



Inside...

2
ABAT After 15 years

3
*Education Committee
News*

4
*Education Committee
News*

President's Corner

Milton Tenenbein, MD

McGuigan - New Editor of Clinical Toxicology

Michael McGuigan has just been appointed as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Toxicology Clinical Toxicology*, the official Journal of the Academy and of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists. Michael is an internationally known and respected senior clinical toxicologist who recently assumed the directorship of the Regional Poison Center in Long Island. For many years prior to that, he was the Director of the Regional Poison Centre in Toronto. Michael's extensive background as a clinical toxicologist and his publishing experience make him an ideal editor for our Journal. Please join me in congratulating Michael on his appointment and in wishing him a long and productive career as the Editor of *Clin Tox*. Let us all remember to support our Journal by submitting our quality manuscripts for publication. The quality of our Journal is chiefly a product of the quality of its submitted manuscripts.

The appointment of Michael signals the passing of the torch. Carol Angle has retired as Editor-in-Chief after many years and countless hours of hard work and selfless dedication. Under her leadership, *Clin Tox* made huge strides in its growth and development. Evidence of its increased stature in the world of Journal ratings is the recent improvement of its citation index. In recognition of her years of devotion to *Clin Tox*, I know that all members of the Academy will join me in my heart felt—"Thanks Carol".

North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

NACCT 2002 will be held at the beautiful Westin Mission Hills Resort at Palm Springs California from September 24 – October 2, 2002. The Congress proper is Thursday through Sunday, September 26-29. It is preceded by the ACMT and AACT pre-meeting symposia on September 24th and 25th and followed by a post-meeting Advanced Hazmat Life Support Course on September 30 – October 2, 2002. NACCT 2002 will present: multiple symposia; a "boot camp" on nuclear, biologic and chemical agents of mass destruction, hundreds of peer-reviewed original research presentations, and meetings of interest groups relating to various areas of clinical toxicology. There will be an Opening Reception, a Keynote Lecture and Breakfast, a President's Reception, a Quiz Bowl, papers from the Toxicology History Society, and special social events.

For more information, please go to our web site www.clintox.org.

Midwinter Board Meeting

The AACT Board of Trustees had its annual midwinter meeting in San Antonio, Texas on April 12-13th at the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel. This venue was chosen because it is under consideration as a potential choice for a future NACCT. Thus the Executive Committee took the opportunity to complete a site inspection and it remains as a potential choice.

There were the usual standing and ad hoc committee reports. Some highlights of the board meeting include a very positive report from our Finance Committee. Our Education Committee, under the guidance of Jim Mowry, has been very active in maintaining the accreditation of ACCME (Medical), ACPE (Pharmacy) and EDNA (Nursing) for NACCT. The Publication Committee reported on the pending retirement of the Editor-in-Chief of *Clinical Toxicology* and the current negotiations with Marcel Dekker regarding renewal of our sponsorship contract. There were reports from various AACT interest groups. The Board also passed a document that describes the methods for producing position statements. In summary, this was a productive Board Meeting that prioritized the work of the Academy for the immediate future.

AACT Multi-Center Grant

I am pleased to announce that Andrew Dawson was the successful applicant for this grant. The title of his proposal is "Randomized Trial of Treatment of Serotonin Toxicity". The grant of \$25,000 was recently awarded. Congratulations Andrew, we all look forward to the presentation of your results at a future NACCT.

Upcoming Meetings

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

ABAT After 15 Years

Jay L. Schauben, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT, Immediate Past-President, American Board of Applied Toxicology; Clinical Professor and Director, Florida Poison Information Center—Jacksonville; Shands Jacksonville Medical Center; University of Florida Health Science Center—Jacksonville

As the 2002 NACCT meeting this fall will draw to a close, two milestones ... one very special to me, and one with a more global perspective ... will pass. On the personal note, my work as a member of the ABAT Board of Directors will be over. Having served as both a board member and then the six year trek through the Presidency commitment, I have been directly involved in ABAT Board business for almost 11 years. On the more global scale, the close of this next meeting will also mark 15 years since the first certification examination was prepared and administered by the American Board of Applied Toxicology.

Given these two simultaneous events, Elizabeth Scharman asked if I could lend my perspective on these through a column in this newsletter. Those of you who know Elizabeth well, also know that you definitely want to keep the number of times you say “no” to her at a bare minimum. So here we go.

The year is 1987; the place is Vancouver, British Columbia. Among the many practitioners traveling to this beautiful city (with fantastic weather during this meeting, by the way) for the NAACT conference were seven individuals who were probably not in the same mindset as the other travelers. For some unknown reason these seven applied for credentials to sit (as guinea pigs) for the first certification examination administered by the American Board of Applied Toxicology. I can still remember not caring that I had to change planes twice and make 2 additional stops to get to Vancouver ... more time for me to study on the plane! As the time for the exam grew nearer and I reviewed my books of notes, now frayed and highlighted with no less than 4 different colors, I began to formulate various excuses which could be used on my colleagues back home to explain why I was not successful. Who were the others “brave” enough to tackle the upcoming 2-day examination, you ask? Well, a few other somewhat low-key individuals you may have heard of, which included Ed Krenzelok, Richard Weisman, Sven Normann, Tony Manoguerra, and Mary Ann Howland ... just to name drop a few.

Were we all nervous, concerned ... scared? At first, I believe we all were, although we tried not to show it. That all changed after the first exam session. Rich Weisman commenting ... “I thought I knew this ____ (beep)!” Ed, walking with head down looking at the floor, remarking multiple times “This is going to be embarrassing.” Sven Norman, trying to remain positive and upbeat ... but I don’t think anyone was paying much attention. Though we were all stripped of our confidence over those memorable two days, we survived and an excellent majority of the seven were to receive good news. Now, I am very glad that we have since changed our methods for letting the candidates know their results. You see, Joe Veltri, who I must give profound credit for working with the AACT Board and “creating” ABAT, delivered my results. Joe found me wandering aimlessly in the hotel lobby the next day. He came over, and in a very fatherly-like fashion, placed his arm around me and asked, “Can we walk a while?” He proceeded to thank me profusely for being part of the initial group. He was commenting on how difficult it was to prepare and administer an exam such as this, especially for practitioners with a wide variety of backgrounds. He offered his thoughts on how the examination process and its content would have to be reviewed and revised, fine-tuned and polished to insure it works within the stated goals of ABAT. He appeared very focused, pensive, ... serious. I, at this time began to practice all the excuses I had dreamed up during the day of the exam. I wondered which one would work best when I got back to Jacksonville. Joe continued with “You know, we knew that not everyone would be able to successfully navigate this process...” My heart is now in my throat, my sphincter tone is a 12+, my mouth is dry ... and I want to cry. “Some will do better next time around” he said. That was it ... I now have to choose which excuse I will use! “But, you don’t have to worry about that ... you did fine!” His voice now devoid of its initial

monotone, his face beaming ... in fact smirking ... and I wanted to strangle him. Fearful he might withdraw my pass designation, I just looked at him and said “thanks, Joe. I enjoyed it.” What a crock! ... but that’s what came out of my mouth.

Well, that marked the end of the first ABAT exam ... 15 years ago. Thankfully, the processes, the Board, the membership, and the goals and focus of ABAT have evolved greatly since then. Growing pains, challenges, thoughts and aspirations for future growth have moved the organization in what I believe has been the right path. I have been lucky enough to have been granted permission by you to be a part of this maturing process ... and in the last few years, to have been able to lead it. The Board members I have worked with have done an exceptional job in representing you and in directing the path we have taken. Over the past several years ... and not to diminish the work done in the past ... we have several major accomplishments to be proud of. The examination process has been totally revamped utilizing the expertise of a psychometrician. An incredible effort by the Board members and general membership completely transformed the examination. The process has yielded a defensible examination effort with appropriate specification tables and guides used to write and evaluate questions. We have developed a web presence with considerable information and self-evaluation tools for those interested in credentialing for the ABAT examination. The entire credentialing process and the criteria used for the evaluation of potential candidates has been transformed into a defensible, solid platform for review. Much of the credit for this goes to Bruce Anderson and his credentialing committee, who have spent a considerable amount of time in refining this process. On the other side, the recertification process has also been refined and tightened. Tony Manoguerra and his committee’s efforts have brought this process to a manageable and fully electronic entity. Another significant highlight has been our ABAT symposium. In recent years, this program is among the highest ranked ... and in some years, THE highest ranked, symposium at the NACCT meetings. I am compelled to recognize Richard Thomas for turning this effort into a world-class event some years ago and to the subsequent committees and chairs for continuing the mode of excellence on our behalf. The “ABAT President (email/fax) Newsletter” I began some years ago, and its transition to the current ABAT News (email) has done much to keep us all in touch, informed and focused on issues regarding ABAT and its members.

On a different scale, most of us will not miss the ABAT Breakfast meeting at 6:00 a.m. or so, finding more of us awake for the ABAT lunches over the past few years. Our current president, Nancy Matyunas has done much to streamline the Board processes, cutting the amount of time (and expense) for board meetings while keeping efficiency high.

These changes don’t happen easily. Although I mention a few names here, I acknowledge the efforts of all Board Members, present and past, as well as all committee members from the general membership and credit them with these accomplishments. I also would like to recognize the AACT Board for their unparalleled support of ABAT throughout my tenure of service.

So as I leave office, I am confident of our organization’s future. I say this because I see the quality of the ABAT “younger” members destined to take over. We are a diverse group of practitioners with sometimes very divergent opinions ... but I do believe we all have the same goals in mind. Although there will be a void created in my professional life as I leave that last Board meeting this fall ... a sadness that I will not be as intimately involved as in the past ... I am comforted and encouraged by the fact that for the first time in 12 years, I will be able to finally attend a pre-conference symposium!

Happy Birthday ABAT and thanks for your confidence in me.

Education Committee News

James Mowry, PharmD, Chair, Education Committee

2002 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology

All symposia at the Palm Springs meeting are in the final stages of planning at this time. We anticipate offering approximately 46 to 47 hours of continuing education credit for pharmacists and physicians. We are working closely with the Emergency Nurses Association to obtain continuing education credit for nurses. Information on the number of hours available for nurses has not been finalized at this time.

Important Information for Presenters at NACCT

You will be receiving a packet from Contemporary Forums under the NACCT letterhead with an informational letter about your presentation and materials required from you, and a speaker's packet containing the forms to submit and general guidelines for presentations. If you do not receive this packet by April 30th, please let us know. Please note the following deadlines for information to be submitted to Contemporary Forums:

- General information submission from speakers—**May 30, 2002**
- Syllabus materials / questions submission—**July 24, 2002**

The syllabus material deadline is **very important**, as we must have sufficient time to print and compile the information.

Continuing Medical Education

The Academy is scheduled for reaccreditation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) in July 2003. The reaccreditation self study submission will be due sometime in late 2002 or early 2003. ACCME has asked for the comment and input of approved providers of CME on a system to assess "content validation", that is, that the content of CME is scientifically based, valid and relevant to the practice of medicine. This content validation would ultimately become a criterion for continued ACCME accreditation.

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

The first program has been approved for continuing education credit, but has not yet been released for the use of AAPCC and AACT members. Additional testing is being done at this time to insure that the system will work without problems.

NACCT 2002

The Academy will co-sponsor continuing medical and pharmaceutical education credit at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology held in Westin Mission Hills, Palm Springs, California on September 24-29, 2002. The programs approved for continuing education credit included the following:

Date	Session & (ACPE Program Number)	Credit Hours
Thursday, Sept. 26	NBC Boot Camp: Workshop on Radiation/Nuclear Terrorism (225-000-02-006-L01)	4.0
Thursday, Sept. 26	SPI Symposium: Cardiology for SPI's (225-999-02-007-L01)	2.0

Friday, Sept. 27	AACT Occupational/Environmental Symposium: Mycotoxins in the Indoor/Outdoor Environment (225-000-02-011-L01)	2.0
Friday, Sept. 27	AACT Acute/Intensive Care Symposium: Toxicology Treatment Dilemmas (225-000-02-012-L01)	2.0
Friday, Sept. 27	ACMT Practice Symposium: Not just a Hobby—The Well-Diversified Toxicology Portfolio (225-999-02-013-L04)	2.0
Friday, Sept. 27	SPI Roundtable: Phone Triage, Documentation and Treatment—Legal Liability (225-999-02-014-L04)	2.0
Saturday, Sept. 28	AACT Year in Toxicology (225-000-02-015-L01)	1.5
Saturday, Sept. 28	NBC Boot Camp: Workshop on Chemical Terrorism and Warfare Agents—Part 1 (225-000-02-020-L01)	2.0
Saturday, Sept. 28	NBC Boot Camp: Workshop on Chemical Terrorism and Warfare Agents—Part 2 (225-000-02-020-L01)	2.0
Saturday, Sept. 28	ASCEPT Symposium: Observation Medicine and Toxicology Treatment: Developing Emergency Observation Unit Based Toxicology Treatment Services (225-999-02-018-L01)	2.0
Saturday, Sept. 28	ABAT Symposium: Evaluation of Oximes in Organophosphate Poisoning (225-000-02-019-L01)	2.0
Sunday, Sept. 29	NBC Boot Camp: Workshop on Biological Terrorism and Warfare Agents—Part 1 (225-000-02-023-L01)	2.0
Sunday, Sept. 29	CAPCC Symposium: Challenging Current Paradigms in Toxicology Practice and Research (225-999-02-021-L01)	2.0
Sunday, Sept. 29	EAPCCT Symposium: Mechanisms of Organ Toxicity (225-999-02-022-L01)	2.0
Sunday, Sept. 29	NBC Boot Camp: Workshop on Biological Terrorism and Warfare Agents—Part 2 (225-000-02-023-L01)	2.0
Sunday, Sept. 29	IPCS Symposium: Bridge between Regulatory and Clinical Toxicology (222-999-02-024-L04)	2.0
Sunday, Sept. 29	NLM Symposium: Digital Resources for Clinical Toxicology (225-999-02-026-L04)	2.0

continued on page 4

AACTion

American Academy of Clinical Toxicology
777 E. Park Drive
PO Box 8820
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820

Board of Trustees

President

Milton Tenenbein, MD

President Elect

Donna Seger, MD

Secretary-Treasurer

Gregory G. Gaar, MD

Immediate Past President

Jeffrey Brent, MD, PhD

Trustees

G. Randall Bond, MD
Richard F. Clark, MD
Timothy Erickson, MD
Mary Ann Howland, PharmD
Christopher Linden, MD
Anthony S. Manoguerra, PharmD
James B. Mowry, PharmD
Scott D. Phillips, MD
Anthony J. Scalzo, MD
Christine M. Stork, PharmD
Theodore G. Tong, PharmD
Frank G. Walter, MD

Education Committee News

continued from page 3

Education Committee Members

The committee's members now include the following Academy members:

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

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.com.

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 E 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
Anne Shambaugh
ashambaugh@pamedsoc.org

Administrative Secretary
Martha Souders
msouders@pamedsoc.org

Copyright 2000. American Academy of Clinical Toxicology, Inc.