

American
Academy
of Clinical
Toxicology,
Inc.



Editor
Elizabeth Scharman,
PharmD

President's Corner

G. Randall Bond, MD



Greetings from rainy Cincinnati.

Our recent “all electronic” election was a success. I would like to express my personal thanks to all of those who ran for office for their willingness to serve the AACT. They have set a great example.

Importantly, the Bylaws change passed allowing a split of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

Congratulations and thanks to Marty and Karen for their willingness to serve. A big thanks to Marty who has been doing a job that I know is overwhelming for one person.

Officer results:

President: Alan Woolf
Secretary: Karen Simone
Treasurer: E. Martin Caravati

Board of Trustees results:

Daniel J. Cobaugh (second term)
Debra A. Kent (second term)
Robert B. Palmer
Anthony J. Tomassoni

Christine Stork will return to the Board from a leave of absence and will assume the term vacated by Dr. Simone (2007-2010).

In other news, on April 22nd to 23rd the Board of Trustees held its mid-year meeting in Chicago. Marty Caravati has included a summary of key points in this issue of AACTion.

The Board and Executive Committee have been moving forward in reassessing, refining, and re-assembling the support services the Academy needs to operate effectively: office, legal, accounting, and insurance. Some pieces are independent of the Strategic Planning process. Others will be finally addressed as that process is completed. I am pleased with our progress. In addition, the website redesign team is finalizing content and

process to allow a more user friendly environment, including the ability to pay dues online.

The Strategic Planning Committee will assemble July 14th in Philadelphia to hear feedback from our consultant and to work toward the development of a plan. Our consultant, the TCC group, has been working diligently. They have completed surveys of the membership, the Board, the Strategic Planning Committee, and others. The Committee hopes to have a plan ready for Board approval at the annual meeting in Toronto. Thanks to all of you for your input online and in various surveys. Please feel free to e-mail any additional comments to Mike Greenberg (mgreenbe@drexelmed.edu) before the July 14th meeting.

The Special Interest Group (SIG) chairs had a recent conference call to share their experience and plan for expanded roles for the SIGs (see the accompanying article by Alan Woolf).

In March you should have received an email from Informa giving you improved personal access to *Clinical Toxicology*. I know that has been a frustration to some. If any are still having problems please contact our executive, Susie Wilson swilson@pamedsoc.org. The editors and publisher of *Clinical Toxicology* are also making progress with efirst publishing and decreasing the time from acceptance to efirst and print publication. I know that this goal is important to you and we have been working with the editors and publisher to achieve this and to improve the impact factor of the journal. Look for changes and give me feedback.

We are looking ahead to NACCT 2008 in Toronto. See the brochure at http://www.clintox.org/Documents/08_NACCT_Brochure.pdf. The abstracts have been chosen and the symposia set and final plans are being made to the other events on the agenda, including a luncheon celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the AACT! The Luncheon/Annual Meeting (Sunday September 14th) will include a presentation by Dr. Mark Thoman (official AACT historian) on the history of the AACT and a report from the Board. All members are encouraged to put this on their “meeting calendar.” Remember also that we are “going green” this year and are planning to hand out a flash drive with meeting content instead of massive

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What Color Is Your Parachute?

Alan Woolf, MD, MPH

Do you have a special area of interest in toxicology? Want to get together with others who share your interest? The AACT sponsors a number of Special Interest Groups (also known as “SIGs”) that help to define the organization’s broad scope of activities within toxicology. New SIGs must be authorized by both the President and the Board of Trustees (BOT). However, the procedure is easy: it depends simply on the initiative and coalescence of the interests and efforts of a few AACT members who decide they want to establish a new area of shared expertise. Next, they make a proposal to the BOT to form a new SIG. Once ok’d by the Board, new SIGs can qualify for funding requests they may need to sponsor symposia, workshops, seminars, or other teaching activities at NACCT. Functions and activities of SIGs vary, but may include:

1. Providing a forum for members with a specific interest
 - At NACCT in SIG business meetings
 - Via the Internet through a Listserv and web-site
 - Via the AACT newsletter
2. Sharing scientific expertise and information in clinical toxicology topics
 - At NACCT SIG meetings
 - At SIG-sponsored NACCT symposia
 - By ‘curbside consultations’ between SIG members utilizing the Listserv
3. Imparting added value to AACT membership
 - Provide shared resources, e.g., research paper abstracting services
 - Active Internet Listserv
 - Sponsored Website with resource information and linkages
 - Sharing news alerts and media information pertinent to the SIG

- Providing networking opportunities to develop research ideas or new career opportunities
4. Preparing, as needed, any topic papers or position statements pertinent to the SIG to be submitted to the Board for their review
 - Review/update existing AACT position statements that are pertinent to SIG for the Board
 5. Providing a conduit for AACT members to engage in service to the Academy in order to prepare them for future AACT leadership positions
 6. Providing for “ground up” and “top-down” communications between the Board and the AACT membership
 - Conduct member surveys as requested to identify educational needs and other areas requiring member input and opinions
 - Offer new ideas for AACT activities

The current SIGs and their chairs are:

- Occupational/Environmental—Chair, John Curtis
- Snake Envenomation & Anti-Venoms—Chair, Steve Seifert
- Legal & Forensic Toxicology—Chair, Cynthia Morris-Kukoski
- Pediatrics—Chair, Gary Wasserman
- Acute & Intensive Care—Chair, Anthony Scalzo, Sean Bryant
- Herbs & Dietary Supplements—Chairs, Olga Woo, Miguel Fernandez, Alan Woolf

So tell us the color of your parachute! Join one of the existing SIGs. All you need to do is let the Chair know of your interest. Or, get together with some buddies and start one of your own. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

President's Corner

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booklets. That will only disappoint those who like to pay extra to check a second bag with the syllabus.

Speaking of Toronto, it is a great venue with sports, theatre, restaurants, and museums. We are there during an active tourist/convention week so I encourage you to look ahead and to book special events early (especially Jersey Boys or other theatre). The Blue Jays return to face the Baltimore Orioles on the evening of the last day of the Congress

(September 16th). The Toronto International Film Festival ends September 13th. For more information see <http://www.torontotourism.com/visitor/HomePage.htm> and click on What’s On. Be aware that some Toronto events listed are in the greater Toronto area and may be difficult to get to from downtown for an evening (e.g., Stratford, Ontario for the Shakespeare Festival or the theatre at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario).

I trust this catches you up. You should hear more from me as NACCT approaches.

G. Randall Bond, MD, FAACT
President

Two New Faces Will Join the AACT Board of Trustees Following the Annual Meeting in Toronto

Robert B. Palmer, MS, PhD, DABAT

Robert Palmer is presently in private practice with Toxicology Associates, PLLC in Denver, CO. He serves as an attending toxicologist and faculty member for the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center in Denver and holds academic appointments at the University of



Colorado School of Medicine, University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences and University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Palmer has been active within AACT as a session moderator, symposium organizer and frequent speaker at NACCT. He is a reviewer for the *Journal of Emergency Medicine*, the *Journal of Medical Toxicology* and several other medical and scientific publications as well as a contributing author, illustrator and reviewer of four toxicology textbooks. Dr. Palmer is a Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology and serves as an elected

member of the Board of Directors for that organization where he is also the current chair of the Scientific Affairs Committee.

Rob pilots small aircraft in his spare time.

Anthony J. Tomassoni, MD, MS, FACEP, FACMT

Dr. Anthony Tomassoni practices and teaches Emergency Medicine and Toxicology at Yale University. Dr. Tomassoni received a BA degree in Science Education and a MS in Human Biochemistry from Fairleigh Dickinson University where his interest in medicine was born from a foundation of analytical and clinical chemistry. Prior to entering medicine he taught basic sciences and computer applications to gifted students and to educators. He received his MD degree from UMDNJ—

New Jersey Medical School and completed a residency in Emergency Medicine and a fellowship in Medical Toxicology at the University of Cincinnati, tightening his links to chemistry again.

In his previous position at the Maine Medical Center from 1995-2006, Dr. Tomassoni contributed to the growth and certification of the collaborative Northern New England Poison Center which he served as Medical Director. At MMC, Tony also created a popular med student and multi-specialty resident rotation in Clinical Toxicology. He has been an item writer for the certification exam for Specialists in Poison Information since 2000, and is the outgoing Chair of the AAPCC Medical Director's Committee. Tony enthusiastically supports the training and practice of non-physician toxicologists as an adjunct Senior Scientist for the Wise Laboratory of Environmental and Genetic Toxicology at the University of Southern Maine.



Through the Yale New Haven Health System he serves as Medical Director of the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) and the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP). The drafting of diagnostic and treatment guidelines for chemical and radiological emergencies was among Tony's early projects with YNH-CEPDR. Tony's most exciting current project entails developing a proposal for the creation of a sustainable model medical response system to include toxicology and HazMat components for a developing nation.

After work, Tony spends free time outdoors and raises bees and award-winning German Wirehair Pointers.

AACTion

is published by the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology, Inc. exclusively for the use of its members. Articles may not be reproduced without verbal permission from the Editor and/or Executive Director.

AACT Administrative Office
777 East Park Drive
PO Box 8820
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820
(717) 558-7847 (phone)
(717) 558-7841 (fax)
aact@pamedsoc.org
www.clintox.org

Executive Director
Susie Wilson
swilson@pamedsoc.org

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Highlights from the Mid-Year Board of Trustees Meeting

Martin Caravati, MD, MPH, Secretary-Treasurer

New AACT Website: An update on the progress of the new website was presented by Dr. Michael Holland. Online dues payment capability will hopefully be a feature of the new site. Suggestions for new content included: links to special interest group documents and events, NACCT abstract archives, on-line blogs, web casting, online CE, index and search functions, job/career bank, toxicology news section, FACCT application, and video links. A plan for long-term maintenance, integration, and funding of the new website prior to full implementation is underway.

NACCT: There was much discussion of how to keep the meeting fresh, interesting, and of value to the attendees. There is a movement toward an “active learning” model. Smaller group meetings for research discussion are popular (e.g. poster discussions by SIGs). Suggestions to explore new content areas outside of acute toxicity (public health, epidemics, bioterrorism, medication safety/errors, etc) were entertained as well as considering calls for abstracts on specific topic areas.

Role of the Special Interest Groups: Improving the role of the SIGs and their relationship with the Board was discussed. A conference call among SIG chairs for strategic planning and a luncheon at the

Toronto meeting for SIG chairs was planned. Alan Woolf, MD, will be the Board liaison to the SIGs.

Financial Reports: The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity for the periods ending December 31, 2007, and March 31, 2008 were reviewed by the Board. Revenue from dues and conferences remained stable. Investment interest income was increased. Expenses were increased in the areas of administrative salaries, accounting audit, Education Committee, Clinical Toxicology journal fees, and Strategic Planning committee.

Interdisciplinary Outreach: Dr. Bond lectured at the ACMT 2008 Spring meeting. Dr. Sztajnkrzyer is ensuring CE for EAPCCT 2008 meeting. AACT is involved in the EAPCCT meeting through having representation on their scientific committee. The Asian Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT) will meet in India in December 2008 and Dr. Greenberg will attend and lecture on behalf of AACT. Dr. Seger is working with EAPCCT to have topics and speakers at IUTOX in 2010. Dr. Kilbourne was appointed the AACT liaison to the FDA Med-Watch program.

Research Awards: The International Travel Scholarship Award received 11 applications and two will be accepted.