



# AACT*ion* News & Announcements

Volume 22, Number 4 September 2012  
American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

## Message from the President:

*Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, FAACT, FACMT*

### **NACCT: What Does the Future Hold?**

The word change best describes many aspects of the profession of clinical toxicology and its current and future status. We are changing how we practice medical toxicology, employing such novel therapies as high-dose insulin and lipid emulsion infusions. Change is also affecting the workplace of many AACT members. For example poison control centers across the country – faced with new financial challenges due to the current economic climate in Federal and state governments – are changing how they budget and how they configure both personnel and services. Fellowship directors in medical toxicology are changing how they teach, based on changes the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) are mandating in their Next Accreditation System (NAS). And change best describes our thinking about the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) and its strategic plans for the future. We want to adapt to the career changes our members experience and prepare for how we can best meet their professional needs for life-long learning in the future.



To that end it is time to re-envision NACCT and re-charter its course for the future. Those attending this year's meeting in Las Vegas will already see evidence of how the meeting is changing. This year there are only two concurrent educational sessions occurring at any one time for most of the meeting, so that attendees are not presented with too many conflicting choices. We are employing more and more 'green' measures at NACCT to reduce the load of paper and to facilitate 'just in time' learning. Educational materials from each of the sessions will be made available on-line. The abstracts of the original science to be presented at the meeting will be posted at the AACT website 6-8 weeks prior to the meeting so that attendees can preview the research findings prior to their arrival. Pro-Libraries® will again provide recordings of the educational sessions for those who cannot attend in person. Audience response systems, an invaluable educational tool, will be incorporated in many of this year's symposia. The patient-centered simulation experience has also been enhanced for this year's meeting. An expanded

## Inside this Edition

President's Message .....	1-2	Bond Wins Louis Roche Award .....	6
Know Your New Board Members .....	2-3	Member News .....	6-7
Making an Impact .....	4	Cobaugh Honored.....	7-8
American Board of Applied Toxicology		2012 NACCT Annual Meeting .....	8
Update .....	4-5	Calendar of Events .....	8
Notes From the XXXII International EAPCCT		AACT Research Award .....	9
Congress .....	5-6	AACT Junior Investigator Award .....	10

# AACT*ion*

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## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED**

offering of the popular Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS) course will take place after NACCT on Saturday, October 6th. And we have included "self-care" activities for conference attendees, such as free blood pressure testing and other health measures, courtesy of the Southern Nevada Health District.

We are already planning for NACCT in 2013 and beyond. We want to continue to experiment with different formats of learning. Options on the future may employ a variety of teaching styles besides didactic lectures: expert panels, meet-the-professor sessions, faculty debates, skills-building workshops, and career-enhancing seminars can be effective ways to engage participants and faculty alike. We want to enhance the opportunity for attendees to network with each other at coffee breaks, between sessions, and at social functions. We want to work closely with our international partners to insure that their participation continues as a rich and vibrant contribution fully integrated into this international meeting. We want to explore other ways that the meeting can address effectively the career needs of attendees.

NACCT is the pre-eminent meeting for showcasing what is new in toxicology research and in the practice of clinical toxicology and poison control. The Congress also has a rich tradition of facilitating the professional development of health care providers in every toxicology-related discipline. So look for changes at this year's meeting and already mark your calendars for NACCT in Atlanta, Georgia from September 25 to October 3rd, 2013. Exciting changes are planned that we hope will make our most successful meeting even better! You are invited to check the website frequently for updates as to conference-related materials at [www.clintox.org](http://www.clintox.org).

## **Know Your New Board Members**

As was reported in AACTion in June, the AACT held an election for new leadership positions and a majority of active AACT members participated in electing new officers and Board members from an excellent slate of candidates. Karen Simone was elected as the new President-Elect, S. Rutherford ('Ruddy') Rose was re-elected AACT Treasurer, Maria Mercurio-Zappala, a former Trustee, was elected as AACT Secretary, Jeffrey Nemhauser was re-elected to the Board of Trustees, and 3 new members of the Board (John Benitez, Jeanna Marraffa, and Mark Kostic) were elected. Get to know your three new representatives on the Board of Trustees from their brief biosketches:

## KNOW YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS CONTINUED



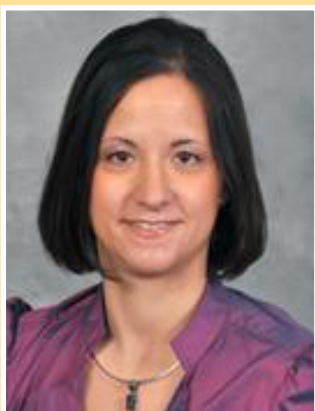
### **John Benitez**

Dr. John Benitez graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and has worked in poison centers/toxicology centers in Tennessee, Pennsylvania and New York. He currently serves at the Tennessee Poison Center as its managing director and is an associate professor in clinical medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Doctor Benitez was recently elected secretary/treasurer of the Clinical and Translational Toxicology Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology. He is looking forward to working with the distinguished leadership group in AACT and helping with clinical toxicology in general.



### **Mark Kostic**

Dr. Mark Kostic is originally from the Philadelphia, PA area. His Bachelor's degree was from the College of William and Mary and his MD from Jefferson Medical College. Dr. Kostic served on active duty in the US Navy for over 13 years, during which he completed a residency in Emergency Medicine in San Diego and a medical toxicology fellowship at the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center in Denver. He also served for several years as the associate medical director of the Virginia Poison Center. He left the navy in 2007 at the rank of Commander and was a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, and he moved to Milwaukee. He is currently the associate medical director of the Wisconsin Poison Center and practices clinically (both emergency medicine and medical toxicology) for the Medical College of Wisconsin.



### **Jeanna Marraffa**

Dr. Jeanna Marraffa, PharmD, DABAT, earned her doctor of pharmacy from Union University, Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, New York. She currently works as a clinical toxicologist and the assistant clinical director and director of quality services at the Upstate New York Poison Control Center in Syracuse, NY. She also serves as assistant fellowship director in clinical toxicology. Dr. Marraffa is an assistant professor in the departments of medicine and emergency medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Jeanna has been involved in numerous ABAT Committees as well as been an active participant in NACCT with numerous abstracts and poster presentations. She is very excited to become a part of the Board of Directors for AACT and to become more involved with the Academy.

# Making an Impact

*Marty Caravati, MD, MPH*

As the official journal of AACT, "Clin Tox" strives to publish important and high quality research to advance the specialty of clinical toxicology. We have recently added a new article category of "teaching cases"; the first one was published in the July 2012 Issue on diethylene glycol by Drs. Hoyte and Leikin. We hope these are educational and enjoyable. Look for more to come.

Several editorial board changes were announced at the spring editorial board meeting held during the EAPCCT Congress in London. New members include Ken McMartin (Shreveport), Paul Dargan (London), Ana Ferrer-Dufol (Zaragoza), Jonas Hojer (Stockholm), and Robert Palmer (Denver). They each bring a unique expertise to the board that will keep the content of the journal on the cutting edge of toxicology.

The journal is seeking to broaden its environmental and occupational toxicology content and we encourage submissions in this area, in addition to the pharmaceuticals, drugs of abuse, metals, envenomations, toxicokinetics, poison center and other content. The journal is planning on publishing several guidelines for hemodialysis in poisoning by the "EXTRIP" group (June 2012 Issue) over the next year that will have an impact on your practice.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce that the journal's 2011 Impact Factor increased to 2.22. This demonstrates that other researchers are increasingly citing articles published in Clin Tox. With the help of your contributions, a strong editorial board and excellent peer-reviewers, this trend will hopefully continue.

See you in Vegas...

## American Board of Applied Toxicology (ABAT) Update

*Cynthia L. Morris-Kukoski, DABAT, FAACT*

The American Board of Applied Toxicology (ABAT) 2012 is celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year. As most AACT members are aware, ABAT is a standing committee of the American Academy Clinical Toxicology. We currently have ninety (#90) Active Diplomates and five (#5) Emeritus Diplomates. At the 2012 NAACT Meeting, ABAT will have the following activities: ABAT Board Meeting, ABAT Examination, ABAT Booth, ABAT Symposium, ABAT Business meeting, and our fourth annual Resident/Fellow Reception. The ABAT symposium subcommittee is co-chaired and moderated by Mark Winter & Kristin Engebretsen. This year's symposium is titled "Evidence-Based Practice: The Treatment of Rhabdomyolysis". Our speakers are Elizabeth Scharman & Peter Chyka (two ABAT Past Presidents). The Resident/Fellow reception is co-ordinated by Elizabeth Scharman & Kristin Engebretsen; all Diplomates of ABAT as well as current Resident/Fellows are invited to attend.

ABAT administers the ABAT exam at the annual NACCT meeting. The examination has been offered

yearly since 1987 except in 1995. The examination is administered over two days and is comprised of problem solving cases and multiple-choice questions. All credentialed candidates sitting for the ABAT exam are non-physician practitioners of AACT. The credentialing committee, chaired by Howell Foster, reviewed potential applications for this year's upcoming examination. One new traditional candidate, three new fast tracker candidates, and several additional credentialed candidates will be sitting for this year's examination. The ABAT examination committee has two chairs and divisions; the problem solving committee (chaired by Tom Kearney, ABAT Past President) and the multiple choice committee (chaired by Sue Gorman, ABAT President Elect).

All ABAT Diplomates must successfully recertify every five years. The recertification committee, chaired by Judith Alsop has been busy reviewing 23 recertification applications from Diplomates that successfully passed their exams in the following years: 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007. Other committees



## AMERICAN BOARD OF APPLIED TOXICOLOGY (ABAT) UPDATE CONTINUED

that have been hard at work are the examination task force and the education task force. The examination task force, chaired by Cynthia L. Morris-Kukoski (ABAT President), is finishing up our psychometric analysis assessment of our examination. The Education Task Force, chaired by Kristen Engebretsen, is overseeing the following subcommittees: ABAT Education Modules (chaired by Bruce Ruck), and Life Long Learning (chaired by Jeanna Marraffa), ABAT Study Guide, Mentorship Program and IT/Technology. The ABAT Board has instituted policy and procedures in order to assist the education task force. The ABAT education modules are currently in progress and making great strides. Life long learning has finalized the self assessment scoring tool and is in the process of setting up a journal club webinar for

late fall this year. The other subcommittees that are under development and will meet this fall after the NACCT 2012 meeting are the ABAT Study Guide, and the Mentorship Program.

As for ABAT's future, the nominations committee, chaired by Mark Winter, held a successful election for the following positions: President Elect (Kristen Engebretsen) and two board member positions (Alfred Aleguas and Dawn R. Sollee). Under the direction of our new board members, I feel confident that ABAT will continue to move forward with its educational efforts as well as the development of a mentorship program and recruitment of future ABAT candidates.

## Notes From the XXXII International EAPCCT Congress

The XXXII International EAPCCT Congress was held on May 29-June 1 at the Lancaster Hotel in London, England. The meeting is co-sponsored by AACT which processes CME credits for the attendees and accredits the Congress. The meeting was organized by the EAPCCT Scientific & Meetings Committee, as coordinated by Dr. Bruno Mégarbane (chair), Peter Hulten (secretary), Alison Good (abstract editor), and Alexander Campbell (treasurer). The AACT is represented on this committee by its president, Alan Woolf. Dr. Simon Thomas, past-president of the EAPCCT, and Dr. Hugo Kupferschmidt, the immediate past-president, both added administrative leadership and direction for this meeting. This year more than 350 original scientific abstracts were submitted for peer review; those selected were presented either in platform or poster sessions.

Highlights of this year's meeting included the annual Louis Roche Lecture given by Dr. Randy Bond on "Childhood poisoning in the developing world- just snakes, spiders, paraffin, and pesticides?" (see article elsewhere in this month's AACTion).

The EAPCCT's Young Investigator Award this year was presented to Dr. H. Alhaddad for his scientific abstract presentation on the topic: 'role of P-glycoprotein in norbuprenorphine transport at the blood-brain barrier in mice: considerations for buprenor-

phine respiratory toxicity'. Dr. Alhaddad's co-authors on the winning abstract were C. Cisternino, P Risède, FJ Baud, and B Mégarbane. The Young Investigator Award is sponsored by Informa Publishers each year at the EAPCCT Congress.

Seminars and symposia were held on such topics as pesticides, toxicosurveillance, pulmonary toxicants, tools to improve diagnosis, doping agents, exposure biomarkers, mechanisms of toxicity, multicenter studies and working groups, poison centers of the future, envenomations, CBRN disasters, medico-legal issues for toxicologists, and paracetamol poisoning. Timely presentations of data on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident were discussed by Drs. T Gotch and MEC Leenders. New formats for presentations at the Congress included debates in clinical toxicology and discussions of clinical controversies.

First time EAPCCT attendees were excited to make acquaintances with counterparts from all over the world and noted how remarkable it is to meet colleagues whose work you have been admiring from afar.

The Congress Dinner was a tremendous success and was held in a centuries-old meeting house at the Lincoln Inn, the oldest of London's four Inns of Court, located in the heart of London's historic "Legal district." London itself was a clear highlight of the con-

## NOTES FROM THE XXXII INTERNATIONAL EAPCCT CONGRESS CONTINUED

ference as the international city lived up to its reputation. Famous landmarks and the coinciding Queen's Jubilee events on June 1-5 added to the excitement of the city. Warm hospitality greeted attendees during breaks from the conference and receptions and meals in the historic Lancaster Hotel.

All participants agreed this was one of the most successful congresses ever held. Grateful thanks were extended especially to Professors Mégarbane, Hulten

and so many others for their wonderful contributions to the planning of the meeting. The continuing chairman of the Scientific & Meetings Committee is Professor Bruno Mégarbane. As the incoming president of AACT, Dr. Robert Hoffman will serve as the AACT's new representative to the Scientific Committee, replacing Dr. Woolf. The committee has already been hard at work organizing the XXXIII International EAPCCT Congress to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from May 28-31, 2013.

## Bond Wins 2012 Louis Roche Award

Dr. G. Randall Bond, a Fellow and Past-President of AACT, has won the 2012 Louis Roche Lectureship offered by the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT). Louis Roche, a forensic toxicologist in Lyon France, was a founder of the EAPCCT and an early leader in the field. He was dedicated to expanding the work of poison centers and had boundless energy for promoting interdisciplinary collaborations, primarily between forensic toxicologists and poison center-affiliated clinical specialists. After his death in 1998, the EAPCCT initiated the lecture series at its annual meeting to pay homage to this remarkable scientist and leader. The Louis Roche Lecture honors those clinical toxicologists who have made significant contributions to both the EAPCCT and to the profession. Many other active AACT members are past winners of the award including: Drs. D. Nicholas Bateman, Jeffrey Brent, Philippe Hantson, Albert Jaeger, Edward Krenzelok, Jan Meulenbelt, Hans Persson, Donna Seger, Milton Tenebein, and J. Allister Vale.



Dr. Bond has served as the medical director of the Cincinnati Drug & Poison Information Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in Ohio, and is currently working under the Global Health Division at Cincinnati Children's, one of only two pediatricians at the very busy Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi. Dr. Bond's lecture, given at the EAPCCT Congress held in London on May 30th, was entitled "Childhood poisoning in the developing world- just snakes, spiders, paraffin, and pesticides?" He discussed his recent experience as a toxicologist and pediatrician living and working in Malawi. He described conditions of overcrowded hospitals and clinics and overworked staff, with shortages of vaccines and medicines. Dr. Bond believes that the lack of organized dispensing practices for medications may give rise to hidden errors in their use in patients, and may underlie at least some morbidity and mortality among hospitalized patients in developing countries.

We congratulate Dr. Bond on this well-deserved and prestigious accolade.

## Member News

Jane Miloradovich, PharmD, C.S.P.I, a dedicated member of The Poison Control Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was selected as the Temple University School of Pharmacy Elective Preceptor of the Year Award for her commitment to its experiential education program.

She and Maryann Hoffman, also from The Philadel-

phia Poison Control Center are being awarded with a 20 year CSPI award this year.

Reza Afshari has been elected as the President Elect of Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT) Reza Afshari, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Consultant Toxicologist. He is currently the Director of Mashad Medical Toxicol-

## MEMBER NEWS CONTINUED

ogy Centre, Iran. He is a founding member of Medical Toxicology Research Centre, Director of Addiction Research Centre and currently a Board Member of Iranian Society of Toxicology (IRANTOX) as well as a Board Member of Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT). In 2007, he was awarded the Young Affiliate of Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) in Medicine and Biology. He is

co-operating with Epidemiology Reference Group in World Health Organization (WHO). He has published enormously in relation to drug abuse and in particular opioids. He also works on organophosphate poisoning and late complications of Chemical Warfare Agents. As the Editor in Chief of the Future of Medical Education Journal, he is involved in development of Medical Education.

# AACT Fellow to Receive 2012 University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni Award

BETHESDA, Md. (June 5, 2012) — Daniel J. Cobaugh, PharmD., FAACT, DABAT, vice president of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation, will receive the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award from his undergraduate alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. Cobaugh is a fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.



Cobaugh began his career with the ASHP Foundation in 2004 as director of research, advancing to the position of vice president in 2010. He manages a portfolio that includes research grants exceeding \$2 million, along with education, awards and special programs.

Cobaugh's practice and academic experiences have been in hospital pharmacy, poison centers and clinical toxicology programs and emergency medicine research. In New York State, he led efforts to stabilize poison center funding in the 1990s. He was responsible for the implementation of the nationwide toll-free number for poison centers (1-800-222-1222) and the development of a standardized approach for developing patient management guidelines for poisoning. Since joining the Foundation, he has led establishment of programs to support development of practice-based researchers; development of practice tools to ensure safe and effective medication use; implementation of the PGY-1 Expansion Grant Program; and the transformational ASHP/ASHP Foundation Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative, which aims to increase pharmacists' responsibility and accountability for patients' medication-related outcomes.

Cobaugh's leadership includes serving the profession in numerous key positions, including as the president of the Association of Poison Control Centers of New York State (1995-1997), as an American Academy of Clinical Toxicology trustee, as a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy (2006-2012), on the editorial board for the Brazilian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy (2011-2012), and as a toxicology consultant to the World Health Organization International Programme on Chemical Safety, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Poison Control Program, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Library of Medicine.

Cobaugh has authored 47 peer-reviewed publications and numerous book chapters and abstracts. He has lectured on medication safety and clinical toxicology throughout the United States and in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. His current research interests are in medication safety with a focus on NSAID adverse events and medication-related suicide in older adults. He is a federally funded investigator with the University of Alabama's Musculoskeletal Center for Research and Education in Therapeutics and the University of Arizona Innovative Diffusion of Comparative Effectiveness Research Program.

Cobaugh received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987 and his doctor of pharmacy degree, magna cum laude, from Duquesne University in 1989. While at Duquesne University, he was the recipient of the Sandoz Doctor of Pharmacy Award and the Upjohn Doctor of

## AACT FELLOW TO RECEIVE 2012 UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD CONTINUED

Pharmacy Research Award. Cobaugh completed an ASHP-accredited residency in hospital pharmacy at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh and a clinical toxicology fellowship at the Pittsburgh Poison Center/Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Cobaugh is a diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology (1992) and a

fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (2004).

Cobaugh will be honored during the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's annual black-tie gala on June 9 in Pittsburgh.

## 2012 NACCT Annual Meeting



### 2012 Annual Meeting of the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

October 1-6

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and the American Association of Poison Control Centers are pleased to announce that the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology 2012 and associated pre-meeting functions will be held at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas located in Las Vegas, NV.

This annual conference allows an opportunity for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and scientists from around the world to participate in the sharing of knowledge on a wide variety of clinical toxicology topics and issues. In addition, there will be multiple original research papers presented, a number of symposia, as well as other traditional and novel continuing education sessions.

[Click here](#) to **Register** today!

[Click here](#) to view the **Preliminary Program**

[Click here](#) for **Hotel Reservations**

## Calendar of Events

**October 1-6, 2012**

2012 Annual Meeting of the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

[www.clintox.org](http://www.clintox.org)





# The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

Uniting scientists and clinicians in the advancement of research, education, prevention and treatment of diseases caused by chemicals, drugs and other toxins.

## The AACT Research Award



### What is the AACT Research Award?

- This award is intended to support research on principles and practices of clinical toxicology

### How much money?

- Award is (maximum) \$5000
- A separate award of \$750 is given to present at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

### Who can apply?

- Members of AACT in good standing

### What are the Award requirements?

- The entire study must be completed within two years of the award date
- Annual progress reports must be submitted to AACT
- A one-time only, no-cost extension may be granted

### How do I apply?

- Apply on-line at [www.clintox.org](http://www.clintox.org)

### More information?

- Email the AACT Executive Director, Sarah Shiffert: [sarah@clintox.org](mailto:sarah@clintox.org)
- Email the AACT Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Kenneth McMartin: [kmcmar@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:kmcmar@lsuhsc.edu)



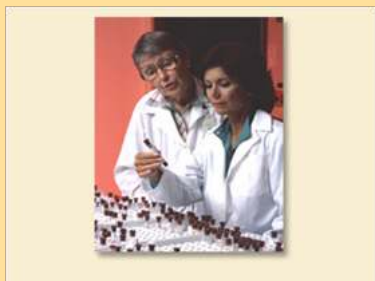
**Applications due:  
November 1, 2012**



# The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

Uniting scientists and clinicians in the advancement of research, education, prevention and treatment of diseases caused by chemicals, drugs and other toxins.

## AACT Junior Investigator Research Award



### What is the AACT Junior Investigator Research Award?

- This award supports clinical toxicology research and development of new investigator's research skills
- Awardee must be mentored by senior investigator

### How much money?

- Award is (maximum) \$30,000

### Who can apply?

- Awardee and mentor are members of AACT in good standing

**Applications due:  
November 1, 2012**

### What are the Award requirements?

- The entire study must be completed within two years of the award date
- Annual progress reports must be submitted to AACT
- A one-time only, no-cost extension may be granted

### How do I apply?

- Apply on-line at [www.clintox.org](http://www.clintox.org)

### More information?

- Email the AACT Executive Director, Sarah Shiffert: [sarah@clintox.org](mailto:sarah@clintox.org)
- Email the AACT Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Kenneth McMartin: [kmcmar@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:kmcmar@lsuhsc.edu)



## We welcome your Feedback!

Please send us your articles, announcements, ideas, research articles, and contributions. We cannot do this without you!

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