



# Spring 2020 Newsletter



## International Neurotoxicology Association

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### Message from the President

Dear INA members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health. The emergence of the novel corona virus this winter and spring has seen many of us finding new ways to work and interact with our peers. Hopefully, over the next few weeks, many of us in the United States and Europe will be able to get back into the labs and restart our research programs.

There is a lot to cover in this newsletter. We had our meeting in Düsseldorf in October of 2019, which was a great success. We are actively planning for our INA-18 meeting in 2021 to be held in Durham, NC, USA. The local planning committee is working to make sure the meeting is an enjoyable experience with lots of opportunity for networking while experiencing the unique flavor of the

Bull City (Durham's nickname), and a newly formed scientific committee will begin putting together an outstanding scientific program.

Because the SOT meeting was cancelled due to the coronavirus, we did not have our usual spring business meeting. Despite this interruption in business as usual, INA remains active: if you published in 2019 in *NeuroToxicology*, your paper can be considered for the INA-NeuroToxicology best paper award; we are planning a special issue of *NeuroToxicology* featuring research presented at INA-17, and have begun planning INA-18. In addition, we are looking at additional networking and career development opportunities for post-docs and students.

Finally, we have new INA officers, and I want to thank the outgoing officers for their service. I want to especially thank Sandra Allen for her multiple terms of service as the INA secretary. She did an outstanding job and has

set a high bar for our new secretary, Mamtal Behl. We will miss Sandra's presence in INA and wish her all the best.

**Tim Shafer,**  
**President**

International Neurotoxicology  
Association (2019-2021)

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## Current INA Officers



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## A Short Message from the Treasurer's Office

Dear colleagues,

With the start of the year 2020, a new membership period began (2020-2021). Like the last membership period, we will be sending invoices via PayPal. Since the number of paying members of last period was well below the period before (75 for 2018-2019 vs. 105 for 2016-2017). I hope this period will bring us closer to the old numbers. Invoices will be sent shortly, so please check your email box for any sign of an email from your treasurer asking you to pay your dues...

INA's **very low dues** (€50 or \$60 for two years) come with many **benefits**: a discounted rate for attending our biannual INA meetings, access to a network of the world's best neurotoxicologists, the possibility to win the annual INA-NeuroToxicology Best Paper Award, and the best group of colleagues that anyone could ask for!

The PayPal invoice can of course be paid via a personal PayPal account, but also via other routes including credit cards and bank accounts.

Remember that if things are unclear or you have difficulty paying your dues through this system you can always contact me at:

[treasurerinternationalneurotox@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerinternationalneurotox@gmail.com).



With financial greetings,  
**Harm Heusinkveld, Treasurer**

**Not a member?** Fill out an application form at <http://www.neurotoxicology.org/membership/>  
**Student membership is FREE!**

## Minutes from INA Executive Council Meeting

Although cancellation of the SOT meeting meant that the Executive Committee did not hold an in-person Spring meeting, the Executive Council did hold a virtual (Zoom) meeting on April 24, 2020. Minutes have been posted to the INA website (<https://www.neurotoxicology.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/INA-Business-Meeting-22-2020.pdf>).

## INA - NeuroToxicology Best Paper Award

Dear INA-members,

The Elsevier journal *NeuroToxicology* is the affiliate journal of INA. In recognition of this affiliation, Elsevier generously provides funds to support an annual *INA-NeuroToxicology best paper award*! We are soliciting nominations from INA members who published papers in *NeuroToxicology* (Elsevier) during the 2019 calendar year.

To nominate a paper for consideration, please send the following information to the Editor-in-Chiefs, Pamela Lein ([pjlein@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pjlein@ucdavis.edu)) and/or Remco Westerink ([r.westerink@uu.nl](mailto:r.westerink@uu.nl)):

- (1) Complete citation of the paper being nominated, including all author names;
- (2) Identification of author(s) who are INA member(s) in good standing;
- (3) Justification for considering the nominated paper for this award.

***The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2020.***



## INA-17 Highlights

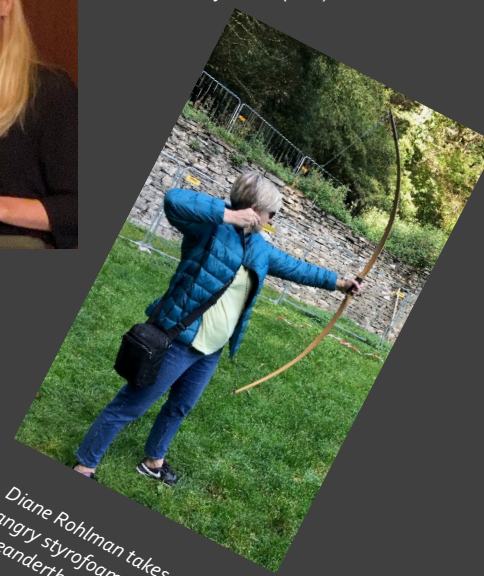
Remco Westerink with David Ray Award winner Kelly Patten, from the University of California, Davis (Below)



Nadine Hollmann received the Elsevier Poster Award (Right)



Anne Zwartsen, Utrecht University, (far right) received the Axion Instruments Travel Award. Also pictured, Tim Shafer, incoming INA President, and Giovanna De Filippi, Axion Biosystems (Left)



Diane Rohlman takes aim at an angry styrofoam bear at the Neanderthal Museum. (Above)

INA-17 was held in Düsseldorf, Germany, from September 29-Oct 3, 2019. By all measures, the meeting was a huge success. Approximately 120 people attended the meeting. Dr Debbie Cory-Slechta kicked off the meeting with the Hooisma lecture titled "Developmental Ambient Ultrafine Particle Exposures Produce Brain and Behavioral Features of Neurodevelopmental Disorders". As usual, there were a number of outstanding presentations by students, with Kelley Patten (University of California, Davis) winning the David Ray award. The Networking event was a tour of the Neanderthal Museum and the Old Town of Düsseldorf, which was educational and fun, and introduced weapons into the traditional INA networking event, as we learned to shoot a bow and arrow at the Neanderthal. As it turned out, several INA members would have been well-fed had they lived in more primitive times, whereas others of us would have been much "thinner", or perhaps even meals for an angry bear!

### STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

Carmen Marable, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Victoria de Leeuw, Utrecht University

Kristina Bartmann, Leibniz Research Institute Yang Bobo

(Unable to attend)

Jordis Klose, Leibniz Research Institute

Anna-Katharina Ukert, University of Konstanz

INA-17 was also made possible by the generous support of several sponsors:

CAAT Europe

The Society of Toxicology

Neucyte

European Chemical Industry Council

Multi Channel Systems

Elixirgen

## Special Issue of Neurotoxicology from INA-17: Call for Papers

The international journal *NeuroToxicology* (Elsevier) will be publishing a special issue "Translational Neurotoxicology" to showcase research presented during the INA-17 meeting in Dusseldorf, Germany in Sept 2019. Dr. Christoph van Thriel, Dr. Ellen Fritsche and Dr. Timothy Shafer are the guest editors.

Every participant who presented at this conference - either symposia or poster - is encouraged to submit a paper. As this will be a Virtual Special Issue, submitted papers will go to print in the first available issue of *NeuroToxicology* upon acceptance. By publishing articles in the journal's first available issue (online and print), we ensure that accepted articles are fully citable without delay. All accepted articles will be collected in a special issue that will be accessible on-line via the journal's website. There are already two papers published in this VSI! Check them out at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/neurotoxicology/special-issue/10WKKC2G373>.

Your paper may be Original Research, a mini-Review, a Short Communication, or a Commentary.

The length of your paper may be as long as necessary to present and support the data; 15-20 typewritten pages are average. Please note that the submission of a manuscript is not a guarantee of acceptance for publication in the journal. All manuscripts are subjected to the regular peer-review process of *NeuroToxicology*. According to these high quality standards, not all papers will be accepted while others may need revisions prior to acceptance.

For more information, visit: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/neurotoxicology/call-for-papers/translational-neurotoxicology>

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF INA-17 MANUSCRIPTS IS: June 30, 2020**

## Call For Special Issue Proposals - NeuroToxicology

INA is affiliated with the journal *NeuroToxicology*, and any INA member is welcome to organize a Special Issue for this journal. Special Issues can be focused on:

- A specific topic of broad interest to the field of neurotoxicology,
- 'Integrated neurotoxicology' like neuro-immune, neuro-endocrine and other topics that integrates multiple organ systems including the CNS/PNS, or on
- Convergent mechanisms of neurotoxicity, like neuroinflammation, oxidative stress, brain-gut axis, peripheral nervous system, etc.

For details on *NeuroToxicology* see <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/neurotoxicology>.

For specific questions or sending your proposal for a Special Issues, please contact Pam Lein ([pjlein@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pjlein@ucdavis.edu)) or Remco Westerink ([r.westerink@uu.nl](mailto:r.westerink@uu.nl)).

## Election of Post-doctoral and Student Members on INA Executive Committee

Dear Colleagues,

The INA executive committee is proposing to add a post-doctoral and/or student representative. This decision is based on creating the opportunity to give post-docs and students a voice on the executive committee, to create career opportunities and to take advantage of new ideas that can come from INA's future leaders.

To do so, we will first need to amend the by-laws of INA. We are currently working on the language and soon will be sending an email to members asking them to vote on this change. Stay tuned for additional news on this topic and start thinking of who among our post-docs and students to nominate.



## INA-18, DURHAM, NC in 2021

INA-18 will be held in Durham, North Carolina, USA; The Executive committee recently decided to move the dates of the meeting to the Fall of 2021 due to concerns regarding the corona virus. The theme of the meeting will be **"Integration from high throughput screens to complex organisms to protect humans from neurotoxicity."** Building on the INA meetings of the last decade in Israel (2009), China (2011), The Netherlands (2013), Canada (2015), Brazil (2017) and Germany (2019) INA

will meet in Durham, North Carolina, USA in 2021.

Durham is adjacent to the Research Triangle Park (RTP) Area, home to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), as well as several major research universities, including Duke University, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University and North Carolina Central University, Bayer Inc.

and the Research Triangle Institute. The RTP area includes one of the greatest concentrations of neurotoxicologists anywhere in the world. This provides a great opportunity for INA for participation of a great range of neurotoxicology scientists and students. Durham is a culturally rich city in the RTP region with excellent restaurants, microbreweries, music and sports. The local organizing committee is taking advantage of this to plan some unique networking events for the meeting.

### Possibilities for symposia include:

- *Neurotoxicology for Second Quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
- *Advancements in Bioinformatic Methods to Winnow Critical Mechanistic Understanding from the Sea of High Throughput Data*
- *Addressing Psychiatric Problems Resulting from Neurotoxic Exposures,*
- *Mitochondrial Mechanisms of Neurotoxicity*
- *Neurotoxicity, Using Zebrafish Models to Link Molecular and Cellular Neurotoxic Mechanisms with Behavioral Dysfunction*
- *Epigenetic Modification as a Transgenerational Mechanism in Neurotoxicity*
- *Microbiome interactions with Neurotoxic Mechanisms*
- *Advancing Neurotoxic Risk Assessment Toward a Sustainable Future*
- *Neurotoxic consequences of COVID-19*
- *Emerging technologies for neurotoxicology research*

### Proposed Schedule:

- Monday: Welcoming Reception, Hooisma Lecture (INA)
- Tuesday: Symposia and Platform Sessions
- Wednesday: AM Scientific Meetings, PM social and cultural activities
- Thursday: Symposia, Business meeting, Poster session
- Friday morning: Symposia and platform sessions

### Local Organizing Committee

- Edward D. Levin, PhD, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA
- Timothy Shafer, PhD, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA
- William Boyes, PhD, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA
- G. Jean Harry, PhD, National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Research Triangle Park, NC, USA
- Mamta Behl, PhD, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA
- Chris McPherson, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA

### Scientific Organizing Committee

- Pamela Lein, PhD., UC Davis, CA, USA
- Ed Levin, PhD, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA
- Christoph Van Thriel, PhD, Leibniz Research Centre, Germany
- Anna Price, PhD, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Italy

The Scientific Organizing Committee is looking to add a post-doctoral member. If you are a post-doc and are interested, please contact Pam Lein ([pjlein@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pjlein@ucdavis.edu)) to volunteer.

### Meeting Facilities

The Durham Convention Center provides first-rate meeting space and fully equipped convention facilities. This Marriott Hotel is directly connected with the Convention Center. Three other hotels, the C21 Museum Hotel, the Durham Hotel and the Unscripted Hotel are within one city block of the Convention Center. The hotel rooms are approximately US\$195 per night for either a single or a double room. It is proposed that we will have the traditional all-inclusive rate including meeting registration, rooms and meals. In addition, because of the large local group of neurotoxicologists there will also be available meeting-only rates.

### Travel

Raleigh-Durham (RDU) International Airport is 10 km west of downtown Durham with convenient flights to a wide variety of cities across the globe. RDU has direct flights to many cities in North America, including New York, Toronto, Atlanta, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle as well as direct flights to Europe, including London and Paris.

### Social and Networking Events

We are planning an evening for post-docs and students to network, as well as the traditional INA social event. Thanks to the precedent set by INA-17, this event will add weapons to the traditional evening of education, food and fun. We are thinking that axe throwing will be a great way for INA members to network. Stay tuned for more details on both of these events!

### News from our members

Do you have some news to share? Let us know at [timshafer.ina@gmail.com](mailto:timshafer.ina@gmail.com)

### Just for Fun!



Provide a "safe for work" caption for the photograph above (send to: [timshafer.INA@gmail.com](mailto:timshafer.INA@gmail.com)). All acceptable entries will be posted on the INA website, and the winning entry (to be determined by the President-elect, current President, and Past-President) will receive a fabulous prize! All entries must be received by June 15, 2020.