

CTDC10 and 12SCT REPORT

The joint 10th Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries and 12th Serbian Congress of Toxicology was held in Belgrade, Serbia, April 18-21, 2018. The idea of organizing both meetings together was approved by IUTOX and SETOX General Assemblies a few years ago. It should be emphasized that this was the first time that Serbia had the opportunity to host a worldwide international toxicology meeting gathering representatives from all over the world, coming from surrounding countries such as Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Hungary, Romania, but also from far destinations such as the United States of America, Australia, Japan, China, South Africa...

The activities covered by the organizers of this congress, Serbian Society of Toxicology (SETOX) and International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) and under the auspices of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), started on April 16 at the SASA with a two-hour Tribune "Toxicology and Us". The President of SETOX, the honored academicians and eminent experts informed the audience and citizens of Belgrade about the current situation on occupational and environmental exposure, food and water safety in Serbia, as well as smoking habits and its health effects. The tribune was very successful, with a vivid discussion, initiating further toxicological problems and ecotoxicological issues in our region. This event was followed by the Opening ceremony of the Exhibition "History of Toxicology" that was held at the Gallery of SASA. Thanks to Philip Wexler and National Library of USA posters from toxicopedia were presented enabling citizens of Belgrade to learn some more about the history of toxicology in different parts of the world. The visitors had also a unique opportunity to get the insight into the history of toxicology in Serbia, to see the first books of Toxicology printed in Serbian, to get some more knowledge on the development of forensic, clinical and occupational toxicology in Serbia, to see old reports of toxicological analyses, to read about interesting cases in toxicological practice, etc. The exhibition lasted for a whole week and was visited by a great number of citizens of Belgrade, as well as the participants of the CTDC10 congress.

Pre-congress activities, held on Wednesday morning April 18, included 4 continuing education courses (CECs); 1) Carcinogenicity Studies: Perspectives on design and execution for successful product registration (presented and sponsored by American Toxicology College-ACT speakers), 2) Health-Based Limits for Toxicological Risk Assessment: setting acceptable daily limits for pharmaceutical and chemical safety (also ACT), 3) RISK21: A Practical Framework for Risk Assessment in the 21st Century (presented and sponsored by British Society of Toxicology), and 4) Water Security: Integrating Lessons Learned for Water Quality and Sustainability. The CECs attended about 100 participants.

The Congress was open on Wednesday, April 18 at 6 pm. During the Opening ceremony welcome notes were given by the President of SETOX- Vesna Matović and the President of IUTOX- Jun Kanno, the Lifetime Achievement Award was delivered to Ali Esat

Karakaya and the travel award winners supported by IUTOX, SOT and NIEHS were presented to the audience. Prof. Mary Gulumian, Head of the Toxicology Research Projects, National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) and former President of the Toxicology Society of South Africa, gave the Opening lecture “State of Science and Profession of Toxicology on the African Continent: Lessons Learned from Challenges, Advancements, and Future Developments”.

The Congress was organized through: 4 CECs, 1 Opening and 4 Plenary lectures, 16 Symposia, 4 Workshops, 3 Short Communications and 3 Round Tables. Furthermore, WHO organized Chemical Risk Assessment Network Meeting with more than 30 participants. A superb scientific program was complemented by prominent scientists from around the world to lecture on diverse topics covering many aspects of toxicology. The Congress started off with a strong continuing education program and progressed to highly engaging and relevant workshops, plenary lectures and innovative round tables. All the sessions were well attended, with lively discussion. Round tables entitled “Promoting Undergraduate Toxicology Education and Career Opportunities for Students in Developing Countries”, “Women in Toxicology in Developing Countries” (recorded and can be seen at www.ctdc10.rs) and “Toxicology for Health in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” had great success. After the Round table Women in Toxicology in Developing Countries, President of SOT Patricia Ganey and President of ACT Tracey Zoetis presented to the audience the goals and main activities of these societies being of great help to the societies of toxicology in developing countries.

The total number of the participants was 357, coming from 57 countries, with participants from Serbia leading with 77, Turkey 30 and Croatia 21 participants. The total number of speakers was 126 (invited speakers and 13 speakers at CECs), short communication presenters 21 and poster presenters 180, with 348 abstracts in total.

Besides the excellent scientific, we offered participants attractive social program and chance to experience charming April days and exciting sights and sounds of Belgrade. On Thursday, April 19, on a beautiful sunny day, we had a walking tour through Belgrade and visited Exhibition “History of Toxicology” at the Gallery of SASA, and on Friday, April 20 a Gala dinner on a floating boat with live music just for us,

The Closing Ceremony was on Saturday 21, 3 PM, after successful sessions, such as a plenary workshop “Toxicology Data and Online Tools in Support of Research and Publications” and Round table of WHO that presented the main goals and further activities of WHO concerning the human and environmental health. At the very end, we had a chance to see the national dance and a film of beautiful Malaysia, the host of the next CTDC congress in 2021. We wish them all the best!

Once again I would like to express my deepest gratitude to IUTOX EC members who recognized Serbian Society of Toxicology as capable of organizing CTDC congress, to the Gold sponsors SOT, ACT, WHO, and IPIECA; silver sponsors Japanese Society of Toxicology, MatTek in Vitro Life Science Laboratories s.r.o., British Society of Toxicology, and NIEHS; bronze sponsors RTC S. p.A and Bio Basic Europe, as well as other sponsors who made this congress organization possible! A huge thanks to all our amazing partners, as well to all the participants. We couldn't have a successful conference without you!

Vesna Matović

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vesna Matović". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind the text.

CTDC10 President

President of Serbian Society of Toxicology