehensive guideline process in toxicology.

Their first poison recommendation, Extracorporeal Treatment for Thallium Poisoning was published in CJASN this past July. Stay tuned for more evidence-based guidelines from EXTRIP in the upcoming months!!

www.extrip-workgroup.org
http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/content/early/2012/07/25/CJN.01940212.long

Member News

The Poison Control Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is excited to introduce Jeanette Trella, PharmD, as its new Managing Director. Dr. Trella earned her PharmD degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy. As a clinical pharmacist at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Jeanette accumulated considerable experience in independent research, and in analyzing and reporting on drug utilization and adverse events. She was primarily responsible for producing a formulary monograph on hydroxocobalamin, and for performing drug utilization evaluation of n-acetylcysteine. Some within the Academy may recognize her from her platform presentation at the 2009 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology where she detailed the CHOP experience with a “single-bag” system for the administration of intravenous n-acetylcysteine. She had been a clinical pharmacology consultant to The Poison Control Center for several years. Dr. Trella has excellent “people skills” and has earned a reputation for being smart, helpful, and friendly. In fact, this past June she was recognized by the Pediatric Residency Program at CHOP, in their end-of-year awards ceremony, for being their most valued hospital staff member. Please welcome Dr. Trella to the poison control “family.”
The U.S. supply of Coral Snake Antivenin has been in extremely short supply since the former manufacturer, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, ended production in 2005. The last lots of antivenin originally expired in October 2008; however, due to cooperation between the FDA and the manufacturer, the FDA has approved 1-year expiration date extensions annually since 2008. Recently, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals acquired this product and has continued to collaborate with the FDA to extend the expiration date. As expected, just days ago, the FDA did approve another one year extension.

Currently, lot number 4030026 expires October 31, 2013.

Despite the expiration date extensions, there is still a real possibility that the supply of Coral Snake Antivenin will be completely exhausted in the coming year. A collaborative work group has been formed to address this issue and includes Pfizer, FDA, various poison centers, your AACT Envenomation SIG, and several other agencies.

Pfizer plans to continue to work with the FDA to keep an in-date product on the market and states they plan to bring Coral Snake Antivenin back into production in 2014.

For the latest information on the availability of the antivenin, please work with your local poison center and check the Envenomation SIG website http://www.clintox.org/envsig.cfm.
Welcome New Fellows

Dr. Lee Cantrell is Director of the San Diego Division of the California Poison Control System and professor at the UCSF School of Pharmacy, UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and the UCSD School of Medicine. He is also a faculty member with the UCSD Medical Toxicology Fellowship Program. He received his Pharm.D from USC in 1992 and was a supervisor at the Los Angeles Regional Drug and Poison Information Center and a faculty member at the USC School of Pharmacy. Dr. Cantrell has been a member of AACT since 2002, has chaired or served on multiple committees within AACT, ABAT and AAPCC, and was a member of the Board of Trustees for ABAT for 6 years.

Dr. Paul Dargan is a Consultant Physician and Clinical Toxicologist and Clinical Director at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, London and a Reader in Toxicology at King’s College London. He has been a member of AACT since 1999 and has presented lectures at both NACCT and EAPCCT Congresses. He serves as a reviewer for Clinical Toxicology, sits on the Scientific Committee of EAPCCT and the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, and is an adviser to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction, the United States FDA, Médecins Sans Frontières and WHO.

Dr. Kristin Engebretsen obtained her PharmD degree from the U. Minnesota in 1996, completed a residency in toxicology in 1997 and has been working in the Emergency Medicine Department at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota as a clinical toxicologist ever since. A member of AACT since 1998, she obtained her DABAT in 2007, has served ABAT as chair of the education committee, co-chair of the science affairs committee, a member of the credentialing committee, an organizer of the NACCT ABAT symposium, and as the current ABAT President Elect. She has been an editor and a reviewer for the journal Clinical Toxicology, and currently serves on the AACT Education Committee and Pediatrics Special Interest Group.

Dr. Kennon Heard received his MD from U.C. San Diego and completed an EM residency at Denver Health Medical Center and a medical toxicology fellowship at the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC). He is currently medical toxicology fellowship director at RMPDC and an associate professor of EM at the U. Colorado School of Medicine. He is a fellow of both ACEP and ACMT. Dr. Heard has been a member of AACT since 1997, an abstract reviewer for many sessions of NACCT, and an editor for Clinical Toxicology. He serves as a member of the AACT Board of Trustees.

Dr. Debra Kent received her Doctor of Pharmacy from University of California San Francisco and completed her Fellowship in Clinical Toxicology at the San Diego Poison Control Center. She is presently the Clinical Supervisor of the BC Drug and Poison Information Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia and a Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia. A Diplomat of ABAT since 1990, she has served on the ABAT Board of Directors as a Board Member and Secretary Treasurer, and has been a member of AACT since 1994. She has recently completed 2 terms on the AACT Board of Trustees and has served on the AACT Strategic Planning Committee.

Dr. Hugo Kupferschmidt, MD, MBA-HSG, received his Swiss Federal Diploma of Medicine at Zurich University Medical School in 1985, is a specialist physician in internal medicine and in clinical pharmacology & toxicology, and a Eurotox registered toxicologist. He has worked at the Swiss Toxicological Information Centre (STIC) since 1996, serving as its medical and managing director since 2004 and also gives clinical consultations at the Zurich University Hospital and its Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology. He is a faculty member of the AACT’s Advanced Hazmat Life Support Course, a member of the Swiss Society of Internal Medicine, a member of the AACT, past president and board member of EAPCCT, president of the Swiss Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (SSCPT), member of the Swiss Society of Toxicology, the Swiss Professional Register of Toxicologists, the Gesellschaft für klinische Toxicokogie e.V., the German “BfR-Kommission zur Bewertung von Vergiftungen”, the strategic board of the Swiss Centre of Applied Human Toxicology (SCAHT) and the Senior Editorial Board of Clinical Toxicology.
Sean Patrick Nordt, MD, PharmD, DABAT completed his doctoral work in pharmacy at St. John's University and worked at the NYC Poison Control Center. He went to the UC San Diego for a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical toxicology. He became associate managing director of the California Poison Control System in San Diego, a diplomat of ABAT, and was a faculty member at both UCSD School of Medicine and UCSF School of Pharmacy. After obtaining his medical degree from University College Dublin, he completed a residency in emergency medicine at UCSD and a fellowship in medical toxicology. Dr. Nordt is currently director of the Section of Toxicology and faculty at the Keck School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine. A member of AACT since 1995, he has been a member of its Board of Trustees, an ABAT Credentials Committee member, and co-chair of the AACT Membership Committee.

Professor Ian Whyte, a clinical toxicologist, clinical pharmacologist and specialist in internal medicine, is the Director of the Department of Clinical Toxicology and Pharmacology in the Hunter and New England Local Health District of New South Wales, Australia and the Director of the Hunter Area Toxicology Service (HATS). Professor Whyte has been a member of AACT since 1998, has been an invited speaker and a scientific abstract reviewer frequently at both the NACCT and EAPCCT Congresses, and is currently a member of the AACT’s International Relations Committee. He has Fellowships of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh and most recently AACT.
Distinguished Service Awardee

Dr. Elizabeth J. Scharman, Pharm.D., DABAT, BCPS, FAACT, is a tenured Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at West Virginia University. She received a B.S. in Pharmacy from Butler University and a Pharm.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University (Medical College of Virginia), then completed a clinical toxicology fellowship at the Pittsburgh Poison Center. She has been the director of the West Virginia Poison Center since 1992. Dr. Scharman became a Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology (ABAT) in 1992 and became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist in 1995. She is currently the Deputy Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for West Virginia. She has held numerous positions in national professional societies including the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT), ABAT, and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Her service both to ABAT and to AACT has been unparalleled. She served on the Board of Trustees of AACT from 2003-2009, was editor of the AACTion newsletter from 2001-2008, served on the AACT’s Strategic Planning Task Force from 2007-2009, and has been the Chair of the Planning Committee and a member of the Abstract Review Committee for the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology for the past 4 years. Dr. Scharman was ABAT President from 2004-2006. She has also served on the ABAT Nominating, Ad Hoc Reception, Scientific Affairs, and Credentialing Committees, the ABAT Examination Task Force, and the ABAT Board of Directors from 1998-2001.

Career Achievement Awardee

Frederick H. Lovejoy, Jr., M.D. is the William Berenberg Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at the Harvard Medical School, Associate Physician-in-Chief, and Deputy Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the Boston Children’s Hospital. He currently serves as Executive Secretary of the Harvard Medical School Pediatrics Executive Committee. He is a graduate of St. Paul’s School, Yale University (B.A.), the University of Virginia School of Medicine (M.D., AOA), and Harvard University (MA(Hon)). He served as an intern and resident (1970-1972) and Assistant to the Physician-in-Chief (1972-1974) at the Children’s Hospital, Boston. He has served as Chief of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology and Clinical Toxicology (1982-1987), and Chief of Pediatric Inpatient Services (1994-1997). He was the Director of the Boston Poison Information System (1972-1978) and Founder and Director of the Massachusetts Poison Control System (1978-1987). He was a founder of the Boston Combined Residency Program (1995-2007). He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Pediatric Society, The American Board of Pediatrics, The American Clinical and Climatological Association, and The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. He was a member of the Board of Directors and is a past President of The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and a past Chairman of the Board of Medical Toxicology. He has served on the editorial boards of Developmental Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Clinical Toxicology, Medical Toxicology/Drug Safety, Pediatric Emergency Care, and Pediatrics-in-Review. He is a recipient of the Sidney Farber House-staff Award and the Charles A. Janeway Teaching Award from the Children’s Hospital; the Valentina Donahue-Turner Award, the Student Teaching Award in 1979 and 1986, designation as a Distinguished Scholar of the Academy at Harvard Medical School; the Raven Society and the Outstanding Medical Alumnus Award from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Fenn School; an outstanding Alumnus for Service from St. Paul’s School; the Ross Educational Award and Fellow Achievement Award from the Section on Poisoning & Injury Prevention, both from the AAP; the 1995 Recognition Award from the AAPCC; the Mathew J. Ellenhorn Award for Excellence in Medical Toxicology from the ACMT; and the Robert Holm Leadership Award from the Association of Pediatric Program Directors. He is an author of over 120 original publications, editor, and author of over 70 book chapters and over 100 abstracts. He is an editor of The New Child Health Encyclopedia, Dell Publishing Co, The Celebration, Harvard Printing and Publishing Co, Images of America, Children’s Hospital Boston, Arcadia Publishing and Charles A. Janeway, Pediatrician to the World’s Children, Harvard University Press.

Distinguished Service Awardee

Dr. Elizabeth J. Scharman, Pharm.D., DABAT, BCPS, FAACT, is a tenured Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at West Virginia University. She received a B.S. in Pharmacy from Butler University and a Pharm.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University (Medical College of Virginia), then completed a clinical toxicology fellowship at the Pittsburgh Poison Center. She has been the director of the West Virginia Poison Center since 1992. Dr. Scharman became a Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology (ABAT) in 1992 and became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist in 1995. She is currently the Deputy Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for West Virginia. She has held numerous positions in national professional societies including the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT), ABAT, and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Her service both to ABAT and to AACT has been unparalleled. She served on the Board of Trustees of AACT from 2003-2009, was editor of the AACTion newsletter from 2001-2008, served on the AACT’s Strategic Planning Task Force from 2007-2009, and has been the Chair of the Planning Committee and a member of the Abstract Review Committee for the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology for the past 4 years. Dr. Scharman was ABAT President from 2004-2006. She has also served on the ABAT Nominating, Ad Hoc Reception, Scientific Affairs, and Credentialing Committees, the ABAT Examination Task Force, and the ABAT Board of Directors from 1998-2001.
ACPE Program Announcement for Pharmacists

Title: “ABAT/AACT Journal Club”

Activity Date: December 4, 2012

Speakers: Christine M. Stork, Pharm.D., DABAT
Director, Upstate New York Poison Center
storkc@upstate.edu

Teresa Dodd-Butera, RN, PhD, DABAT
Assistant Professor, CSU San Bernardino
tdbutera@csusb.edu

Moderator: Jeanna M. Marraffa, Pharm.D., DABAT
Clinical Toxicologist, Upstate New York Poison Center
marraffj@upstate.edu

ACPE # 0225-9999-12-301-H04-P
Activity Type: Journal Club, Knowledge Based

Objectives for journal article 1:

1) Describe the role of carnitine in cellular energy production
2) Describe the potential role of carnitine in calcium channel antagonist poisoning
3) Identify the methodology used in the study
4) Identify the results and limitations inherent with the study
The AACT is already gearing up for next year’s NACCT, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA from September 27 through October 2, 2013. AACTion will include periodic updates.

The planning for sessions has begun. If you would like help shape the content to best fit your needs, fill out the Desired Topics/Needs Assessment survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V73MBB7. It should take five minutes or less to complete. (This is the same survey that was emailed to you on October 29, 2012.)

You may also have impact by contacting your representative on the Scientific Advisory Council:

**NACCT 2013 Scientific Advisory Council**

Chair: Kennon Heard, MD

**Members**

AAPCC President-Elect: Jay Schauben, PharmD
ABAT Scientific Affairs Committee Chair: Mark Winter, PhD
ACMT Immediate Past-President: Lewis Nelson, MD
APAMT President-Elect: Reza Afshari, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD
CAPCC Vice President: Donna Smyth, RN, BScN, CSPI
EAPCCT Immediate-Past President: Simon Thomas, BSc, MD

Look for more NACCT 2013 updates in the next AACTion.

NACCT 2013 Chair: Karen E. Simone, PharmD - simonk@mmc.org
NACCT 2013 Co-Chair: Jay Schauben, PharmD - schauben@poison.ufl.edu
NACCT 2012