

STC NEWS/NOUVELLES

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From the Editor's Desk

BILL RACZ

Readers will notice some changes in this edition of News/Nouvelles. It is an abbreviated version published to announce a number of important events that will be occurring in the near future and secondly Don Ecobichon's byline "The View From My Canoe" is missing. Yes, as Don informed us in a previous version of the newsletter, he has after many years decided to put down his pen. Don we will miss your articles.

Thank You Don:

I want to thank Don for his contributions to News/Nouvelles. In doing so I will give a very brief outline of Don's academic career.

Don obtained a BSc Phm (pharmacy) in 1960 and a PhD in pharmacology in 1964, both from the University of Toronto. His academic career spanned over 4 decades, with contributions to the University of Guelph, Dalhousie University, McGill University and after retirement Queen's University. Throughout his career he was and continues to be a strong advocate that universities should ensure a strong educational experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Don served the Society of Toxicology of Canada for many years in numerous positions, most notably as Vice President (1977-1979) and also as president (1979-1981). He took on the role of Editor of the newsletter in 1981 and continued until 1997. During this time Don wrote most of the articles for the newsletter and Betty, his wife, typed the document. Don started writing the newsletter at a time when word processing was in its infancy. There are many aspects of Don's articles that I have enjoyed over the past years and will miss. I will miss the timeliness of his comments, his insight into the interaction/relationship between toxicology and politics and economics, his views on the latest controversy, but most of all I will miss his stories.

Don's research interest has focused on the effects of chemicals on mammalian systems and the effects of enzymes involved in disposition of xenobiotics. He had a particular interest in the disposition of drugs and chemicals by fetal and neonatal tissues. These studies lead him to study esterases and their inhibition by pesticides especially the organophosphates. His studies on pesticides resulted in to a more in-depth study of the neurotoxicity of pesticide formulations. His research interest was broadly based from basic laboratory work to determining the drift of a pesticide when it is applied by aerial spraying.

Don has served on the editorial board of several toxicology journals, as a consultant and expert committee member of numerous toxicology panels.

Don we will miss your articles and as you move further into retirement we hope that you will be able to spend more time paddling your canoe.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Report from ICT XI Organizing Committee

Prepared by Mallé Jurima-Romet, President ICT XI May-2007

ICT XI, the event that we have all been waiting for, is less than two months away! It's been almost 10 years since STC first bid to host a second ICT (at the ICT VIII in Paris) and now that ICT XI is almost here, it seems incredible: Where has all the time gone?

The early indications are that it will be a very successful event. More than 1,000 abstracts were received by the submission deadline of April 30th and the vast majority were accepted for poster presentations. Seventy-five countries were represented amongst the submitted abstracts, confirming that the Congress will be truly international! STC should be especially proud of the fact that nearly 150 abstracts were from Canada, most of them submitted by STC members. On the other hand, the number of submitted abstracts from the United States was considerably less than anticipated. Consequently, the abstract submission deadline was extended to the end of May and we advertised 'late breaking abstracts' at the ICT XI exhibition booth during the SOT annual meeting in Charlotte. Our strategy appeared to have worked as we've received about another 150 abstracts, many of them from the United States.

Recently, the Organizing Committee decided to add a Special Session on the regulatory aspects of risk assessment of toxic chemicals to the scientific programme. Entitled "Chemical Evaluation: Assumed to be Safe But Where is the Evidence?", this roundtable session involving speakers from Environment Canada, Health Canada, the EU and the EPA, will discuss recent

government initiatives on the re-evaluation of 'old' chemicals. We expect that this session will attract many government scientists as well as media attention to what is an important issue.

Registration for Continuing Education courses on Sunday July 15th is filling up quickly. If you haven't already registered and are interested in attending a course or two, you should register soon as enrolment is limited. When making your travel plans, be sure to arrive early as you won't want to miss the Opening Ceremony on Sunday evening which includes the Deichmann lecture presented by Dr. Allan Okey, and the Welcoming Reception. "O Night" (Soirée d'Eau) on Tuesday evening features a dinner cruise on the magnificent St. Lawrence river, and the Congress Banquet on Wednesday evening includes a gourmet dinner highlighting unique Canadian 'flavours' accompanied by musical entertainment. Tickets to the Congress Banquet are selling quickly so reserve your tickets now to enjoy a fabulous evening in the company of colleagues from around the world! Details of the Congress program and all social activities can be found on the ICT XI web site at www.ict2007.org. Registrations to attend ICT XI will be accepted right up to the time of the Congress. Please note that the deadline for hotel accommodations is June 1, 2007.



STC Student Awards for ICTXI

Since we won't have an annual STC symposium in 2007, our usual travel and poster awards will be offered to students attending ICTXI. The following awards will be available:

- Two STC Student Research Awards, sponsored by CANTOX; valued at \$500 each, one for a student enrolled in an MSc program and the other for a student enrolled in a PhD program.
- Six STC Student Travel Awards valued at \$500 each to support expenses related to travel and accommodation.

Award applications must be in either MS Word or Corel Wordperfect format, and must include the following:

1. The abstract for the poster which will be presented at ICTXI, for which the applicant must be the first author;
2. The name of the award(s) for which the applicant is applying;
3. The applicant's name, address and contact information, including an e-mail address and daytime telephone number; and
4. The applicant's CV, including the graduate advisor's name, the university and degree program (MSc or PhD, field of study) in which the student is currently enrolled.



Award Criteria/Judging:

Research awards:

- Since there will be no opportunity for judging at ICTXI, award winners will be chosen based on abstract quality (clarity of ideas, data, and conclusions) and quality of research as described in the abstract (approach, innovation, applications, relevance). Prior to ICTXI selected applicants will be interviewed by telephone, at which time they will be asked to provide a short summary of their work and to answer any questions that the judge may have regarding their research.

Travel awards:

- Award selection will be based on Regional-Institutional representation, quality of the abstract and the student's CV, and the level of training with priority given to Ph.D. students. Each institution is invited to nominate one or more student delegates; however, for multiple applicants from the same institution STC also requests that the institution prioritize each of their student delegates.

Eligibility:

- Applicants for all awards must be an STC student member or have applied for membership.
- Applicants must make a poster or oral presentation at the conference.

Award Presentations:

- STC Student Research Awards will be presented after the

- Henderson Award lecture on Monday July 16.
- Due to time constraints at ICTXI, STC Student Travel Awards will not be presented in person at the meeting. Instead, award cheques will be mailed to successful candidates when judging is complete just prior to or around the time of the ICTXI meeting.



Deadline for award applications: June 8, 2007

**Please send applications for both awards by e-mail to Dr. Tim Schrader
(Tim_Schrader@hc-sc.gc.ca)**

STC Annual General Meeting and Dinner Cruise

P. J. DEVINE

The AGM will take place from 7-8:30 am on Monday, July 16, at the Palais de Congrès in room #514A. All members are invited to attend to hear the news and status of the Society and discuss any arising business. The early hour of the meeting will be compensated by having juice, coffee, tea and pastries available. The agenda will be sent out by email before the meeting.

Take an Evening Dinner Cruise on the St. Lawrence!



The STC will be thanking the ICTXI organizers for their hard work by taking them on a dinner cruise on the Bateau Mouche on Monday, July 16! All regular and associate members are invited to join in the celebration for free, and tickets are on sale for participants wishing to bring their spouse or a companion (\$80/person). After the Henderson lecture, we will depart at 7pm from the Jacques-Cartier Pier in Old Montréal, which is a short walk south of the Palais de Congrès. This is an event not to be

missed. The ship will go on a 3 ½ hour tour north on the St. Lawrence, around the Boucherville Islands. The glass-enclosed dining area of the Bateau Mouche will provide stunning panoramas of Montréal and the surrounding area as we listen to live jazz music. A 5-course meal, prepared by Alain Pignard, Executive Chef of the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, will be served, and a cash bar will be open throughout the cruise. The trip will highlight some historic spots and provide a fabulous view of downtown Montréal in all its nocturnal glory upon our return at 10:30. Further details will be coming with registration packages for ICTXI, and more information about the cruise can be found on the website of the Bateau Mouche (www.bateaumouche.ca) or by contacting PJ Devine (patrick.devine@iaf.inrs.ca). Seating is limited, so please reserve your spots as soon as possible, before July 1. To make reservations, please contact the STC secretariat (email: stcsecretariat@mcgill.ca), and please indicate any dietary restrictions that you may have.

STC Award of Distinction Recipient: M. George Cherian

George Cherian has contributed much to the Society of Toxicology of Canada and to toxicology research in Canada and internationally, Professor Cherian has made, and continues to make, seminal contributions to our understanding of the pathobiology of exposure to heavy metals that occur as environmental pollutants, and to treatment with metal-containing drugs. Over the course of his career, George has authored or co-authored more than 200 publications that describe original peer-reviewed research findings, in addition to multiple timely review articles and invited presentations made at symposia. The great majority of his original and innovative publications are in journals of high quality and have direct relevance to the science of toxicology. George has been a world leader in investigating the role of metallothionein in the detoxication and toxication of metals since the early 1980's, and has trained many excellent graduate students and post-doctoral fellows during his career who have gone on to succeed as independent scientists in academia, industry and government.

Professor Cherian has served toxicology research in Canada in many different ways. He has regularly attended and contributed to the annual meetings of the Society of Toxicology of Canada throughout his career. He has served as a member of review panels of toxicology grant proposals for both the MRC/CIHR and NSERC and he has faithfully organized symposia for STC meetings and has served on the STC nomination committee on multiple occasions.

Dr. Cherian has also been a very important "toxicology" ambassador from Canada to North America and the world. Thus, George has served as President, Metal Specialty Section of the (US) Society of Toxicology (SOT) in 1981, and was a Member of the Executive Council of this Section in 1982-3. He also served as an Associate Editor of the official SOT journal, *Toxicology & Applied Pharmacology* from 1989-1994, and as a Specialty Editor for this journal from 2000-2005. In recognition of his many contributions to toxicology in the US, Dr. Cherian received the Lifetime Achievement Award, SOT Metal Specialty in March, 2005.

The Society of Toxicology of Canada takes pride in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of George Cherian to toxicology and the STC.

* Text taken from the nomination letter.