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President's Corner

Michael McGuigan, MD

Dear AACT members,

As my first action as the new President of the AACT, I would like to thank Donna Seger for her truly remarkable tenure as President of the AACT. Much has been accomplished during Donna's presidency and following her will be a challenge.

Let me introduce myself to you and briefly articulate the goals and objectives for my term as your President.

I received my undergraduate degree (BA) from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) and my medical degree (MD, CM) from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. My postgraduate medical training was in pediatrics at the University Hospitals in Minneapolis and the Tufts New England Medical Center (Boston Floating Hospital) in Boston. During my residency training, I realized that I really didn't know much about the drugs I was using. This realization led to a Fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology at The Children's Hospital (Harvard Medical School) in Boston, working with Dr. Frederick H. Lovejoy, Jr. (who introduced me to the fledgling specialty of clinical toxicology) and the eminent Dr. Peter Goldman. Following my fellowship (and two years in primary care pediatrics), I moved to Toronto, Ontario to become the Medical Director of the Ontario Regional Poison Information Centre at The Hospital for Sick Children. My MBA (specializing in health services management) was completed at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

I am certified by American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Medical Toxicology, and am a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Medical Toxicology, and the AACT. In the past (some of it quite distant), I have served on the governing boards of the American Association of Poison Control Centers, the American Board of Medical Toxicology (the precursor of the ACMT), the Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres, and the AACT. Currently, I serve as the Medical Director of the Long Island Regional Poison & Drug Information Center located at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, New York, and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Toxicology – Clinical Toxicology*.



Dr. McGuigan

The goals and objectives the AACT will work on over at least the next two years can be considered under three categories. Internal

- 1) Develop a "Policies & Procedures" manual for the AACT.
- 2) Develop a "Board Operations" manual. This document will help define the responsibilities of the Board and will be used to evaluate the Board's performance.
- 3) Attract and include newer, younger Board members.
- 4) Develop a mentoring system of training people for specific Board functions.

External:

- 1) Continue improving the relations between the AACT and other organizations.
- 2) Explore the ways in which the broad field of clinical toxicology can have a single voice.

NACCT:

- 1) Bring new people onto the NACCT Program Committee.
- 2) Renovate the Abstract Committee and the process by which abstracts are chosen for presentation.

Future issues of AACTion will provide more details of these goals and objectives. As always, suggestions, input, comments, criticisms, and opinions of the membership are encouraged. This is, after all, your organization and I need your help.

I look forward to an exciting and rewarding couple of years as your President.

2004 AACT Career Achievement Award

Donna Seger, Past President, AACT

William Robertson is this year's recipient of the AACT Career Achievement Award.

Dr. William O. Robertson, a professor of Pediatrics at the University Of Washington School Of Medicine, is first and foremost a teacher. He is former coordinator of the Pediatric Clerkship Program and has received four "Distinguished Teacher Awards" from graduating medical student classes. The 1996 award also designates him as "Teacher Superior in Perpetuity". Dr. Robertson is the

2004 AACT Career Achievement Award

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Medical Director of the Washington Poison Center. Over the years, he has held positions on numerous boards, societies, associations, and is a previous President of the AAPCC. Dr. Robertson has received the prestigious joint AMA/AAP Abraham Jacobi Memorial Award and the American Medical Association (AMA) Doctor Benjamin Rush Award for Citizenship and Community Service. He has received the highest award of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)-the 1998 Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Education.

As a Clinical Toxicologist, he has prepared a bimonthly update column in Veterinary and Human Toxicology. He now authors the commentaries in the same publications' newest section "Robby's Roost". His thoughtful comments at the meeting are well known.

Bill began questioning conventional wisdom at an early age. Born in Brooklyn and raised in a devout Irish Catholic family, his first target for logical analysis were the religious doctrines of his parochial teachers. "That wasn't too popular with either the Christian brothers or my family" he said. Following medical school

at the University of Rochester, he served in the US Naval Reserve. He took a job in pediatrics at Ohio State University in Columbus in 1956, which is where he became passionate about protecting kids from poisons.

He and his wife, Barbara (also a physician), have 5 children and 4 grandchildren. The man with the Mr. Yuk stickers plastered on his ID badges has a dogged determination to identify and challenge any unsubstantiated claim or act of logic.

"Much of it is just common sense, really" he said. "It's just not as common today as maybe it should be. It's easier to market fear."



William Robertson

Meet the New AACT Board of Trustees Members

Dr. Anthony Scalzo was re-elected to a second term on the AACT Board of Trustees. Joining him are four new AACT Board of Trustees:



Bruce D. Anderson,
PharmD, DABAT

Dr. Anderson is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science where he obtained a BS in Pharmacy (1988) and Doctor of Pharmacy (1990). From there he completed a two year Clinical Toxicology Fellowship at University of California San Diego Medical Center and the San Diego Regional Poison Control Center. Dr. Anderson joined the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 1993 as an Assistant Professor and as the Assistant Director of the Maryland Poison Center. He became the Director of Operations for the Maryland Poison Center in 1995 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2001.



E. Martin Caravati, MD, MPH

E. Martin Caravati, MD, MPH is Professor of Surgery (Emergency Medicine) and Pharmacy Practice at the University of Utah. He is the Medical Director of the Utah Poison Control Center and directs the toxicology consult service at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center. He is board certified in both emergency medicine and medical toxicology. He has served on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Poison Control Centers and many other national committees in the area of clinical toxicology. He currently serves as an Associate Editor of the Annals of Emergency Medicine and as a member of the National Poison Center Guidelines Consensus Panel (HRSA).



David
Juurlink, MD

David Juurlink is a clinical toxicologist at the Ontario Regional Poison Information

Center in Toronto, Ontario. He is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Toronto, and a staff physician in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre. He received degrees in Pharmacy and Medicine from Dalhousie University in Halifax, and completed postgraduate training in Internal Medicine, Clinical Pharmacology, and Clinical Toxicology at the University of Toronto. He also holds a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Toronto, and is a research scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto. Having decided at the last possible minute against life as a professional musician, he now spends his leisure time drumming, losing squash matches to much younger players, and explaining to his two young sons that his pager went off "because a boy ate something without asking his parents first."



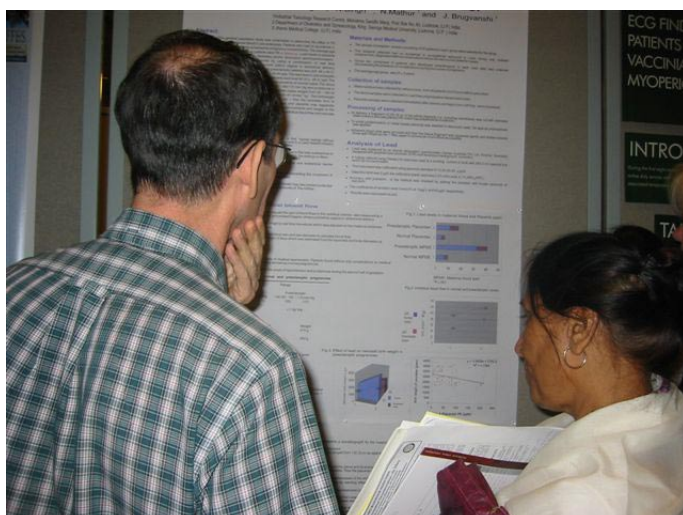
Edwin M. Kilbourne, MD

Dr. Kilbourne graduated with honors from the Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences in 1974 and from Cornell University Medical College in 1978. He trained in internal medicine at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (1978-80 and 1982-83) and did an epidemiology fellowship (Epidemic Intelligence Service) at the Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia (1980-82) in the predecessor organization that gave rise both to the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. He took a staff position at CDC in 1983, and as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, has served CDC and ATSDR ever since. His current title is Chief Medical Officer, NCEH/ATSDR. Ed lives in Atlanta with his wife, Barbara, and four children.

AACT Travel Award Recipients



Dexter Tagwireyi, Ph.D.



Dr. (Mrs.) P.P. Kaul

This year's Travel Award recipients were:

Dr. (Mrs.) P.P. Kaul

Institution: Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, India
Abstract: Intrauterine Lead Exposure in Pre-eclamptic Pregnancies

and

Dexter Tagwireyi, Ph.D.

Institution: University of Zimbabwe, Drug & Toxicology Information Service
Abstract: Differences in Poisoning Admissions Between Urban and Rural Health Centres in Zimbabwe.

Elizabeth Scharman, AACTion Editor, had the chance to briefly interview the two Travel Award recipients to get their impressions of the NAACT meeting and their experience here. Dr. Tagwireyi related that he teaches pharmacy practice in Zimbabwe. When asked what his overall impression of the NAACT meeting was, his response was "overwhelming". He liked the informal atmosphere, the large number of exhibits, and the excellent and in-depth continuing education programs. He also praised the meeting's organization. He stated the programs that start and end on time are not common where he is from. His favorite part of the meeting was the poster sessions. However, his future goal is to be able to provide a platform session. This was his first time in the United States. Although he was enjoying the experience, he was looking forward to going home to be with his

wife. Dr. Kaul, who also stated that she was enjoying the meeting, was also busy speaking with meeting participants who were stopping by to see her poster and to ask her questions about her research findings.

CORRECTION

In reference to Volume 13, Number 2, July 2004 AAC-Tion President's Corner article the following was published incorrectly:

Jan Meulenbelt, Past-President
 Irma De Vries, Treasurer

Other ABAT News

During the ABAT Annual Meeting in Seattle on September 12th, Dr. Michael Ellis was elected Diplomate Emeritus of the American Board of Applied Toxicology by the members of ABAT. Dr. Peter Chyka presented him with a plaque honoring his many years of service in the field of clinical toxicology.



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In Loving Memory

Vernon A. Green Ph.D., DABAT

April 13, 1921 – August 2, 2004

Peter Chyka, Past-President, ABAT

The AACT was saddened to hear about the loss of one of its members, Dr. Vernon Green. Dr. Green passed away at the age of 83 years. While people may be aware of his contributions to the AACT, they may not be aware of his contributions to the American Board of Clinical Toxicology (ABAT). Dr. Green was a founding member of ABAT, a committee of the AACT. In recognition of his pioneering efforts and significant contributions, he was awarded certificate Number 1 as a Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology. Upon his retirement, he was elected To Diplomate Emeritus status.

His pioneering spirit and drive were also applied to his professional endeavors in analytical toxicology and the poison control center movement. Dr. Green helped establish the poison control center at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City in the late 1960's. As the Chief of Toxicology, he directed the analytical laboratory and consulted as a clinical toxicologist with a special interest in botany. Dr. Green was a Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Missouri at Kansas City and shared his knowledge, skills, and attitudes with many students.

He was an insightful, thoughtful individual with an engaging, warm smile, a firm, ready handshake, and a positive attitude that was open-minded and open-hearted. His contributions are many and noteworthy; moreover, his personality and encouragement will be missed.