

## President's Newsletter Number 4 October 2020

Dear Colleagues

As we are entering another period of local lockdowns due to the Pandemic I and the Executive Committee hope you are staying well and safe. The recent resurgence in cases, and some of the sad consequences of infections within hospitals, are all too stark a reminder of the human tragedies that we are witnessing during this pandemic. We are grateful for all you are doing to support the work of the Society during the pandemic.

Plans for the 2021 Annual Congress to be held from the 12-14 April 2021 at Voco® St David's, Cardiff are continuing to progress so if you have not already done so please consider registering for the Congress. I do hope we will see as many of you as possible next year. However the Executive Committee are cognisant of the current situation due to COVID-19 and we are keeping the Annual Congress under review. I will let the membership know of any changes to our planned Annual Congress depending on Government guidance over the next few months.

In my previous Newsletter I acknowledged a number of companies that had provided a donation to the Society. I would now like to extend my gratitude, and that of the of the Executive Committee, to two additional companies who have provided donations to the Society, and they are:

- UCB
- GlaxoSmithKline

Through the generosity of many companies 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. We are always grateful for donations provided by companies particularly at this difficult time. If your company would like to support the Society please contact our secretariat, Executive Business Services (EBS), by emailing [BTS@execbs.com](mailto:BTS@execbs.com) and they would be happy to discuss the various options with you.

Over the last few months we have been gauging the benefits the Society provides its members. These benefits are often through the generosity of donations from Industry, Learned Societies and Publishers. In addition to our current offerings I am pleased to inform our members of additional opportunities through Lhasa Limited and webinars they offer. For more information, please visit <https://www.lhasalimited.org/>

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 the General Secretary, the Treasurer, Chair for the new subcommittee NEST, Chair of CSC and a Membership Facilitator: All of these positions will be advertised to the membership soon so please check your emails.

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

## 2. Webinars

I am pleased to report the excellent programme offered by the SSC and ECTD last week in place of the scheduled Annual Congress. The Virtual Plenary Lecture was presented by Professor Mike Skinner on Transgenerational Toxicology: Ghosts of exposure. The Hot Topics lecture "Regulatory assessment and risk management of chemical mixtures: Challenges and ways forward" was presented by Dr Stephanie Bopp. Both were excellent and provided food for thought.

The Education Training and Career Subcommittee will be uploading the lectures from the recent virtual CEP on "Chemicals in the Environment " so if you missed them or want more information, please visit the website.

Please note that the forthcoming webinar "Proteolysis-targeting chimeras in drug development: A safety perspective" presented by Dr Kevin Moreau, AstraZeneca and Chaired by Dr Muireann Coen (AstraZeneca/Imperial College London) and Dr Carolin Schramm (UCB) from 10.00-11.30 on October 8th.

Register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VCEtw1QORkuKJZQ1wqujzA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VCEtw1QORkuKJZQ1wqujzA)

## 3. Toxicology Research Journal

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

## 4. Other things to look out for over the next few months

- Our **Strategy for 2020-2024** has been published on the website. Please forward any comments to me at [president@thebts.org](mailto:president@thebts.org)
- A new **Members' Survey** will be sent out to our membership in October by email with a link to the Survey. 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 will be sent out to ask for volunteers to help assess changes being made to the **BTS website** and that this meets the needs of our users. Further details to follow
- A **Question and Answer** session via Zoom with your President later this year. Details to follow.

Finally I have to bring to the attention of the membership an issue that the Executive Committee have been informed about relating to research misconduct by a previous member of this Society.

The University of Liverpool undertook a detailed investigation that commenced in 2017 regarding alleged research misconduct by Dan Antoine. The University of Liverpool found that malpractice had directly influenced and undermined the findings of the research undertaken and published by Dan Antoine. The result of the investigation concluded that research misconduct by Dan Antoine had taken place and that the allegations against him upheld. The outcome of the investigation is provided in an article published by the University in August of this year <https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2020/08/17/further-update-on-research-misconduct-investigation/>.

Given this information the BTS Executive Committee, at its meeting on the 22nd September 2020, they decided to nullify the Early Career Award presented by the Society to Dan Antoine in 2013 and to remove links to the report he presented in 2016 about his experiences as the BTS-ASCEPT Lecturer. This has been done.

The Executive Committee have now put in place a Code of Conduct which all new members will sign up to. Our current membership should be aware of this Code and can find it here: <https://www.thebts.org/information/policies/>

I hope you remain safe and if you would like to contact me, please do so via [president@thebts.org](mailto:president@thebts.org)

Yours sincerely



Professor Shirley Price.

President of the BTS.