

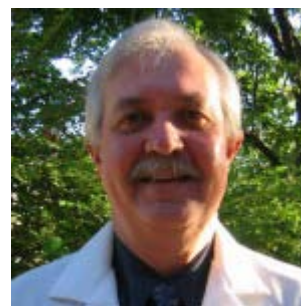
Message from the President:

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TIME TO BE BOLD!

Good morning, AACT members! I am excited to be taking on the considerable duties and responsibilities of the office as your new president. I assure you that it is a very humbling experience to be elected to this position of trust by your friends and peers. And I promise to give 110% of my time and effort to this undertaking. I am honored and grateful for this singular opportunity to make a difference, during this very exciting moment in the history of both clinical toxicology and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.



It is time to be bold! It is time to re-envision the goals of the Academy, bearing in mind the fundamental soundness of our mission. Remember our mission?

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT) was established in 1968 as a not-for-profit multi-disciplinary organization uniting scientists and clinicians in the advancement of research, education, prevention and treatment of diseases caused by chemicals, drugs and toxins.

It is time to take the Academy in new directions, to reinvigorate our partnerships, both new and old, with other toxicology organizations nationally and internationally. It is time to re-affirm the core beliefs we all hold dearly in the Academy, beliefs like professionalism, scientific integrity, collegiality, and respect. It is time to believe and trust in each other as we move forward together.

First off I want to acknowledge that I stand on the shoulders of all those champions of the AACT who have gone before me. And I want to offer special thanks, on behalf of the Academy's Board of Trustees, its committee and special interest group leaders, and its members and fellows, to our newest past-president, Dr. Michael Greenberg. Mike has shown outstanding leadership and accomplishments on our behalf as president these past two years. Mike's record includes a laundry list of accomplishments such as: the offering of new benefits to Academy members, the implementation of the educational 'question of the day', , the revamping and renewal of our website, and the collaboration with new vendors like Wiley Publishers (Hey, People, go to the website and buy a book!).

I know that you will all agree with me that this year's North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology in Denver, Colorado, was one of the best events we have ever held, attracting more than 700 participants. Under Mike's leadership, and in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Scharman, the Chair of the NACCT Planning Committee, we are witnessing exciting changes in the format and offerings, changes that have improved this premier scientific and educational event. During his leadership, the NACCT has 'gone green', using the Internet for registration, for composing the syllabus of educational content offerings, and for evaluation of the symposia by participants. We have implemented new programs in NACCT including a pilot Occupational & Environmental Medicine (OEM) day, the Toxicology History Room, the Simulation in Toxicology Teaching exhibit, and instituting the use of the audience response system in fostering greater audience interactivity during lectures and symposia. All of these have added tremendous value to the NACCT for its participants.

So thanks, Mike, for all your hard work and enduring legacy to the Academy. Before I end this column, I also want to welcome the AACT's new president-elect, Bob Hoffman, and our new treasurer, S. Rutherford ('Ruddy') Rose, to their new roles in the organization. I also want to thank Karen Simone, our dedicated and tireless secretary, for her continuing work. Karen was just re-elected for another two year term, and her outstanding service, much of it behind the scenes, must be acknowledged. The Board also welcomes three new members, Kennon Heard, Richard Weisman and Ken McMartin, who will pledge their diligent efforts on behalf of AACT for the next three years. And I want to thank sincerely our Board members, Drs. David Juurlink, Chris Holstege and Rob Palmer, who are now stepping down from their Board responsibilities. We truly appreciate your fine efforts in representing the interests of the membership.

All of these individuals and many others: chairs and members of the AACT committees and special interest groups, who devote their time and energies to the work of the Academy. All of these colleagues too have earned and deserve our thanks.

And now it is time to be bold! I want to tap into your spirit and creativity. Get involved in your organization; together we can aim high--to continue to find ways to make the AACT the respected voice of clinical toxicologists in the future. I welcome your comments, criticisms (really!), ideas, and solutions as we journey together. Get involved with us, and help us to lead the Academy into its future.