

ACTRA IUTOX MEMBER CONTRIBUTION TO NEWSLETTER
Australasian College of Toxicology and Risk Assessment



ACTRA HIGHLIGHTS 2020

ACTRA's first online AGM

The first online Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ACTRA was held on 10 September via Zoom video conference, chaired by ACTRA President Paul Wright and supported by Paul Lumsden (ACTRA Secretariat). The AGM was well-attended (by 38 members) and the agenda was successfully completed in half an hour, including acceptance of reports from the President and Treasurer and the Election of Officers. Many thanks to Andrew Harman (Harman Legal), Gordon Reidy (Sumitomo Chemical) and Paul Lumsden for helping to develop the online procedure for the 2020 AGM.

Four positions on the management committee were up for election – Vice President, Secretary and two committee positions. We congratulate the new committee members elected at the AGM, who are:

- Vice President: Gordon Reidy (Sumitomo Chemical)
- Secretary: Tarah Hagen (SLR Consulting)
- Committee Member: Effi Liden (Department of Health and Human Services, Vic Gov)
- Committee Member: Maryam Moslehi (CDM Smith)

To date in 2020, ACTRA Board Meetings were held on 21 January, 31 March, 2 June and 5 August, as well as an Extraordinary meeting on 17 March to discuss contingency plans for the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) due to the COVID-19 situation. We sincerely thank the 2019 Management Committee for their dedication and input in the running of our society, i.e. Peter Di Marco (Immediate Past President), Gordon Reidy (Vice President), Andrew Harman (Treasurer; Governance & Finance Chair), Tarah Hagen (Secretary; Marketing & Communications Chair), Ian Delaere (Membership Officer), and Ordinary Members Selma Kaasinen and Jen Martin and co-opted co-ordinator members Effi Liden (ASM Chair), Antti Mikkonen (CDM Smith & UniSA) and Mirella Goetzmann (WA Health), with support from Paul Lumsden (Secretariat).

The ACTRA Management Committee for the 2020/2021 financial year is:

- President: Paul Wright
- Vice President: Gordon Reidy
- Immediate Past President: Peter Di Marco
- Secretary: Tarah Hagen
- Treasurer: Andrew Harman
- Membership Officer: Ian Delaere
- Ordinary Members: Effi Liden and Maryam Moslehi

We continue to welcome new members to ACTRA, with the membership currently at a total of 140, comprising 109 full members, 2 student members, 1 Emeritus member, 15 RACTRA members, 12 FACTRA members and 1 Honorary FACTRA member. The re-registration process has been developed and is now in place thanks to the efforts of Ian Delaere (SA Health). We look to grow our student membership in the future.

ACTRA's New Online Webinar Series

The Education Committee held regular meetings throughout the year to plan, develop and organise the new ACTRA Webinar series, which is now a regular feature on the first Thursday of the month. This has been a huge success and we are indebted to Professor Brian Priestly (FACTRA & ACTRA's first president; Monash University) for kicking off this important online activity by delivering such interesting and engaging presentations, along with interactive Q&A sessions well-moderated by Tarah Hagen. The webinars provide you with an opportunity to gain insight from some of Australia's most accomplished and experienced toxicologists and risk assessors. The aim of these webinars is to hone in on the practical applications of those concepts with the help of interesting case studies.

Brian's three webinars addressed: (1) Substance and/or process-based regulation (11 June); (2) Product-based regulation (9 July); and (3) Environmental regulation and guidance (6 August). These attracted between 31-47 registrations (including ACTRA members, non-members, students and organisations, which each receive 10 logins), with attendee numbers peaking at 70. There has also been much interest from other societies, including the Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and the Society for Risk Analysis Australia New Zealand (SRA-ANZ), which both receive ACTRA member's rates for webinar registration.

We have already had a great start to the next set of webinars about risk assessment, management and communication – John Frangos (FACTRA, DABT; CDM Smith) presented on the "Principles of Human Health Risk Assessment" (3 September) and Adjunct Professor Peter Di Marco (PhD FATS; Edith Cowan University) presented on "Aspects of Risk Communication" (on 1 October). Our next scheduled webinar for the 5th of November will be on "Application of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern". We encourage you to come along to the webinars which are very reasonably priced.

For more information and to register please go to the ACTRA website: <https://actra.org.au/>



Reminder about the postponement of the ACTRA ASM to 2021

While we would very much like to experience moreprecedented times and charted waters as soon as possible, it has been necessary for all of us and ACTRA, to adjust and adapt to the situation. The ACTRA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) planned for the 26-28 August 2020 has been postponed to 2021. We warmly invite you all to come to the ParkRoyal Darling Harbour in Sydney for the ASM 2021 on 25-27 August 2021. An exciting scientific and continuing education program focusing on the advances in assessment and understanding of petroleum toxicology, neurotoxicology and their application in risk assessment has already been organised.

For more information we invite you to check out the preliminary program on the ACTRA website: <https://actra.org.au/>

Contact Us

ACTRA Secretariat

secretariat@actra.org.au

Suite 1, 1 Smith Street, Fitzroy

Victoria, 3065

P: +61 3 9895 4451

www.actra.org.au