



# INTERNATIONAL NEUROTOXICOLOGY ASSOCIATION

INA News

October 2011

## President's Message

*"Neurotoxicity and neurodegeneration: Local effect and global impact"*. This was the theme of the last INA meeting, held jointly with the Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), under the name of Xi'an International Neurotoxicology Conference. After enjoying the meeting, we must recognize that it really reached the "global" concept of its theme. Never before had INA meetings been so universal. Being always widely international, we had not managed to achieve such a global dimension as we did this time with the help of our ICOH friends. Becoming President of INA on occasion of such a venue has been just impressive, and gave me a vivid feeling of responsibility. Managing an increasing visibility and universality of INA, and at the same time keeping our traditional, and so valued, friendly atmosphere is to me a challenging task. One key issue will be the relations that we establish with the sister organizations such as the ICOH Committee, or others, like the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society (NBTS).

We must start by recognizing and thanking the fantastic job many people did to put together this wonderful meeting with approximately 290 attendants. Jingyuan Chen, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, along with Wei Zheng, and other members of this Committee including Yuxing Zheng, Pinkkun Zhou, Wenjing Luo, Yueming Jiang, Qiao Niu, Yuan Cai, Keqin Xie, Chonghuai Yan, and Rongzou Lu deserve primary credit for the success of the meeting. We enjoyed their fantastic organization and the social program, including such wonders as the visit to the Xi'an Terracotta Warriors Museum. Special thanks are due to all Dr. Chen's collaborators at the Fourth Military Medical University, Tongjian Cai, Wenjing Luo and many more, who worked endlessly to make everything go smoothly throughout the meeting, besides taking care of their significant scientific contributions with posters and oral communications at the meeting.

Many thanks are due also to the International Organizing Committee including Jingyuan and Wei along with Don Fox and Miki Aschner for INA and Roberto Lucchini, Euna Kim, Yuxin Zheng and Kazuhito Yokoyama for ICOH, and the two Scientific Committees, responsible for putting together the high quality, very interesting scientific programme that we enjoyed. Don Fox chaired the INA Committee, which included Miki Aschner, Will Boyes, Phil Bushnell, Jingyuan Chen, Ellen Fristche, Abby Li, Martin Philbert, Diyuan Ruan, Kazuhito Yokoyama, Wei Zheng and myself. The ICOH committee was chaired by Roberto Lucchini.

One activity I enjoyed the most during the meeting was co-chairing with Roberto Lucchini the student symposium. Six excellent communications were presented by the following awardees: Julia Sisnaiske, Jinfei Jing, Xue Fu, Mo Dan, Zaiyang Long and Xiaoting Lu. However, the selection was tough, as the rest of students applying for the award submitted high level abstracts. This is really good news, because it demonstrates that INA has a healthy future ahead.

Besides the Xi'an meeting, INA has been successful in many aspects in recent years. One major improvement has been the setting of PayPal as the system for collecting membership dues. Our Treasurer Jan Lammers deserves the credit for this important improvement in the way the Association works. Jan continues as Treasurer for the next term, but we welcome new members of the INA Executive Committee. These are Christoph van Thriel (President-Elect), Sandra Allen (Secretary), and Remco Westerink and Eugenio Vilanova (Councilors). Eugenio has also accepted the role of website editor, replacing after many years Kevin Crofton, who started the website and took care of it for so long. Thank you so much, Kevin, for this outstanding contribution to INA. We are all also grateful to Ginger Moser for continuing as editor of the newsletter, especially knowing how hard it is to collect the contributions from people. We also deserve deep gratitude to Don Fox for his excellent service as President-Elect and President during the last four years. Don has still a hard work ahead as Past-President for the next two years. Our full gratitude also goes to Will Boyes, who is leaving the INA board after six years of service. After being a wonderful President, he did a great service as a Past-President, providing a depth of experience that was often very useful. Thanks are due also to Phil Bushnell, after serving as Secretary for six years. As a former Secretary of INA, I know how much work is included in the job. Now, Phil is enjoying new responsibilities in science that surely also keep him busy.

At the time of writing this message, the organization of the next INA meeting has started. Didima de Groot, Remco Westerink, Erik de Vries and Jan Lammers lead the organization of INA-14 in the Netherlands. Very soon, also, the place of INA-15 must be selected. You will receive messages on this issue from our Secretary, Sandra Allen. We will enjoy new opportunities for getting together to enjoy science and friendship.

Best wishes,  
Jordi Llorens

### **Outgoing President's Message**

The major event that occurred while I was President of INA was the 13th INA meeting in Xi'an, China from June 5-10, 2011. This was a special meeting in many, many ways. First, it was held in conjunction with the Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH). Second, it was held in mainland China, the first INA meeting to be held on the Asian continent. Third, the Hooisma Lecture (David Bellinger), Haninen Lecture (Donna

Mergler), History of INA (William Boyes) and History of ICOH (Roberto Lucchini) presentations were excellent. Fourth, the eulogy for David Ray by Lewis Smith was heartfelt, humorous and appreciated by all. Fifth, the science, cultural events and social events were outstanding and enjoyable. I was privileged to be the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee and work with dedicated committee members. We had five Plenary Symposia, 12 parallel symposia, and two parallel student symposia with almost 300 attendees from over 25 countries. The proceedings of the meeting will be published in a special issue of the journal *NeuroToxicology*.

The organization of this international meeting involved an enormous amount of logistics and work. We are indebted to all of our gracious and superb hosts of the Local Organizing Committee: especially to Julian Chen and Wenjing Luo of the Fourth Military Medical University in Xi'an, the Chinese Society of Toxicology as well as our long-time colleague Wei Zheng, the driving force behind the whole meeting. I also thank the members of the Scientific Program Committee of ICOH, Advisory Committee and Financial Committee.

I also thank all of the supporters of the meeting: CropLife America, Finish Institute of Occupational Health, Hope Industry & Trade Company, National Natural Science Foundation of China, NIEHS, Society of Toxicology, Syngenta Crop Protection and the US EPA.

Finally, I want to thank the INA membership for giving me the honor to serve as President. It was truly a great pleasure. INA is a friendly, fun, great, open and wonderful international organization that provides unique opportunities to meet and interact with other neurotoxicologists from around the world, as well as to make and maintain life-long friendships. As outgoing President, I leave the organization in sure and strong hands with Jordi Llorens as the current President and Christoph Van Thriel as the President-Elect. As we all know, the life and strength of our organization emanates from its members. I look forward to seeing long-time colleagues and friends as well as new student and full members in the Netherlands for INA-14 in June 2013.

Best Regards

Donald A. Fox, Ph.D., ATS, ARVO Fellow

### **INA-13, 2011**

The joint Xi'an International Neurotoxicology Conference (XINC) of the 13th International Neurotoxicology Association Biennial Meeting (INA-13) and the 11th International Commission on Occupational Health for International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health (ICOH-11) took place June 5-10, 2011 in the Xi'an Jian-Guo Hotel and Conference Center in Downtown Xi'an, China.

A total of 281 researchers registered and attended the XINC, which met our originally expected 250-300 attendees. Among them, there were 119 female and 162 male scientists. The Scientific Program Committees of both INA and ICOH included female membership. About 35% of speakers in 4 joint symposia were females. Among the 19 chairs/co-chairs of parallel symposia, 42% of them were females. The meeting participants had a very diverse occupational background including academic researchers, clinicians, scientists in industry, and regulatory personnel.

The XINC was truly an international conference. Among the meeting participants, there were 68 researchers from the United States, 9 from the Netherlands, 5 from Italy, 4 from France, 4 from Germany, 4 from United Kingdom, 3 from Canada and 3 from Sweden. Attracting researchers from Asia and Africa regions was one of the goals of this conference in order to promote environmental and occupational health and safety research among economically fast advancing nations. There were 129 researchers from China, 16 from Japan, 11 from Korea and 4 from South Africa. In addition, there were 1-2 participants each from Algeria, Aruba, Belgium, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, India, Lebanon, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Slovenia. Truly participation from across the globe!

Local organizer,  
Wei Zheng





## INA-14, 2013

After a very nice and well organized meeting in Xi'an China, we are looking forward already to the 14<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting. INA-14 meeting will be held in the Netherlands from June 9–13, 2013.

The Dutch members of the Local Organizing Committee, consisting of Didima de Groot (Chair) (TNO), Remco Westerink (Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences, University of Utrecht), Erik de Vries (University Medical Center Groningen) and Jan Lammers (TNO Triskelion bv), will be assisted in the local organization by the Past-President of INA, Donald Fox (College of Optometry, University of Houston, USA).

INA is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. Since the first INA meeting was organized in the Netherlands, chaired by the Dutch colleague Jacob Hooijsma, the organizing committee feels honoured to have this special anniversary meeting also in the Netherlands. We are happy that *“INA is coming home”* and we hope to give it a

warm welcome. The theme of the conference is “*Neurodevelopmental Basis of Health and Disease*”. The Scientific Organizing Committee will send out a call for session proposals very soon.

In addition to current neurotoxicology topics, the organizing committee will look back into 25 years of neurotoxicology and also will look forward to the young generation of neurotoxicologists. On the one hand, the meeting in the Netherlands will have a classical character (cosy and intimate) and we will celebrate INA’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The meeting will be “renewed” in the sense of attractiveness to young scientists. In this anniversary meeting the local and scientific organizing committees will pay special attention to young scientists needed to shape our society’s future. Some exciting new ideas to involve junior toxicologists in the meeting have already emerged, but more ideas are welcome!

Apart from an interesting scientific program we also will have an exciting social program. The Netherlands are a small country rich in history with many sites to visit. Public transport is excellent, for example, the train brings you from east to west within two hours and from north to south within three hours.

We are seeking financial support for the Netherlands meeting and if you have any ideas or sources, please email me ([didima.degroot@tno.nl](mailto:didima.degroot@tno.nl)) or present INA president Jordi Lorens ([jllorens@ub.edu](mailto:jllorens@ub.edu)).

**Please mark your calendars: INA-14 meeting, The Netherlands, June 9–13, 2013!!**



**INA-15, 2015**

Yes, plans are already in the works for INA-15, in 2015! After the Xi’an meeting, Ellen Fritsche submitted an official proposal to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> INA meeting in Düsseldorf, Germany. In addition, INA members from Canada and the US east coast are currently

working on a proposal for a joint meeting of INA and NBTS (Neurobehavioral Teratology Society) in Montreal, Canada. We are looking forward receiving their official proposal and subsequently the two proposals will be sent to our members for a vote on the venue of INA-15.

### Of Interest

The WHO has released a new compilation of air quality data from nearly 1100 cities in 91 countries, along with associated burden of disease analysis.

The main findings are:

- Persistently elevated levels of fine particle pollution are common across many urban areas. Fine particle pollution often originates from combustion sources such as power plants and motor vehicles.
- The great majority of urban populations have an average annual exposure to PM10 particles in excess of the WHO Air Quality guideline recommended maximum level of 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . On average, only a few cities currently meet the WHO guideline values.
- For 2008, the estimated mortality attributable to outdoor air pollution in cities amounts to 1.34 million premature deaths. If the WHO guidelines had been universally met, an estimated 1.09 million deaths could have been prevented in 2008. The number of deaths attributable to air pollution in cities has increased from the previous estimation of 1.15 million deaths in 2004. The increase in the mortality estimated to be attributable to urban air pollution is linked to recent increases in air pollution concentrations and in urban population size, as well as improved data availability and methods employed.

The press release and the database can be accessed from:

[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2011/air\\_pollution\\_20110926/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2011/air_pollution_20110926/en/index.html)

[http://www.who.int/phe/health\\_topics/outdoorair/databases/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/en/index.html)

### International Congress of Toxicology 2013

Plans for the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Toxicology (ICTXIII) meeting are well underway. Please mark the dates of the Congress (June 30 – July 4, 2013) on your calendar and note the deadline for submitting a Scientific Program Proposal is December 31, 2011. You will not want to miss this special meeting in the beautiful venue of Seoul, Korea! [www.ict2013seoul.org](http://www.ict2013seoul.org)

### Membership News

INA now has a total of 257 members (232 full members and 25 students) from 34 different countries. We have had 12 new members in 2011: 5 full and 7 students. Welcome to Chand Basha, Pere Boadas-Vaello, Huiming Gao, Masashi Hasegawa,

Hester Hendriks, Marcel Leist, Marcia Ratner, Diane Rohlman, Sheik Mohideen Sahabudeen, Julia Sisnaiske, Carla Soler Martin, and Abdul Wahab.

### Current INA Officers

President	Jordi Llorens	<a href="mailto:jllorens@ub.edu">jllorens@ub.edu</a>
President-Elect	Christoph van Thriel	<a href="mailto:thriel@ifado.de">thriel@ifado.de</a>
Past-President	Don Fox	<a href="mailto:dafox@uh.edu">dafox@uh.edu</a>
Secretary	Sandra Allen	<a href="mailto:sandra.allen@regulatoryscience.com">sandra.allen@regulatoryscience.com</a>
Treasurer	Jan Lammers	<a href="mailto:jan.lammers@tno.triskelion.nl">jan.lammers@tno.triskelion.nl</a>
American Treasurer	Carey Pope	<a href="mailto:carey.pope@okstate.edu">carey.pope@okstate.edu</a>
Councilors	Eugenio Vilanova	<a href="mailto:evilanova@umh.es">evilanova@umh.es</a>
	Remco Westerink	<a href="mailto:r.westerink@uu.nl">r.westerink@uu.nl</a>
Webmaster	Eugenio Vilanova	<a href="mailto:evilanova@umh.es">evilanova@umh.es</a>
Newsletter editor	Ginger Moser	<a href="mailto:moser.ginger@epa.gov">moser.ginger@epa.gov</a>

### Treasurer's Report

In a year like this, in-between two INA meetings, the treasurer's job is relatively easy. INA's financial situation is good and quite independent of the bad situation in global economics and banking. Only a limited number of payments have to be made for INA activities.

There is, however, some concern about the income of INA. Despite the yearly request by email or regular mail and even after sending a reminder, many INA members do not pay the annual dues of 25 Euros. To date, less than 50% of the members have paid the dues for 2011. INA needs the membership dues to finance its activities, keep the costs and fees of meetings low and support young scientists and scientists from developing countries to participate in INA meetings and other activities. Therefore I would like to ask all members to **please pay the annual dues** and thereby let INA remain the exciting platform for neurotoxicology and neurotoxicologists that it has been for many years already. If you have questions or issues with paying your dues, please contact me.

#### INA Account Summary 2010

##### *INA Treasury December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009*

Dutch Accounts		€ 59,091
€ 12,361 reserved for Hooisma Memorial Fund		
US Account*	US \$	5,067

##### *INA Treasury December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010*

Dutch Accounts		€ 59,621
----------------	--	----------



€ 613 INA account  
€ 45,458 INA savings  
€ 335 INA PayPal  
€ 13,215 reserved for Hooisma Memorial Fund  
US Account\* US \$ 4,867  
\*currently kept by Carey Pope

Jan Lammers  
Treasurer

## Business Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2011  
(at INA-13, Xi'an, China)

Present: A total of approximately 30 members including: Donald Fox, Jordi Llorens, Sandra Allen, Will Boyes, Larry Fechter, Jayne Wright, Anumantha Kanthasamy, Merle Paule, Roberto Lucchini, Martin Philbert, Markku Sainio, Anna Price, Miki Aschner, Tomas Guilarte, Christoph van Thriel, Remco Westerink, Didima de Groot, Steven Gilbert, Angelo Moretto, Jacques Reis.

1. President Donald Fox opened the meeting and introduced the newly-elected members of the Executive Council: President-Elect: Christoph van Thriel; Secretary: Sandra Allen; Councilors: Eugenio Vilanova and Remco Westerink.
2. A membership report had been provided by Phil Bushnell. The INA currently has 235 full members and 22 student members. Members hail from 35 countries and all continents except Antarctica.
3. Treasurer's report. Nothing had changed since the meeting at SOT 2011. The INA-12 financial report is still not resolved.
4. Old Business:
  - a. The venue of the 2013 INA meeting will be in The Netherlands, and will be hosted by Didima de Groot and Jan Lammers of TNO and Remco Westerink of Utrecht University. The meeting will be in June and 3 sites are still under consideration. Didima de Groot gave a presentation including a video of what we can all look forward to in the Netherlands and flyers were made available.
  - b. Eugenio Vilanova will now be upgrading and maintaining the INA website.
  - c. INA membership dues can now be paid by PayPal. New request for 2011 dues should be sent out in the near future. Sandra Allen to co-ordinate with Jan Lammers.
5. There was a discussion on possible venues for INA-15:
  - a. There was a suggestion that Ellen Fritsche, from Dusseldorf, Germany may be able to host this. Christoph van Thriel will have discussions with her and consider making a proposal for 2015.

- b. Roberto Lucchini discussed the possibility of another INA/ICOH partnership.
  - c. Donald Fox introduced the subject of INA, NBTS (Neurobehavioural Teratology Society), ICOH and maybe others interacting in the future as our overall goals are similar. Don also suggested that NBTS possibly join INA for a meeting: maybe INA-15, but NBTS does not usually travel outside the USA. Merle Paule noted that NBTS meetings tend to be with the Teratology Society and hence usually in the US and venues tend to be expensive. He said that he would present this information to NBTS at their upcoming meeting.
  - d. All proposers were asked were asked to consider links with other societies (ICOH, NBTS) and make proposals for 2015 meeting venue. The membership is also to be encouraged to suggest at least one alternative, to provide a choice regarding the meeting venue.
  - e. There is a need for involvement of students and meeting attendance for collaboration was promoted by Christoph van Thriel. This means that meetings need to be reasonably priced and we should look at ways of encouraging students.
  - f. Jacques Reis raised the possibility of running a training course in neurotoxicology as part of the meeting, or at the beginning or end of the meeting was also discussed. The proposal is to be considered by the Executive Council.
6. Miki Aschner made a proposal that in recognition of David Ray's keen support of students that INA have a student award in his name. A travelling fellowship to enable an INA student member attend the biennial INA meeting was proposed, seconded by Don Fox and unanimously supported by the members present. Larry Fechter was asked to communicate the decision to David's widow Joanne.
  7. Donald Fox formally stood down as President and Jordi Llorens as new President closed the meeting.

Sandra Allen  
Secretary