

# IUTOX NEWS-LETTER

OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF TOXICOLOGY

## Letter from the President

JUNE 2001

[www.toxicology.org/iutox](http://www.toxicology.org/iutox)



By I. Glenn Sipes

Welcome to the land down under and to the Ninth International Congress of Toxicology hosted by the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists. ASCEPT has done a superb job in arranging for our scientific and social needs. On behalf of all the members of IUTOX, I thank ASCEPT for all the hard work that went into the planning for this successful congress. Congratulations on a job well done. You have assisted IUTOX in fulfilling one of its key goals – to facilitate the dissemination of new knowledge of toxicology on a global scene.

Although it seems like only yesterday that I assumed the position of President of IUTOX, it has been three years. During these three years, the Executive Committee has worked hard to fulfill many of the goals and objec-

tives set forth in the strategic plan. During the past three years, IUTOX has broadened its geographical base as well as its disciplinary focus. The new member societies of IUTOX include individual nations, particular regions of the world or established societies with interest in clinical and regulatory toxicology. IUTOX has been particularly successful in developing new societies in areas of the world where toxicology has been underrepresented. Representatives from several of these societies interacted with members of the Executive Committee at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Toxicology for Developing Countries.

One of the most successful activities of the past three years was the development of a continuing education program. This program arranges for and funds continuing education courses that are held in conjunction with national or regional meetings of IUTOX member societies. Such programs help nurture the continued development of new societies, promote communication among member societies and help disseminate toxicological information, often translated into native languages. IUTOX is grateful to the various governmental and corporate organizations that support this important new educational program as well as the established RASS program.

IUTOX continues to interact with other international organizations to address important toxicological issues. The IUTOX-IUPHAR-IUPAC publication on "Natural and Anthropogenic Environmental Estrogens: the Scientific Basis for Risk Assessment," served as

the focal point for discussion at a number of regional/national toxicology meetings.

This past success led to the current new project on "Genetically Modified Foods for Development Health and Human Nutrition" in collaboration with the International Union of Nutritional Science. The objective is to provide the global community with an informative, non-biased monograph on the benefits/risks associated with GM foods. Both of these monographs were funded, in part, by the International Council for Science.

During the ICT-9 meeting, IUTOX will report on its activities to develop an international registry that recognizes toxicologists. I encourage those at the Congress to attend the Wednesday session entitled "Accreditation at the International Level: Progress to Establish the International Assembly for Recognition of Toxicologists". Your input on this important topic will be appreciated.

It is not possible to describe all of the activities of IUTOX in this limited space. You can learn more and keep abreast of IUTOX activities on the website. It is updated frequently and is your best source of IUTOX information.

As I assume the role of past-President, I want to thank the members of IUTOX for the opportunity to serve as President. It has been a rewarding experience. I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the members of the Executive Committee. It was a joy working with them. Welcome and best wishes to the new officers. □



By James Bus

## International Assembly for the Recognition of Toxicologists (IART) to be Established at the IUTOX ICT IX Meeting in Brisbane, Australia

At a special session to be held on Wednesday, 11 July, 2001 at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Toxicology, the International Union of Toxicology is expected to review and adapt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) officially establishing the International Assembly for the Recognition of Toxicologists. Individuals and organizations interested in contributing to the efforts of IART to serve as the future forum for harmonization of concerns associated with the regional and global mutual recognition of toxicologists are encouraged to attend this important session.

The Memorandum of Understanding to be presented in Brisbane is being developed by an IART Task Force com-

missioned by IUTOX under the leadership of co-chairs Drs. Tetsuo Satoh and James Bus. The IART Task Force includes representation from EUROTOX, the American Board of Toxicology, the Japanese Society of Toxicology, the Academy of Toxicological Sciences, and the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology. The Task Force met on Saturday, March 24, 2001 at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology to finalize development of the MOU for presentation to IUTOX.

**The participants and documentation associated with the past and ongoing activities of the IART Task Force can be obtained at the following website:** <http://www.toxicology.org/iutox/iart.html>.

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of Toxicology  
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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



## By Kai Savolainen

IUTOX faces new challenges as it grows and matures as an international science organization. In 1995, Iain Purchase, President of IUTOX at the time, indicated in his message that "IUTOX is coming of age!" It is fair to say that IUTOX has now become a mature organization. It faces new challenges as the world around it changes at an increasing speed. A reflection of this situation, the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Toxicology (ICT9) will be arranged on a new continent for IUTOX, in

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Brisbane, Australia, on July 8–12 this summer.

One example of the growth of IUTOX is the increasing number of its member societies. In 1998, when I left the position of the Secretary-General, IUTOX had about 30 members. Now, the number of member societies exceeds 40, and the number continues to grow. In addition to its growth, IUTOX programs have become much broader, and have continued to do so under the leadership of our President, Dr. I. Glenn Sipes.

IUTOX also plays a major role in promoting international recognition of toxicologists, as indicated in the article written by Jim Bus. IUTOX has the prestige that allows it to serve as an umbrella for these discussions in Brisbane during the ICT9.

Communication, its efficacy and expenses, has also become an issue. Iain Purchase produced the first Newsletter in 1989. I have edited the Newsletter since 1993, altogether eight issues including this one. As the membership of IUTOX grows, it is increasingly difficult to reach everybody through a printed product. For this reason, Dr. Don Reed established the IUTOX website several years ago, and it has become an important means of communication for IUTOX. Currently the Secretary-General Karol maintains the site. Also the IUTOX Newsletter is available online and serves anyone who has an access to the Internet.

It is perhaps time to re-evaluate the role of the Newsletter as the major means of communication with IUTOX. A short Newsletter could be produced several times a year by the Executive Committee that could be distributed via the website. Printed versions would be easy for the Member Societies to produce for their own members. □

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# REPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL ON COMMUNICATION



By Meryl H. Karol

A major change has occurred in the way IUTOX communicates. Almost all communication is now performed electronically. As a result, information exchange is now more rapid and much more frequent. We can deliver to you news and information that is important and timely. The result is IUTOX can now address member concerns within minutes and put you in touch rapidly with individuals and resources. Other added benefits are that we are now able to communicate with some members that, in the past, have had problems receiving postal mail, and we are saving money!

Expenses for communication have fallen dramatically within the past two years.

The IUTOX website <http://www.toxicology.org/iutox> is the major source of important information for our members. The site contains information about upcoming meetings, IUTOX activities and activities of our member Societies. Officers of each Society are listed as well as links to their Society websites. IUTOX publications are provided as are working documents on current issues, such as the Harmonization of Toxicology Certification. A feature entitled "What's New?" is an easy and exciting way to keep in touch with current IUTOX operations. This feature was heavily used by members seeking information on fellowships to the Ninth International Congress in Brisbane, July 2001.

Changes are constantly being made to keep the website current. It is a good idea to list it as a bookmark on your browser and make it a habit to check daily for new information of importance to your career. I also encourage feedback from you, our members. Regarding your activities and any suggestions to improve our website. □

## We thank the following generous donors to the Educational Programs

Japanese Society  
of Toxicology

Society of Toxicology, USA  
EUROTOX

National Institute  
of Environmental  
Health Sciences

International Council  
for Science

AstraZeneca

Toxicology Excellence  
for Risk Assessment

American Chemistry  
Council

International Life Sciences  
Institute

American College of Toxicology  
Chevron

Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.

Aventis

Sanofi-Synthelabo

Abbott Laboratories

DuPont Pharmaceuticals  
Company

Society of Toxicology, Canada

Inveresk

Primedica Argus

# COMMISSION ON EDUCATION



By Erik Dybing

## CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Commission on Education has arranged 2 continuing education courses in 2000, one in Poland and one in Hungary. Dr. Jennifer Schmidt, Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA taught the course "Gene Targeting/Null Models in Toxicology" at the Annual Meeting of the Polish Society of Toxicology in Bukowina Tatrzenska, Poland, May 31-June 2, 2000. The course was presented for an audience of 160 participants and was very well received. Dr. Schmidt wrote a very nice report of her experience in the SOT Communiqué.

Dr. Rakesh Dixit, Department of Safety Assessment, Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, PA, USA, taught the course "International Harmonization of Non-Clinical Toxicology: Regulation vs. Practice" at the Annual Meeting of the Union of Hungarian Toxicologists in Balaton-Kenese on October 19-21, 2000. He was joined by Dr. Yvonne Dragan, James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Ohio State University, School of Public Health, Columbus, OH, USA as a co-lecturer. Dr. Dragan is Chairperson of the SOT Continuing Education Committee. The CE course went very

well and there were very good scientific exchanges.

After a call for expression of interest for new CE courses, it has been decided to arrange the course "Application of Transgenic Models in Toxicology" in China and "Advanced Metal Toxicology" in Venezuela in 2001. A new call for expression of interest for CE courses in 2002 will be sent out later in the year.

**RISK ASSESSMENT  
SUMMER SCHOOL (RASS)**  
RASS VIII was held at Pueblo Acantilado, Alicante, Spain on September 30-October 8, 2000. About 65 applications were received from different countries and 34 students were selected and invited to participate. Due to cancellations for various reasons the final number of students was 32 (8, 12 and 12 affiliated with industry, academic and regulatory agencies respectively) from 23 different countries.

Overall, RASS VIII was very successful. Both from the evaluations by the students and the faculty it can be concluded that the number of students, slightly higher than before, 32 against 28, is critical for the overall value of RASS. In order to optimise the outcome and the satisfaction of the students, not more than 25 students should participate, assuming the same number of faculty members and the same length of the course which for many reasons are fairly fixed.

Furthermore it can be concluded that the outline of RASS is considered well-balanced between lectures and discussions, between group and plenary activity as well as between free and scheduled time, even if some students would like a little bit more time on their own to rest.

IUTOX is very grateful to the course organizers and to the faculty who enthusiastically devoted more than a week to RASS VIII. Their experience, friendship and support are the driving forces of RASS. □

# REPORT OF THE TREASURER



By *Judith A.  
MacGregor*

This is an exciting time for IUTOX. We have significantly expanded our activities and also added new members. A major fund raising effort was implemented that has already been quite successful. Our finances are sound. Our banking services have been improved. A few highlights follow.

#### FUNDS:

IUTOX maintained its reserves even though our spending for the year for programs increased significantly. Year-end balance for the year 2000 = \$280,025 compared to the year end balance for 1999 = 283,206. This favorable outcome was due to a very successful fund raising effort.

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

We have kept the fees schedule constant for member societies. In addition, we now have 5 so-

cieties receiving reduced fees. We hope in the future to increase income by attracting new members while keeping costs for our members the same.

#### GRANTS:

We have received 5 grants from the International Council for Science in the past 3 years! These were for the Estrogen Workshops, Fellowships for ICT VIII, the RASS Workbook, Capacity Building through Education in Toxicology, and a monograph on GM Foods.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ICT IX FELLOWSHIPS:

We have received contributions from the Japanese Society of Toxicology, the Society of Toxicology (USA), and EURO-TOX for fellowships for ICT IX. Many thanks!

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OUR CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM:

During the past year, we have sought contributions for our educational programs from institutions. This has had good success and over \$35,000 has been already received. These funds were used to support many different educational programs.

**The Treasurer would like to acknowledge and thank the work of our auditors Drs. Greim and Hodel for many years of service to IUTOX. IUTOX is very indebted to Bill Hayes, legal counsel, who has faithfully served as our advisor permitting IUTOX to maintain charitable organization status. □**

## Upcoming Meetings!

Mark your calendar!

The following meeting you do not want to miss.

For details and contact persons, be sure to access the websites.

### 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Toxicology (ICT X) Tampere, Finland, July 2004

Hosted by the Finnish Society of Toxicology

President, Professor Kai Savolainen

Secretary-General, Professor Hanna Tähti

<http://www.ictx.org>

# REPORT ON THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



By *Tetsuo Satoh*

One of the important activities of the Membership Committee of IUTOX is to increase the member societies in order to foster international scientific cooperation among national and other groups of toxicologists. As the Chair of the Membership Committee, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the individuals affiliated with IUTOX for co-operation in significantly increasing the new member societies during the past six years.

#### APPROVAL OF THE NEW MEMBER SOCIETIES

Since 1999, the Membership Committee has received the applications from American College of Toxicology, Latvian Society of Toxicology, Latin American Society of Toxicology (ALATOX), American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT), and Slovenian Society of Toxicology. The Membership Committee recommended the acceptance of all of those applications to the Executive Committee and they are unanimously approved at the Executive Committee meeting. Thereafter, applications of these five societies have been formally approved by the member societies. The Membership Committee has a few more societies which are under consideration for applications.

#### REDUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP DUES

According to Point G-6 of the IUTOX the By-Laws, the application of the reduction of the Membership Dues will be seriously considered by the IUTOX Executive Committee. The Society which wishes the reduction of the Membership Dues should submit the application to the Secretary General of IUTOX. In 1999, the applications of three Societies for reduction of dues were formally approved at Executive Committee meetings.

#### THE LIST OF THE IUTOX MEMBER SOCIETIES NEWLY APPROVED SINCE 1995

##### 1995(3)

Asian Society of Toxicology (ASIATOX)

French Society of Clinical Toxicology

Thai Society of Toxicology (formerly Toxicological Society of Thailand)

##### 1996 (2)

Chinese Society of Toxicology  
Mexican Society of Toxicology

##### 1997 (2)

Israeli Society of Toxicology  
Japanese Society of Clinical Toxicology

##### 1998 (4)

Hellenic Society of Toxicology  
Polish Society of Toxicology  
Russian Society of Toxicology  
Turkish Society of Toxicology

##### 1999 (0)

None

##### 2000 (4)

American College of Toxicology  
ALATOX  
Latvian Society of Toxicology  
American Academy of Clinical Toxicology(AACT)

##### 2001 (1) (as of February 28)

Slovenian Society of Toxicology  
Under consideration for the application  
Croatian Society of Toxicology  
European Society of Toxicology  
In vitro □

# COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



By *Remi Glomot*

The Commission on International Relations fosters scientific relations between IUTOX and International Scientific Bodies and Official Organizations. Many exciting programs have been initiated during the past 3 years. With the World Health Organization/International Programme on Chemical Safety (WHO/IPCS), IUTOX provides assistance on issues of international concern by forming committees of experts and/or recommending experts to staff Committees. IPCS also sponsors workshops and symposia, such as those at IUTOX Congresses. As Liaison Officer for IUTOX with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), I have advised on advanced draft doc-

uments. IUTOX will be involved in the setting of Guidelines with the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA). Guidelines may include those on new or marketed drugs. Dr. Alan Pinter represented IUTOX in the International Council for Science (ICSU) sponsored World Conference on Science held 26 June–1 July 1999. Professor Iain Purchase represented IUTOX in the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in Cairo, Egypt, 26–30 September 1999. This meeting afforded him the opportunity to initiate the project on genetically modified foods (GM). More information on this project and its anticipated monograph are discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter. With the support of other ICSU members, I was able to initiate a program for support of capacity building efforts by the ICSU members. Lastly, with the European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC), discussions have been held to set up workshops at IUTOX Congresses.

These numerous initiatives have enhanced scientific relations between international organizations. The results of these efforts should be apparent at our International Congresses including ICT-IX to be held in Brisbane in July 2001. □

# GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS FOR DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND HUMAN NUTRITION



By *Iain Purchase*

## THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT

IUTOX and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences have received a grant from ICSU (The International Council for Science) to prepare a monograph on the scientific basis for the assessment of benefit and risk of GM foods. Dr Barbara Underwood (for IUNS)

and Professor Iain Purchase (for IUTOX) are the joint organisers of the preparation of the monograph.

The first stage is to prepare an outline of the contents of the monograph. This will be achieved through a planning workshop with representatives of 5 International Unions, several ICSU committees and experts with experience on the issues surrounding GM foods in developing countries and countries in transition. The workshop was held in Manchester in February 2001. The workshop also identified authors of the various sections of the monograph. These authors were then commissioned to prepare drafts of the various sections. A second workshop will be convened to finalise the drafts and write an executive summary, including consensus from the participating Unions and Committees on recommendations to ICSU. The final text will be edited before submission to ICSU later this year. □

## Upcoming Meetings!

Check the Websites!

### 9<sup>th</sup> Risk Assessment Summer School (RASS)

This program offers young toxicologists unique opportunities to broaden their knowledge and experience in chemical risk assessment.

Director, Dr. Torbjorn Malmfors  
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Executive Administrator, Ms. Birgitta Lewander  
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<http://www.global-rass.org>

### 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries (CTOX-DC)

2003 Beijing, China

Hosted by the Chinese Society of Toxicology

## EUROTOX Meetings!

### EUROTOX 2001: Istanbul 13–16 Sep

Congress, Visitur Travel & Tourism Inc  
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### EUROTOX 2002: Budapest 15–18 Sep

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### EUROTOX 2003: Florence (Firenze): 28 Sep–1 Oct

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## **American College of Toxicology** (727 members)

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## **Egyptian Society of Toxicology** (230 members)

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## **European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists** (280 members)

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## **Finnish Society of Toxicology** (339 members)

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