

Minutes of ComTox Meeting: Brisbane, June 30 – July 3, 2001

Present: Rita Cornelis (Division TM)
John Duffus (Chairman)
Regine Heinrich-Ramm (TM)
Jytte Molin-Christensen (AM)
Monica Nordberg (TM)
Eric Olsen (TM)
Doug Templeton (Secretary)

Observers:

Anders Kalner (Division President) – Agenda Item 7 (part)
Chris Schonwalder (IUTOX, NIEHS) – Agenda Item 7 (part)
David Wustrow – Agenda Items 1-5

Before the meeting opened, RC gave a summary of the previous day's Bureau meeting. Our Division has an annual budget of \$70K. No more than 25% of this may be spent for Division members' travel; at least 75% is for projects (mostly for project participants' travel). The funds, once awarded to a project, are committed for the lifetime of the project, even if it extends beyond, e.g., the proposed two years. The funds allotted to projects within a division are collectively called the Division's "Budget Portfolio".

Ongoing projects that have been awarded funding under the new system should already be renewed/resubmitted on the new forms, to keep them in the catalogue of the new bureaucracy. To indicate on the electronic submission form that this is reaffirmation of an 'existing new project', the words "Resubmission of [*project name*]" could be added.

There is also an indication that with the loss of Commissions, the Bureau will re-establish something like Commissions under the title of "Subcommittees" to oversee groups of like-oriented projects.

The meeting opened at approximately 9:40 a.m.

1. The agenda was approved with minor discussion of the titles of specific projects (see below).

2. Minutes of the meeting in Szeged were approved unanimously.

Matters arising:

i) There was discussion of the Nolan project. This should now be considered terminated. JD will meet with Nolan when in New York in July and discuss whether there is any merit in attempting to salvage anything from this venture.

ii) JD was to consider a book collecting publications that identify the ComTox *oeuvre*. This is now thought not to be worth pursuing because such a collection of papers would be both dated and lacking in logical progression.

3. Reports from Commission-sponsored meetings: The proceedings of the Warsaw meeting on Trace Elements in Food are in press in the Food Additives and Contaminants (DT).

4. Upcoming Commission-sponsored meetings – None

5. Publications:

(i) Templeton, D.M., Ariese, F., Cornelis, R., Danielsson, L.-G., Muntau, H., van Leeuwen, H. & Lobinski, L., IUPAC guidelines for terms related to chemical speciation and fractionation of elements: Definitions, structural aspects, and methodological approaches. *Pure Appl. Chem.* 72, 1453-1470 (2000).

This has been summarized in *J. Anal. Atom. Spectrom., J. Environ. Monitoring, and Analyst*.

A summary submitted by JD also appeared in *The Occupational Hygiene Newsletter (British Occupational Hygiene Society)* 14(2): 19 (2001), in the *British Toxicology Society Newsletter* and in *Croner's Occupational Hygiene Magazine*.

(ii) Heinrich-Ramm et al., Biological monitoring for exposure to volatile organic compounds, *Pure Appl. Chem.* 72, 385-436 (2000) (published before the Szeged meeting) has been summarized by RHR in *Int. Arch. Occup. Environ. Health* 74: 229-230 (2001). It was also summarized by JD in *The Occupational Hygiene Newsletter*, the *British Toxicology Society Newsletter*, and *Croner's Occupational Hygiene Magazine*.

(iii) Duffus, J., Risk assessment terminology, *Chem. Int.* 23: 34-39 (2001).

6. Projects under the "old system":

720/11/97 - Fundamentals of Toxicology (Duffus)

Documents by JD and Howard Worth have been circulated and comments were received from MN and EO. (Note: Unanimous approval was given at the joint meeting of ComTox and CTC on 3/07/01). Versions are now available in B&W and colour Power Point formats and in Acrobat PDF format.

720/12/97 - Risk assessment with a focus on particulate matter (Nolan)

Nothing has been provided and the project should be considered terminated. JD will discuss the possibility of submitting a new project when he visits RN in New York in late July.

Note from JD (August 8, 2001): "I discussed this with Robert and he is considering submitting a new project proposal."

720/8/95 - Risk assessment: Educational material - (Duffus)

Rob Herber, JD, JMC & EO submitted a paper to *Int. Arch. Occup. Environ. Health*, but it was treated as an original scientific contribution and declined. It is now under revision

as a technical report for PAC. The intention is then to publicize it in the manner we have come to expect of work otherwise buried by publication in PAC, i.e., dissemination through societies, editorial boards, newsletters, ...

Note from JD (August 8, 2001): "I have revised the paper and it is now in the June issue of PAC."

720/7/95 - Exposure assessment using the logbook method (Olsen)

Because co-author Patricia Stewart works for NCI, approval by them was a necessary delay before the paper could be submitted. It is now under review through the usual IUPAC process.

720/9/97 - Modelling human exposure to outdoor air pollution (Olsen)

This project is completed and the manuscript is in press.

Projects under the "new system":

Immunochemistry of metals (Templeton)

Funding has been received for this project and three draft manuscripts by JMC, RHR, and DT were discussed during our stay in Brisbane. A fourth is planned, with a meeting perhaps to finalize the initial publications set for tentatively for Stockholm in Spring 2002.

Glossary of toxicokinetics (Nordberg)

Funding for this project appears to be immanent, and preliminary discussions were held among MN, JD, and DT. After compilation of a list of terms and preliminary sources of definitions, a meeting will be held, tentatively in Stockholm to coincide with that of the above project.

7. New projects:

Estimation of the concentration component of exposure in the workplace (EO)

EO presented a summary and it was felt to be consistent with the kinds of projects we have done in the past, and with the aims of IUPAC.

A second edition of "Fundamentals of Toxicology for Chemists" (JD with Howard Worth)

JD will submit a project proposal by Oct.

A project on Mn neurochemistry as discussed in Szeged will not be pursued.

Translation of "Risk Assessment in the Work Environment" (Danish to English) (EO)

Funds will be sought as a new project.

Chemical Disasters

The status of this project as discussed in Szeged is not clear. DT will contact Prof. Nagymajtenyi for clarification.

RC supported the worthiness of a project on Hormone Replacement Therapy. Commission members will think of names of those who might be involved. Lively discussion on the feasibility of such a project within IUPAC followed. AK suggested that a feasibility study might be submitted as a project in itself.

Development of educational materials for people handling pesticides in tropical climates (suggested by Birger Heinzow).

JD will pursue this idea with Heinzow. Terms of reference are to be provided by the National Adhering bodies of the relevant countries.

Future meetings: ComTox ceases to exist, but there is interest in keeping a group together. A first initiative might be a joint meeting of the members of the Immunochemistry of Metals and Glossary of Toxicokinetics projects in Stockholm next Spring.

Future initiatives: There was a general discussion of co-operation with IUTOX. P. Grandjean was never replaced as IUPAC representative to IUTOX, and there seems to have been little interest in co-operation from IUTOX. At this point we were joined, coincidentally, by Schonwalder. We reviewed our new project proposals for him and he will support initiatives for co-operation between IUPAC (at the level of the Division of Human Health) and IUTOX.

8. JD has prepared and circulated a critical review of usage of the term "Heavy Metals". This was endorsed by the Commission for publication, perhaps in shorter and longer versions in Chem. Int. and PAC, respectively.

9. The meeting adjourned late Sunday afternoon, 1/07/01.