



President's REPORT

Welcome to the ACTRA newsletter for Summer 2011, including details of some forthcoming events that you should note in your diaries.

Management committee

Firstly, on behalf of ACTRA I thank the outgoing management committee members for their contribution to ACTRA. In particular I thank the outgoing president, Brian Priestly, for his commitment and hard work over the last 5 years in steering ACTRA to a strong financial and scientific position for meeting the future. Brian was instrumental in establishing ACTRA and has worked tirelessly as president to ensure that ACTRA met its commitments to members (see also his valedictory letter elsewhere in this newsletter). Brian has agreed to continue participating on the ACTRA Management Committee as an Ex-Officio Member.

Secondly, I would like to welcome members who were elected at the Annual General Meeting in Melbourne: Michael Moore, as Vice President, Andrew Harman, as Treasurer, Ruth Jarman, as Registrar, and Sarah McKiernan and Kristi Hanson as Ordinary Management Committee members.

Additionally, Len Turczynowicz (Golder Associates), Ian Delaere (SA Health), Kateryna Babina (SA Health), Mirella Goetzmann (WA Health) and Jackie Wright (Environmental Risk Sciences) were co-opted for various roles on the Management Committee.

The new Management Committee held its first meeting by teleconference on 9 November 2011 and developed an outline of a plan for 2012.

Scientific activities

Annual Scientific Meeting 27-28 October Melbourne (See further report elsewhere in this newsletter)

ACTRA's first two-day meeting in Melbourne was a resounding success, both scientifically and financially. I would like to show our appreciation to the organisers of the meeting, John Frangos and Ruth Jarman, who did a sterling job in developing the programme, inviting speakers and raising sponsorship money; the invited speakers, Rory Connelly from the USA and Cleo Robinson from WA, who gave relevant and inspiring presentations; Brian Priestly and Paul Brent (FASANZ) for their thought provoking inaugural ACTRA scientific debate; participants who submitted abstracts for the programme; and everyone who attended the meeting. As always, Elisabethe Dank did an outstanding job in the administrative and logistical side and went the extra mile when needed to ensure the success of the meeting – thank you Elisabethe.

Other activities since the last Newsletter

ACTRA sponsored two workshops (see full reports from elsewhere in this newsletter):

- Integration of epidemiology & toxicology in regulatory risk assessment in Canberra on 10 August 2011
- Short Course on Health risk assessment of contaminated sites on 11 September

2011 as part of the 4th International Contaminated Site Remediation Conference at the Hilton Hotel, Adelaide

Both workshops were well attended and contributed to the financial and scientific well being of ACTRA. The workshop in Canberra was particularly successful with around 90 delegates attending and a tidy profit for ACTRA of \$15,823, the most financially successful meeting to date. Our thanks to Brian Priestly for this great achievement.

Future activities

Planning for the 5th Annual Scientific meeting (Sep – Oct 2013, Adelaide)

The preparation for the 5th Annual Scientific Meeting is well underway in Adelaide, with Ian Delaere, Kateryna Babina and Len Turczynowicz volunteering to organise the event. Brian Priestly has also agreed to be part of the team. The 5th Annual Scientific Meeting will be over two days and include a conference dinner for delegates for the first time, following the overwhelming support for it at the Annual General Meeting of the College in Melbourne.

Other scientific activities

At its meeting on 9 November, the Management Committee agreed to pursue the following activities:

- Health Risk Assessment training on GMO in collaboration with the Turkish Society of Toxicology.

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From the EDITOR

As you will undoubtedly have already noticed from the President's report (both past and present) 2011 has been a highly successful and important year for ACTRA. Compiling this edition of enews was made easy due to the many ACTRA meeting reports, ACTRA's new formal affiliation with IUTOX and recent

changes to the management committee. Having been the editor of the enews for the past 3 years I am stepping aside for some 'new blood' to continue to evolve and invigorate it. I'd like to thank Brian Priestly for contributions to the enews over the years and Mirella Goetzmann who has done an excellent job in

transforming the newsletter format and content and will continue to act as editor together with Jackie Wright. The success of any newsletter such as this depends on contributions – so please keep these coming!

John Frangos



From the PAST PRESIDENT

To all ACTRA members



As the date for the 2011 ACTRA AGM approached, and with it the end of my term as ACTRA President, I felt a tinge of sadness with my decision not to seek election for another term. However, my decision was made in the knowledge that a change of leadership is usually in the best interests of the organization, and that the ACTRA Committee will be very

ably led by Peter Di Marco and Michael Moore in their new positions as President and Vice-president.

I feel a degree of satisfaction that ACTRA has grown during the period of my leadership, from the work done to establish ACTRA in 2006, through convening the Steering Committee from 2006-08, and from my election as the inaugural President at the 2008 AGM.

Milestones for which I feel some sense of achievement include:

- The formal establishment of ACTRA as a non-profit association under Victorian Consumer Affairs legislation, including the development of a formal set of Rules and operational procedures.
- Implementation of the Registration Program, to provide peer-reviewed recognition of the professional achievements of those ACTRA members seeking registration under the rules.
- Convening of workshops and annual scientific meetings, as part of the delivery of a continuing education program for ACTRA members, and non-members, many of whom have attended these activities.
- Formal affiliation with the International Union of Toxicology

(IUTOX), recognizing ACTRA's status as a significant scientific group representing Australian interests in toxicology.

- Building firm and effective relationships with academic institutions, government agencies and the commercial sector through all of the above activities.

However, none of this was achievable without the sterling support of the successive ACTRA Committee members and officials, and the membership as a whole. I wish to record my personal thanks to all of you in supporting my efforts through the past five years. While not wishing to single out any particular individuals, it would be remiss of me not to recognize the special support of the ACTRA Secretariat – Jennifer Seabrook of Meetings First and her team during the formative years, and since early 2010, Elisabethe Dank of d'moda. I have found Elisabethe's professionalism and her willingness to 'go that extra yard' on behalf of ACTRA to have afforded me strong support as President, and for that I am particularly grateful. I am sure she will continue to serve the new ACTRA Committee with dedication and distinction.

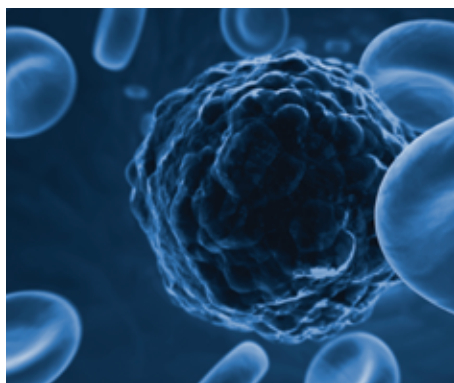
I am confident that ACTRA will continue to grow under the new leadership and I wish you all well for what the future holds. It is not my intention to just sit back and enjoy a well-earned rest from presidential duties. I intend to continue to support ACTRA as an ordinary member, and to offer my experience to the Committee in whatever capacity it thinks useful.

Kind regards to all ACTRA members

Brian G. Priestly

31 October 2011

ACTRA Workshop on the use of Epidemiology in Regulatory Risk Assessment



On 10th August 2011, ACTRA held another successful workshop, this time at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra. The theme of the workshop was suggested by Dr Les Davies, Principal Scientist (Pesticides) with the APVMA, who also played a key role in developing the program.

The objective of the workshop was primarily to inform regulatory scientists on how to integrate epidemiological and toxicological data in health risk assessment. Of the 106 registrants, around 70 were drawn from the Canberra- and Sydney-based government chemicals regulators (APVMA, FSANZ, OCS, NICNAS, TGA, OGTR), but there were also three from a New Zealand agency and a significant number of State government scientists and consultants from the commercial sector. The workshop was co-sponsored by the APVMA, and formally opened by the APVMA CEO (Dr Eva Bennet-Jenkins).

The program featured talks from some 'real' epidemiologists, outlining the various methodologies used in epi studies, including some discussion of the methodological strengths and limitations. ACTRA was delighted that Syngenta Crop Protection supported the travel of Dr Tim Pastoor, its Principal Scientist from North Carolina, so that he could

present a highly informative talk on a framework for integrating epi and tox data, based on a consortium paper recently published in Toxicological Sciences. Tim illustrated the application of the framework with a summary of the data on the controversial herbicide, atrazine. There were other case studies illustrating the use of epi data in various types of health risk assessments in the food, OHS and communicable diseases sectors. Professor Bernard Stewart gave an illuminating talk on how advocacy groups can seize on isolated epi findings, and how to address these issues, and Dr Andrew Langley concluded the workshop with a presentation on how to improve communication between epidemiologists and toxicologists.

For the convenience of ACTRA members, copies of all the presentations have been uploaded to the member-only section of the ACTRA website. The success of the workshop added substantially to the financial position of ACTRA, as outlined in the Treasurer's report to the AGM in October. The workshop success was also due to the hard work of Elisabeth Dank, the ACTRA Secretariat, and support staff from the APVMA, in organising the registration processes and the venue.

Report by Brian Priestly

ACTRA Short Course on Health Risk Assessment of Contaminated Sites

On the 11th September ACTRA ran a short course/workshop on health risk assessment as part of the 4th International Contaminated Site Remediation Conference at the Hilton Hotel, Adelaide.

The day featured a series of short case study presentations by experienced consultants who outlined common traps and pitfalls in conducting a HRA on contaminated sites.

Some of the highlights of the day included a thought provoking and interactive presentation on bridging regulatory and consulting practices in HRA by Jean Meaklim (EPA Victoria) and Len Turczynowicz (Golder Associates). Stephen Kirsanovs (AEC Environmental) provided an auditors perspective on HRA within the contaminated land audit system in Australia.

It also featured some informative and timely presentations on vapour intrusion and its usefulness in HRA by Ruth Jarman (Parsons Brinkerhoff) and Jacquie Wright (Environmental Risk Services).

Brian Priestly and Peter Di Marco provided perspective and insights on the practice of HRA in Australia and John Frangos provided some thought starters and handy tips on some toxicological aspects of health risk assessment.

The workshop was well attended and professionally administered once again by Andrew Beveridge of CRC Care as part of the 4th International Contaminated Site Remediation Conference.

Report by John Frangos



President's REPORT (cont.)

- Support the World Congress on Risk to be held in Sydney on 18 to 20 July 2012.
- Organise a workshop in Perth sponsored by Golder Associates.
- Organise another workshop in Canberra.

I welcome member's suggestions on other activities that may be of interest for the next twelve months and beyond.

Updates on ongoing activities

The ACTRA Register

The ACTRA Registration process has been live for some months on the ACTRA website, although we are yet to receive a formal application. The ACTRA Committee is actively considering whether this slow response is due to the bar being initially set too high or a lack of clarity relating to the differentiation of skills required to practise toxicology and health risk assessment. The management Committee reaffirmed the need to amend the registration documentation to include risk assessors and is considering a tiered approach to address this and other aspects of the registration process. Meanwhile, I encourage members who feel the established criteria to apply for registration under the current process.

ACTRA Affiliation with IUTOX

One of the activities also undertaken at the Washington SOT Congress that Brian and I attended last March, was to meet with members of the IUTOX Executive and membership committee. In the last e-Newsletter Brian outlined the case we were able to put in support of ACTRA's affiliation with IUTOX. We can now report that, following those submissions, the IUTOX Executive has formally advised ACTRA of its acceptance into the IUTOX community of toxicology societies. We can now look forward to an enhanced opportunity to participate in global activities in toxicology. Moreover, we now have the opportunity to nominate one of our members to serve on

the IUTOX Executive and the opportunity to influence the development of toxicology and risk assessment globally.

Part of this new responsibility to support IUTOX is an opportunity to suggest program topics for the next (8th) International Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries (CTDC8), to be held in Bangkok in September 2012 and the International Congress of Toxicology (ICT XIII) which will be held in Seoul, Korea on 30 June to 4 July 2013. I call on ACTRA members to forward programme suggestions for these two meetings for consideration by the ACTRA Management Committee. This new responsibility also requires an affiliation fee payable each year.

I am very excited about this development. Affiliation with IUTOX is a milestone achievement for ACTRA, particularly at such an early stage in its development and we are all grateful to Brian Priestly and his Management Committee members for this achievement.

I encourage members to explore the IUTOX web site and familiarise yourselves with the IUTOX resources.

ACTRA at the 50th Anniversary meeting of the Society of Toxicology (SOT)

In the last ACTRA e-Newsletter, Brian Priestly and I presented a report on ACTRA's presence at the 50th Anniversary meeting of the US Society of Toxicology in Washington in March 2011. One of the issues not highlighted in that report was our participation in a SOT-sponsored special Global Collaboration meeting with representatives of some of the 30 toxicology-related organizations present at the meeting. The session encouraged these organizations to collaborate and stimulate interactions, including the development of special interest groups (SIG), fostering support for scientists to attend meetings of related groups, and

establishing programs that would assist trainees with their professional development. The SOT has since contacted ACTRA seeking to expand on this collaborative effort. The SOT letter will be posted on the ACTRA website, and I encourage members to provide advice to the ACTRA Committee on how we may better participate in this global collaborative activity.

I will be attending SOT in San Francisco next year and would be please to present a poster from ACTRA with your support.

A number of toxicology resources are available on the SOT website and I encourage members to visit the site.

enHealth guidance on EHRA

The review of the enHealth guidance document, Environmental Health Risk Assessment – Guidelines for assessing human health risks from environmental hazards, has now been completed and is awaiting endorsement by enHealth Council. ACTRA members have played an important part of the revision of this document, from basic authorship of the revised guidance document, drafting of the new companion document (Australian Exposure Factors guidance), a formal position on the enHealth project steering committee, and making submissions on the consultation draft. I would like to acknowledge the role played in this process by our members.

Acknowledgement

This report contains extracts (with permission) of a draft report prepared by Brian Priestly for the Winter Newsletter which was due for release before the Annual General Meeting.



Peter DeMarco
President

Upcoming MEETINGS

World Congress on Risk

The Society for Risk Analysis is hosting the World Congresses on Risk on 18-20 July 2012 in the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia. The theme of the World Congress on Risk 2012 is: "Risk and Development in a Changing World." By selecting the theme "Risk and Development in a Changing World," SRA hopes to focus attention on risks of importance to global development and developing countries, in such domains as agriculture, food security and safety; water pollution and supply;

air pollution, energy and climate change; disaster forecasting, prevention and resilience; risks associated with poverty in rural and urban areas; homeland security; chemicals, medicines, and consumer products; technological development and innovation; and related topics.

Brian Priestly our immediate past president and member has been liaising with Daniela Leonte regarding a suitable session (ACTRA session) and we expect to present some options for consideration by the program committee in the near future.

Please feed ideas to Brian Priestly and Daniela Leonte and I'm sure Daniela would also be appreciative of offers of financial support.

ACTRA 5th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) – Early Meeting Notice

Make room in your diaries for a trip to Adelaide in Sept/Oct.

Further information will be provided by the ASM organizing committee (Ian Delaere, Kateryna Babina and Len Turczynowicz) in the near future.

SNAP SHOTS

NICNAS release a draft Existing Chemical Assessment Report for Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)

The National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) recently released a draft assessment report for HBCD for public comment. The public comment period ends on the 22nd December 2011. The report reviews the toxicology and ecotoxicology of HBCD and provides a risk assessment based on the Australian use patterns of HBCD. The report

recommends a voluntary phase out of the import and use of HBCD and articles containing the chemical.

<http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Consultations.asp>

(Submitted by J Frangos)

APVMA Symposium on Engineered Nanomaterials

The 2011 Nanoregulation Symposium, co-hosted by the APVMA and the National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), was held in Sydney on 9th November 2011. The theme of the symposium was "Fostering collaborative dialogue between nanomaterial regulators and stakeholders". The event featured prominent national and international speakers who are experts in fields relevant to the regulation of nanomaterials including. They included:

- Dr Karin Wiench, Head of Regulatory Toxicology Chemicals II, BASF, Germany

- Dr Philippe Martin, European Commission, Brussels
- Professor Kenneth Dawson, University College Dublin
- Professor Michael Roberts, University of South Australia
- Professor Mike McLaughlin, CSIRO Land and Water

Further information on the symposium, and audio interviews with keynote speakers are available at:

http://www.apvma.gov.au/news_media/events/nanoregulation_symposium_2011.php

(Submitted by J Frangos)

WHO compilation of air quality data from 1100 cities and burden of disease estimates

Recently (October 2011) WHO released a new compilation of air quality data from nearly 1100 cities in 91 countries, along with associated burden of disease analysis.

The main findings are:

- Persistently elevated levels of fine particle pollution are common across many urban areas. Fine particle pollution often originates from combustion sources such as power plants and motor vehicles.
- The great majority of urban populations have an average annual exposure to PM10 particles in excess

of the WHO Air Quality guideline recommended maximum level of 20 µg/m³. On average, only a few cities currently meet the WHO guideline values.

- For 2008, the estimated mortality attributable to outdoor air pollution in cities amounts to 1.34 million premature deaths. If the WHO guidelines had been universally met, an estimated 1.09 million deaths could have been prevented in 2008. The number of deaths attributable to air pollution in cities has increased from the previous estimation of 1.15 million deaths in 2004. The increase

in the mortality estimated to be attributable to urban air pollution is linked to recent increases in air pollution concentrations and in urban population size, as well as improved data availability and methods employed.

The press release and the database can be accessed from:

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2011/air_pollution_20110926/en/index.html

http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/en/index.html

(Submitted by IUTOX)

Financial Support for Scientists to Attend SOT 2013...

Each year the Society of Toxicology (SOT), the Society of Toxicology Endowment Fund sponsor travel fellowships for scientists to attend the SOT Annual Meeting.

Applicants may be either junior or senior scientists, reside in countries where toxicology is underrepresented, and have an active research program or currently be active in the practice of toxicology.

IUTOX administer this awards program, and potential ACTRA member candidates should direct their questions to:

iutoxhq@iutox.org

(Submitted to ACTRA by IUTOX)

SNAP SHOTS

New guidelines for Genotoxicity testing strategies applicable to food and feed safety assessment

The European Food Safety Agency Scientific Committee have produced a timely review of the current state-of-the-science on genotoxicity testing. The review recommends a documented weight-of-evidence approach to the evaluation and interpretation of genotoxicity data, and provides a current description of what a weight of evidence approach entails. The Scientific Committee concluded that routine testing for genotoxicity in germ cells is not necessary. A substance that is concluded to be positive in tests in somatic tissues in vivo would normally be assumed to reach the germ cells and to be

a germ cell mutagen, and therefore potentially hazardous to future generations. In the contrary situation, a substance that is negative in tests in somatic tissues in vivo would be assumed to be negative in germ cells, and moreover no germ cell-specific mutagen is known.

The report is available from the EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/> at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2379.htm?wtrl=01>

Submitted by John Frangos

Health Canada publishes Guidance on Contaminated Site Health Risk Assessment

Health Canada's Contaminated Sites Division has recently published (September 2011) "Guidance on Human Health Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment for Chemicals (DQRACHem). The report is intended to provide guidance in situations where simple screening methods are inadequate. The guidance is written in an explanatory manner providing general approaches to tackle complex issues. For instance it emphasises the need to think critically about averaging exposures pointing out that the average and or cumulative

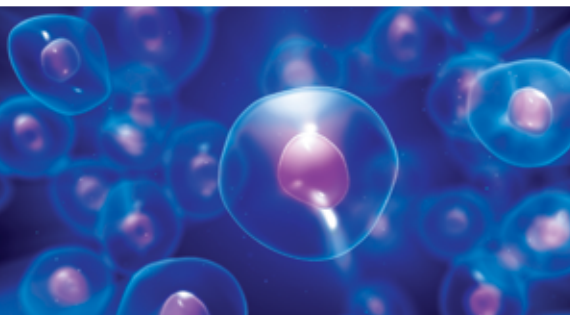
intake may not always be appropriate in all circumstances (e.g. some circumstances where toxicants cause effects during a critical window (development)).

More information about obtaining the report can be obtained at: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/contamsite/chem-chim/index-eng.php>

Submitted by John Frangos

Congratulations on recent appointments

ACTRA acknowledges the recent appointments to senior positions within Australian regulatory institutions of Daniela Leonte and Kerry Nugent to Principal Scientist positions within NICNAS and Les Davies to the Principal Scientist position with the APVMA.



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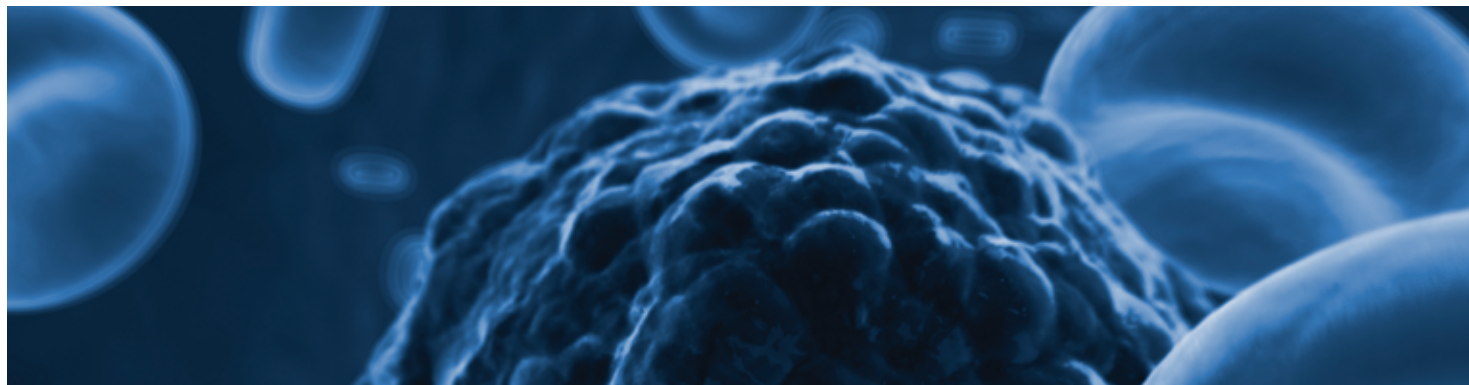
Risk perception in toxicology

As part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations, the US Society of Toxicology commissioned two papers on the vexed question of how people perceive and respond to risks associated with chemicals, and how toxicologists might develop better communication skills to address these issues of risk perception. These two papers, by David Ropeik and Heather Wallace have been published in the May 2011 issue of Toxicological Sciences. The first paper (Ropeik) is perhaps a little demoralising, because it argues that the scientific approach to risk communication is doomed if it fails to recognise the

inherently affective mechanisms humans use to perceive and manage threats. It outlines the physiological and psychological processes we use to characterise and respond to risk. In particular, it challenges toxicologists to not simply dismiss community attitudes to risk that may be different to their carefully constructed rational analysis, but to find ways to empathetically provide objective information that may help people to overcome their inherent reluctance to embrace some types of risk. The second paper (Wallace) takes a more constructive approach to the issue, by arguing that conventional

toxicological risk assessment can be part of the solution to the problem. It outlines some of the efforts to communicate the outcomes of various national and international chemical risk management programs, and information on the ways toxicologist assess Paracelsus' principle of dose-response in risk assessment paradigms, and thereby hope to expand the boundaries of the 'bounded rationality' limits identified in David Ropeik's description of how humans process scientific and non-scientific information about risk.

Report by Brian Priestly



ACTRA 4th Annual Scientific Meeting

For the first time ACTRA's ASM was a 2 day event on the 27th and 28th of October in Melbourne. From all accounts the meeting was a raging success with presentations from a full spectrum of toxicological sciences and risk assessment. A description of the presentations and the day will be provided in the next e-news. For those members who were unable to attend the presentations are available via the members only section of the ACTRA website <http://www.actra.org.au/login.php>

