

I have finally accepted the fact that I am really the President of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT). I became a member nineteen years ago and used to anonymously sit in the audience absorbing all the knowledge I could. I fondly remember lugging my three-ringed binder packed with speaker presentations and notes from the seedy hotel I was staying in, to the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) 2001 conference hotel in Montreal, Canada. Yes, this was right after the 911 tragedy in the United States. Despite that atrocity, the AACT and American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) were determined to convene NACCT so we could come together and share our knowledge. I even remember seeing Lewis Goldfrank, MD there surrounded like a movie star. To me, his presence was symbolic of the resolve of our country to continue forward during a time of crisis.

The same strength, integrity, fortitude and justice must sustain the AACT and our world to heal and progress through evidence-based science. For 52 years the AACT has been the foundation of clinical toxicology in the United States and will only continue that mission because of membership action. AACT members include, pharmacists, physicians, PhDs, nurses or any professional degree with a passion and practice in clinical toxicology. Think of AACT as the conduit of your ideas. AACT embraces our differences and is powered from the bottom up. Each individual effort creates a synergistic result that benefits the individual and the AACT.

I invite you to contribute as a Section member presenting at an AACT webinar, journal club or NACCT symposium, or writing the Question of the Day. Take advantage of the annual average of \$30,000.00 in research awards offered by AACT to advance your research and discover new diagnostics and treatments for our patients. Utilize the unlimited access to 52 years of *Clinical Toxicology*, submit manuscripts and become a reviewer. Obtain American Board of Applied Toxicology (ABAT) certification to be a leader in clinical toxicology at the bedside and in Poison Control Centers. Review and submit abstracts to NACCT or serve on an AACT committee. Change our practice by studying the evidence and publish as a member of the Clinical Toxicology Guideline Collaborative. Because of your outstanding service to the Academy, apply for Fellowship status.

The AACT is working on expanding mentorship and Section activities, a public relations AACTion committee, this President's blog, as well as increasing student and fellowship involvement. We will continue to collaborate with new and existing global partnerships like the European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT), Asian Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT), Society of Toxicology (SOT), the Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres (CAPCC) and the Scientific Liaison Coalition (SLC). A membership app is also in the works, which should positively impact your professional life as a clinical toxicologist through connecting and sharing information with one another.

Kindest regards,

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President of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

