



# Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology

*Our goal is to promote chemical safety, poison control and treatment within the Asia Pacific region.*

Newsletter 2, October 2013

## Welcome to Dubai from the 2013 APAMT organising committee

The APAMT organizing committee looks forward to welcoming the hundreds of APAMT members and guests who have registered for the Dubai meeting.

While the architecturally beautiful and picturesque Zayed University Convention Center will be the venue for the conference, most people are expected to stay in the Dubai city center. A shuttle service between the Crowne Plaza and the Zayed University Convention Center will be provided daily, and run throughout the day so delegates can make the approximately 20-minute trip to the convention center and back without need for using a taxi.

The website is the portal for registration for the meeting and pre-meeting symposia. <http://apamt2013.com/> Registration and accommodation bookings are open.

I hope you all also make some extra time to appreciate the modern metropolis and ancient cultures in the Emirates, including those that are included in the social program.

**RJ Hoffman**

## Report from 2013 APAMT scientific committee

Planning is well underway for the scientific program. There will be pre-meeting symposia and then a three day scientific meeting. The Program includes 38 invited keynote lectures and 36 oral presentations of original scientific research from toxicologists around the world. There are three symposia jointly organised with other societies – the AACT, ACMT and Emirates Society of Emergency Medicine.

Major topics include insight in to building toxicology in poorly resourced settings, dealing with outbreaks, toxicovigilance, pharmacokinetics and snake antivenom.

A reminder that to have your abstract included in the program you must also be registered at the time the program is printed. There have been a small number of competitive partial travel scholarships for new investigators, and we congratulate those who have been awarded these.

Further details are on the APAMT2013 website.

**Indika Gawarammana**

## Pre-Congress Program

On Wednesday 20 November APAMT and Menatox will run two pre-congress workshops at the Zayed University Convention Center. The workshops will run from 9.00 – 18.00 hrs with no registrations fees for 2013 APAMT registrants. Costs to attend the workshops is \$40.

The morning session presented by MENATOX is Clinical Cases in Toxic Emergencies. In this workshop a toxicology fellow or emergency medicine resident will present a clinical case with unknown or interesting toxicity to a panel composed of two or three toxicology faculty who will discuss the case in front of the audience. This course is suitable for any clinician/resident who is interested in toxicological emergencies.

The afternoon session presented by APAMT is on inpatient management of Substance and Alcohol Withdrawal Syndromes. In this workshop 3 lectures will be presented by experts discussing basic and clinical aspects of withdrawal syndromes. Then participants will be divided into 3 groups and be asked to solve a clinical problem. A representative from each group will present their reply to the task. Panelists will discuss the case finally. This course is suitable for any clinician/pharmacist who is interested in different aspects of addiction medicine.

Faculty:

- Barrak Aldosary (KSA)
- Nadeem Alduaij (Kuwait)
- Nahar Alruwaili (KSA)
- Abdullah Altamimi (KSA)
- Ashish Bhalla (India)
- Sophie Gosselin (Canada)
- Bob Hoffman (USA)
- Ziad Kazzi (USA and Lebanon)
- Rittirak Othong (Thailand)
- Timothy Wiegand (USA)
- Rizwan Riyaz (KSA)
- Jane Terris (UK and Qatar)
- Hamed Ekhtiari (Iran)
- Reza Afshari (Iran)
- Darren Roberts (Australia)
- Hossein Hassanian-Moghaddam (Iran)
- Rick Lau (Hong Kong)
- Michael Eddleston (UK)
- Dag Jacobson (Norway)
- Knut Erik Hovda (Norway)

For more details please visit: <http://apamt2013.com/conference/pre-conference-symposium-november-20/>

**Hossein Hassanian-Moghaddam**

## **Deadline for bids to host the APAMT meeting in 2015**

A reminder that the deadline to submit requests to host the association's **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in 2015 is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013**.

## **The APAMT at the 2013 NACCT in Atlanta**

The NACCT 2013 was held in Atlanta, US, the biggest city in the state of Georgia regarded as Southern by the Americans. Atlanta is famous for being the birthplace of Coca-cola, once held an Olympic games and more recently was the scene for the "Walking Dead" series. Although the toxicology behind zombies was not discussed in the conference, it did cover a lot on the latest development of emerging substances of abuse in the US.

Professor CC Yang organized the APAMT symposium at the NACCT entitled "Asian herbs and chronic kidney disease". Following the migration of people from Asia to other continents, the use of Asian herbs is also becoming more and more popular around the world. Certain Asian herbs, especially those herbs that contain aristolochic acid, pharmaceutical adulteration or heavy metals, have been linked to an increased risk of chronic kidney disease (CKD). The symposium had experts from different Asian countries present their clinical experience in the management of herb related CKD cases and discuss the findings of specific epidemiologic studies on the association between Asian herbs and CKD. Four speakers from the APAMT presented in the symposium; representing different perspectives from India (Dr Ashish Bhalla), Vietnam (Dr. Nguyen), Hong Kong (Dr. ML Tse), and Taiwan (Prof. CC Yang).

A symposium on paracetamol poisoning focused on the upcoming biochemical tests on paracetamol poisoning and the new simplified regime of N-acetylcysteine was excellent.

A presentation on the making of moonshine (illicit alcohol) in the Southern US was full of humour and fun and was rewarded with the loudest laughter and applause.

Other highlights from the meeting included presentations on:

- Erythropoietin treatment for CO poisoning to prevent neurological sequelae.
- Measures to decrease prescription opioid abuse in the US reducing deaths
- Lack of benefit from imaging of body stuffers

Attendees greatly appreciated the Southern (USA) hospitality and hope to be able to return some Eastern hospitality to the North Americans making the journey to Dubai.

**Man-Li Tse, RJ Hoffman, CC Yang**

## **The final word - from the newsletter editor**

Just a reminder that the newsletter is able to publish short news items on medical toxicology matters submitted by any APAMT members – I have not been overwhelmed with submissions. People can use this forum to promote another upcoming regional meeting on toxicology, a training course within the region, a new useful website or toxicology resource, a collaborative research venture, or invite submissions for their new journal on toxicology, etc...

So to get the ball rolling - here are the three toxicology websites that I use most (and which APAMT members generally should be able to access without further payment)

Wikitox - <http://curriculum.toxicology.wikispaces.net/home>

TOXINZ - <http://www.toxinz.com/>

CACT on APAMT - <http://apamtmembers.toxicology.wikispaces.net/Current+Awareness>

A reminder this is definitely not a forum for scientific content, or debate, or product commercials; most news items should be no longer than one short paragraph, with a link provided for further information if necessary. I look forward to catching up with many of you in Dubai.

**Nick Buckley**

## **Toxicology Meeting calendar**

20-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 – APAMT Scientific meeting, Dubai, UAE

28-30<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – ACMT meeting – Arizona, USA

28-29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – British Toxicology Society, London, UK

1-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 – TAPNA meeting, Newcastle, Australia

27-30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – EAPCCT meeting, Brussels, Belgium

September /October 2014 – NACCT, New Orleans, USA