



Prof. Mumtaz Iscan, PhD, ERT



EUROTOX President

In the blink of an eye my last two years as Vice-President flew by, and now as I step into my new role as President of EUROTOX, I must share with you how very grateful and honoured I am to receive the opportunity to serve as President for the term 2016-2018.

As I took the flag from the previous President, I realised that I have a profound responsibility to lead our society forward by increasing its visibility and impact on public and environmental health in Europe and elsewhere.

There are still challenges in front of us. For example, currently there are challenges facing toxicology as a discipline in Europe, and EUROTOX can provide leadership in addressing these.

In this context, the EUROTOX Executive Committee recently published a position statement paper in Toxicology Letters to draw the attention among universities and governments about the critical importance of the toxicology and the consequences of the reduction of the discipline in many universities in Europe. This position statement paper was sent to various institutes, higher education councils and regulatory bodies in Europe to create awareness of this issue.

Equally important are on-going challenges related to the recognition of toxicologists,. In particular the harmonisation and training standards for ERT across Europe, and the official recognition of ERTs in regulatory bodies in Europe, and elsewhere.

Other challenges that we are facing include building more collaborations with other biomedical disciplines and professional societies in Europe by providing platforms in our activities to have more visibility and impact on public health; recruit more creative toxicologists by promoting student and postdoc mentoring and leadership development and establishing networks among toxicologists/biomedical scientists, who will build the future of EUROTOX, and finally, expand global interactions and promote EUROTOX as an international forum for the global human and environmental health issues.

In line with the challenge to increase the collaboration and partnership with global scientific societies to strengthen the impact of toxicology and shape its future, the Executive Committee Core Members recently agreed to participate in a joint meeting with SOT Board members to discuss potential areas of mutual interest that go beyond the traditional debate. This meeting will be held January 24-25, 2017 in London, and we believe that this partnership will provide a unique opportunity for both societies to achieve the mutual goals of advancing the science of toxicology for the benefit of a healthier world.

Recently, to increase the visibility and impact of the speciality sections within EUROTOX activities, and to recruit more members to attend the speciality section meetings during the EUROTOX congresses and enable our members to take an active part in the activities of the speciality sections, we have started to discuss the various issues with the speciality sections

Chairs and are working to revise the EUROTOX speciality sections operational guidelines to address such changes.

As you know, the elections of new EUROTOX Executive Committee members took place during the EUROTOX 2016 Business Council Meeting held September 6, in Seville. Prof. Heather Wallace (UK) was elected as the new President-Elect for the term 2016-2018. Prof. Hilmi Orhan (Turkey) was elected for a second term, while two new members; Prof. Martin Wilks (Switzerland) and Prof. Vesna Matovic (Serbia) were elected for their first, three-year term (2016-2019). As the President of EUROTOX, I would like to congratulate and welcome them to serve in the EUROTOX Executive Committee.

The EUROTOX annual congress provides a unique occasion to participate in one of the most important toxicology meeting in Europe, and over the years it has become a highly relevant event in the world. The quality of the EUROTOX congresses has been improving over the years by increasing the number of attendees and featuring high quality science. Despite all the unfavourable events, the 52nd Congress of EUROTOX, which was organised by the Turkish Society of Toxicology in Seville, Spain, September 4-7, 2016 was a real success. More than 1000 participants, and a total of 932 posters and 58 exhibitors attended the congress.

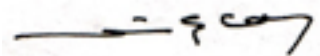
The 53rd annual Congress of EUROTOX will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia, September 10-13, 2017. The scientific programme committee has already prepared an exciting scientific programme, highlighting the latest research results and trends in the field of toxicology. We look forward to welcoming you to Bratislava in September.

As we look further ahead, just recently the call for scientific proposals for the EUROTOX 2018 Brussels congress was posted on the EUROTOX web page and has been sent out to all members, and scientific partners and exhibitors. We are looking forward to receiving proposals from all individual members, member societies, speciality sections, subcommittees and corporate members, as well as scientific and industry partners. Only a common effort will guarantee a high quality programme.

I am very fortunate that I am working with very talented and hardworking executive committee and secretariat. Our successes, of course result from the cooperation and teamwork between the colleagues who are on the executive committee, subcommittees, speciality sections, and members of national and affiliated societies, as well as individual members.

I foresee that the next two years will be very productive, and I invite you to join us as we continue to advance the goals and aspirations of our society--EUROTOX.

Sincerely,



Mumtaz Iscan, Ph.D., ERT

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