



AACTion

News & Announcements

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American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

Message from the President:

Karen Simone, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT

Greetings AACT Members

I am honored to be your new President. Now that Bob Hoffman is stepping down into the Past President's role, I have some rather large shoes to fill. Hence, I will hit the ground running.

You will notice some subtle differences between Bob and me. While Bob may quote Gandhi and The Artist Formerly Known as Prince, I will quote Yogi Berra.

Let's begin with **"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else."**

Where exactly is AACT going? The Academy will capitalize on our multidisciplinary strength to provide a wide perspective as we collaborate on guidelines and protocols for poisonings, and expand our educational efforts to include more online/distance learning. We will benefit from the wisdom of our more experienced members by frequently seeking their input, and optimize networking possibilities for new clinicians and scientists to connect with more experienced colleagues. This will help newer members take advantage of study opportunities, mentorships and

faculty appointment-enhancing projects. Other goals during my presidency will include growing the physician and non-physician membership, revitalizing committees and sections (formerly, "special interest groups" [SIGs]), and updating the AACT logo and website to accurately represent the image of the Academy as the premier clinical toxicology association in the world.



Lessons learned in alligator wrestling school: "You would be surprised what you can accomplish-if you try"

Additional words of wisdom from Yogi Berra include, **"If you come to a fork in the road, take it."**

The Academy is in the process of implementing, enhancing and expanding new technologies including an NACCT mobile app, "after the fact" continuing education for poison centers and other NACCT attendees, and high-tech, high-caliber year-round education attractive to

users outside our usual scope.

Back to Yogi Berra - **"If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be."**

We will continue to work for perfection with NACCT and other Academy activities. Some of these experiments

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

have been successful, while others may need additional fine-tuning. In the past two years, the membership requested a shorter NACCT with some onsite meals, additional social activities, a more green approach to meeting materials, and better use of technology. With the help of our AAPCC partners and a terrific team, we met those goals. As Academy members, please continue to express what you would like, as well as your impressions of new ideas that may not have worked well. I want your opinions and will listen to your comments, good and bad, so that the Academy will be the organization you want it to be. Together, we will create a strong Academy which will provide unsurpassed personal and professional opportunities for all of our members.

The coming years look both exciting and challenging. The opportunities for personal and professional growth will be there, and I hope you will all consider getting involved.

And, to close with a final bit of Berra wisdom, if we work together we can avoid making "too many wrong mistakes."



ABAT Members had a tour of the Pharmacy Museum

Are You on the Move? Have you started a new job or have new contact information? If yes, please contact one of the AACT^{ion} Co-Editors at marraffj@upstate.edu or smolinske@comcast.net

Past President's Message

Robert Hoffman, MD, FAACT

The two years of my presidency have gone by in an unbelievably short time. I feel as though space has been bent a little and time has accelerated me through a journey so rapidly that I missed opportunities to accomplish all I had planned. It is not easy being president of the Academy; there is a fair amount of work with no relief from your other responsibilities in life, no pay, little direct reward, too much time away from work and family, many complaints and some stress. So why do it? Well for me, there were only two options: sit on the sidelines and make suggestions (which might be interpreted as complaining a little), or, get involved and try to make a difference.

Four years ago the Academy was struggling with some major issues, that when assessed in their entirety could easily be perceived as a sign of decline. My goals as president elect and president were to revitalize as many as possible. As I review them in the following sections I in no way intend to imply that I am responsible for the successes as I stood on the shoulders of giants, was guided by the wisdom of an extraordinary past president, and was surrounded by an exemplary group of executives, an engaged Board of Trustees, many active and visionary committee chairs, and an exceptional executive director. Much like the conductor of an orchestra, the president may have far less talent than everyone in the group and only a single skill is required – the ability move them forward together in synchrony.

The Academy was losing money, only some of which was planned. For the last 4 years I have insisted on a balanced budget. In fact, there have been net gains, all of which were accomplished without a reduction in member benefits or a dues increase. Additionally, we have a strong investment strategy and are using our resources to earn money that can be returned as new benefits.

Our journal (JOURNAL OF TOXICOLOGY CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY) was almost lost over a contract dispute. Now, under the leadership of an innovative Editor in Chief, with a strong senior editorial board, and member support as reviewers and authors, the Journal enjoys a continually improving impact factor and an expanding readership.

Our meeting (the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology – NACCT) is revitalized both as an academic and a financial success. There is no other venue where so many hours of high quality continuing education can be obtained in toxicology. Even for those attendees who do not need the official continuing education credit, both the review and cutting edge material helps shape understanding and practice. NACCT is now nearly completely green, as paper materials are minimized through use of technology such as the app, which was successfully piloted this year. Finally, we have returned some social time for networking and enjoyment and the feedback has been wonderful.

One of my goals as president was to improve the Academy's partnerships with other societies both in North America and around the globe. Working together with like-minded groups we have had the opportunity to speak in a singular voice and be heard. Cooperation with the EAPCCT, AAPCC, ACMT, APAMT, CAPCC, SOT, IUTOX and others is at an all time high and only getting better. Finding common ground is the first step to improved relations and collaboration. The world of toxicology is far too small to be divided up and argued over. Rather, we should all be working toward ways to improve the care of exposed or poisoned patients and at each and every turn ask how others can help further that goal.

It has been a true honor and privilege to serve as your president for the last two years and I have found the time to be both personally and professionally rewarding. The Academy is strong and getting stronger. It remains today, exactly as it was founded, as the one professional society in North America where anyone who cares about poisoning can participate and be treated as an equal regardless of their training and academic or professional title. My only request is for your participation. If you believe in the mission and vision of the Academy find a way to contribute as a committee member, an author, a reviewer or some other activity. The true strength of the Academy is the strength of its members.

Thank you.

Photos from NACCT



A great night had by all on the Mississippi River



Dr. Tammi Schaeffer at the Masked Ball



Any guess who this toxicologist is? (see answer on page 7)



Passing of the Torch



Our Keynote Speaker



*Drs. Tony Scalzo and Jennifer Lowry with their
Poisoners Handbook*



Dr. Tony Scalzo receiving AACT Distinguished Service Award from Dr. Bob Hoffman



Dr. Bill Banner receiving AACT Career Achievement Presented by Dr. Milton Tenenbein



Drs. Banner, Rumack, Hoffman, Tenenbein, Marcus and Brent

We are pleased to announce that *Clinical Toxicology* will be managed by Taylor & Francis Group, a subsidiary of Informa Healthcare, beginning in January 2015.

The move of *Clinical Toxicology* into Taylor & Francis' extensive journals publishing program will provide the best environment for the journal to develop and flourish. The journal will continue to benefit from specialist medical and health science publishing expertise within the wider framework of the Taylor & Francis organization.

The outward changes visible to subscribers will be minimal, and we expect a smooth transition!

EAPCCT

Submitted by Alexander Campbell, EAPCCT President

I have just returned from the NACCT meeting in New Orleans with my head buzzing with a few new ideas – what a great congress it is! From long experience I know the demands of dedicated planning that goes into putting on these events, and so I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all involved.

Of course, the EAPCCT particularly welcomes the close collaboration we have with AACT and the other USA associations, and always enjoy putting together our symposium for your congress. Similarly, we also relish the input that all North American colleagues put into our European congresses as speakers, session organisers, poster presenters and delegates. These opportunities to meet and challenge one another to deliver of our scientific best, whilst enjoying the camaraderie and competition, help keep our meetings fresh, but also help underpin our collaborations relating to our journal, the joint position statements and other vital interactions. Long may that thrive!

Our 2015 congress is to be held in Malta at the end of May 27th-29th for the main congress, with a pre-congress day on the 26th. This warm and friendly Mediterranean Island has a long history of involvement in medicine, and some of the major tourist attractions such as the Sacra Infirmaria, the hospital of the Knights Order

of St John built in 1574, attest to this. There are beautiful churches, theatres and vineyards to explore, wonderful beaches to visit, clear seas to sail, dive and swim in, and the wonderful hospitality and cuisine of the Maltese to enjoy. Our new General Secretary, Mark Zammit, hails from Malta, so you can rest assured that there will be a strong local flavour to events. As ever, we have selected a truly spectacular venue for the Congress dinner – that is all I am saying for now!

Ana Ferrer-Dufol and all the members of the EAPCCT Scientific & Meetings Committee have worked hard on developing an interesting and varied programme, and into which we will be scheduling plenty of opportunities to network as well. The congress itself will be held at the Hilton Hotel in St Julien, a fantastic venue, with excellent facilities for delegates, exhibitors and sponsors alike.

Go to the EAPCCT website (www.eapcct.org) for additional information. You are also advised to book flights as early as possible if coming, as the island is a popular holiday destination – there are connections from the major European hubs.

We look forward to welcoming you to this amazing country.

Informa Awards

Congratulations to the 2014 Informa Best Poster and Best Platform Awards for posters and platforms given at the recent North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology!

Best Platform

Abstract #10, *Diagnosis of snake envenomation using a simple phospholipase A2 assay*. PI and Presenting author: KP Maduwage; Co-investigators: MA O'Leary, GK Isbister, Newcastle, Australia

Best Poster

Abstract #28, *Immunoglobulin concentration & venom binding activity of expired snake antivenoms*. L Rentmeester, D Burton, R Fitzgerald, B T Ly and R Clark, San Diego, California

Thanks to the committee members: Drs. Kirk Cumpston, Sophie Gosselin, Christine Stork, Mark Kostic, Heath Jollif, Brandon Wills, and Maggie Purcell.