

President's Newsletter Number 2: February 2022

Dear Colleagues

September 2021 marked 50 years since the inception of the BTS. It started from very humble beginnings, when in 1971 (the year decimalisation was introduced) two University of Surrey staff members, namely Professors Jim Bridges and Ron Walker, formed the Toxicology Club. It is amazing how a discussion at 2am in the morning in a KUB (Kitchen, Utility and Breakfast room in Surrey speak!!) at the University led eventually to the founding of the British Toxicology Society in 1979- the Society we know now! Those humble beginnings set out the path for a Society whose remit has always been to promote the advancement of the science of toxicology, for public benefit. The Toxicology Club's membership was mainly made up of UK based toxicologists, but the Society is proud to have, amongst its numbers, many members from across the world. Members total around 900 currently and work in academic, clinical, governmental, and industrial organisations.

As we celebrate this 50th Year I thought it would be of interest to provide you with a list of the Chairs/Presidents from the year the BTS was inaugurated, 1979:

Name	Year of Office	Chair/President	Professional Affiliation during Tenure
Norman Aldridge	1979/80	Chair	Medical Research Council, Toxicology Unit
Jim Bridges	1980/81	Chair	University of Surrey
David Conning	1981/82	Chair	British Industrial Biological Research Association (BIBRA)
William Paton	1982/83	Chair	University of Oxford
Andre McClean	1983/84	Chair	University College London
Laurie King	1984/86	Chair	University of Surrey
Don Davies	1986/88	Chair	The Royal Postgraduate Medical School (now Imperial College) London University
Tony Dayan	1988/90	Chair	St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London University
Iain Purchase	1990/92	Chair	Central Toxicology Laboratory, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI)
Mike Jackson	1992/94	Chair	Glaxo Pharmaceuticals
Alan Boobis, OBE	1994/96	Chair	The Royal Postgraduate Medical School (now Imperial College) London University
Cindy Lumley	1996/98	Chair	Centre for Medicines Research
Frank Bonner	1998/2000	Chair	Sterling Winthrop Pharmaceuticals
Lewis Smith	2000/02	Chair/President- name Chair was changed to President in 2001	Medical Research Council, Toxicology Unit
Tim Hammond	2002/04	President	AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
Allister Vale	2004/06	President	University of Birmingham
Gay Hawksworth	2006/08	President	University of Aberdeen
Kevin Chipman	2008/10	President	University of Birmingham
Ruth Roberts	2010/12	President	AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals

Ian Kimber, OBE	2012/14	President	University of Manchester
Heather Wallace	2014/16	President	University of Aberdeen
Ernie Harpur	2016/18	President	University of Newcastle
Chris Powell	2018/20	President	GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals
Shirley Price	2020/22	President	University of Surrey
Brian Lake	2022/24	President	University of Surrey

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual showcase event, the **2022 Annual Congress**, which will be held from the **4th -6th April 2022 at The Newcastle Hilton, Gateshead**. The Scientific Subcommittee has been working very hard providing a programme that brings together individuals from academia, industry, the NHS, regulatory science, and governmental agencies with a shared interest, enthusiasm and passion for the science and practice of toxicology. It offers a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with colleagues, industry representatives, and peers across the spectrum of experience and interests within the field. The **Continuous Education Programme (CEP)** will precede the main Congress on the morning of **Monday 4th April**. Further information can be found on the website <https://www.thebts.org/bts-annual-congress-2022/>

On the afternoon of **Monday 4th April** the **Annual General Meeting** will be held which is open to all members and you should be receiving the AGM papers for this meeting by Mailchimp at the end of February. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in person but there will be an opportunity for those members unable to attend the Congress to join the AGM via a virtual platform. More details on how to join the AGM virtually will be sent out to the membership soon. The AGM allows the Executive Committee to provide an update on what has happened over the last year and what there is to look forward to in the next year.

In collaboration with the British Toxicology Society and the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Division, the NC3Rs is hosting a two-day virtual workshop "**Increasing confidence in New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for regulatory decision making**" on Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022, 13:00-Thursday, February 24th 2022, 17:00 GMT. More details and how to register can be found here: [Increasing confidence in New Approach Methodologies for regulatory decision-making | NC3Rs](#)

Isabella Myers will be presenting findings from a new study which considers the challenges for coroners in testing, and reporting on CO poisoning at post-mortem in England and Wales. The webinar "**The Medical Examiner - Closing the Loop on CO**" will take place on Thursday **17th February at 3pm** online. This presentation will be of particular interest to the medical profession, specifically pathologists, GPs, coroners, cardiovascular specialists, and cardiologists. As well as neurologists and medical examiners. You can read the press release [here](#). Please follow the link below to register for the event. You will then be sent log in details for the call.

<https://www.coresearchtrust.org/our-activities/the-medical-examiner-closing-the-loop-on-co-data>

Another webinar of interest to members will be presented by Professor Heather Jarman, on **Thursday 17th March**. Professor Jarman will be presenting findings from the Emergency Department CO (EDCO) study titled "**Emergency Departments - the first line of defence against CO exposure.**"

More details on this webinar and research funding opportunities offered by the CO Research Trust can be found at <https://www.coresearchtrust.org/>

We are continually looking to add testimonials from BTS members describing why and how they use animals in their research. An example on inhalation toxicology by a government scientist can be found at: <https://www.thebts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Inhalation-Toxicology.pdf>. If you are interested in helping with this initiative and providing a testimonial, please contact BTS@execbs.com. This will help us better fulfil our commitments as a signatory on the Understanding Animals in Research Concordat and showcase the excellent work performed by BTS members.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Ruth Roberts, PhD, ATS, FBTS, ERT, FRSB, FRCPath for being the first UK recipient of the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award for 2022. This is awarded to Ruth by the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS). ATS established the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award to honour the memory of Dr Christian. The award is conferred upon an ATS Fellow who has clearly demonstrated a lasting impact on toxicological sciences. Well done, Ruth!

I would also like to congratulate Dr Gillian Conway, Swansea University, who is the first recipient of the Dr Malcolm Blackwell Memorial Award. This award is made in recognition of an individual deemed inspirational, impactful and a role model to members of the NEST. Dr Conway will be presenting her lecture, "Using In Vitro 3D Liver Models for the Development of Hazard Assessment Protocols Following Exposure to Engineered Nanomaterials" at the Annual Congress on **Monday 4th April at 17.45** where she will receive the award and deliver the NEST invitation lecture.

And finally, I would like to thank Unilever and GSK for their generous donations provided for this year, 2022.

In the period July 2021 to February 2022, we have been supported by a number of companies through donations and I would like to thank them for their support of the Society.


- Apconix
- AstraZeneca
- Charles River
- Delphic
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Sequani
- Syngenta
- Unilever

As a reminder I would like to ask those members that have not yet set up their details on the Members' Directory if they could do so. This is only accessible to members of the Society. It allows for individual members to look up contact details of any member listed. A fantastic way to network and stay connected with colleagues.

The link is <https://www.thebts.org/membership/directory/>

Do please stay in touch with the Society and if you would like to contact me, please do so via president@thebts.org

Yours sincerely,



Professor Shirley Price,

President of the BTS