

# Neurotox News

Nr 4  
July 2002



**The Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology  
of the International Commission on Occupational Health**

---

## Editorial

Dear colleagues,

First of all, let me express my sincere gratitude to Roberto Lucchini, Lorenzo Alessio, Simona Galafassi, and their whole team, for an outstanding organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium! I'm sure to be speaking for all the participants when congratulating the Brescia team to some wonderful days, with exciting scientific discussions, a very nice social climate, excellent food, and interesting surroundings. My sole complaint would be regarding the physical climate. Several days with temperatures above 35 degrees centigrade is really too much, at least for someone from Scandinavia.

The schedule for the 8<sup>th</sup> symposium comprised over 200 presentations in more than 30 sessions. There were five keynotes, eleven mini-symposia, nineteen oral sessions, and three poster sessions. With respect to agents there were sessions on solvents, manganese, mercury, pesticides, lead, aluminium, biotoxins, and physical agents. Furthermore, there were sessions on vision, hearing loss, other sensory organs, exposure assessment, the developing brain, TLVs, mechanisms of toxicity, problems in linking human and animal research, special problems in the developing countries, and more. I'm sure you will get a summary also from Roberto Lucchini, and proceedings will be published soon as usual.

We also had a meeting of our scientific committee in Brescia, and the notes are included in this issue of the NeurotoxNews.

During the Brescia symposium a decision was taken regarding the venue for the 9<sup>th</sup> symposium in 2005. A very nice offer, with solid local support, was presented by our Korean colleagues. They proposed to organize the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium in September 2005 in the southeastern part of Korea. Their offer was accepted, and, as you know already, the Korean team was successful also in the soccer world championships!

I would also take this opportunity to remind you all that we need to recruit new members, preferably young scientists, to our committee. There were some new faces present in Brescia, and I urge you all to encourage any young researchers you may know, who have an interest in our field of research, to join the committee!

For your information I may say that our Swedish National Institute for Working Life is still looking for its new form. Recently all the natural sciences were moved away from the NIWL, research priorities are still changing, and the cut backs with respect to personnel are not finalized. My little risk assessment group will physically move to the Karolinska Institute this autumn, although we will still be hired by the NIWL. Confusion continues.....

Wishing you all continued success in your research efforts, and looking forward to working with you in the preparations of the Korea symposium in 2005,

Anders Iregren

## News from the secretary

Dear Committee members,

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium was judged a great success by those who attended, according to the comments we have received. A general comment is that the quality of the papers was high and I am particularly happy about it. This result is extremely important and it must be acknowledge to all the participants, who worked hard for the success of this meeting and gave an important impulse to the discipline. You can see from the list below that most of the participants were European, mostly Italians with many local students that had the opportunity to learn enormously from the symposium. A good number of colleagues from the developing countries were able to participate, with a contribution for the inscription and accommodation expenses.

I would like to mention the very good collaboration with the International Neurotoxicology Association (INA) and US Environmental Protection Agency. Both organizations have given a remarkable contribution with the organization of important scientific sessions. This collaboration is nicely continuing with the organization next **9<sup>th</sup> INA meeting** that will be held in Dresden, Germany, on June 22-27, 2003 ([www.dresden-online.de](http://www.dresden-online.de)).

We are willing to disseminate as much as possible the important outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Brescia. For this purpose, full manuscripts are being submitted for publication in a special issue of the journal **Neurotoxicology**, containing the selected papers from the Symposium. This follows a good collaboration with the editor of this prestigious Elsevier journal, Joan Cranmer, that started three years ago with the Symposium in Stockholm. In addition and as an alternative, we are collecting shorter papers for publication in a proceeding volume by the Italian National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention.

The next important event is represented by the contribution of our Scientific Committee to the next **ICOH meeting of Iguassu Falls, Brazil, on February 23-28, 2003** ([www.icoh2003.com.br](http://www.icoh2003.com.br)).

Our Committee has been reserved a 2 hours Symposium Session on February 24, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and we are currently planning the schedule and the speakers.

I wish all of you (and myself) good and relaxing vacation !

Yours, Roberto Lucchini

Participant at the 8th International Symposium, Brescia, Italy, June 2002:

ITALY	110
USA	38
GERMANY	16
JAPAN	11
THE NETHERLANDS	10
CANADA	9
SOUTH KOREA	7
SWEDEN	7
UNITED KINGDOM	7
DENMARK	6
FINLAND	5
FRANCE	5
CZECH REPUBLIC	3
EGYPT	3
P.R. CHINA	3
POLAND	3
ROMANIA	3
SPAIN	3
ALBANIA	3
BRASIL	3
ECUADOR	2
INDIA	2
IRAN	2
MEXICO	2
NORWAY	2
SWITZERLAND	2
UKRAINE	2
AUSTRALIA	2
BELGIUM	2
TAIWAN	2
AUSTRIA	1
COSTA RICA	1
ICELAND	1
ISRAEL	1
SINGAPORE	1
SOUTH AFRICA	1
THE FAROE ISLANDS	1
URUGUAY	1

## Message from the INA

I want to add my congratulations to the organizers of ICOH8 for an outstanding scientific meeting. While I am a long-standing member of INA, the International Neurotoxicology Association, and the current President of that organization, this was my first opportunity to join with you. It seems to me that INA and the neuro/psychological Scientific Committee of ICOH have very similar objectives; to promote the science related to adverse effects on the nervous system. A considerable sector of the INA membership is interested in application of neurotoxicity data to occupational settings. Thus we have a great deal of knowledge to share together.

INA is an association of about 200 members about equally split between North America and Europe. We welcome scientists from throughout the world and are eager to extend an invitation to all—especially those in Asia, Africa, and South America—to join our society and our meetings. We meet every two years and our next meeting, the ninth meeting, will be held in Dresden Germany. The Organizing Committee of INA, chaired by Andreas Seeber, has a very strong representation from your society. Our meetings reflect the broad interests of our membership spanning the range from epidemiology to molecular biology. Important social activities at our meetings include a collective 1 day tour to historic and cultural sites near our meeting place and a very hotly contested soccer match!

I extend an invitation to all of you to attend INA9 in Dresden and to visit our website at: [www.neurotoxicology.org](http://www.neurotoxicology.org).

Sincerely,

Larry Fechter  
President, INA

### New members

New members keep joining our Scientific Committee, this is a very positive and encouraging sign.

Very recently, **Natalia Bobko** from Ukraine, **Raul Harari** from Ecuador and **Yangho Kim** from Korea.

Some months ago, I would like to remind also **Harry Roels** from Belgium and **Krystyna Pawlas** from Poland, **Hideki Igisu** and **Mamoru Irata** from Japan.

I want to thank them for choosing our Committee and for helping us in spreading the information about our activity in their countries.

Roberto Lucchini.

# Minutes from the meeting of the Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology

Brescia, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2002

Attendance: Shunichi Araki, Margit Bleecker, Sin Eng Chia, Laurence Fechter (President of INA), Fabriziomaria Gobba, Raul Harari, Mamoru Hirata, Anders Iregren, Ernst Kiesswetter, Reiko Kishi, Gert van der Laan, Mayumi Onuki (on behalf of Kazuhito Yokohama), Andreas Seeber, Gerhard Triebig.

1. Some updates are given by the Secretary about the membership's situation of the Committee. Currently 44 members (18 from Europe, 17 from Asia, 5 from North America, 2 from Oceania, 1 from South America, 1 from North Africa), are in our committee, including 5 non-ICOH members from Thailand, China, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Slovakia respectively. The questions of having non-ICOH members in the Scientific Committee was addressed by the Secretary to the ICOH board. The answer to this question was that an update of ICOH by-laws will be approved at the next ICOH congress in Iguassu Falls, regarding the inclusion of non-ICOH members from the developing countries in the Scientific Committees.
2. All members are encouraged to contribute to the Newsletter by writing short articles about their own experiences that could be interesting to share with the Committee's members. We are in the process of posting the Newsletter on the ICOH website, in a specific space allotted to the Scientific Committees. In this way our bulletin will have a much wider potential audience.
3. Suggestions for the organizers of the next 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium in Korea were made in order to facilitate their job. One important issue is represented by the VISA application process that the representatives from the Developing Countries are required in order to attend the Symposium. This bureaucratic procedure may require a long time, so it is important to advise the potential participants to apply for VISA in their own countries in advance.
4. Another suggestion is related to funds raising. Our symposia are mainly sponsored by non profit Agencies and Institutions, such as National Institutes for Occupational Health and Safety, ICOH and so far. In addition to this, support from private companies can be useful, especially for financial aid to the developing countries. It is recommended that the organizers ask for financial support from private parties following clear norms. Written contracts should be signed by the organizers and the sponsors, with the formal agreement that money is given for scientific purposes and that all expenses will be documented by the organizers.
5. INA collaboration: following the recent experiences of interaction between our Scientific Committee and the International Neurotoxicology Association (a miny-symposium on manganese organized by our committee during the INA meeting in Estoril on June 2001 and two mini-symposia organized by INA colleagues in the Symposium of Brescia), further interaction is envisaged. The email lists of both groups will be exchanged to facilitate communications of common interest. Our committee will also participate actively in the preparation of the next INA meeting that will take place in Dresden on June 2003.
6. The next official meeting of the Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology will take place during the next ICOH conference in Iguassu Falls, Brazil, on February 23-28, 2003.

# The 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health: Korea, June 2005

The 9th International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health will be held at the Bomun Resort in Gyeongju, Korea from 25 September 2005 to 28 September 2005. Gyeongju is located to around 350 km south east from Seoul, which was an old capital of Silla Dynasty from BC 57 to AD 935. Thanks to her long history, Gyeongju has many places of attractive historical remains such as Bulguksa, the Temple of the Land Buddha, and Seokguram Grotto. Seokguram was registered on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List, together with Bulguksa Temple, in December of 1995.

The domestic flight will bring you to Gyeongju within 1 hour or the high speed bullet-train, which is now under constructing, will bring you within 2 and half hours. The Bomun Resort is a comfortable and relaxing place, which has 10 km jogging and cycling course along the Lake Bomun and You can reach the East Sea with half an hour. September in Korea is very clear sky with gentle breeze and comfortable temperature.

The 9th Symposium will link the occupational and environmental issues on neurotoxicology between developed countries and developing countries. The Symposium will bring many interesting topics such as neurobehavioral changes by various neurotoxic substances, computerized neurobehavioral tests, advanced neuroimaging technics, new methods on detecting neurologic disorders, occupational epidemiology, and risk assessment. It also will discuss environmental Issues by neurotoxic substances, dioxin exposure related problems and development of biological monitoring and biomarkers. Aging population and neurobehavioral changes or work stress related issues will be another interesting topics. Traditional occupational neurotoxicology by manganese, lead, organic solvents and pesticides will continuously bring our interests.

A factory tour organized by the Symposium will bring your attention to a modern to automobile or steel industries.

The home page is now available from <http://home.kosha.net/~neurotox>.

The Symposium will be organized by the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA) and be supported from many academia and the Ministry of Labor, Korea.

## **President of the Symposium**

Ho Keun Chung  
Director General  
Occupational Safety & Health  
Research Institute(OSHRI), KOSHA

## **Co-secretariat**

Yangho Kim, Ulsan University.  
Hae-Kwan Cheong, Dongguk University  
Joon Sakong, Yeungnam University

## **Symposium Secretariat**

Seong-Kyu Kang  
Director, Center for Occupational  
Disease Research, OSHRI, KOSHA  
Tel. +82-32-5100-915  
Fax. +82-32-518-0862

## **Communication Scientist**

InJeong Park, Msc., KOSHA  
Tel. +82-32-5100-938  
Fax. +82-32-518-0862

# International Meetings

## 17<sup>th</sup> Asian conference on Occupational Health

November 1-4, 2002, Taipei, Taiwan

### *Major topics:*

Air pollution	Health promotion
Cancer	Law & compensation
Climate change	Musculoskeletal disorders
Dermatosis	Neurologic disorders
Epidemiology	Radiation
Ergonomics	Reproductive hazards
Stress	Exposure & Risk assessment
Semi-conductor Industry	Gene-environment interaction

More information is available at

[www.acoh2002.org.tw](http://www.acoh2002.org.tw)  
[acoh2002@seed.net.tw](mailto:acoh2002@seed.net.tw)

## From Neurochemistry to Neurodegeneration

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference  
University of Fez, Morocco and Association  
Espace Sciences et Vie  
Fez, Morocco, September 25-28, 2002  
[www.bio.unipd.it/~metalpro/fez/confer.htm](http://www.bio.unipd.it/~metalpro/fez/confer.htm)  
[kingcongres2002@iam.net.ma](mailto:kingcongres2002@iam.net.ma)

### *Issues of the conference:*

- ◆ Brain metal ions accumulation in health and disease
- ◆ Brain markers
- ◆ Experimental models in brain research
- ◆ Neurodegeneration, Neurodegenerative Diseases
- ◆ Neurotoxicology
- ◆ Neurochemistry
- ◆ Neuropharmacology
- ◆ Metallothioneins
- ◆ Oxidative stress
- ◆ Trace elements in brain development
- ◆ Neurobehavior
- ◆ Metals and Prions

## 27<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health - ICOH

Iguassu Falls, Brazil, february 23-28, 2003

*Conference theme: THE CHALLENGE OF EQUITY IN SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK*

The keynote conferences (9) and panels (16) will be translated simultaneously into all four official Congress languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese). The minisymposia (60) will be in English; the posters (up to 1000) and the papers (up to 500) may be presented in any of those languages.

Information is available on:

[www.ich2003.com.br](http://www.ich2003.com.br)

## INA-9

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Neurotoxicology Association  
June 22-27, 2003  
Dresden, Germany

[www.ina-9.org](http://www.ina-9.org)  
[ina-9@ifado.de](mailto:ina-9@ifado.de)

The Conference theme is: "Neurotoxicological mechanisms of Occupational and Environmental Exposure"

### *Main topics:*

- Solvents (toluene...)
- Metals (mercury...)
- Organo halogens (dioxins, PCB...)
- Pesticides
- Risk evaluation and management
- Vulnerability, hypersensitivity (biological and psychological factors)
- Combined effects
- Neurotoxicity and ageing
- Neurotoxicants and sensory function (e.g. vision and hearing)
- Neurotoxicants and chemoreceptive function (e.g. olfactory and trigeminal functions)
- Olfactorial pathways of neurotoxicity
- Viral neurotoxicants
- Neuroendocrine disruption (e.g. organo halogens)
- Molecular biology
- Neurotoxicants and neurological diseases (M. Parkinson, M. Alzheimer)
- Neuroimaging

## ◆ The newsletter

This newsletter is compiled quarterly by  
Roberto Lucchini  
Institute of Occupational Health  
University of Brescia  
P.le Spedali Civili 125123 Brescia, ITALY  
Fax: +39030 3996-080  
Tel: +39030 3995-660

Contributions to the newsletter are most  
welcome, preferably as .rtf files via E-mail, or  
on diskette by ordinary mail.  
Preferred file format is Rich Text Format or  
MSWord. The newsletter layout is produced  
using MSWord.

Feel free to contact me when you have any  
questions or suggestions related to  
contributions and/or the contents of this  
newsletter!