

President's Newsletter No 10: November 2021

Dear Colleagues

Since my last Newsletter, the Executive Committee have been advertising various roles to support the work of the Society and the response to these adverts was pleasing to see. It is important to ensure that there are opportunities for our members to serve on the BTS Committees and that we meet the aims of our strategic vision, <https://www.thebts.org/information/strategies>. We have been busy shortlisting for a number of these posts and interviews will be taking place over the next few weeks and I will keep the membership abreast of any appointments made.

Please also note that there will be an advert being sent out in the next few weeks regarding two vacancies on the Executive Committee from April 2022 namely the Vice President and the Vice Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee.

It is with great pleasure that I can inform our members that Emerita Professor Faith Williams has been elected as this year's Paton Prize winner. This award was established in memory of Sir William Paton to encourage scholarship in historical aspects of toxicology. Faith will present her lecture at the Annual Congress in the Hilton, Gateshead on Tuesday 5th April 2022. Many congratulations, Faith, on this prestigious award.

The list of previous recipients is available on the BTS website and can be found at <http://www.thebts.org/events-2/awards-and-prizes/>

This year the Congress also marks 50 years of the BTS from its beginnings as the Toxicology Club, which then later became the British Toxicology Society, so it is fitting to have the Paton Prize awarded in this 50th year.

I am also pleased to announce that Professor Ian Kimber, OBE, and Dr Diane Benford have both been appointed as Honorary Fellows of the British Toxicology Society having made significant contributions to the discipline of Toxicology and the Society. The award will be made at the Annual Congress Dinner on Tuesday 5th April 2022. Very many congratulations, Diane, and Ian. A list of those that have been bestowed this honour can be found on the BTS website, <https://www.thebts.org/>

The Fellowship Committee are currently considering members for election to Fellow of the British Toxicology Society, FBTS. Those successfully elected will be announced at the Annual General Meeting at the 2022 Annual Congress.

The Executive Committee continue to look at ways to engage with our members by providing links to virtual webinars and workshops, advertising roles and posts of interest to our members, supporting **Toxicology Research**, our Society Journal, reaching out to other Societies to see how we can all work together to provide new avenues of interest to our members and helping to support members attending our Annual Conference. Please do let me know if you have any thoughts on what we can do to support you, our members Please contact me via president@thebts.org

The **2022 Annual Congress** will be held at the **Hilton, Gateshead from the 4th -6th April 2022**. Please save the date. I do hope we will see as many of you as possible at the Congress. The 2022 Annual Congress will provide a variety of cutting edge topics given by experts in their field. The Annual Congress will be a face to face meeting this year, but we will be looking to provide some aspects of the Annual Congress virtually for those unable to attend. The details of the programme will be available soon so please keep a watchful eye on the website

and through emails. Registration will also be opened soon and there will be an Early Bird discount available to members to encourage early registrations.

I am pleased to be able to provide our members with information on some forthcoming vacancies on the [Commission on Human Medicines](#) (CHM). The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care is looking to appoint eleven Commissioners to join the CHM, this includes two toxicologists. Successful candidates should be recognised by their peers and/or be Fellows of the relevant Royal Colleges. Further details on the Commissioner vacancies are available [here](#). CHM is a statutory committee which advises UK Health Ministers / the Licensing Authority on matters relating to the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines and on adverse reactions to marketed medicinal products. The Department of Health values and promotes diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity for all. **The closing date for applications is now midday 11th November 2021.**

I would also like to provide you with information that the Royal Society of Biology Animal Science Group annual [Animal Science Meeting](#) is taking place online in early December. This meeting is for researchers, research support staff, vets, technologists, administrators, AWERB members and staff in regulatory and policy advisory roles involved with animal research. Apply before **Sunday 14th November** by contacting Eleanor Barrand at events@rsb.org.uk with any queries. Limited spaces available.

Please also note the joint CIEL - BSAS free webinar on [meeting UK livestock net zero carbon target](#), which is also taking place on the **3rd December 2021, 10:00-15:00**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Miriam Jacobs and the Regulatory Speciality Section for organising a 2 day workshop on New Approach Methodologies (NAMS). This NAMS Awareness event will aim to increase awareness and understanding of current and near future international regulatory developments for NAMs for chemical hazard and human risk assessment. The event specifically addresses BTS and IGHRC training requirements in raising awareness and understanding of the current status of the internationally-accepted regulatory science basis. This event will introduce the efforts of the FSA/COT strategic thinking on their Road Map towards the introduction of NAMs, along with the current scientific status of many NAM OECD test guidelines, and guidance in development. This awareness event is suitable for, and intended to bring together UK government scientists, risk assessors, risk managers, and policy makers together with BTS regulatory section members, academic test method developers, CROs, industry sectors and relevant NGOs. This two-day event is open to all IGHRC and BTS members and will be held from the **22nd-23rd November 2021** from **10am-3.30pm**. There is no charge for participation. To register please click [HERE](#).

The Executive Committee are pleased to inform you that online registration and abstract submission for **IUTOX XVIth International Congress of Toxicology (ICT) 2022** is now available on the website www.ict2022.com. The **IUTOX XVIth ICT 2022** will take place in Maastricht, Netherlands from September 18 to 21, 2022. Under the congress theme "**Uniting in Toxicology**", ICT 2022 aims to set up a diverse congress program that makes the various disciplines the subject of joint discussions. Working together, these disciplines with their diverse perspectives contribute to promoting and encouraging the use of new and innovative techniques and strategies, which will continue to reduce the risks to human health and the environment.

The Executive Committee would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Anne Willis, OBE, MRC Toxicology Unit, University of Cambridge, on being one of 17 international recipients of a \$60million R3 grant. For more information please go to <https://wellcomeleap.org/r3/>

I have had discussions with the Chair of the UK Register of Toxicologists (UKRT), Colin Davies, and want to promote the Register here as it is sponsored by both the BTS and the Royal Society of Biology. The UKRT was established in 1993 and is now a Special Interest Group of the Royal Society of Biology. The attainment of registration is seen as a significant milestone in a career in toxicology and will become increasingly desirable for career progression. "Registered Toxicologist" status has to be maintained by a 5 yearly review of continuing education and practice in toxicology. To apply to become a registered Toxicologist you will require:

- An honours degree in a relevant science (taken over a minimum 3-year period from a UK University (or its equivalent), IDT, FRCPath, DABT or an equivalent qualification. Relevant certificates should be provided.
- At least 5 years post-graduate relevant toxicological experience.
- Evidence of current engagement in the practice of toxicology and up to date CV.
- Details of the past 12 months' relevant CPD, including a range of activities and reflective notes.
- Two senior ERT registered toxicologists to act as referees. Your referees should know you in a professional capacity and be able to confirm the quality of your toxicology practice. The two referees should not be employed at the same organisation as each other. If you do not know two referees sufficiently well from separate organisations, please provide a 3rd referee (who does not have to be ERT) to provide a reference regarding your professional competence and recommendation for inclusion in the UKRT.

For further information please go to: <https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/register/uk-register-of-toxicologists>

In September, the Practical Application of Toxicology in Drug Development Programme (PATDD), which is a joint initiative with the American College of Toxicology and the Cambridge Academy of Therapeutic Sciences, was successfully run as a virtual course with registrants from across the Globe. I would like to thank the Organising Committee for providing such a successful course and in particular, Drs Chris Powell and Ernie Harpur, who represent the interests of the BTS on this group.

At last year's AGM the Executive Committee brought a paper for discussion on Retirement. The Executive Committee will be reviewing this paper at their meeting in January 2022. The Executive Committee wishes to collect views from the membership prior to their meeting in January so a Focus Group will be set up for members from across all sectors of the Society to provide feedback on this paper. Professor Heather Wallace has kindly agreed to chair this Focus Group. Professor Wallace is looking for members to join her to discuss this paper via a virtual meeting. If you would like to join Professor Wallace, please contact her at hmwallace@aberdeen.ac.uk. Professor Wallace is looking to hold this virtual meeting in December but is also happy to receive comments via email. Professor Wallace will present the views of this Focus Group to the Executive Committee in January 2022. Taking on board these views, the Executive Committee will then consider if this paper should be recommended to the AGM for the membership to further consider.


Our **Newsfeed Editorial Team** will be sending out their monthly updates next week and they welcome suggestions for news items to be included in the Newsfeed from members and non-members alike. Please contact the editor@thebts.org if you would like to have something considered.

And finally, my apologies if you have been in touch via the email for the President and not received a reply. The email address was incorrect and should read president@thebts.org. Please do resend any emails and I will respond to you.

As always do please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the work of the Executive Committee via president@thebts.org

In the meantime, thank you all for your support which I always appreciate as your President.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shirley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Professor Shirley Price,

President of the BTS.