

### Meeting report:

15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Neurotoxicology Association (INA-15) and 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society (NBTS)

Neurotoxicity and developmental neurotoxicity are relevant issues in health risk assessments. As a member society of IUTOX, the International Neurotoxicology Association (INA) organizes biennial meetings to promote scientific knowledge regarding the action of toxic agents on the nervous system. In 2015, INA held a joint meeting with the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society (NBTS) at the Hôtel Bonaventure in Montréal, Quebec, Canada from June 27<sup>th</sup> until July 1<sup>st</sup>. This joint meeting coincided with the annual meeting of the Teratology Society (TS) that always meets together with NBTS.

More than 170 participants from both societies registered for the INA/ NBTS meeting and enjoyed the wonderful city of Montréal and excellent science at the meeting venue. The scientific overlap between these two groups was evident by six co-sponsored symposia that were mutually organized by INA and NBTS scientists including symposia of flame retardants, complementary models, psychiatric disease, adverse outcome pathways, microbiomes and epigenetics. Symposium support was provided by the NIEHS, EPA, CAAT Europe, Axiom Biosystems and the Superfund Basic Research Program for trainee travel. To achieve state-of-the-art science, internationally renowned experts were invited to contribute to these symposia. Additional recent developments in neurotoxicology and developmental neurotoxicology were presented in three NBTS and five INA symposia during the five meeting days. To cover hot topics emerging from the submitted abstracts, each society organized several platform sessions. More than 50 posters were presented during the poster session on Monday evening that also included drinks and the traditional Canadian dish *Poutine*. Thanks to a generous donation from Elsevier B. V. three post-docs (see photo) and two students could be awarded with poster prizes. To showcase the research of young academics, INA organized the David Ray Student Symposium and three pre-selected PhD students presented their work during this session.

The scientific program included two keynote lectures given by outstanding researchers in neuroscience. Prof. Barbara Sahakian (University of Cambridge, UK) gave the INA 2015 Jacob Hooisma Lecture with an exciting talk entitled “The objective measurement of drug and environmental influences on brain functions”. John F. Cryan (University College Cork, Ireland), the NBTS Elsevier Distinguished Lecturer, talked about the “Microbiota-gut-brain axis: From neurodevelopment to behavior”. All attendees were fascinated by these comprehensive overviews provided by these entertaining speakers.

The scientific committees of the meeting are looking forward to receiving submissions for the conference proceedings that will be published in *NeuroToxicology* or *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*. Details can be found on the INA website ([www.neurotoxicology.org](http://www.neurotoxicology.org)).



The three winners of the Elsevier post-doc poster prize (From left to right: Remco Westerink (president-elect INA) and Jagna Mirska-Gent (Elsevier) handed out the poster prizes to Jenny Sandström, von Tobel, Evelien van Valen, and Lilah Glazer).