



# INTERNATIONAL NEUROTOXICOLOGY ASSOCIATION

INA News

August 2005

INA-10 in Haikko, Porvoo, Finland 26 June to 1 July, 2005

## Another Successful INA Meeting!

The INA-10 jubileum Meeting, the tenth in the sequence of successful International Neurotoxicology Association's Meetings and the 60th anniversary of local organizing institute, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), was held in Haikko Manor.

At INA-10, international experts addressed critical scientific questions and presented new data on the neurotoxic risks of the general and occupational environment and also chemical terrorism. This biannual venue succeeded again in facilitating interaction among the network of multinational neuroscientists of a wide range of backgrounds from molecular biology to epidemiology to clinical science. This year 103 participants from 25 countries met around the theme "*Neurotoxicology: from molecules to clinical disorders and human behavior*". Along this theme there was a strong intention in *Bridging basic and clinical neurotoxicology* which followed throughout the INA-10 scientific program. This encouraged all participants to take part in the intellectual questioning and discussions. To further enhance the interaction, time was allowed for general discussion in the afternoons, and in the Round Table on "Did we succeed in bridging basic and clinical neurotoxicology" of the last day. The meeting observers, Dr Prockop from a clinical and Dr David Ray from a basic researcher's viewpoint, succeeded in providing a follow-up for the Round Table.

The opening of the Meeting was done by Dr. Markku Sainio, Head of the Local Organizing Committee, and Dr. Carey Pope, Head of the INA Scientific Committee. The overall design of the Meeting followed INA traditions. The Jacob Hooisma Memorial Lecture was given by professor Clive Harper from Australia on the Neurotoxicity of Alcohol. The Plenary presentation was held by professor Leon Prockop on bridging basic and clinical neurotoxicology. These esteemed invitees broadened our thinking to embrace alcohol researchers and neurologists. Professor Prockop acts as the president of the Neurotoxicology Research Group (NRG) of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), and will be hosting a meeting of the NRG in Sydney Australia at the coming WFN Meeting in November 2005.

The symposia integrated basic, molecular information with clinical conditions, epidemiological data on populations taking into account the needs of authorities to make acts of prevention. The student symposium included five presentations by young neurotoxicologists demonstrating outstanding potential for further research success: Stephanie Juran from Germany, Iolanda Vendrell and Pere Boadas-Vaello from Spain, and Christopher Stamler and Nil Basu from Canada. More fine research was presented in free oral communications and at poster sessions. The presenting neuroscientists, the symposia titles and the abstracts can be found at [www.ttl.fi/ina-10](http://www.ttl.fi/ina-10) (Scientific program and Book of abstracts).

### **Symposia and presentations by world leading experts:**

- 1) Risk assessment of neurotoxic chemicals
- 2) Multiple chemical sensitivity
- 3) Sensory neurotoxicity: Visual, auditory and olfactory systems
- 4) Pesticide neurotoxicity as reflected in epidemiology and toxicology
- 5) Neurotoxicants and chemical terrorism: molecular mechanisms and medical responses
- 6) Strategies and unique mechanisms of action of newer insecticides
- 7) Neurotoxicology and neurology
- 8) New approaches in developmental and predictive neurotoxicology
- 9) Vulnerability of brain barriers to toxicants and disease
- 10) In vitro models and biosensors for detecting neurotoxicity

The two first symposia were arranged as an adjoined NIVA (Nordic institute for advanced training in occupational health) Symposium to enable a one day attendance for 8 Nordic participants.

At INA-10, besides the scientific program, the participants enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere and surroundings of the Haikko Manor, with history since the year 1362. The present Manor building was designed by professor, architect Armas Lindgren. It was completely renovated to be a hotel in 1966. The spirit of one of the most known finnish painters, Albert Edelfelt, can be felt at Haikko, where he spent 24 summers and painted many of his famous archipelago motives.

The excursion day on Wednesday started with a guided historical tour of the old town of Porvoo (in rain). When we got back to Haikko, the weather had cleared and we could take part in the outdoor activities: traditional soccer match, outdoor darts, frisbee golf, volley ball, garden walking. This was followed by sauna and swimming of the Braves in the cold waters of the Finnish Gulf. In the evening, an INA-10 steam boat set off for a cruise in the archipelago. The cloudy and rainy weather accompanied by accordion music (and drinks) and the beauty of nature gave an understanding to the backgrounds of the finnish culture and Sibelius' music. The dinner was on the nearby island, where we had a traditional finnish meal at an old local town hall kept by the volunteer fire-brigade. Every day, the participants enjoyed being together at the fine meals in the high class restaurant of the Haikko Manor and also at the club house in the evenings. We are sure that these memories will not fade for a long time, if ever.

At INA-10, we felt that we succeeded in enhancing scientific interaction and friendly collaborative atmosphere among the participants. Although the prioritization of informal interdisciplinary discussions of all presentations made the timetable fall behind, this was not criticized too much. This reflects that the goal of interaction is considered very important. Everyone seemed to share the common intention to bridge between basic and clinical neurotoxicology, which inspired all to take part in the fruitful discussions. Despite the long days, we did not miss the fine meals together when the conversation continued.

We thank the supporters of the INA-10 Meeting who made it possible: FIOH, The Finnish Academy, The Finnish Work Environment Fund, Tikkurila Group and Orion Pharma. TNO - Quality of Life (The Hooisma Prize), NIVA (Nordic training institute), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Biogen IDEC, VWR International, Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences (Student symposium), and Syngenta.

See you at INA-11 at Pacific Grove, California, June 2007  
Heartily greetings from Helsinki, Finland  
Markku Sainio

### President's Message

I have been very fortunate in becoming President at this time, since our Scientific Committee, led by Dr. Carey Pope, and the Finish local organizers, led by Dr. Markku Sainio, devised a remarkably inspiring meeting for INA-10. The combination of a comfortably convivial, but judiciously isolated, venue and a strong programme was in the best tradition of past INA meetings. All of the elements, from the posters to the soccer match, benefited from Markku's unobtrusive organizational skills and infectious enthusiasm. For me one of the best elements of the meeting was the nicely judged balance between the clinical and scientific contributions. The clinicians were able to remind us scientists of the human health challenges that should motivate us, and both clinical and scientific presentations demonstrated that neurotoxicology can rise to these challenges. Two other encouraging features were several mentions of effective therapy for poisoning, and the appearance of some toxic agents new to INA. Now it must be admitted that new toxic agents are a bad thing, but none the less they are very interesting professionally, and INA needs new problems to keep it fresh, just as it needs new members.

I would like to finish on this topic of new members. We have been pleased to welcome several lately, and perhaps I could suggest that we all take the opportunity presented by the INA-10 scientific programme (still on the web site) to show colleagues who are not INA members just what it was that they missed? No one likes to feel that they are missing out on something good, and our past meeting programme is an ideal way of demonstrating that INA membership is a very good thing. Why not try sending a few retrospective "wish you were here" messages with a link to the web site and an offer to sponsor membership? New members mean new ideas, and new ideas will help to ensure that INA-11 is every bit as good as was INA-10.

Best wishes,  
David Ray

### For Your Consideration

#### **Implications of the costs of INA meetings**

One of the strengths of INA is the breadth of perspective gained from the wide range of members attending our meetings. Toxicology is an applied science and, although mechanistic investigation is often more developed in the richer countries, the primary human observations on which we depend for new ideas and relevance often come from poorer countries with less well protected populations. There were some very good examples of the latter at our last meeting in Finland, although the individuals presenting the data were unusually highly motivated and also relatively well paid. Had they not been, we would probably not have had the opportunity to hear from them.

I have recently conducted an informal survey of yearly salaries (after tax) for a typical potential INA delegate (a university employee with 3 years postdoctoral experience), since salary often determines the ability to pay to attend meetings. I was surprised by the very wide range: even within the few

countries that I was able to survey via helpful INA members. Although this salary range is less of a problem at home, a low local cost of living does not help when the delegate is faced with a high cost of living overseas and the cost of the meeting registration etc. I know that some INA members have resorted to bringing a suitcase full of food to meetings, but have yet to hear of anyone bringing a tent.

Average yearly salaries were:

China 30000-35000 RMB (€3,300, \$4,000)	Russia 34,000-100,000 RUB (€1000-3000, \$1,200-3,600)
Hungary HUF 1,100,000 (€4,500, \$5,300)	Sri Lanka 300,000 LKR (€2,500, \$3,000)
Iran 200,000,000 IRR (€19,000, \$23,000)	United Kingdom £14,500 (€11,400, \$25,500)
Italy €20,000 (\$24,000)	Nigeria \$7,200 (€5,600)
United States \$46,000 (€37,000)*	

\*not part of the informal survey; taken from the US Toxicologist Salary Survey (<http://www.toxicology.org/AI/APT/sixthtrisurvey.asp>)

There is not much that we can do about this directly, but INA will try to keep low cost alternatives available (e.g. less luxurious accommodation), and to raise funds for bursaries for those that need them. Unfortunately, although we do not want to become a rich scientists' club, we are not rich in funds to help prevent this! I have written this article from the UK perspective, and hence from a position of relative wealth. It would be interesting to hear what other INA members think about this issue, and how they feel we could best maximize attendance by scientists from other less well salaried countries - perhaps by choosing different meeting locations?

David Ray

### INA Officers

Congratulations to Drs. Will Boyes, Phil Bushnell, Christoph van Thriel, and Don Fox, our newest officers. Also, a hearty thanks for the efforts and support of our outgoing officers, Drs. Larry Fechter (past-president), Jordi Llorens (secretary), and councilors Kevin Crofton and Christina Suñol.

Current officers:

President	David Ray	David.Ray@nottingham.ac.uk
President-Elect	Will Boyes	boyes.william@epa.gov
Past-President	Carey Pope	carey.pope@okstate.edu
Secretary	Phil Bushnell	bushnell.philip@epa.gov

Treasurer	Henk Vijverberg	H.Vijverberg@iras.uu.nl
Councilors	Christoph van Thriel	thriel@ifado.de
	Don Fox	dafox@uh.edu
Newsletter editor	Ginger Moser	moser.ginger@epa.gov
Webmaster	Kevin Crofton	crofton.kevin@epa.gov

## Membership News

**Dues:** At the Executive Committee Meeting at the Society of Toxicology meeting (March 2005), an increase in dues up to \$50 or €50 was proposed. This proposal was clearly approved by an email vote of the membership (51 “yes”, 4 “no”). This increase will take place in the 2007-2008 dues cycle. Dues forms and information can be found on the INA website. Kevin Crofton is the US contact for membership dues, all other dues should go to Henk Vijverberg.

Curious about who makes up the INA membership? From Jordi Llorens as of July 1, 2005:

There are 274 members in the current database

241 of these are “active”, i.e., have a valid email address, while 33 are “missing”

173 have paid their dues or else are exempt (i.e., student or retired) [PLEASE pay your dues!]

Of the 241 “active” members, the geographical distribution is:

Algeria	1	Australia	2	Belgium	2
Brazil	3	Canada	8	Chile	2
Denmark	10	Egypt	3	Finland	4
France	7	Germany	14	Hungary	4
India	4	Iraq	1	Israel	1
Italy	10	Japan	2	Morocco	2
Netherlands	9	Norway	9	China	3
Portugal	4	Russia	2	Spain	17
Sweden	9	Switzerland	4	Thailand	7
UK	14	USA	86		

## INA-11 on the California Central Coast, USA

### Mark your calendars now!

The 11<sup>th</sup> biannual INA meeting is scheduled to take place at the Asilomar Conference Center on 10-15 June, 2007. Asilomar is a State park located on the Pacific Ocean. It is located just outside of Monterey, California approximately 120 miles (200 km) south of San Francisco and roughly 300 miles (500 km) north of Los Angeles. Domestic jet service to Monterey Airport is available from San Francisco (SFO), Los Angeles (LAX), and Phoenix (PHX). In addition, bus service will be available from SFO. Dr. Larry Fechter has agreed to chair the local organizing committee along with Drs. Isaac Pessah, Steve Bondy, and Abby Li. Drs. Miki Aschner, Martin Philbert, and Larry Fechter will coordinate the scientific program. Suggestions for symposia may be sent to Miki Aschner, Martin Philbert, and Larry Fechter. Some of the tentative symposia ideas that have been proposed for the meeting are:

Strategies for promoting regeneration and repair of injured neural tissue

Mechanisms responsible for differential susceptibility of developing organisms  
Plasticizers and sexually dimorphic brain development  
Neurosteroids as targets and as neuroprotectants

Possible social activities include: a visit to vineyards and wine tasting, the Monterey aquarium, the John Steinbeck Center, whale watching, visit to Big Sur State Park, 17 mile drive and Carmel.

View of Big Sur, Californian coastline



### INA-12 Venue?

At the INA-10 business meeting, outgoing President Dr. Carey Pope solicited suggestions for INA-12 (2009). Three proposals were heard, as follows:

- a site on the east coast of the US, probably historic Williamsburg, Virginia
- Jerusalem, Israel
- a site in China, perhaps in or near Beijing

The three presenters were asked to refine their bid by the first of October, so that an email vote of the membership may be made over the following months. Please feel free to contact either Drs. David Ray or Will Boyes with your suggestions, ideas, and thoughts.

### INA Symposium at Neurotoxicology Meeting in Africa

Dr. Polycarp Nwoha has contacted the INA Executive Committee with two requests related to the upcoming International Congress on "Environment and Developing Brain" from July 10-13, 2006 at Owerri Nigeria, organized by the Institute of Neuroscience and Biomedical Research (INBR), Owerri Nigeria. The requests are to support the attendance of young African researchers to the Meeting and to sponsor a Symposium in the Meeting. At the INA Meeting in Porvoo, we decided to give a positive answer to these requests. Depending on the costs, INA may be able to fund the attendance of one or two students to the Meeting. INA has asked Dr. Nwoha for further details, but

at present it seems already possible that the local organization could provide accommodation and local travel, so INA members and/or INA funds should cover the travel costs. Those of you interested in participating in such a symposium, or that may have any relevant proposal, please contact the new INA officers, President David Ray and Secretary Phil Bushnell. Further information on this Nigeria meeting will be distributed later.

## Minutes of INA Executive Council Meeting, March 2005

*Approved at the Executive Council Meeting during INA-10, June 2005*

Members present:

- Old members of the Executive Committee (EC): Past-President Laurence Fechter, President Carey Pope, Councilor Kevin Crofton, Newsletter Editor Ginger Moser and Secretary Jordi Llorens.
- Elected members for the 2005-2007 term: New President-Elect William Boyes.
- Invited members: Kai Savolainen as representative of the Local Organizing Committee for INA-10 in Porvoo, Finland.

The final version of the minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003 EC meeting in Nashville was approved. Secretary Jordi Llorens informed on the results of the 2005 elections and on membership issues. New elected officers are: William Boyes (President-Elect), Philip Bushnell (Secretary), Christoph van Thriel and Donald Fox (councillors); Henk Vijverberg was re-elected as Treasurer.

As of March 1, 2005, INA has

128 full paid members

63 full members that have not paid their 2003-2004 dues

14 new full members that have not yet paid dues for the first time

2 full members that wrote indicating current inability to pay

21 student members

3 retired members.

The holder of the INA US account, Kevin Crofton, and Carey Pope in the name of the Treasurer, Henk Vijberberg, reported on the finances. The balance of the INA Dutch accounts on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 was 46334.53 € 3724.52 € in the INA account

31124.16 € in the INA savings account

11485.85 € in the Jacob Hooisma Memorial Fund

At the same date, the INA US account had 2780.54 \$.

The following proposals by Kevin Crofton were approved:

to give signature power on the US account to Phil Bushnell, elected Secretary of INA for 2005-2007

to place 2000 \$ in a certified deposit, so an interest is earned

to keep the money received by the US INA account in the US, to avoid unnecessary transfers and keeping in mind that INA-11 / 2007 will be held in the US

The failure of many INA members in paying the 2003-2004 dues was an issue of debate. According to the INA by-laws, the members maintain their voting rights even if they have not paid their dues. But the reduced fees at INA meetings are a privilege that will not be provided for INA-10 to

members that have not paid their dues. It was also decided to distribute by e-mail a list of paid/unpaid members, so nobody has doubt of whether he/she paid or not.

The possibility of a life-time dues payment, that is, of becoming a life-time member by paying 10 times the amount of the annual dues, was raised but left for further study.

The motion was made of increasing INA dues, in order to increase or at least maintain the capacity of INA to support student's travel to attend INA meetings. The EC agreed that the dues amount for the 2005-2006 period should be maintained at 35 €, but that raising of the dues to 50 € for the 2007-2008 period should be decided by means of e-mail voting followed by confirmation at the Business Meeting to be held in Porvoo.

The representative of the Local Organizing Committee for INA-10, Kai Savolainen, informed about the meeting. Everything is ready for a successful meeting. On INA-10 finances, Kai informed on a new application, likely to be successful, for about 15-20000 euro, being presented to NIVA (Nordic Institute for Advanced Training in Occupational Health).

For INA-11 in 2007, Larry Fechter showed information of the Asilomar Conference Grounds (California, US) and informed on the role of Michael Aschner and Martin Philbert as leaders of the Local Organizing Committee.

President Carey Pope was urged to seek INA members wanting to host INA-12 in 2009, so preliminary proposals are being presented at the Porvoo meeting.

For future meetings, the EC decided to contact the International Neurotoxicology Conferences, the Behavioral Toxicology Society and the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society, on the possibility of joint meetings or joint activities.

Respectfully submitted  
Jordi Llorens,  
Secretary

**Check out the INA Website!**  
<http://www.neurotoxicology.org>  
**more INA-10 photos, updates on INA-11!**

## INA-10 Photo Gallery

Venue, Haikko Manor



Manor House Entrance

Manor Terrace



Grounds behind Manor House

Hard at work



Executive Council



Almost everyone is awake!



Jacob Hooisma lecturer, Dr. Clive Harper



Poster sessions



Presidential line-up – Will B., David R., Carey P.



our tireless meeting organizer, Markku S.

Excursion to Porvoo



typical tourists



row houses along Porvoo River

Afternoon sports



Traditional soccer game



Finalists in dart competition

Evening boat cruise



Audrey Pope distributes t-shirts to student winners



a very late sunset