Preface—Third International Meeting on the Molecular Mechanisms of Metal Toxicity and Carcinogenicity

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–Environ Health Perspect **110(suppl 5):687 (2002).**
http://ehpnet1.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2002/suppl-5/687costa/abstract.html

The First International Meeting on the Molecular Mechanisms of Metal Toxicity and Carcinogenicity was held in Urbino, Italy, 19–22 September 1988; the second was held 10–17 January 1993 in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy. This monograph is a collection of papers presented at the Third International Meeting on the Molecular Mechanisms of Metal Toxicity and Carcinogenicity held 2–6 September 2001 in Stintino, Italy, on the beautiful island of Sardinia. The original organizers of the Sardinia meeting included Karen Wetterhahn of Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire, USA). In view of her tragic death from dimethylmercury poisoning, this meeting was dedicated to her memory. She conducted her landmark work in the area of chromate carcinogenesis. Karen was an outstanding scientist and a role model for young researchers; she will be missed greatly in the field of metal carcinogenesis research. Her unique contribution was to combine her extensive knowledge of both chemistry and biology to understand the molecular mechanisms of chromate toxicity and carcinogenicity.

This meeting follows in the tradition of the previous meetings in bringing together outstanding scientists working in the area of metal toxicology and carcinogenesis. During the meeting there were exchanges of scientific ideas and results that took place in a relaxed setting that made the experience memorable and valuable to research progress. Old friendships were rekindled and new friendships made, which will lead to progress in this field through collaboration in areas of mutual scientific interests. The major topic areas of the meeting included Chemistry and Biochemistry of Metals, Metal Transport; Mutagenesis, Epimutagenesis and Carcinogenesis; Signal Transduction and Effects on Gene Expression; Nuerotoxicity and Immunotoxicity; Low-Dose Arsenic Effects; and Environmental Metal Toxicity and Treatment.

Shortly after the meeting was held, Dr. Marc Mass of the U.S. Enviromental Protection Agency, a participant in the meeting, passed away. Again, we are saddened by his loss and will remember his important contributions to arsenic toxicology.

It is with great pride that we, the editors, present this monograph of peer-reviewed manuscripts as a product of the Third International Meeting of Metal Toxicity and Carcinogenicity. We offer special thanks to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and its Superfund Basic Research Program for their significant financial and scientific support of this meeting. We also thank the sponsors of this meeting for their financial support. These include the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, New York University School of Medicine, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) – Scientific Committee on the Toxicology of Metals, and the Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association (NiPERA).

This article is part of the monograph *Molecular Mechanisms of Metal Toxicity and Carcinogenicity.*

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Funding for this monograph was provided by National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, New York University School of Medicine, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) – Scientific Committee on the Toxicology of Metals, and the Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association (NiPERA).

Received 21 August 2001; accepted 12 September 2001.