UPDATE National Toxicology Program
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NIEHS/NTP Contributions Receive Society of Toxicology Awards

NTP Director Receives Public Communications Award

Dr. Kenneth Olden, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) will be presented the Public Communications Award at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) on March 21, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scientist, teacher, and articulator of the role sound science should play in guiding critical public and environmental health decisions. The citation reads: "His exemplary leadership of the NIEHS has fostered a strong human disease outcome focus to guide environmental health research and has served as a model for effective integration and focusing of basic research on human and environmental health issues . . . His ability to reach all audiences and tireless commitment to bettering the health of the public-at-large makes him one of our discipline's most effective advocates and communicators." The award comes with a stipend of $3,000 and a plaque.

Dr. Olden is a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and has championed a strong relationship between the NIEHS and SOT through many initiatives, including teacher training workshop, underrepresented minority education programs and NIEHS-sponsored symposia at SOT annual meetings. He is recognized for his ability as an effective communicator to all audiences and for his tireless commitment to improving public health. As a means to establish better communication between the public, researchers, and policy makers, Dr. Olden has routinely held town meetings at different locations throughout the United States providing open forums where the public can express concerns about their health as it relates to the environment.

Toxicological Sciences Best Paper Award

Dr. Abraham Nyska of the Laboratory of Experimental Pathology, NIEHS, is a co-author on the paper entitled ***Inhaled Environmental Combustion Particles Cause Myocardial Injury in the Wistar Kyoto Rat*** (***ToxSci*** 71:237-245, 2003) that was selected by the Board of Publications to receive the SOT Award for Best Paper in Toxicological Sciences published during the past year. The paper presents comprehensive work showing cardiac effects due to particulate matter (PM) in rats under experimental conditions relevant to human exposure. The authors comprise a team of scientists from the NIEHS, the Environmental Protection Agency (Drs. Urmila P. Kodavanti, Allen D. Ledbetter, Mette C. Schladweiler and Daniel L. Costa), the Harvard University School of Public Health (Drs. Russ Hauser and David C. Christiani) and Pathology Associates (Dr. Carolyn F. Moyer). With expertise in inhalation toxicology, cardiac pathology and occupational health, the scientists worked collaboratively on characterization of the particles' composition and extent of myocardial injury and on identifying the potential causative agent(s). Zinc was the predominant metal in the particles and the findings suggest that particle-associated zinc may play a role in myocardial damage. The paper provides the first clear evidence of the effect of PM on the heart, and provides supportive evidence for previous epidemiological associations between exposure to ambient PM and cardiovascular morbidity. It is an outstanding example of an interdisciplinary, hypothesis-driven approach to address an important human health concern and represents how the integration of innovative basic and applied science can help to enhance human and environmental health.

Other Achievements and Awards

Dr. Michelle Hooth of the Toxicology Branch, NIEHS, has been elected to the SOT Education Committee.

Dr. Nigel Walker of the Laboratory of Computational Biology and Risk Analysis, NIEHS, is President-elect of the North Carolina SOT (NCSOT) for 2004.

Dr. Jeanelle Martinez, of the Laboratory of Computational Biology and Risk Analysis, NIEHS, won the North Carolina SOT President's Award for Research Competition (PARC) at the Fall NCSOT meeting.

Dr. Jingbo Pi of the Environmental Toxicology Program, NIEHS, received the SOT Carcinogenesis Specialty Section Postgraduate Fellowship Award for 2004.

Environmental Health Perspectives Now An Open Access Journal

On January 1, 2004, ***Environmental Health Perspectives*** (EHP), the peer-reviewed journal of the NIEHS became an open access journal. Open access means that published scientific research is immediately and freely available to all on the Internet. Thirty years of research reported in EHP is now available without subscription at the journal's newly revamped website http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/. This includes the ***EHP-in-Press*** section on the web site where accepted research is published online within 24 hours of the acceptance date.

This move was made under the leadership of NIEHS Director, Dr. Ken Olden whose strong belief is that science best benefits society when it's widely shared. Subscriptions for the printed journal are still available and EHP is distributed in nearly every country in the world. For questions or comments on open access, please contact EHP's Editor-In-Chief Tom Goehl at goehl@niehs.nih.gov.

ICCVAM Biennial Progress Report Available

This report provides a description of the activities carried out during the past two years by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the NTP Interagency Center on the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM). To receive a printed copy, contact NICEATM. The report is also available electronically on the ICCVAM/NICEATM web site (http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov).

Federal Agency Responses to ICCVAM Test Recommendations

The NTP published a notice in the ***Federal Register*** (Vol. 69, No. 47, pages 11448 – 11449) on March 10, 2004, announcing the availability of Federal agency responses to ICCVAM test recommendations for the revised Up-and-Down Procedure for determining acute oral toxicity and ***in vitro*** methods for assessing acute systemic toxicity. ICCVAM is required to make final ICCVAM recommendations and the responses from agencies available to the public (Public Law 106-545, 42 U.S.C. 285l-4). The responses are available electronically (HTML and PDF formats) on the web at http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov and in printed text from NICEATM.

Contact information: NICEATM, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-17, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; T: 919-541-2384; fax: 919-541-0947; niceatm@niehs.nih.gov

CERHR Expert Panel To Evaluate Acylamide

The NTP Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR) will hold an expert panel evaluation of the potential reproductive and developmental hazards associated with exposure to acrylamide. This meeting is set for May 17-19, 2004, at the Holiday Inn Old Town Select in Alexandria, Virginia. Sections 1-4 of the draft expert panel report on acrylamide are now available electronically on the CERHR web site (http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov) or by contacting the CERHR to obtain a printed copy. This meeting is open to the public and the public is invited to submit written comments and/or attend the meeting and present remarks orally. Details about the meeting are available on the CERHR web site.

Acrylamide is used in the production of polyacrylamide, which is used in water treatment, pulp and paper production, mineral processing and scientific research. Polyacrylamide has many commercial applications, including in the synthesis of dyes, adhesives, contact lenses, soil conditioners, cosmetics and skin creams, food packaging materials, and permanent press fabrics, and is used in scientific research in procedures such as electrophoresis. Acrylamide is a neurotoxicant and in animal studies has been shown to be a carcinogen, germ cell mutagen and reproductive toxicant. The CERHR selected acrylamide for evaluation because of recent public concern for human exposure through its presence in some starchy foods cooked at high temperatures. In addition, recent data are available on human exposure, bioavailability and reproductive toxicity.

Contact information: Dr. Michael Shelby, CERHR, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-32, 79 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; T: 919-541-3455; shelby@niehs.nih.gov.

NTP Satellite Symposium on Hepatic Pathology

The NTP will sponsor a satellite symposium on Saturday, June 12, 2004, before the start of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology Annual Meeting. The annual meeting is scheduled for June 13-17, 2004, at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. The format for the satellite symposium, which includes audience participation, will be the same as the one used at the 2003 meeting in Savannah.

Audience response units (for audience voting and instant display of the results) will be provided during the satellite symposium. The emphasis for the cases will be hepatic lesions although non-hepatic lesions will also be included. Persons interested in attending can obtain information on-line at www.toxpath.org or send a message to stp@toxpath.org

NTP Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting Set

The NTP Board is set to meet on June 29, 2004, at the NIEHS (111 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC). Tentatively on the agenda for discussion are the NTP Vision for the 21st Century and a report from the Board's Working Group for the Vision, reports on activities of the NTP Board's Report on Carcinogens Subcommittee and the Technical Reports Review Subcommittee, and a working group report on statistical methods for evaluation of findings in photo-toxicology studies. Additional items may be added as the agenda is finalized. As available, details about this meeting will be announced in the ***Federal Register*** and posted on the NTP web site (http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov) or can be obtained by contacting the Executive Secretary, Dr. Barbara Shane. This meeting is open to the public and public comment, both written and oral, is welcome on any agenda topic.

Contact Information: Dr. Barbara Shane, NTP Liaison and Scientific Review Office, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD A3-01, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; T: 919-541-4253; shane@niehs.nih.gov

Upcoming Events*

May 17-19, 2004	NTP Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction Expert Panel Meeting, Holiday Inn Old Town Select, Alexandria, Virginia
June 12, 2004	NTP Satellite Symposium on Hepatic Pathology, Salt Lake City, Utah
June 29, 2004	NTP Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting, Rodbell Auditorium, Rall Building, NIEHS, 111 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Nominations to the NTP Testing Program

With a broad mandate to provide toxicological characterizations for chemicals and other agents of public health concern, the NTP accepts nominations for new toxicological studies at any time. Labor unions, academic scientists, federal and state agencies, industry, and the general public are welcome to make nominations for specific substances or for general issues related to potential human health hazards of occupational or environmental exposures. As available, a rationale for study should accompany the nomination along with background information describing sources of exposure and possible adverse health effects or concerns associated with exposure, the chemical name and Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) registry number. Details about the nomination process are available on the NTP web site (http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov, select ***How to Nominate Substances***) or by contacting the NTP Office of Chemical Nomination and Selection.

Current areas of focus in the NTP's testing program include potential hazards associated with nanoscale materials, herbal dietary supplements, radio-frequency radiation emissions from cellular telephones, hexavalent chromium in drinking water, photoactive chemicals, certain complex occupational exposures, dioxin-like compounds, contaminants of finished drinking water, and endocrine-disrupting agents.

All nominations undergo several levels of review before the NTP selects agents for study and designs and conducts toxicological studies. These steps of review help to ensure that the NTP's testing program addresses toxicological concerns pertinent to all areas of public health and helps maintain balance among the types of agents evaluated.

Contact information: Dr. Scott Masten, Office of Chemical Nomination and Selection, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD A3-07, P. O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; T: 919-541-5710; masten@niehs.nih.gov

How to Subscribe to the NTP List-serv

The NTP Update is issued approximately 4 times each year. To subscribe to the list-serv and receive the ***NTP Update*** as well as other NTP news and announcements electronically, register online at http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov or send an e-mail to ntpmail-request@list.niehs.nih.gov with the word "subscribe" as the body of the message or contact the NTP Liaison and Scientific Review Office.

Contact information: NTP Liaison and Scientific Review Office, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD A3-01, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; T: (919) 541-0530; F: (919) 541-0295; liaison@starbase.niehs.nih.gov

Additional information about the NTP along with announcements of meetings, publications, study results and its centers is available on the Internet at http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov

The ehpOnline maintains issues of the Report on Carcinogens, the library of NTP Technical Reports and the NTP Toxicity Reports and adds new reports as available. The electronic PDF files of completed reports are available free-of-charge and printed reports can be purchased through ehpOnline. To gain access to these reports, go to http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov or call (866) 541-3841.