



# AACT*ion* News & Announcements

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## Message from the President: *Robert Hoffman, MD*

On Saturday December 14th the New York Times ran a story about Jack Fishman who died at the age of 83. It caught my eye only because the subtitle read “saved many from overdose”. I rarely read the newspaper, but I was captivated by the story title, which was accompanied by a photo of a man I had neither seen nor heard about previously and who was portrayed as a humble scientist wearing a simple white coat, sitting at a very basic lab workbench. While I read on, I learned that he was a pharmaceutical researcher who held one of the first patents for naloxone.

Now the subtitle made sense. I began to reflect a little about naloxone and think about what a remarkable drug this was. As a teacher of pharmacology, naloxone provides me with an outstanding example of a competitive antagonist and helps my students to learn about binding, affinity, dose and a host of other essential principles all in the context of real world clinical practice of emergency medicine or toxicology. Naloxone’s versatile dosing (IV, IM, SQ, intralingual, intratracheal, nasal, nebulized etc) serves to illustrate concepts of Cmax, Tmax, and bioavailability. Furthermore,



no discussion of tolerance, dependence, addiction and withdrawal would ever be complete without noting the difference between naloxone precipitated withdrawal and the slow gradual process that follows drug discontinuation. Reversal also serves as a stepping stone to discuss the ethical and legal issues around decisional capacity and the right to refuse care after arousal from a near death event. Finally, more recently, naloxone has provided an astounding public health lesson: you don’t have to be a health care provider to deliver a safe and effective life-saving emergency antidote. Now throughout the United States and possibly elsewhere in the world naloxone is being dispensed to police officers, family members, and opioid users who are administering this antidote prior to the arrival of EMS only to find quick, effective and safe reversal of opioid toxicity. Almost every day in my e-news searches I see reports of another municipality that has accepted naloxone use by non-medical personnel. This is all in response to the growing epidemic of prescription opioid use and is just one of a number of tools designed to combat that fact that overdose is now a leading cause of injury related fatality.

### Inside this Edition

Message from the President .....	1-2	Radiation Section Update.....	5
Message from the Editor .....	3	<i>Clinical Toxicology</i> Podcasts .....	6
Friends of the Academy .....	3	NACCT 2014 .....	6
AACT Trainee Research Award .....	4	AACT Membership Drive .....	7

# AACT*ion*

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED**

I actually wish I could know how many lives were saved by naloxone and perhaps compare that with other drugs on the market. Too often we think of the pharmaceutical industry and a corporate giant driven by profit motives with little regard for much else. Yet somewhere, sitting at lab bench today is a humble researcher who is most likely motivated by either the pure science or the desire to help a patient in need and is about to discover a cure, treatment or antidote that will change the course of medicine for decades to come.

The holidays are a time for remembrances and I thought it would be nice for all of us to remember unsung heroes like Jack Fishman and think about what their work has done for us and our patients. Oh, and while you are remembering things please remember to renew your Academy dues and consider donating to the Friends of the Academy. I wish you all a happy, healthy and productive New Year.

# Message from the Editor:

*Jeanna Marraffa, PharmD*

As I reflect on this past year as Editor of AACTion, I would like to take a moment and thank all who have contributed to AACTion. Having served as Editor for just one year, I am humbled by the 'army' of people that it takes to put this together. Sarah Shiffert and everyone at Degnon work tirelessly and I couldn't adequately serve as the Editor without their assistance. To each of you who submit articles and photographs...thank you. I know that you must dread the friendly reminders that I send out on a regular basis. With all of that being said, I am still fairly new at this job and would like to ask you to provide feedback (both positive and negative) about this past year.... AACTion is your newsletter! I encourage your thoughts and comments. You can email me at marraffj@upstate.edu. And, while you're sending me feedback on AACTion, you might as well renew your AACT membership! Membership renewal information is just a few pages away.

As we embark on a new year, it is always a good time to take a moment and reflect on the accomplishments of the Academy. 2013 was a great year for AACT. There were year-round CME activities; we jumped into the world of social media with Twitter; Dr. Frieden as the Keynote Address at NACCT; the first fellow-in-training luncheon at NACCT; the Trainee Research Award; Clinical Toxicology's Impact Factor increased and we partnered with ACMT on the Choosing Wisely® Campaign, just to name a few.

2014 is upon us and is bound to be a productive year for the Academy. I'm looking forward to our continued strength and growth.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and the best in 2014.

## Friends of the Academy

*Alan Woolf, MD*

The AACT recently launched a new initiative to lend support to its mission of "uniting scientists and clinicians in the advancement of research, education, prevention and treatment of diseases caused by chemicals, drugs and toxins." The new donation program **Friends of the Academy (FOTA)** will raise funds to support research grants and scholarships, travel subsidies to NACCT and other meetings, and service awards for AACT members. Currently the AACT sponsors several different awards: the Career Development Research Award, the Young Investigator Research Award, the Fellow-In-Training research Award, the Distinguished service Award, and the Career Achievement Award. The AACT hopes to expand these benefits to its members in the future with new opportunities for career recognition and advancement. President Hoffman has appointed past-president Alan Woolf to be the first Director of the new program.

AACT members can donate to **FOTA** when they renew their membership in December of each year. All charitable donations are tax-deductible; the AACT is a 501C3

non-profit organization. Donors to **FOTA** will be recognized by an annual listing in the AACTion newsletter and will be recognized at the annual AACT Member Reception held at NACCT. However donors who wish to remain anonymous can choose to do so. All donations in any amount are appreciated.

You can become a sustaining member of **FOTA** by entering a donation amount when you renew your annual dues. Or, if you prefer, you can send your donation check to:

American Academy of Clinical Toxicology  
6728 Old McLean Village Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101

Be sure to indicate whether or not you want your name included on the annual list of **FOTA** donors. Please join the growing number of AACT members who are giving back to the Academy and the profession, by helping to encourage younger clinical toxicologists, students, fellows, and other trainees in their careers. They are the future of toxicology!



## 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 Toxicology Trainee Research Award



### What is the AACT Toxicology Trainee Research Award?

- This award is intended to support research by clinical/medical toxicology fellows in training

### How much money?

- Award is (maximum) \$3000
- A separate award of \$750 is given to present at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

### Who can apply?

- Awardee and Mentor are members of AACT in good standing



## NEW AWARD!

### Applications due:

**April 1, 2014**

### What are the Award requirements?

- The entire study must be completed within one year of the award date
- Final progress report 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)

# Radiation Section Report

*Ziad Kazzi, MD*

Despite the recent U.S. Government shutdown our resilient section was able to deliver 2 educational sessions that were well attended and that generated interesting discussions amongst engaged participants. Drs. Charles Miller and Robert Whitcomb were unable to present the session on the medical and public health aspects of an improvised nuclear device detonation. Instead, Dr. Adam Pomerleau and I filled in for them in a session co-organized with the Weapons of Mass Destruction Special Interest Section and moderated by Dr. Jerry Leikin. During the second session, Ms. Leeanna Allen, Dr. Joe Rella and Dr. Adam Pomerleau discussed the roles of poison centers in a radiation emergency including surveillance and communication.

This year's business meeting was held jointly with the WMD Special Interest Section in order to save on conference room space and time. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 people

and included a lively discussion of a number of agenda items and proposals. During this meeting a major decision was taken to adopt a new leadership structure for the Radiation Special Interest Section starting in 2014. A steering committee will be formed comprised of 6 elected members and the immediate past co-chairs. The section will be led by 2 members elected from the steering committee for a staggered 2-year term. This leadership transition is vital for the growth of our membership body and the advancement of our special expertise in radiation toxicology. Since the inception of our group in November 2008, we have maintained our focus on our vision and promoted our mission amongst our peers. It has been an honor to serve as a co-chair during the past 5 years. I look forward to seeing more leaders rise from our group who will further advance our role in radiation medicine and emergency preparedness.



*AACT Congratulates NPIS Edinburgh on 50 Years*

# New Podcasts from Your Journal: *Clinical Toxicology*

*Marty Caravati, MD, Editor-in-Chief, Clinical Toxicology*

In Spring 2013 the journal began doing podcasts of selected articles chosen for their importance and interest to the readership. Like any new endeavor, it's been a gradual start-up, beginning quarterly and now moving to every other month. The podcasts are posted on the journal's Informa website and are accessible to anyone. Each sponsoring organization (AACT, EAPCCT, and AAPCC) also posts a link to the podcast on their websites. The articles are made free access for 30 days. Unfortunately, the podcasts are not available for automatic download to mobile devices yet, so you have to go to the website to listen.

The format is a short introduction of the topic and article, followed by a discussion by a lead or senior author of the article highlights and implications for practice. The podcasts run approximately 5-15 minutes. Below are the podcasts currently available. I hope you'll find time to listen.

Current Podcast articles on <http://informahealthcare.com/ctx>

1. Benson BE, Hoppu K, Troutman WG, Bedry R, Erdman A, Höjer J, Mégarbane B, Thanacoody R, Caravati EM; American Academy of Clinical Toxicology; European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists. Position paper update: gastric lavage for gastrointestinal decontamination. *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2013 Mar;51(3):140-6.

2. Seifert SM, Seifert SA, Schaechter JL, Bronstein AC, Benson BE, Hershorin ER, Arheart KL, Franco VI, Lipshultz SE. An analysis of energy-drink toxicity in the National Poison Data System. *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2013 Aug;51(7):566-74.
3. Doyon S, Klein-Schwartz W, Lee S, Beuhler MC. Fatalities involving acetaminophen combination products reported to United States poison centers. *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2013 Oct 17. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 24131327

Happy listening!



## NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT THE NEXT NACCT!

The next North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology will be held October 17-21, 2014 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel New Orleans, Louisiana.

The NACCT Planning Committee is hard at work for what will surely be a successful Congress.

Starting January 22nd, abstracts will be accepted at  
[www.prolibraries.com](http://www.prolibraries.com)

*The deadline for submissions will be midnight (EST), April 21, 2014.*

# AACT Membership Drive

*Bob Hoffman, MD, FAACT, President*

It is once again the time of year where we ask that you renew your membership and commitment to the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. As we look ahead to 2014 and beyond you should expect to see new initiatives, the most exciting of which is year-round education and CME. In addition to the NAACT meeting in the fall and co-sponsored events like the EAPCCT meeting in the spring, we plan to offer multiple opportunities for distanced learning (with CME credit) such as Webinars, Journal Clubs, Podcasts and more.

The face of the AACT is changing and we will explore the use of other media to inform you and seek your participation. Along those lines, Clinical Toxicology is going green! Sometime in the near future the Journal will no longer publish in paper. In addition to being environmentally conscious, this decision will allow enhanced functions such as color and graphics. Your current AACT membership will entitle you to the on-line version of the Journal, and there is an option in the dues renewal for you to receive print issues as long as the Journal remains in paper. The other member benefits that you are used to seeing will continue, including our monthly scientific research abstracting service Current Awareness in Clinical Toxicology, the Question of the Day and discounts on educational events.

Looking ahead to 2014, it's good to think about the professional goals you would like to achieve in the months ahead. As a professional in toxicology, those goals include doing everything you can to provide the best care for your patients, to innovate in your toxicology laboratory, to be the best teacher, role model and mentor to your students and trainees. At the AACT, we are committed to

servicing dedicated health professionals like you by providing the most current, evidence-based information in toxicology possible.

Over previous years the AACT ran a budget deficit. While some of this was planned as services and activities were expanded, some of the losses were unanticipated. It is my role and responsibility as President to see to it that the AACT is financially sound, but I will not balance that budget on the backs of the members. Working with our Treasurer Ruddy Rose, our Executive Director Sarah Shiffert and an outstanding Executive committee and Board of Trustees we have cut expenses, expanded revenue and proposed a balance budget that still **DOES NOT INCLUDE A DUES INCREASE**. Unfortunately some of our philanthropic efforts such as travel scholarships for foreign researchers to present at NAACT and reduced membership fees for foreign members from developing countries had to be abandoned. I am asking you to help. On the dues renewal you will see a new box where you can give a tax deductible charitable donation to the AACT that will go into a fund to restore these activities. The choice and the amount is up to you, but every dollar will help. I assure you that these donations will be used wisely and that their accounting will be entirely transparent.

The leadership of the AACT shares your professional and career goals and aspirations, and we are always looking for new ways to serve you. Please help us reach these goals by renewing your membership today. For more information on how AACT can help you achieve your goals for 2014, please go to our website: [www.clintox.org](http://www.clintox.org).

Stay Current & Get Connected! Renew your AACT membership today! We wish you the best in the year ahead.