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Dear friends and colleagues,

It is a true pleasure writing this editorial, since many positive things are happening within our committee. As you all know, recently the 9th International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health in Gyeongju, Korea was organized by our committee members Seong-Kyu Kang and Hae-Kwan Cheong and their colleagues. They all did a fantastic job! All aspects of the symposium were very well organized. The scientific discussions, the venue, the social activities, the program for accompanying persons, the industry visits; it was all very successful, and I presume that everybody enjoyed it as much as I did.

A second pleasant task is to present to you the organizer of the 10th Symposium. During the symposium in Korea it was decided to gratefully accept the proposal by Dr. Catharina Wesseling in Costa Rica to organize the next symposium in 2008. (Catharina is also known as “Ineke”.) She will also organize the meeting of the Epidemiology committee within the ICOH, and this meeting will be placed “back-to-back” with our symposium. The plan is to have one day of the two meetings in common, and the program for this day together may e.g. be epidemiological studies of neurotoxicological phenomena. I’m sure you will have plenty of good ideas to propose to Catharina for the 10th symposium!

The third point on my list is the fact that a discussion about the committee leadership was held during the business meeting of our committee in Gyeongju. Since I will have to retire from the post as chairman at the ICOH congress in Milan next year, I asked the 17 members present at the meeting how this issue should be handled. A very short discussion ended with the proposal to have a vote directly at the business meeting. As there was no opposition to this proposal, I accepted the idea. Roberto Lucchini was proposed as the new chairman of the committee from June 2006, and the decision was unanimous. Following this obviously very popular decision, Seong-Kyu Kang was proposed for secretary from June 2006. This proposal was equally popular, and also this decision was unanimous. Following these results of the voting I announced that these results would be published in the next issue of NeurotoxNews. If there is no massive criticism about this procedure before the end of this year, I will send a proposal to the ICOH president, Jorma Rantanen, to appoint Roberto Lucchini as the next committee chairman.

The last very positive thing on my list is the development of the membership of the committee. We’re continuously getting new members, and the committee is thus growing with mainly younger, active researchers in this area. At this time, I’d like to welcome Gaku Ichihara, Eun A Kim, Leslie London, Jonny Myers, Tatjana Novakovic-Agopian, Rita Bast-Pettersen, and Joon Sakong. I want to extend a very warm welcome to these new members, and I sincerely hope that they will find their contacts with our committee and our activities rewarding, socially as well as scientifically!

Hoping to meet you all in Milan next June,
Anders Iregren
From the secretary

Dear committee members,

It is very unusual for me to spend this part of the year in a warm climate. I find myself in California teaching a fall course at the UC Santa Cruz. Here the sun is still warm and the surfers keep surfing, although it is snowing in my home country, and regardless the Christmas lights that start decorating the stores...

During the 9th International Symposium important news came to our attention. You can read a summary of them in the minutes of the Korean business meeting. One of the most interesting ideas was definitely proposed by our Korean colleagues for a discussion list where we may post messages and discuss different issue related to our Committee. The list is actually already in a good shape but still in a draft (or “beta”) version. Our objective is to make it very easy and intuitive. As soon as it will be ready, we will send it to you with all the instruction. You will have to be registered as members of this Scientific Committee.

Many new inputs and comments were sent to me after my call for new ideas and suggestion during the Korean meeting. These inputs will find a perfect place for the discussion in the list!

Another important issue that came out from the Korean Symposium is the need for closer exchange, interaction and open discussion among the members. Organizing meeting every three years may be too episodic and we should think about having a meeting every two years. Our symposia gave an important impulse to the growth of this scientific area and now it is crucial to organize them more frequently.

The planning of ICOH 2006 is proceeding further and we are now able to confirm all the activities that we planned, including: 1) a lecture by Anders Iregren on Past and Future trends of Neurobehavioral Toxicology, 2) a group of four mini-symposia that you can find listed in this issue, and 3) the post-conference workshop on Neurotoxic Metals www.notxmet.it. You can also find the draft scientific program of it in this issue. This looks like a very impressive contribution from our Committee for the ICOH2006 event and I would like to thank everybody for making this real!

Re the new members, the following colleagues have applied for membership after the Korean meeting and are very welcome between us:

- Rita Bast-Pettersen, National Institute of Occupational Health of Norway
- Eun A Kim, Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency
- Tatjana Novakovic-Agopian, California Regional Rehabilitation Center
- Gaku Ichihara, Nagoya University, Japan;
- Jonny Myers, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Leslie London, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Joon Sakong, Yeungnam University, Korea
- Max Vojtíšek, National Institute of Public Health, Prague

Other colleagues are also in the process:

I would like to remind to all new and old members of our SC that an essential requirement for membership is being in good shape with ICOH, namely with the fee subscription! You can find all information on new subscription or renewal in
http://www.icohweb.org/membership.asp

With my best regards,
Roberto Lucchini
From the Secretary of the 9th International Symposium

9th International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health
September 26 (Mon) - 29 (Thu), 2005 Gyeongju, Korea

Dear Committee members,

I’m very pleased to look back our wonderful 9th international symposium. One hundred and ninety six participants from every continent around the world shared advanced work together in Gyeongju, the historic city of South Korea.

Like the meaningful summary of Dr. Anger and Dr. Mergler at closing session, I believe that we took many expressive fruits regarding methodological, toxicological, advanced topics on risk assessment and epidemiological studies on neurotoxicology through one hundred forty-eight impressive presentations.

We deepened our insights for neurological effects of solvent, metals, and pesticides, though which we could revise our knowledge for “what’s going on in welders, painters, even in the general population”.

We could share the recent re-emerging toxic events around the world, so that we could have successful experience for international sharing of neurotoxic outbreaks. I believe this would be a stepping-stone bridging neurotoxicologists. Furthermore, we expanded our ongoing interest to neurotoxic effects on children, the future generation. Those scientific efforts would be useful not only for addressing the neurotoxicants, but also advancing our interest to the prevention of neurotoxic effects.

As all of you knew, I guess, our delights at the symposium comes not only from scientific discussion, but from the international friendship we made in the moon light walking tour on the thousand years-old bell ringing-road.

I’d like to appreciate again to all the participants, who allowed us to make this exceptional symposium.

Seong-Kyu Kang

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Minutes of the business meeting held on September 29, 2005 at Geongyu, Korea

Members present: Anders Iregren, Roberto Lucchini, Shunicki Araki, Mahmoud Amr, Margit Bleecker, Philippe Grandjean, Seong-Kyu Kang, Christoph van Thriel, Gert van der Laan, Hae-Kwan Cheong, Sin Eng Chia, Fabrizio Maria Gobba, Reiko Kishi, EunA Kim, Iman Nuwayhid, Joon Sakong, Song Tsai, Kazuhito Yokoyama

During the business meeting of the Committee, the items on the following agenda was discussed:

1. Report from the secretary, Dr. Roberto Lucchini: The Committee membership is now in good shape after a period of clearance of old “sleeping” members, and a number of new and active members have been added. The total number of members is **49**, representing **26** countries (table 1), from 6 continents (fig.1).

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Table 1: countries represented in the SC membership

![Figure 1: Continents represented in the SC membership](image)

2. The discussion within the SC is kept alive by the newsletter, but there is actually a need for more interaction and communication. The members are asking for more frequent and closer contacts.
3. The Korean colleagues have proposed in this regard to introduce the use of a discussion list on the Internet, with access restricted to the SC members. This would be used to post and read messages related to specific topics of current interest. A discussion list according to this proposal will be prepared by our colleagues in Korea.

4. To increase the frequency of contacts and scientific discussions, the proposal of organizing the International Symposia every two instead of three years could be considered.

5. In addition, the International Symposia could be jointly organized with the International Neurotoxicology Association (INA), to reach a wider audience and better use the resources of both organizations. Informal discussion with members of the INA board will continue, and if they result in an actual proposal, this will be presented to the members before any action is taken.

6. A proposal for writing a book on the history of neurobehavioral toxicology, for the occasion of the next 10th Symposium, was mentioned. No decision was taken.

7. Members of the ICOH board have suggested that the committee publish a book with guidelines for the main neurobehavioral methods to be used for different neurotoxic agents. There is also a need for a further discussion on neurobehavioral methods in general and on the diagnostic criteria for solvent induced effects on the central nervous system. There was no decision on this issue either.

8. The committee chairman Anders Iregren raised the issue of succession within the committee leadership. At ICOH2006 in Milan both Anders Iregren and the committee secretary Roberto Lucchini have served two terms, i.e. six years. There was a discussion about the procedure for nomination of the future leaders of our activities. The general opinion of the members present at the business meeting was that there was no need for much formalized procedures, since the contacts within the committee are quiet frequent and the discussion climate is very open. The 17 members present therefore all agreed to nominate Roberto Lucchini, Brescia, Italy, as the new Chairman and Seong-kyu Kang, Seoul, Korea, as the new secretary. These two persons should be the committee proposal to be sent to the president of the ICOH, Jorma Rantanen, Helsinki, Finland, for a final decision.

9. It was further decided to gratefully accept the proposal from Dr. Catharina Wesseling, Costa Rica, to organize the 10th International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health in Costa Rica in 2008. The symposium will be organized back to back with the meeting organized by the scientific committee on Epidemiology. The symposium will most probably take place in June 2008 in San José.

10. As time was running out, Anders Iregren thanked all the members for their very active contributions and closed the meeting.

Anders Iregren     Roberto Lucchini
MINISYMPOSIUM "CHRONIC SOLVENT-RELATED ENCEPHALOPATHY: SCREENING AND RECOGNITION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE"

Chairs: Gert van der Laan, Netherlands, and Markku Sainio, Finland

- THE RISE AND FALL OF CSE IN NL by Gert van der Laan
- CHRONIC SOLVENT ENCEPHALOPATHY; TOWARDS TRANSPARENT DIAGNOSTICS by Maarten Verberk
- THE PRACTICE AND PROBLEMS OF DIAGNOSING CSE IN KOREA. Seong-Kyu Kang, Eun A Kim, Yeon-Soon Ahn
- SCREENING AND EVALUATION OF SOLVENT EXPOSURE AND NEUROTOXIC SYMPTOMS - AN APPROACH FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES by Ari Kaukiainen
- SOLVENT-RELATED CHRONIC TOXIC ENCEPHALOPATHY: LESSONS TO LEARN FROM CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC EXAMINATIONS by Markku Sainio

MINISYMPOSIUM “RECENT FINDINGS ON NEUROTOXIC EFFECTS OF METALS"

Chairs: Monika Meyer-Baron, Germany; Elena Herrero Hernández, Italy

- MANGANESE: TRANSPORT AND MECHANISMS OF NEUROTOXICITY Michael Aschner, Vanessa Fitsanakis, Dejan Milatovic, Keith Erikson
- ANALYSIS OF THE NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS USED FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE MANGANESE NEUROTOXICITY Silvia Zoni, Elisa Albini, Roberto Lucchini
- DEVELOPMENTAL EFFECTS OF NEUROTOXIC METALS: CONSEQUENCES OF OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES BEYOND THE WORKPLACE Philippe Grandjean
- ALUMINUM - WHICH EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE FOR ITS NEUROBEHAVIORAL IMPACT? Monika Meyer-Baron, Ernst Kiesswetter, Stephan Letzel, Michael Schaeper, Christoph van Thriel
MINISYMPOSIUM “ACUTE AND CHRONIC EXPOSURE TO INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AND SENSORY PERCEPTION IN WORKERS”

Chairs: Fabrizio Gobba, Italy, and Christoph van Thriel, Germany

- SENSORY PERCEPTION: AN OVERLOOKED TARGET OF CHRONIC OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS Fabrizio Gobba
- CHEMICAL EXPOSURE AS A RISK FACTOR FOR HEARING LOSS: IMPLICATIONS FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH. Thais Morata
- SENSORY EFFECTS OF OCCUPATIONAL TOLUENE EXPOSURE IN VIEW OF AN ENHANCED CONCEPT OF ADVERSITY Michael Schaeper
- TESTING THE VISUAL SYSTEM: SCREENING, COMPREHENSIVE MEASUREMENTS IN CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDIES AND CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS (ONLY A PROPOSAL) Markku Sainio
- ASSESSING CHEMOSENSORY PROPERTIES AND EFFECTS OF THE LOCAL IRRITANT ETHYL ACETATE Christoph van Thriel
- PRACTICAL PRESENTATION OF CURRENT METHODS FOR SENSORY TESTING: OLFACTION AND VISION van Thriel and Gobba:
  During this practical presentation the complete set of the Sniffin' Sticks will be available and, if Dick Doty agrees, an Italian and English version of the UPSIT (known commercially as the Smell Identification Test or SIT) will be accessible.
  The Lanthony d-15 desaturated panel and the Vistech test will be also available, and the method applied for "in the field" testing of visual function in group of workers will be presented and discussed. Participants can use the tests and discuss problems of designing epidemiological studies.

MINISYMPOSIUM “NEURODEGENERATION AND METAL EXPOSURE. CASE-CONTROL STUDIES ON ALZHEIMER AND PARKINSON’S DISEASE SUPPORTED BY ISPESL (National Institute Of Occupational Safety At Work, Rome)”

Chairs: Roberto Lucchini, Italy and Antonio Moccaldi, Italy

- ALHEIMER DISEASE. AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE Bruno Papaleo, Lorenzo Alessio, Piero Apostoli, Giuseppe Battista, Roberto Lucchini, Armando Pelleciconi, Laura Marcellini, Patrizio Pasqualetti
- A WEB APPLICATION FOR DATA GATHERING AND STORAGE: A STRATEGIC TOOL FOR A LARGE SURVEY ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORKING ACTIVITY AND ALZHEIMER DISEASE Luca Paulo, Daniele Milazzo, Paolo Maria Rossini, Patrizio Pasqualetti, AFaR-Associazione Fatebenefratelli per la Ricerca, Ospedale Fatebenefratelli – Isola Tiberina, Roma
- PARKINSONIAN DISTURBANCES AND EXPOSURE TO METALS. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AN ITALIAN CASE-CONTROL STUDY Francesco Draicchio, Lorenzo Alessio, Pietro Apostoli, Roberto Lucchini, Giuliano Binetti, Antonella Alberici, Patrizio Pasqualetti, Laura Benedetti, Elisa Albini, Stefano Borghesi, Alessandra Corulli, PaoloMaria Rossini
- PARKINSONIAN DISTURBANCES AND EXPOSURE TO METALS. PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM NEUROCHEMICAL, TREMORIMETRY AND BRAIN MRI ASSESSMENT Elisa Albini, Romana Coccaglio, Laura Benedetti, Stefano Borghesi, Margherita Caci, Annalisa Caruso, Roberto Lucchini, Roberto Gasparotti, Alessandro Padovani, Giovanni Parrinello, Giuliano Binetti, Lorenzo Alessio
- METALS AND OXIDATIVE STRESS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE Squitti R., Binetti G., Ghidoni R., Barbiero L., Albini E., Benedetti L., Melgari J., Cassetta E., Cesaretti S., Lucchini R., Rossini P.M.
NTOXMET workshop: near final program

Scientific organizing committee (members of ICOH SC “Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology” and “Toxicology of Metals”) www.n toxmet.it
Lorenzo Alessio, Italy, Philippe Grandjean, Denmark, Anders Iregren, Sweden, Philip J. Landrigan, USA, Roberto Lucchini, Italy, Gunnar Nordberg, Sweden, Monica Nordberg, Sweden

Saturday June 17, 2006

Welcome from ICOH SCs on N&P and SCTM, and NIEHS
From Lead to Manganese through Mercury: lessons for prevention

1st Session: Lead
The politics of lead toxicology in the United States and the tragic consequences for children
Lead neurotoxicity in children: knowledge gaps and research needs
Low-level lead toxicity: the ongoing search for a threshold
The past, present and future of childhood lead poisoning
CNS effects of lead in adults: new evidence from longitudinal studies of neurobehavioral function and structural MRI
Lead neurotoxicity as results from an Italian multicenter study

2nd Session: Mercury
Overview of mercury neurotoxicity
Mechanisms of disposition of mercury
Exposure biomarkers for methylmercury
Maternal fish consumption, markers of mercury exposure and neurodevelopment in a cohort of Italian newborns
Inorganic mercury and neurotoxicity
Neurophysiological evidence of methylmercury neurotoxicity

Sunday June 18, 2006

Economic implications of metal neurotoxicity

3rd Session: Manganese
Characterisation of welding fumes and their neurotoxic effects
The epidemiology of Parkinsonism in welders
Dose effects of Manganese levels and neurological and neuropsychological function in San Francisco Bay Bridge welders
Manganese biomarkers of exposure
Long-term sequelae of Manganese exposure in former alloys workers
Manganese, arsenic and cognitive function in young children
Parkinsonism from environmental exposure

4th Session: Manganese risk assessment
The global experience with lead in gasoline and the lessons we should apply to the use of MMT
Update on EPA assessment of MMT
Canadian Health Risk Assessment for Inhaled Manganese

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND WRAP UP
International Meetings

SOT Annual meeting
San Diego CA; USA
March 5-9, 2006
http://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/am2006/index.asp

TestSmart

Open Registration Meeting
March 13-15, 2006
Hyatt Regency Reston, Reston, Virginia, USA
http://caat.jhsph.edu/dnt/

28th International Congress of ICOH (International Commission on Occupational Health)
Milan, Italy
11-16 June 2006

2006
MILAN - ITALY

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Neurotoxic metals: lead, mercury and manganese
FROM RESEARCH TO PREVENTION
Brescia, Italy
June 17-18, 2006
www.ntoxmet.it

INBR 2006
Owerri, Nigeria

Institute of Neuroscience and Biomedical Research (INBR)
Announces a Neuroscience Congress:
Environment and the Developing Brain
Owerri, Nigeria
July 10-13, 2006
http://www.inbr2006.org/

♦ 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.
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

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