



# INTERNATIONAL NEUROTOXICOLOGY ASSOCIATION

*INA News*

*December 2008*

## President's Message

Dear INA Members:

It has been a busy year for many of us in planning of the upcoming INA-12 meeting at the Ma'ale HaChamisha Conference Center, Judean Hills, Israel June 7-12, 2009. Yoram Finkelstein is head of the local planning committee and he has been very active in making all the arrangements to assure the meeting will be a success. Yoram has also arranged an exciting program of tours of the many interesting historical sites in the region. Don Fox leads the Scientific Program Committee that has developed an exciting program around the theme of Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurotoxicology. I have organized a Financial Planning Committee to try and raise funds to help support the meeting. The later has been particularly difficult, as you might imagine, given the general state of the economy. Never-the-less we do have several donors already and we hope to line up more in the coming months. Thanks to Yoram's planning and negotiations, we expect the meeting will be financially sound. Shortly, we will open the website for registration and submission of abstracts (if it is not opened already). Please register soon in order to take advantage of the lower rates for early registrants.

In addition, to planning for INA-12 in Israel in 2009, we are also looking forward to INA-13 in China in 2011. The meeting will be in the historic city of Xi'an, home to the famous terracotta army, among other attractions. For 2011, we have agreed to hold a joint meeting with International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Environmental and Occupational Health (NEUREOH), organized under the International Committee on Occupational Health (ICOH). The joint meeting will provide INA members with numerous opportunities for cross-fertilization with neurobehavioral and epidemiological researchers. Wei Zheng (USA) will chair the International Organizing Committee working with and Jingyuan (Julian) Chen (China) as the vice-chair for that meeting. The planning committee will also have vice-chairs from INA and ICOH reflecting the two societies. Miki Aschner, Wei Zheng and I meet with officers and members of the NEUREOH last summer in San Jose, Costa Rica and discussed the proposal of a joint meeting of the societies at their business meeting. We were impressed with their enthusiasm for holding a joint meeting with INA. Planning for the meeting is currently beginning.

Other upcoming events include the INA meeting at the annual Society of Toxicology meeting in Baltimore this March. The site and time of the meeting will be listed in the SOT program. Also, we will soon be electing the next set of INA officers so please look for ballots to be delivered to you by E-mail and send in your votes. Finally, we need to consider possible venues for the INA-14 meeting in 2013. Please consider offering to host the 2013 meeting and submit a proposal for consideration at the business meeting in Israel.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Israel. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for the INA.

Submitted by Will Boyes

## **INA-12 – Jerusalem, Israel**

Preliminary program and schedule sent by Don

## **Membership Report**

Our current membership stands at 233 full members and 41 students. We welcomed 6 new full members in 2007 and in 2008, 7 students in 2007, and 1 student in 2008. We are delighted that scientists all over the world are demonstrating their interest in neurotoxicology by joining the INA. Presently, we have members from 38 countries on all continents. We look forward to a very interesting gathering in Jerusalem in June 2009.

Submitted by Phil Bushnell

## **INA-13 – Xian, China Put it on your calendar!**

The International Conference on Toxicology of Neuronal Diseases, jointly hosted by the 13th International Neurotoxicology Association (INA13) and the 12th International Congress on Occupational Health – Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology (ICOH-NP12), will take place between May 29 – June 3, 2011 in Xian, China. The Conference will focus on the environmental and occupational causes of human brain disorders, the molecular mechanisms underlying these disorders, and translational approaches that assist the clinical diagnosis, facilitate the global prevention, cure and alleviate these disorders. The Conference invites interested researchers all over the world to join the meeting, share the innovative ideas, seek the potential collaboration, and advance our understanding of the toxicology of neuronal diseases.

The conference venue Xian is a historic and cultural city in China. From the 11th century BC onwards, Xian served as the Capital city by 13 dynasties successively. The Museum of the first Emperor of China, Qin emperor, and his terra-cotta warriors and horses are called the 8<sup>th</sup> marvelous spectacle in the world. In addition to the culture tour organized by the Local Organization Committee, the Conference will provide a Chinese culture-scented banquet, organize the traditional soccer games, possibly among the teams from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North/South America, and make available the post-meeting China tour.

Dr. Wei Zheng, a professor at Purdue University in the U.S., will chair the International Organization Committee to coordinate this exciting event. Dr. Zheng visited the meeting venue with Dr. Michael Aschner in 2007, had the organizing meeting with local organizers Dr. Julian Chen and Dr. Yuxin Zheng in Sept 2008, and mostly recently had the meeting with Dr. Will Boyes in Research Triangle Park, in order to solve the logistics and pave the way for a successful international conference.

Submitted by Wei Zheng

## Current INA Officers

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## Business Meeting Minutes

The INA General Business Meeting was held in Seattle, WA, USA, at the annual Society of Toxicology meeting on 3/17/08.

16 members were in attendance.

Will Boyes announced the committees that were working on INA-12 (2009). He also gave the financial report.

INA-12 (2009) – Don Fox announced that the program is tentatively planned for Monday through Thursday. The Program committee will finalize the program and send letters to proposal submitters soon. There was a suggestion that the time for networking and conversations be increased.

Student members should let Phil Bushnell know when they graduate and update their membership information.

Upcoming meetings of interest – Joan Cranmer's neurotoxicology conference will be in Rochester fall 2009, and will honor Bernie Weiss. Steve Gilbert is setting up a Weiss endowment fund to pay for a Weiss scholar at the University of Rochester.

The International Conference on Epidemiology in Occupational Health (ICOH) will meet in Costa Rica in July. They have expressed interest in having a joint meeting in 2011.

Venues for INA-13 (2011) were described. The options are Xian, China and Williamsburg, VA, US. A vote will go to the general membership soon.

Papers from the INA 11 meeting (Asilomar) will be published in Neurotoxicology.

Submitted by Ginger Moser, for Phil Bushnell