

President's Newsletter Number 3 August 2020

Dear Colleagues

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well, staying safe and looking forward to some down time particularly as the schools and Colleges have broken up for the summer. I wanted to provide you with some things to look forward to on your return to work from September onwards:

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those companies who have supported the Society and provided a donation this year including:

- AstraZeneca
- Bibra
- Covance
- Syngenta
- Unilever

Through the generosity of many companies through donations the BTS is able to support initiatives for the benefit of its members such as bursaries for students and early career toxicologists to enable them to attend our Annual Congress.

The Society appreciates that companies may not be able to provide support to the BTS through financial donations, however, there are other ways to provide support such as:

- allowing employees to attend the Annual Congress from your organisation.
- supporting the Annual Congress through adverts in the Congress Booklet.
- supporting the Annual Congress by providing as examples Tote bags, pens and lanyards for the event.
- booking a stand to advertise your company at the Exhibitors' Fayre.

If your company would like to support the Society please contact our secretariat, Executive Business Services (EBS), by emailing BTS@execbs.com and they would be happy to discuss the various options with you.

Other areas of interest to our members include:

1. **Opportunities to serve on the Executive Committee from April 2021.**

The Executive Committee provides a strategic overview to the running of the Society and provides guidance to the Subcommittees responsible for our scientific meetings, speciality sub-sections, education programme, publicity and communication. The positions currently available from April 2021 are:

- **General Secretary: The role of General Secretary is to support the Society.** The General Secretary is a unique interface between the Executive Committee and the membership. The General Secretary has a holistic view of the governance framework of the Society and hence responsibility of ensuring that this framework and any supporting policies and procedures are clearly documented and communicated to the membership.
- **Treasurer*:** The role of the **Treasurer** is to ensure that the Society is financially sustainable and the finances properly managed and accounted for.

The Chair of NEST: At our recent Executive Committee meeting, we discussed the vital role that our early career scientists play, both in the BTS and in the broader scientific community. We felt that the voices of those at an early stage in their career are under-represented in the BTS committees and discussed ways that we could do more to increase involvement and better serve our early career members. The Executive Committee is keen to form a Network for Early Stage Toxicologists (NEST) as an opt-in community, making best use of social media, as well as face to face networking opportunities at congresses, to build a community and feed ideas into the BTS Executive Committee to support those at an early stage of their career. Currently we are looking for a **Chair of NEST** to lead the NEST steering committee. For further information about this role please email nest@the-bts.org

- **Membership Facilitator:** The Executive Committee is also looking to co-opt to the committee a **Membership Facilitator** to be responsible for establishing a strategy to enhance membership of the Society. The appointed individual will develop the strategy and an implementation plan (in collaboration with the Executive Committee), with a focus on attracting new members and retaining current members and be responsible for coordinating the delivery of the plan. The role will be for a 3-year term in the first instance renewable for a second term.

If you are interested in any applying for any of the positions above please send a CV and a 300 word statement as to why you are interested in the position to BTS@execbs.com and your details will be forwarded to Dr Chris Powell, Chair of the Nominations Subcommittee.

**To note we have had an expression of interest for the Treasurer's role and they have been co-opted to the Executive Committee to shadow and learn about the position of Treasurer. All interested parties for the either the role of Treasurer or General Secretary will be given this same opportunity if they are considered suitable for the role.*

2. Fellowship of the BTS

Fellows of the British Toxicology Society (FBTS) are members who have demonstrated distinction and peer recognition in Toxicology. There are currently 60 Fellows listed on the BTS website, all of whom have made, and continue to make, substantial contributions to the discipline of Toxicology through their work, publication and presentation of research, leadership, and contribution to the Society, The Executive Committee would like to encourage members to nominate themselves for consideration of being a Fellow of the BTS. Closing date will be the **1st September 2020 at 17.00**. Please see the website <https://www.thebts.org/events-2/awards-and-prizes/> for further details and an application form.

3. Webinars

The Scientific Subcommittee and the Education Training and Career Development Subcommittee are providing free webinars covering some aspects of the postponed 2020 Annual Congress and the full Continuing Education Programme.

The BTS webinars taking place via Zoom are:

- **Monday 21st September 15.00 -18.15 (BST):** Continuing Education programme: "Chemicals in the Environment."
- **Wednesday 23rd September 13:00:14:00 (BST)** webinar, followed by 14:00-15:00 (BST) discussion session on "Regulatory assessment and risk management of chemical mixtures: challenges and ways forward". Dr Stephanie Bopp (European Commission) will present this webinar.

- **Thursday 24th September 15:00-16:00** (BST) webinar, followed by 16:00-17:00 (BST) discussion session on “Transgenerational Toxicology: Ghosts of exposure”. Prof Michael Skinner (Washington State University, USA to be confirmed)).

Details on how to register for these free webinars will be sent via an email to the membership and will also be available on the BTS website in due course.

Details of other webinars run by the American College of Toxicology which you may find of interest can be found on our website- <https://www.thebts.org/events-2/courseandwebinars/acte-learn/>

4. **Annual Congress 2021**

As you are aware our Annual Congress will now be held from the 12-14 April 2021 at Voco® St David's, Cardiff. I do hope we will see as many of you as possible next year.

5. **Toxicology Research Journal**

Please remember to support our Journal and consider submitting your papers for publication. .

6. **Other things to look out for over the next few months**

- Our **Strategy for 2020-2024** will be published in full on the website in September.
- A new **Members' Survey** will be sent out to our membership in October and I would encourage you to please take some time to fill it in and let us have your views. We will use the responses received to help shape the Society.
- A call, sent out on the 6th August to the membership, has asked for volunteers to help assess if the current BTS website meets the needs of our users. If you are able to help, please contact BTS@execbs.com by the 21st August. We look forward to hearing from you.
- We are reviewing the website and will be asking for members to be part of a Task and Finish group to help with this initiative.
- A **Question and Answer** session via Zoom with your President. Details to follow.

I hope you all have a restful summer and if you would like to contact me, please do via president@thebts.org

I also look forward to seeing as many of you register for the Annual Congress in April 2021.

Yours sincerely



Professor Shirley Price,

President of the BTS.