



Editorial

Dear ESTIV members,

Here is a new ESTIV Newsletter inviting you all to join the 16th International Congress on *In Vitro* Toxicology - ESTIV 2010 in Linz. This is a great opportunity for us to meet and discuss our current research results and plan our future investigations.

Dr. Richard Clothier is this year recipient of the Björn Ekwall Memorial Award 2010 for his outstanding contribution in the field of *in vitro* toxicology, in particular with respect to development, implementation and validation of alternative toxicity test methods and for his substantial contribution to the FRAME Research Programme. Congratulations! We are looking forward to awarding also the most innovative work of our young scientists.

I would like to thank all members for their contribution to this Newsletter and if you want to take up a more active role in our society, you are invited to express your interest for being nominated as a member of the Executive Board of ESTIV.

After five years of editing ESTIV Newsletter also my position will now be taken over by a new member. Therefore, I would like to express my gratefulness to all of you for your collaboration. Especially I would like to thank Hasso Seibert who encouraged me to continue his work. It was a great pleasure!

I am looking forward to following the activities of ESTIV in the future and to meeting you again.

Best wishes,

Sonja Jeram

Message from the president

Dear Colleagues,

While we are waiting for a long and hot summer, we are also preparing for our 16th International Congress on *In Vitro* Toxicology - ESTIV 2010. ESTIV2010 is organized together with our colleagues from EUSAAT (the European Society for Alternative to Animal Testing) and the Austrian Centre for Alternative and Complementary Methods to Animal Testing. Our previous ESTIV president, Prof. Horst Spielmann will host the congress.

It is important to take the opportunity of ESTIV2010 to review the actual state of the science of alternative tests. Ahead of us we have 3 important legislative issues which are building on advances in the science of alternative tests. 1) There will be the update of the EU legislation on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes ([Directive 86/609/EEC](#)). 2) We approach the deadline of 2013 for further testing ban on cosmetics. 3) The REACH program is now fully active and promotes alternative methods for assessing hazards as "testing on vertebrate animals shall only be undertaken as a last resort". We need to fill gaps in our alternative test strategies. A new vision on toxicology in the U.S., introduced a paradigm shift by which *in vitro* analytical approaches are seen as the best hope for evaluating the enormous back log of untested chemicals. In Europe, the firmly established basis of *in vitro* toxicological research is reassembling and with the help of EU sponsored research and coordination programs a European network, is being created to join a new global initiative on toxicity testing. We need ESTIV scientists to be at the fore front of these new developments.

I look forward to welcome you in Linz,

Greet Schoeters
 President of ESTIV

ESTIV 2010

September 2-4, 2010,

University of Linz, Austria

<http://www.estiv.org/>, <http://www.eusaat.org/index.php/2010>



<http://www.linz.at/>

Congress Linz 2010 - EUSAAT 2010 - ESTIV 2010

<http://www.estiv.org/>
<http://www.eusaat.org/index.php/2010>

September 2-4, 2010, University of Linz, Austria

16th International Congress on *In Vitro* Toxicology - ESTIV 2010
13th Annual Congress of EUSAAT - EUSAAT 2010
16th European Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing - Linz 2010

I.

Toxicological effects

- Topical toxicity & sensitisation
- Metabolism & toxicokinetics
- Target-organ toxicity including acute, chronic and repeated dose toxicity testing
- Reproductive & developmental toxicity
- Ecotoxicology and bioanalytical techniques in environmental monitoring
- Toxicity testing of biologicals

II.

Novel approaches/ methodologies

- Pathway discovery and analysis
 - *Toxicology in the 21st century - pathway discovery*
 - *-omics - a way to identify markers for toxicity?*
 - *Systems biology*
 - *Correlation with human data*
 - *High throughput screening*
- Progress in the use of stem cells (embryonic and adult) for the development of alternative testing methods
- Alternatives to the production of antibodies
 - *Limitations of the current legislation in Europe*
 - *Polyclonal and monoclonal use to identify novel proteins*
 - *Animal welfare issues*

III.

Cross-cutting issues

- Legal and ethical questions
- Nanotoxicology / Nanobiotechnology
- Quality in *in vitro* toxicology (*GCCP & serum free media, Evidence based toxicology, Validation of testing strategies / alternative methods*)
- Testing strategies, QSARs, in silico, databases & information sources

IV.

Regulatory application of alternative methods

- Round table discussions on a subject which is up-to-date
Cosmetics Directive, REACH or Revision of the Directive 86/609/EEC

V.

Free communications

Travel Bursaries ESTIV2010 and Student Session

To encourage active participation of undergraduate students in scientific fora and to stimulate exchange of information among students, ESTIV will provide 5 travel bursaries of 250 Euros each.

Students who have not yet completed a Ph.D and who submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation are eligible for a travel bursary and should indicate this when they register at the congress web site. You are also requested to send your abstract, CV and motivation why you think you deserve the travel bursary to the ESTIV Board: secretary@estiv.org

Recipients of the bursaries will be chosen on the basis of the submitted abstracts. **Winners will be informed before June 30, 2010.** In addition to the bursary, as a recipient you will get the opportunity during the student session of ESTIV2010 to present your current results in a nutshell and to introduce your institute and its *in vitro* toxicology-related activities in a 10 minute presentation. You will acquire experience of presenting the very essence of your results/work orally to an international audience. The student session aims to provide the students with a clear and concise insight into *in vitro* toxicology areas that they are not (yet) familiar with and to obtain information about *in vitro* toxicology in different institutions around Europe.

Young Scientist Award ESTIV2010

In recognition of excellence and to encourage young researchers for active dissemination of their work, ESTIV and Elsevier present following awards:

- **Award of the European Society for Toxicology *in Vitro* and Elsevier Young Scientist Award for the best oral presentation** at the ESTIV2010 congress. The award includes a one year subscription to "*Toxicology in Vitro*", the official journal of ESTIV, and 500 Euros.
- **Award of the European Society for Toxicology *in Vitro* and Elsevier Young Scientist Award for the best poster presentation** at the ESTIV2010 congress. The award includes a one year subscription to "*Toxicology in Vitro*", the official journal of ESTIV, and 500 Euros.

In addition to receiving the specific award, recipients are honored at the Awards Ceremony during the closing session of ESTIV2010 (September 4, 2010). The ESTIV newsletter and the ESTIV web site will report on their work.

Young scientists are students who are working towards a Ph.D. You should indicate whether you are eligible for the young scientist award, when you register for the congress.

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The Björn Ekwall Memorial Award 2010 Dr. Richard Clothier

In recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of *in vitro* toxicology, in particular with respect to development, implementation and validation of alternative toxicity test methods, and for his substantial contribution to the FRAME Research Programme **Dr. Richard Clothier** is the recipient of the Björn Ekwall Memorial Award for the year 2010.



Dr. Richard Clothier

Richard Clothier substantially contributed to the field of *in vitro* toxicology by developing alternative assays for replacing animal toxicity testing, e.g. Neutral Red Uptake (NRU) and Neutral Red Release (NRR) tests for basal cytotoxicity, the Fluorescent Leakage assay, Alamar Blue (Resazurin) metabolism test for toxicity and many others.

ASCCT - The America Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology

Inspired by the long and collegial history of European societies such as ESTIV and MEGAT, the Institute for *In Vitro* Sciences and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, two North American organizations, have collaboratively created a new scientific society, the American Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology (ASCCT). The ASCCT aims to build on the success of European and Asian societies and the growing interest in advancing toxicology for practical, scientific, and ethical reasons.

The practical challenges of assessing a very large and growing inventory of substances in the industrial chemicals market is being felt already by the EU under REACH. The U.S. will likely soon face new legislation compelling producers to gather more information on neat substances and mixtures. The effects of the REACH, the Cosmetics Directive, and stirrings of restrictions on the testing of household products also promise to affect U.S. companies. Now is the time to capitalize on this opportunity to bring interested professionals together to accomplish the advances in toxicology that are needed to meet these challenges.

The ASCCT will provide an organized forum for discussion of cellular and computational toxicology approaches especially as replacements for animal based toxicology methods. Through regular meetings and activities, the Society will facilitate the development, acceptance and routine use of *in vitro*, *in silico*, and other "alternative" toxicological test methods.

Achieving the paradigm shift called for by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in its 2007 report *Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: A Vision and Strategy* will require cooperation and coordination among scientists from cellular, molecular, and computational disciplines and the regular participation of regulators and public interest groups. Topics from green products development, to an interest in increasing the success of pharmaceutical candidates in the clinic, to nanomaterials call for more cross-sector collaboration than ever before. The ASCCT wishes to help foster this coordination by bringing together scientists and professionals from regulatory, industry, and advocacy backgrounds and pharmaceutical, chemical, and cosmetic sectors. In doing so we hope to create opportunities for discussion and collaboration that will foster innovative research into and development of new toxicology testing methods.

The development and validation of new toxicology methods is only the starting point for those wishing to replace animals in toxicity testing. Consequently, a key

mission of the ASCCT will be to increase the routine application and use of computational and cellular methods for prioritization, classification, and risk assessment purposes.

The Society will host regular meetings and offer an e-newsletter as a starting point for member collaboration. We envision the development of other initiatives as the Society grows, such as fostering support for young scientists in cellular and computational toxicology. While the Society is North America-driven and focused, we naturally wish to invite the participation of our European colleagues and hope to learn from your experience. The ASCCT is now accepting Founding Member inquiries, and also invites individuals scientists to sign up for more information on the web at www.ascctox.org. Individual memberships will be offered shortly. We hope you will join us in making "alternative" mainstream!



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iSUP2010

In the medieval Belgian city of Bruges, VITO (The Flemish Institute for technological research) organized the 2nd International Conference on Innovation for Sustainable Production, I-SUP2010, 18-21 April.

Six parallel conferences focused on progress towards sustainable production. Introductory talks raised mutual interests from all conference participants. One of the highlights was the videoconference from Nobel price winner Prof. R. K. Pachauri on "Challenges and Solutions for Sustainable production: a Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation". This conference can be still followed on <http://www.i-sup2010.org/webcast/webcast.htm>.

The conference took place just after the first ash clouds of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull caused the closure of most European airports. This was an ultimate test for decreasing the ecological footprint of conferences and for testing new sustainable solutions such as videoconferences.

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ESTIV Affiliated Societies

CellTox, Italy
Scandinavian Society for Cell Toxicology
INVITROM

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ESTIV Honorary Members

Monique Adolphem, Michael Balls, Diane Benford, Bas Blaauboer, Flavia Zucco

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For more information on ESTIV and membership application contact

Alison Gray (ESTIV Secretary)
E-mail: secretary@estiv.org

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