I have just returned from this year’s Society of Toxicology annual meeting in Baltimore. It is vast in scale – 6800 participants this year. The extensive programme offers the opportunity to hear the very best of science, transact business in ancillary meetings over breakfast, lunch or dinner and meet long-standing, and make new, friends.

In most respects the BTS annual congress offers all of these things but on a much smaller scale. Many, like me, favour the more modest size and convivial atmosphere of the BTS meeting.

Our Conference this year in Liverpool (3rd-5th April) provides a varied and consistently excellent scientific programme, that features plenary lectures, symposia, posters, oral communication sessions plus a trade exhibition, all of which I believe will provide topics of interest to every attendee.

Congratulations to our Scientific Sub-committee, especially the Scientific Meetings Secretary, Maria Beaumont, and the Chair, Tim Gant, for all their hard work in developing such a strong programme.

The BTS is grateful to the many speakers who have given their expertise and time to ensure a high quality programme. We are also proud to support many young toxicologists to come and present their scientific work.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to our Congress.