

President's Newsletter Number 11: December 2021

Dear Colleagues

This is my last Newsletter for 2021 and it has been a busy year. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you give to me as your President and to the BTS and to wish you all Season's Greetings and all good wishes for the New Year.

As you know one of the driving principles of the BTS is for the Society to act as the forum for keeping the membership up to date with developments in their respective toxicological field, through discussion and networking around their professional interests. The pinnacle of these discussions is often the Annual Congress. In 2022 the Annual Congress will be held at The Hilton, Gateshead and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible as I hand over the baton to my successor Professor Brian Lake. It will also be an opportunity to hear from some of our founder members about the formation of the BTS as we celebrate the 50 year anniversary of its inception as the Toxicology Club- the fore runner of the BTS. I am very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Congress and the draft programme can be downloaded here: [Download the Latest Draft Programme](#)

I am pleased to inform the membership that both Registration and the link for Abstract Submission are now open. The links are:

- Abstracts: Link - <https://execbs.eventsair.com/btscongress22/bts22abssubmission> - Submission Deadline is 31st January 2022
- Registration: Link - <https://execbs.eventsair.com/btscongress22/bts2022reg>

Early Bird Deadline is 7th March 2022

As a reminder, given we are approaching the conference season and as we look forward to 2022, the Society has a number of Prizes and Travel Scholarships available so please do look at what is on offer at <https://www.thebts.org/events-2/awards-and-prizes/>.

One area to highlight over the last year is the number of networking events hosted by the BTS speciality sections to provide a forum for discussion, interaction and sharing of good practice between members. My thanks to all the Speciality Chairs.

A workshop on the “Current Status of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for Regulatory Purposes” was organised by Dr Miriam Jacobs, Health Security Agency (HSA) was well attended. The workshop provided a comprehensive overview of NAMS and the speakers were excellent in setting the scene by describing the underlying science, then taking the audience to where the impressive state of the science is at present. My thanks to Miriam for her drive in getting this workshop together and highlighting the importance of this area.

I also wanted to update the membership on a number of new roles that have been established this year within the Society, supporting the work of the BTS, for the benefit of its members.

The first is the Project Co-ordinator’s role. This role was advertised through the BTS website and after shortlisting and interviews I am pleased to announce that Dr Sarah Judd, Newcastle University, was appointed, will be helping to co-ordinate, and maintain a series of education and training courses already available so that the BTS has a catalogue available to which members and others interested will be signposted. Sarah will liaise with industry to understand the impact that a range of initiatives will have on their engagement with this initiative and identify gaps in training. This appointment is for a period of 6 months in the first instance working with the Executive Committee and there will be regular updates on progress through this Newsletter and the website. We look forward to collaborating with you, Sarah, on this key area. More updates will be provided over the next few months via this Newsletter and the website.

I would also like to welcome Dr Kirsti Hornigold, MRC Toxicology Unit, University of Cambridge, who has taken on the role of Lead Ambassador Co-ordinator for the Society. This role is the focal point between BTS Ambassadors and the BTS Executive Committee and will be to help the BTS build, support, and improve its network of Ambassadors. The BTS Ambassador scheme aims to deliver and promote the Society’s vision and objectives for the science of toxicology at a local level. Kirsti will be a member of the Communication Subcommittee (CSC) and work closely with David Woolley who chairs the CSC. Kirsti will be looking forward to speaking with members about the Ambassador Scheme over the next few months. In the meantime, if your company or institution does not have an Ambassador, please contact bts@execbs.com to discuss your interest. Further information can be found [here](#). If you would like to get in touch with your nearest ambassador to find out more about the BTS or to run a local meeting contact bts@execbs.com

We recently advertised for an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Co-ordinator to be co-opted to the Executive Committee and work with Drs Emma Marczylo, Health Security Agency, and David Mason, Unilever. I am pleased to announce that Professor Winston Morgan, University of East London, was appointed.

Professor Morgan has experience in this area. He is currently Professor of Applied Toxicology, Equity and Inclusive Practice. He has been a member of the BTS for over 25 years. His broad professorial title reflects not only his work as a traditional toxicologist but how he has used his scientific background to champion EDI issues, particularly in understanding, tackling and communicating inequalities in education, science and medicine based on socio-economic class and race. For many years he has led EDI in his University including being the leader of EDI and serving for many years on the University EDI Committee. Currently Winston collaborates with several local authorities and groups to communicate with the public on issues around the causes and how to respond to health inequalities. We are looking forward to working with Winston to help implement our EDI Action Plan.

Welcome Sarah, Kirsti and Winston to your new roles and the Society looks forward to working with you all in supporting its work for the benefit of the members.

The Executive Committee has also lent its support, on behalf of the Society, to the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) which is running a campaign to support the establishment of a new global panel for chemicals and waste.

As background the RSC have discovered over the past few years, the massive gap that exists in terms of the provision of coordinated global science advice into global policy activities on chemical pollution. The background is included in an RSC policy position on the need for a science-policy interface, which can be found on the RSC policy and perspectives website on sustainable chemicals policy ([RSC policy position on the need for a science-policy](#)). The United Nations (UN) have recognised the issue within their Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management ([Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management](#)) but no action has yet resulted.

The RSC are campaigning to influence the United Nations, to act now and agree to establish a new science-policy interface for chemical pollution, an intergovernmental platform for chemicals and waste management, which is as authoritative as the advisory panels for climate change (IPCC) and biodiversity loss (IPBES). The RSC have written a declaration and aim to share this

at a key influencing session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in February 2022. To date Imperial College, St Andrews, Commonwealth Chemistry, EUChEMS, SETAC UK, CTPA, Non-Ferrous metals Alliance have signed up to this and the BTS have agreed to sign up to this and lend their support.

I am always keen to hear from our members so please feel free to contact me via president@thebts.org

On behalf of the myself and the Executive Committee may we wish you, your families and colleagues a happy, peaceful, safe and most importantly restful time over this Festive Season.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Shirley Price.

President of the BTS.

