

Neurotox News

Nr 6
March 2003



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

Chairman editorial

Dear colleagues,

Following my call for new nominations on March 5, Dr. Roberto Lucchini and I have, until the deadline of March 16, received only support for a continued triennium as secretary and chairman of the committee. As there were no nominations of other candidates, we will now inform the ICOH secretariat about the result of this procedure, and the fact that we will continue our work for the SC Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology until the ICOH Congress in Milan in 2006.

On behalf of Dr. Roberto Lucchini and myself, I would like to thank you very much for the great support that we have received following our recent call for nominations! We will continue to work for an expansion of the committee activities, and increased collaboration with other bodies, such as relevant SCs of the ICOH and also with the International Neurotoxicology Association (INA).

One such activity is participation at the INA9 in Dresden this June, Andreas Seeber and his colleagues at the Institut für Arbeitsphysiologie in Dortmund are organizers. Another activity is to invite the SCs of Occupational Toxicology and of Metal Toxicology to initiate collaboration in areas of common interest.

I am confidently looking forward to another fruitful triennium with our committee, hoping for lots of activities and suggestions from you all!

Best wishes from springtime in Stockholm, where the snow recently melted away!

Anders Iregren

PS. Please note my new contact data in the address list. Our institute moved effective this Monday, March 17, and I spend 50% of my time at the Institute of Environmental Health at the Karolinska Institutet.

Anders Iregren



News from the secretary

The Iguassu conference was very successful and our SC had a chance to organize a very good symposium. Unfortunately we had many free presentations related to our field spread into a number of different sessions of "Occupational toxicology". I personally complained with the organizers about this but they told me that it was due to "difficulties encountered in the organization of the scientific program". Apart from this inconvenience, the meeting was a good occasion to exchange experiences with colleagues from all over the world and particularly from Central and South America. You will find in this issue of the bulletin a detailed minutes of the official meeting of our SC that took place during the Iguassu conference, with many important issues that were discussed. Many people asked information about the membership in our committee and hopefully I will be able to communicate new names of people joining us.

Immediately after the conference we asked all the committees members about the renewal of the chair. We received many messages supporting the confirmation of the current chairman and secretary and I would like to thank you for this warm sign of encouragement. The proceedings of the 8th International Symposium are at a very good stage. Joan Cranmer is doing a great job and I am sure that we will have our special issue of Neurotoxicology pretty soon, together with the separate volume including all the communications in form of short papers.

The preparation of the next 9th International Symposium is also proceeding well as our Korean colleagues reported in Iguassu.

Roberto Lucchini.

We are happy to publish a contribution from Jordi Lorens, secretary of the International Neurotoxicology Association, about the INA membership.

Dear colleagues,

The purpose and objectives of the International Neurotoxicology Association are *"to promote the scientific knowledge regarding the effects of toxic agents on the nervous system and to facilitate the exchange of information among its members as well as among investigators of other scientific disciplines"* (from INA By-laws).

Accordingly, any person with a honest interest in Neurotoxicology is wellcome to join the Association. You can apply for full membership based on either professional experience or publication record.

Predoctoral students can also apply for membership in the Student category. Student membership is free, and the dues for full membership are very small. For application forms and further information about INA, please visit our webpage

<http://www.neurotoxicology.org/>

As Secretary of INA, I will be glad of receiving your filled application or any question you may have about INA.

Sincerely,

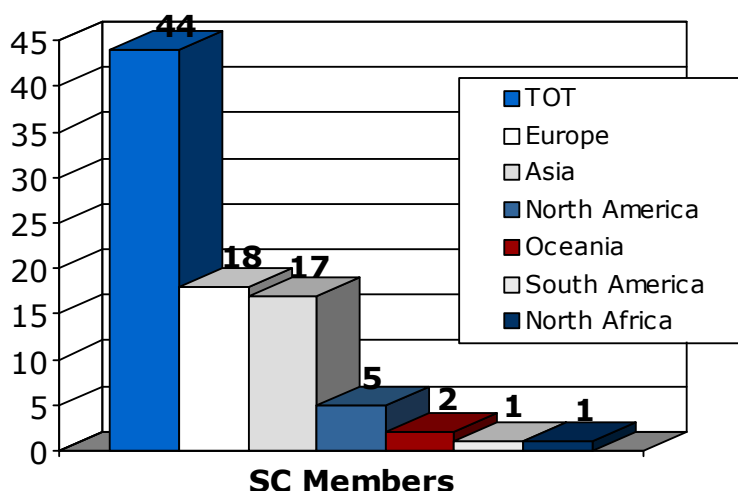
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Minutes of the official meeting February 25, 2003 - Iguassu, Brazil

- Update of the SC membership list
- News from ICOH SC officers meeting
- Renewal of chair and secretariat
- Preparation of the 9th Symposium, Korea
- Suggestions for the 10th Symposium, 2008
- Proposal of a toxicology network within ICOH SC

Update of the SC membership list

At present the total number of the committee's members is 44, divided in the different continents as shown in this graph.



It is evident from this distribution, that Europe and Asia cover almost 80% of the entire membership, with an unbalanced proportion with the remaining areas. This means that a major effort should be devoted towards expanding the committee's membership among South American and African colleagues.

News from ICOH SC officers meeting

The meeting was held on February 22, 2003 during the Iguassu conference.

Two important changes of ICOH By-laws were mentioned: one regarding the possibility by the chairman of a SC to include a "scientific adviser" even if not in good standing with ICOH. At this regard, it was underlined that this type of figure should be clearly identified as for the affiliation, if academical, governmental or corporate, in order to avoid possible conflicts of interest.

The other important change was regarding the possibility to use two separate subscription fees between developed and developing countries, identified on the basis of pro capita GDP.

The possibility that ICOH loans funds for meetings organized by the SC was also proposed. In the ICOH website, a web-page is available for the SC's, so that the space allotted for our committee should be filled with all the information regarding our activities. Thus, our meetings and collaborations, our membership list, and our bulletin NeurotoxNews, could become visible to all the ICOH community.

Renewal of chair and secretariat

The first triennium for the present chairman and secretary is finished, but according to ICOH by-laws, it is possible that the officers continue their work for an additional triennium. Since

Anders Iregren is available for that, a decision was made by the participants to the official meeting that he will write a message to all the committee's members, announcing that he is available to continue as chairman for the next triennium 2003-2006, but also that alternative candidates are possible. In case different candidates will come out, a formal election will take place.

Preparation of the 9th Symposium, Korea

The Korean colleagues are preparing the scientific mainframe of the symposium. They would like to reduce as much as possible the number of parallel sessions, to avoid dispersion. Site visits to different factories will be organized. Subsidiary forms of aid for participants from the developing countries are being considered.

The progress of their work can be followed at: <http://home.kosha.net/~neurotox>.

It was recommended that contacts should be taken with ILO, WHO, EPA and also INA, to continue the good collaboration started in the last meetings.

Suggestions for the 10th Symposium, 2008

After the successful mini-symposium organized by our SC at the Iguassu conference, colleagues from South America asked for more exchanges on problems related to our field, based on the significant exposure to neurotoxic agents that still happens in this part of the world.

After this request, the possibility to organize the 10th symposium in Latin America was evaluated and some ideas came out talking to Raul Harari, from Ecuador, Catarina Wesseling from Costa Rica, who indicated also Nicaragua as a possible venue to consider in this respect. The venue of Costa Rica would be particularly interesting due to the possibility to host at the same time the EPICOH meeting and our symposium as two joined conferences. They could take place in the same week in June 2008, with one overlapping day on "neuro-epidemiology in OH". With the same subscription (or with a little addition), participants could also attend to both conferences.

Another "expression of interest" was manifested by Pavel Urban from Prague.

These very early contacts will have to be developed in the near future, with proper consideration of funding, facilities, location and expertise.

Proposal of a toxicology network within ICOH SC

The need for closer contacts between the SC's of the toxicological area is felt as important in order to make this area more visible and to promote its further development. Official networking of these SC's could be a possibility to submit to the ICOH board, but anyway closer contacts could be made in different forms.

Gunnar Nordberg and Phil Landrigan joined our Official meeting as representatives of the SC on Metal toxicology and proposed that the two SC's invite each other during the next meetings, reserving special spaces in the scientific program. This can be done already within the next 9th Symposium in Korea. The same invitation should be extended also to the SC on Occupational toxicology.

A joined organization of a workshop on the neurotoxicity of metals was also discussed, as proposed by the colleagues of the SC on Metal toxicology. This could be a workshop finalized to the production of updated analyses of the relationship between exposure and effects on the nervous system and in this way it could be considered for funding by agencies working on the regulatory aspects. A more extended outline of this proposal will be soon provided by Phil Landrigan. This could possibly be organized as a satellite post-symposium, right after the next ICOH International Conference in Milan in September 2006.

International Meetings

9th International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health

**September 25 (Sun) - 28 (Wed),
2005, Gyeongju, Korea**

Theme:

*"Linkage between Developed countries and
Developing countries on neurotoxicology"*

Major topics:

Neurobehavioral changes by various
neurotoxic substances

- * Environmental Issues by neurotoxic
substances
 - * Biological Monitoring and Biomarkers
 - * Work Stress related conditions
 - * International collaboration on moving
neurotoxic chemicals from developed
countries to developing
- <http://home.kosha.net/~neurotox>

10th International Conference on Toxicology - ICTX

11-16 July, 2004, Tampere, Finland

July 2001 ICT X First Announcement and
Exhibition information

July 2001 Reservations for exhibition start

Late 2003 Call For Abstracts and Registration
Brochure

February 2004 Abstract deadline.

ICT X Congress Secretariat

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INA-9

The 9th Meeting of the International
Neurotoxicology Association

June 22-27, 2003

Dresden, Germany

www.ina-9.org 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

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*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!*

Committee's members

Listing all the E-mail addresses opens up for creation of SPAM-lists by the use of automated crawlers searching the web for E-mail addresses. To avoid this we are listing each member only by name and country. More specific contact information can be asked to the Committee's officers.

Mahmoud Amr
Cairo Egypt

Kent Anger
Portland USA

Shunichi Araki
Kawasaki Japan

Margit Bleecker
Baltimore USA

Natalia Bobko
Kiev Ukraine

Maria Grazia Cassitto
Milan Italy

Hae-Kwan Cheong
Kyongbuk South Korea

Nicola Cherry
Alberta Canada

Sin Eng Chia
Singapore Singapore

Jamal Darandari
Randwick Australia

Evan Dryson
Auckland New Zealand

Christer Edling
Uppsala Sweden

Xing Gao
Beijing PR China

Fabriziomaria Gobba
Modena Italy

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Mamoru Hirata
Kawasaki Japan

Höglund Gunnar
Stockholm Sweden

Hideki Igisu
Kitakyushu Japan

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Huiqing Jin
Hefei City PR China

Wilawan Juengprasert
Nonthaburi Thailand

Juhani Juntunen
Helsinki Finland

Seong-Kyu Kang
Inchon South Korea

Yangho Kim
Ulsan South Korea

Reiko Kishi
Sapporo Japan

Philip J Landrigan
New York USA

You Xin Liang
Shanghai PR China

Roberto Lucchini
Brescia Italy

Esko Matikainen
Helsinki Finland

Akio Ohnishi
Kitakyushu Japan

Krystyna Pawlas
Sosnowiec Poland

Harry Roels
Bruxelles Belgique

Andreas Seeber
Dortmund Germany

Lance Simpson
Philadelphia USA

Eva Sovcikova
Bratislava Slovakia

Yasuhiro Takeuchi
Chiba Japan

Gerhard Triebig
Heidelberg Germany

Song-Yen Tsai
Shilo, Yunlin Taiwan

Pavel Urban
Praha Czech Republic

Gert van der Laan
Amsterdam The Netherlands

Arne Wennberg
Stockholm Sweden

Kazuhito Yokoyama
Mie Japan