EUROTOX Risk Assessment Speciality Section (ERAS)

Report of the General Meeting 2004 of the section members, Tampere (Finland), 13 July 2004 (at the 10th International Congress of Toxicology)

Attendants: Bert-Jan Baars (secr.), Karl-Heinz Cohr, Heidi Foth, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Robert Kroes (chair), Claudia Pölloth, Iona Pratt, Johannes Schulze, Claus-Peter Siegers.

Opening and report of previous meeting
The meeting was opened at 15.30 by the chairman, prof. Robert Kroes, who welcomed the attendants. The report of the general meeting 2003 of the section members was approved. The secretary noted that currently the section has 89 members.

Activities 2004
The chairman reviewed the activities regarding risk assessment issues at the congress and concluded that risk assessment was one of the more important topics, including an continuing education course on risk assessment and risk communication chaired by Iona Pratt, a symposium on integrated risk assessment co-chaired by Robert Kroes, and a symposium on new approaches in risk assessment of food.

Following the congress a one-day satellite symposium on combination toxicity will be held on Monday, 19 July, in Lübeck (Germany), organised by Claus-Peter Siegers and Johannes Schulze.

Activities 2005
Regarding the 2005 EUROTOX congress in Cracow (Poland), Robert Kroes was pleased to report that the section has been quite successful in the congress programme's input: almost all proposals have been accepted as symposiums or workshops:

- Risk assessment for contact sensitisers (workshop; main organiser Barbara Hall)
- Risk communication (symposium and continuing education course; main organiser Iona Pratt)
- Better safety with REACH? (round table discussion; main organiser Christina Rudén) - although already mentioned in the preliminary programme this proposal was not tabled in the last meeting of the programme committee. Robert Kroes will seek clarification.

In addition the following symposiums/workshops are programmed:

- Integrated exposure and risk assessment of PAHs (proposed by the Polish Society of Toxicology)
- Safety of functional foods (sponsored by ILSI)
- Integrating human data and risk assessment (sponsored by IPCS).

Robert Kroes said that annually for additional activities some € 5000 is available. Activities in need of a larger budget need the approval of the Executive Committee.

Activities 2006
The 2006 EUROTOX congress will be held in Dubrovnik (Croatia). This congress will be organised back-to-back with the 6th congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries. The following proposals were brought forward (between brackets the members taking the lead):

- Sensitivity of children (Ursula Gundert-Remy and Johannes Schulze)
- Risk assessment of mixtures (Claus-Peter Siegers and Johannes Schulze)
- Route-to-route extrapolation, focussing on indoor air (proposed already last year by Gerhard Nohynek; Ursula Gundert-Remy is also interested)

1) Information obtained after the meeting learned that not tabling the proposal "Better safety with REACH?" was a mistake. The proposal is included in the congress programme for 2005 (Cracow).

2) It was subsequently established that the topic "Are children small adults?" was already included in the programme for the 2005 congress in Cracow.
New officers
Last year the current officers had announced their wish to step back. The following new officers were nominated:

Chairman: dr. Karl-Heinz Cohr (Copenhagen, Denmark)
Secretary: dr. Johannes Schulze (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)
Third officer: dr. Michael Schwenk (Tübingen, Germany)

Preceding the meeting, 20 members had announced not to be able to attend the meeting and had expressed their approval with the nominated officers. The meeting unanimously approved the proposal to declare these officers elected. Robert Kroes noted that dr. Schwenk, who could not be present at this meeting, had consented to his nomination, and congratulated the new officers with their election. He remembered the new chairman that through his chairmanship he is also a member of the congress programme committee for the future congresses.

Closing
Nothing else being at order Robert Kroes closed the meeting at 16.30 h, but not after Karl-Heinz Cohr as the new chairman had thanked the leaving officers for their efforts during the past years.

Bilthoven, 4 August 2004

Note added after drafting this meeting report:
Karl-Heinz Cohr (chairman) and Johannes Schulze (secr.) proposed the acronym ERAS for the specialty section. Members who reacted to this were unanimously positive.