

American  
Academy  
of Clinical  
Toxicology,  
Inc.



Editor  
Elizabeth Scharman, PharmD

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## President's Message

Milton Tenenbein, MD

### The Folks Behind the Scenes



Jim Mowry, Pharm D.

October's North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology in Montreal was a smashing success. Feedback regarding the educational and social aspects of the meeting has been extremely positive. There are many people who work tirelessly to make this meeting the success that it is but I wish to take the President's prerogative to cite the contributions of Jim Mowry, Pharm D., the Academy's Education Committee Chair. Jim ensures that the educational sessions of the NACCT meet the strict and demanding criteria of physician, pharmacist and nursing continuing education in order that we can offer credits to members of all three of these disciplines.

Jim's work goes beyond preparing for the NACCT. Indeed his is a year around job. He is responsible for the Academy's status as a continuing education provider of both the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and of the American Council of Pharmaceutical Education. I am constantly amazed with the detail required to maintain this status and am extremely grateful for the time and effort that Jim devotes to this task. And of significant importance to the Academy, Jim's committee is one of our few revenue positive activities.

But Jim and his committee shifts into full gear with planning for the NACCT. The months between January and May are particularly busy for meeting planning. The requirements for CE credits for a single discipline are detailed, strict and at times onerous. Yet Jim deals with three disciplines! Issues such as needs assessments, learning objectives and speaker disclaimers are but a few of the requirements for the several speakers of each of our many symposia. The detail to which he scrutinizes the countless drafts of our meeting brochure to ensure that it meets the requirements of these certifying bodies consumes countless hours.

I often wonder how Jim juggles this activity with running his poison center in Indianapolis. We in the Academy owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jim. The next time that you see him, why not say what I say - thanks Jim.

Elizabeth Scharman, Pharm D.

Elizabeth has accepted the responsibility of Publications Chair of the Academy. With that comes the responsibility of being the Editor of AACTion. Welcome aboard Elizabeth.

## Upcoming Meetings

### XXII International Congress of the European Association of Poisons

Centres and  
Clinical Toxicologists

May 22-25, 2002

Lisbon, Portugal

([www.eapcct.org](http://www.eapcct.org))

### North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

September 24-29, 2002

Palm Springs, California

For more information contact:

Contemporary Forums

(925) 828-7100 ext. 3 or visit the AACT  
website ([www.clintox.org](http://www.clintox.org))

for upcoming information on the Call for  
Abstracts and registration information.

# Education Committee News

by James Mowry, PharmD, Chair, Education Committee

## Continuing Medical Education

A **Progress Report** was submitted to the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) in March 2001 with specific information concerning how the Academy has responded to the one concern noted in the July 1999 ACCME Action. This report was acted upon in July 2001. ACCME found that all the elements we were asked to address were brought into compliance. AACT is now in full compliance with the Essential Areas and Elements for Continuing Medical Education.

ACCME has also asked for the input of approved providers of CME on the 1992 Standards for Commercial Support of Continuing Medical Education and a new draft policy on providing CME on the Internet. The latter primarily outlines guidelines for separation of promotion from education, acknowledgement of commercial support, disclosure of relationships, and ethics and usability. This will necessitate development of a policy on privacy and confidentiality in respect to presenting continuing education programs on the Internet.

## Continuing Pharmaceutical Education

As identified by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education, areas needing improvement in our continuing education program include active involvement of participants in the learning process and assessment of participant learning from programs. To address the last area, an experiment to identify the utility of self-assessment questions was undertaken at North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology 2000. Self-assessment questions were provided for many of the symposium. We surveyed all of the pharmacy attendees of NACCT 2000 by e-mail to gather information about their opinions on the utility of this method of learning assessment. The results are in! A total of 69 pharmacists responded to the questionnaire. The questions asked and responses were:

Knew Questions Available	Used Questions?		Find Answers?		Generally Use Self-Assessment Questions?				Effectiveness of Questions (Average)
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Always	Frequently	Infrequently	Never	
Yes	24	22	16	9	1	20	25	0	3.4 out of 5
No	0	23	0	3	2	5	11	5	N/A
(n=69)	24	45	16	12	3	25	36	5	3.4 out of 5

As can be seen, a significant number of pharmacists did not know the questions were available and for those that did know they were available, a little over 50% actually used them. An unfortunately high number could not find the answers that were provided at the end of the syllabus materials. Less than half of the pharmacists responding always or frequently use self-assessment questions. The overall quality of the questions was just above average. Based on this information, the Board of Trustees decided that we would continue to attempt to provide self-assessment questions and improve communication about their use to participants.

## EAPCCT XXI International Congress

The Academy awarded continuing education credit to the following number of attendees to the conference who completed all documentation required by ACCME and ACPE:

Tox Update: 16 physicians, 3 pharmacists

Main Congress: 25 physicians, 5 pharmacists

Certificates of credit for medical and pharmacy credit were sent out in the beginning of August. The evaluations from the conference have been compiled and forwarded to Committee members and meeting and symposium planners in August. Copies are available from this committee in PDF format.

The Academy will again co-sponsor continuing education credit at the EAPCCT XXII International Congress, May 22-25, 2002 in Lisbon Portugal.

## 2001 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

The Education Committee designated the NACCT 2001 for the following number of continuing education credits: Medical 45.5 hours, Pharmacy 44.5 hours, and Nursing 53.4 hours. The Emergency Nurses Association is providing continuing education credit for nurses through the perseverance of Rose Ann Soloway.

Certificates of credit for medical, pharmacy and nursing credit from the 2001 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology were sent out the end of November. If you feel that you should have received a certificate, but did not, please contact the committee at the address below. For organizations that sponsored seminars for the Orlando meeting, the results of the evaluation forms will be sent out in December. If you were a speaker and haven't heard from us about your own evaluation, please contact the committee for your evaluation. An Executive Summary of the meeting evaluation will be available from the Committee.

The Academy awarded continuing education credit to the following number of participants (provisional as of 11/20/01):

Program	Physician (CME/Total Registered)	Pharmacists (CPE/Total Registered)	Nurses (CEU/Total Registered)
AACT Occupational Pulmonary	40/79	7/14	4/9
ACMT The Cutting Edge	87/221	47/88	5/42
NACCT 2001 Main Meeting	130/320	95/142	23/116
Total	135/325	96/145	25/118

## CE for AAPCC's Electronic Continuing Education Program for Specialists in Poison Information (WebCE)

A Letter of Agreement with the American Association of Poison Control Centers about joint sponsorship of the WebCE program has been signed between Association and the Academy

Dan Cobaugh has been appointed to the Education Committee to coordinate this education program. Plans are for the first program to be available soon after NACCT 2001.

*continued on page 4*

# North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology, Montreal

By all indications the NACCT'01 held in Montreal October 4 – 9, 2001 was the most successful meeting yet. Preliminary review of the meeting evaluations indicates that it was almost universally described as a superb meeting. The program committee felt a tremendous amount of pressure after the excellent reviews of the Tucson meeting and was therefore heartened to see the even stronger positive remarks for this year's congress.

The registration numbers were the highest we have ever had. At the present time we don't have the final number of people that actually attended but it appears to be close to 650 registrants. This year was unusual because of the high number of cancellations, particularly involving registrants who had significant international travel. This, of course, was a natural consequence of the events of September 11, 2001. Had all those registrants attended, the actual numbers would have been over 700.

The location and facilities were very positively rated by the registrants. Montreal was considered to be beautiful and hospitable city and the meeting facilities at the Le Centre Sheraton were rated as excellent. It is always amazing to the program committee that no matter how large the meeting facility are in the sites that we choose, it is always a squeeze to get all of the sessions, breakouts, committees, workshops, etc., in one place.

The highlights of the meeting were:

- Pre-meeting courses on Occupational Pulmonary Toxicology and Workplace Evaluations and Critical Care Toxicology,
- A symposia on Sodium Channels in Clinical Toxicology, Common Practices and Beliefs in Toxicology: What is the Evidence?, Controversies in Antidotal Treatments, Global Challenges in Clinical Toxicology, Pharmacogenetics, Children's Health and Environ-

mental Toxicology, Toxicology Laboratory Support for the Acutely Ill Patient, Toxicology Diagnostic and Treatment Dilemmas, Teratology, The Year in Toxicology, The Relationship of Toxicological Mechanisms to Clinical Effects, and Evidence-Based Toxicology,

- The initial presentation of the AACT/EAPCCT position paper on Urinary Alkalinization,
- A program on topics in industrial hygiene and environmental science for clinical toxicologists,
- The Matthew J. Ellenhorn lecture given by Barry H. Rumack, MD,
- The keynote address given by Henry W. Foster, Jr., MD,
- Poison information specialist programs on Veterinary Toxicology and Combating Trauma Associated with Substance Abuse

- A presentation of 237 original scientific papers

The program committee is now actively planning NACCT'02 which will be held at the Westin Mission Hills Resort in Palm Springs, California September 24-29. That is an extraordinarily beautiful time to be in Palm Springs with very warm days and desert evenings that are beginning to cool. The resort itself is reminiscent of the La Paloma, the site of the Tucson meeting. This will be a glorious meeting. Make your reservations early.

## Pediatric Special Interest Group

The Pediatric Special Interest Group met in Montreal. This group reaffirmed its interest in some type of award for the best pediatric paper at the annual meeting. **Michelle Burns** and **Robin McFee** accepted responsibility to bring this idea forth in the form of a proposal to the AACT board, by the mid-year trustees' meeting.

The group considered how to encourage such papers and the barriers of funding. **Ruth Lawrence** and **Loren Garrettson** volunteered to write such a proposal for the AACT Board of Trustees to consider.

**Mitch Ross** agreed to seek potential outside funding for such small, project oriented research pediatric research.

**Suzanne Barone** asked for help getting unbiased child advocates to review proposals of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC gets lots of feedback on its proposals from industry paid advocates. She asked for names to call upon to review CPSC pediatric issues ensure getting responses that include informed voices that are not limited to paid industry advocates.

The floor was specifically opened to hear from younger members about their ideas for the group and needs for support. Younger members who would like to have a leadership role in the group were encouraged to contact **Randy Bond**. Names will be passed along to **Milton Tenenbein** who, as AACT president, has the prerogative to appoint the leader. **Randy Bond** will continue to act as Board of Trustees liaison.

## Board of Trustees

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Milton Tenenbein, MD

### President Elect

Donna Seger, MD

### Secretary-Treasurer

Gregory G. Gaar, MD

### Immediate Past President

Jeffrey Brent, MD, PhD

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Scott D. Phillips, MD  
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Christine M. Stork, PharmD  
Theodore G. Tong, PharmD  
Frank G. Walter, MD

# Membership Committee Report

Our committee continues to explore new methods of increasing membership. As can be seen by the data, our growth has been steady for several years.

Current membership numbers and trends are as follows:

	8/2000	1/2001	9/2001
Active (non-ACMT)	326	333	269
AACT (ACMT)	229	230	233
Student	32	27	24
Emeritus (no Journal)	27	28	27
Emeritus/with Journal	10	10	11
International Members			63
Honorary	7	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>633</b>

## Science and Technology Committee

Because of the events of 11, September 2001, the Science and Technology Committee has put together a series of web site addresses for members. The sites cover many different aspects of nuclear, biological and chemical agents in the contexts of terrorism. The URL's may be accessed from the "members only" section of the home page. Click on "Academy Links" and look for the section called Nuclear, Chemical & Biological Terrorism Resources. These sites all have further links that are useful for the medical toxicologist.

Scott D. Phillips, MD, FACP, FACMT  
Chair, Science & Technology Committee  
AACT

### New Members since March 1, 2001

Barry Hamory  
Bryan R. Kuhn, PharmD  
Cyrus Rangan, MD  
David D. Gummin, MD  
Ernest A. Kopecky, PhD  
Greg A. Bauer, PharmD, MS  
Gregory P. Conners, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Heather Eyrich, PharmD  
Jack C. Clifton, II, MD  
Jan M. Scaglione, PharmD  
Jean C. McGrath, PharmD  
Jeffrey R. Suchard, MD  
Jennifer Audi, MD  
John W. Boja, PhD  
John F. Mahoney, MD, FACEP  
Kirk L. Cumpston, DO  
Larissa I. Velez-Daubon, MD  
Mary A. Mc Cormick  
Michael R. Corbett, PhD  
Michael J. Nicar, PhD  
Robert D. Cox, MD, PhD  
Robert G. Hendrickson, MD  
Stephen R. Bobbink, R.PH  
Steven R. Hansen, DVM, MS  
Thomas J. Higgins, MD  
Thomas R. Lavoie, MD

### Education Committee News *continued from page 2*

#### Education Committee Members

We would like to welcome Dan Cobaugh, PharmD as the newest member of the Education Committee. The committee's members now include the following Academy members:

John Benitez, MD	Al Bronstein, MD	Dan Cobaugh, PharmD
Bob Geller, MD	Chris Holstege, MD	Rita Mrvos, BSN
Greene Shepherd, PharmD	Jack Snyder, MD, JD	
Joe Spillane, PharmD	Jon Thompson, MS	Becky Tominack, MD
Ed Krenzelok, PharmD (for EAPCCT)		
Rose Ann Soloway, BSN, MEd (for AAPCC)		
Paul Wax, MD (for ACMT)		
Ingrid Vicas, MD (for CAPCC)		

As always, you can contact the Education Committee at:  
Indiana Poison Center  
I-65 at 21st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1367  
Phone: (317) 929-2329  
Fax: (317) 929-2337  
E-Mail: [jmowry@clarian.org](mailto:jmowry@clarian.org)

# XXII International EAPCCT Congress, Lisbon, Portugal, 22-25 May 2002

The XXII International Congress will be a very special Congress for several reasons. EAPCCT members voted for this Congress to be held in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, a most attractive city on the banks of the Tagus River and close to the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. The Congress will be held in the Hotel Altis that has superb meeting facilities and modestly-priced high-quality accommodation. This will be the second Congress organized not only academically but also administratively by the EAPCCT Scientific and Meetings Committee. This will ensure that EAPCCT members benefit maximally from the Congress. The Congress will be co-sponsored by the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. The Academy will also accredit the Congress for continuing medical education. EAPCCT members have chosen the themes of the academic programme. The Congress main theme is *Poison-induced organ toxicity (mechanisms of organ toxicity, prevention of organ failure, transplantation following intoxication)*. This theme has attracted considerable interest already with many offers of abstracts.

The XXII International Congress in Lisbon offers an outstanding academic programme in a interesting city. Your participation will enhance the quality of the programme and in return you will be stimulated by four days of the finest continuing education in clinical toxicology. We look forward to seeing you in Lisbon. Why not stay for a holiday before or after the Congress? Lisbon and its surroundings are very attractive to visit.

In order to provide Continuing Education in Clinical Toxicology (CECT), the EAPCCT Scientific and Meetings Committee has arranged a TOXUPDATE.

**TOXUPDATE:** This one-day symposium on **22 May** will include state-of-the-art presentations on:

- Epidemiological methods: Describing adequately trends in clinical toxicology;
- Assessment of risks from environmental exposures: Practical implications in clinical toxicology.

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME MAY 23-25 2002

In addition to oral and poster communications on all aspects of clinical toxicology and poisons centres activity, there will be five state-of-the-art Symposia. The main theme will be *Poison-induced organ toxicity* and abstracts particularly on the following topics are solicited.

### State-of-the-art Symposia

Five state-of-the-art symposia will be held on:

- Poison-induced organ toxicity (mechanisms of organ toxicity, prevention of organ failure, transplantation following intoxication);
- Natural toxins (e.g. marine, anthropod and snake envenomations, and poisonous plants);
- Elimination techniques in the intoxicated patient (focused on the EAPCCT/AACT Position Papers);
- Iatrogenic intoxications;
- Poisons Centre epidemiological studies and consequences for the prevention of intoxications.

Albert Jaeger, President

Jan Meulenbelt, Chairman, Scientific and Meetings Committee

# **AACT***ion*

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