



Physicians Specializing in the Care of Poisoned Patients

A Bimonthly Newsletter

September 2011

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## President's Perspective

Lewis S. Nelson, MD, FACMT  
President



It will surprise no one reading this newsletter that the fodder that keeps medical toxicologists busy is amazingly interesting. Whether at a board meeting in the medical

center, or at a cocktail party, we are never at a loss for content about a broadly fascinating tox issue. You literally cannot open the newspaper without reading something about a new problem with an old medication, a celebrity death, or a poisoning epidemic. I am sure most have shared with me the angst of reading a story written about a toxicology topic that completely misses the mark when it comes to reality testing. We are really fortunate to have a vast and diverse interest in medicine in general and a depth of insight into all things drug related. It turns out that poisons, even the theoretical ones, fascinate everyone.

Every newsletter contains news about the world of medical toxicology, and includes a section of links to outside news stories you may or may not have noted. Our newsletter editors develop this section, and they would love your help. Send them any link to an online topic you think the membership would find interesting, from medical to pop culture and anything in between. If so moved, you can even write a little "blurb" about the relevance of the piece and send that along too.

What else is ACMT doing to keep our members (and others) at the cutting edge of "all things toxic"?

### Prescription opioid misuse

Chronic pain is a major issue in the US right now...so is prescription opioid morbidity and mortality. Pain is considered a problem serious enough to warrant the Institute of Medicine (IOM) using its deep resources to evaluate the magnitude of the problem and provide future direction. If you have not had a chance to review [this document](#), its worth your time. Here are some discussion points for you to use as your next icebreaker.

The report quantifies that chronic pain affects 116 million people in the US, which is 37% of the US population (47% if children are removed from the calculation). Does the suggestion that nearly half of the US adult population suffers from chronic pain have face validity?

And what about the suggestion that pain is woefully undertreated? This certainly may be true for some individuals whose physicians are not adequately informed about proper pain assessment and management. But on a grand scale can pain be "that" undertreated when the most highly prescribed medication in the US is...hydrocodone/acetaminophen. There are more than 130 million prescriptions written for this combination opioid, nearly 50% more than for the second place drug, simvastatin. It is said that the US has 4% of the world's population but uses 80% of the world's prescription opioid. Yet physicians in the US have never been more focused on pain management, with patient satisfaction scores and Joint Commission certification (pain as the 5<sup>th</sup> vital sign) hanging in the balance.



Physicians Specializing in the Care of Poisoned Patients

This is a classic example of the axiom that “no good deed goes unpunished.” Kudos to the IOM panel for endorsing improved pain assessment and management. But the expanded use of opioid analgesics? What ever happened to risk vs benefit? People are dying and families are suffering tragic consequences, due in large part to the ready availability of opioid analgesics. A few years ago, for the first time ever, more Americans died of prescription drug overdoses than from motor vehicle crashes. Medical toxicologists, who practice front line medicine, are well aware of this concern and it should weigh heavily into our public health considerations and personal medical practices. To be blunt, the most unfortunate aspect of the IOM report is that there was not a medical toxicologist on the panel.

At the [Spring Conference](#) on March 15, 2012, please join ACMT at the [Prescription Opioid Academy](#). We are lining up a group of national experts and thought leaders to describe the problem and muster the forces to combat prescription opioid misuse. Medical toxicologists should be more than simply informed about this public health epidemic, we should be taking a lead in correcting it.

**Inappropriate Chelation**

Our clinics are filled with patients who believe, rightly or wrongly, that they are poisoned. While some of these patients are

justifiably concerned, many indeed have (to quote Jerry Leiken) no underlying toxicologic disorder. Some have mildly abnormal laboratory values, commonly for metals, and occasionally these results are the result of inappropriate testing (see the [ACMT Position statement on “Post-Chelator Challenge Urinary Metal Testing.”](#)) Still, finding unscrupulous practitioners willing to evaluate these patient and administer chelating agents requires little effort. Patients may occasionally be harmed medically by this practice, and are almost always burdened financially.

Given the importance of this issue to our patients and to the medical community at large, ACMT has partnered with ATSDR to offer a [one day symposium](#) that will explore both the currently accepted appropriate and invalid uses of chelation therapy for metal poisoning. If you have the interest, and can make the time on February 29, 2011 to join us, I can guarantee that it should be an enlightening conference for everyone.

**Medication Management**

I have previously mentioned the importance of this aspect of medical toxicology practice. Every new drug brought to market needs to be used or it will go away. Some of these drugs offer benefit but carry some risk, or the cost may be very high. Certain drugs on the market are not available due to shortages in production or simply withdrawal by the

manufacturer. In a medical center, all of these issues are dealt with by the medication management system. The actual name of this group varies widely, and some Committee modifiers include Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Drug and Formulary, or Medication Use. Medical Toxicologists as a group are often active in these or related entities, such as Safety or Quality Committees. Among our members are many with an interest and leadership in this critically important and totally relevant issue. ACMT is reenergizing is efforts to band together and form a working group with diverse institutional perspectives. We envision that this group will provide insight into the inner workings of these somewhat veiled committees that allow us to improve our own individual efforts and those of others. Please join us at the committee meeting on Friday, September 23, 2011, from 5-6 PM. And its not too late to fill out the [related survey](#), particularly if you are interested but cannot make the meeting!

Hope to see you all at the NACCT in Washington DC next week. We encourage all of our members to attend this important event, and remind you that ACMT has a lot on the schedule to keep you involved. All members are welcome at all ACMT committee meetings. And please stop a board member or me and say hello.

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## Welcome 2011 Fellows of the College

Please join us in congratulating the following members of ACMT who have applied for and have been recommended for Fellow status (FACMT) to be recognized at NACCT in Washington, DC.

Physicians who are full members of ACMT and apply for fellow status in the College (FACMT) are evaluated by a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. Criteria includes significant involvement in the practice, research, and teaching of medical toxicology, as well as contributions in poison center medical affairs, public service, and service to the College. If these rigorous criteria are met, the subcommittee recommends to the Board of Directors and the membership of the College that the application be approved and the member granted the honor of recognition as a Fellow of the College (FACMT). [Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Nicole Bouchard, MD**  
**Kirk Cumpston, DO**  
**John Curtis, Jr., MD**

**Jou-Fang Deng, MD**  
**Louise Kao, MD**  
**Thomas Kunisaki, MD**

**Ayrn O’Connor, MD**  
**James Rhee, MD**  
**Brad Riley, MD**

**Daniel Rusyniak, MD**  
**Josef Thundiyil, MD**  
**Brandon Wills, DO**

[Click here to read the bios](#)

## ACMT Events at NACCT

The annual North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology is just around the corner. As always, ACMT will be very active at the meeting. All of our programs promise to be interesting and relevant.

### ACMT Pre-Meeting Symposium

*Inside the Beltway and Beyond:*

*The Intersection of Medical Toxicology and the Federal Government*

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Regency Ballroom

8:00am - 4:30pm

Continental Breakfast available at 7:30am

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### ACMT Business Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ambassador Ballroom

11:45am - 12:45pm

Prepackaged sandwiches will be available for purchase near the ballroom.

Click [HERE](#)

for the meeting agenda, March 2011 business meeting minutes and financial statements.

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### ACMT 13th Annual CPC Competition

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Regency Ballroom

5:15pm - 7:15pm

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### FACMT Reception

Thursday, September 22, 2011

7:15pm - 8:30pm

All Fellows of the College (FACMT) are invited to attend the annual ACMT Fellows Reception to recognize newly inducted Fellows of the College.

RSVP is Required.

[Click HERE to RSVP](#)

**JOIN US TO HONOR  
WILLIAM BANNER, JR., MD, FACMT  
WITH THE 2011 MATTHEW J. ELLENHORN AWARD**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011**

**REGENCY BALLROOM**

**4PM EDT**

## ACMT EVENTS AT NACCT 2011

### Symposia, committees, and other ACMT workgroups

Click [here](#) to sync these meetings with your own program or device.

<b>Thursday, September 22, 2011</b>		
8:00am – 12:00pm	ACMT Pre-Meeting Symposium: Inside the Beltway and Beyond: The Intersection of Medical Toxicology and the Federal Government (Morning Session)	Regency Ballroom
11:45pm - 12:45pm	ACMT Business Meeting	Ambassador Ballroom
1:30pm – 4:30pm	ACMT Pre-Meeting Symposium (Afternoon Session)	Regency Ballroom
5:15pm – 7:15pm	ACMT CPC Competition	Regency Ballroom
7:15pm – 8:30pm	FACMT Reception (by invitation for FACMT members only)	Empire Patio

<b>Friday, September 23, 2011</b>		
7:00am – 8:00am	ACMT Liaison Committee	Council Room
7:00am – 8:00am	ACMT Membership Committee	Senate Room
12:00pm – 1:00pm	ACMT Fellowship Directors Committee	Executive Room
3:00pm – 5:00pm	ACMT Education Committee	Executive Room
5:00pm – 6:00pm	ACMT Medication Management Section	Directors Room

<b>Saturday, September 24, 2011</b>		
7:00am – 8:00am	ACMT Occ Med / Med Tox Task Force	Directors Room
7:00am – 8:00am	ACMT Government Special Interest Group	Senate Room
11:00am – 12:00pm	MTF Advisory Board Meeting (by invitation only)	Robert's Restaurant
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Fellows-in-Training Roundtable	Forum Room
12:00pm – 1:30pm	ACMT Focus Group (by invitation only)	Council Room
1:30pm – 3:30pm	ACMT Practice Symposium	Empire Room
3:30pm – 5:30pm	ACMT ToxIC Meeting	Forum Room
3:30pm – 6:00pm	JMT Editorial Board	Senate Room

<b>Sunday, September 25, 2011</b>		
7:00am – 8:00am	ACMT Military Special Interest Group	Capitol Room
7:00am – 8:00am	ACMT Addiction Medicine Special Interest Group	Calvert Room
8:00am – 10:00am	ACMT Scientific Symposium	Regency Ballroom
12:00pm – 1:00pm	ACMT Practice Committee	Empire Room
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Fellows-in-Training Luncheon	Hampton Room
1:00pm – 2:00pm	ACMT Position Statement and Guidelines Committee	Council Room
1:00pm – 2:00pm	ACMT Website Committee	Directors Room
2:00pm – 3:00pm	ACMT Enduring Education Committee	Capitol Room
3:00pm – 4:00pm	ACMT ToxIC On-Line Training	Directors Room
4:00pm – 5:00pm	ACMT Ellenhorn Award Lecture	Regency Ballroom
5:00pm – 6:30pm	ACMT ATSDR Meeting	Council Room
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Medical Toxicology Fellows-in-Training Association (MTFITA)	Forum Room
6:00pm – 7:00pm	ACMT International Committee	Calvert Room

<b>Monday, September 26, 2011</b>		
7:00am – 8:00am	ACMT Industry Special Interest Group Meeting	Committee Room
11:00am – 1:00pm	ACMT / AACT LLSA Review	Regency Ballroom

## MTFITA Minute

*Medical Toxicology Fellows-In-Training Association*

*Brian Wolk, MD*

As summer comes to an end and our new Fellows-in-Training have settled in, it seems like a good time to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of research during fellowship.

As you probably already know, research is not only an integral part of your training; it is vital in informing patient care, defining current public health problems, and advancing the specialty of Medical Toxicology.

Unless you are already a well-accomplished researcher, you should be starting as soon as possible. Quality research takes significant time and effort. If you are starting from scratch, you will first need to identify an area of interest. If you do not have one, consider taking a question raised by a recent consult, or discussing your interests with a mentor. Look for mentors at your institution who may have a common interest, even ones outside your immediate field of study.

Once you have identified an area of interest, the next step is to define a project that you will be able to complete during your fellowship, but that will have enough impact to be publishable and to springboard you to your next project. Having a mentor or colleague to refine your area of interest into a clear testable question can be critical. Study protocols and IRB applications may take significant time to formulate and require several revisions. Attention to detail will reduce the chance of a delay in initiation of your study. If you are performing a comparative study, pay careful attention to primary and secondary outcomes, power calculation, and other statistical analyses. Early involvement of a statistician can save you headaches later!

If you are contemplating a multi-center or collaborative study, bear in mind that you may have delays due to factors beyond your control. Consult with your mentor(s) and consider contacting your institution's Office of Research as they can assist you in navigating the maze of paperwork that you are sure to encounter. Be sure to leave enough time to collect and analyze your data, and to perform a careful write-up of the subject matter. Once one project is underway, you may want to start a second project so that you will not be idle when you have downtime on your initial project, and you will always have something in the pipeline.

Finally, I would urge all of you to take advantage of the resources that the ACMT has to offer. ACMT has created the Fellows-in-Training Research Symposium which takes place at the Spring Meeting. The symposium allows presenters to present an idea or project in development to world-class researchers, who can provide constructive feedback and help the fellow refine their project. The Symposium has received strong positive feedback, and for the first time in 2011, was able to award travel scholarships to the Spring Conference and Symposium. Keep an eye out for details for the upcoming Symposium via e-mail. For any Emergency Medicine residents who may be reading, the Medical Toxicology Foundation, in conjunction with the Emergency Medicine Foundation, offers a Resident Research Award for EM Residents that provides up to \$5,000 in funding. The Emergency Medicine Foundation also offers numerous other research grants. Currently, the ToxIC registry has over 8,500 cases entered, and is a relatively novel research resource and can be used for multi-center studies. In addition to ToxIC, the MTFITA section of the ACMT website is available as a venue for collaboration with fellows from other programs.

So if you're thinking about getting a research project going, but haven't gotten around to it...now is the time! Don't delay!

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### Fellows-in-Training Events at NACCT

ACMT sponsors the following events at NACCT specifically for Medical Toxicology Fellows-in-Training. All fellows are welcome to attend.

#### **Fellows-in-Training Roundtable**

Saturday, September 24  
Forum Room  
12:00pm - 1:30pm  
(Bring your own lunch)

#### **Fellows-in-Training Luncheon**

Sunday, September 25th  
Hampton Room  
12:00pm - 1:30pm  
[RSVP REQUIRED](#)

#### **Medical Toxicology Fellow-in-Training Association (MTFITA)**

Sunday, September 25th  
Forum Room  
6:00pm - 7:00pm

## The ToxIC Case Registry Achieves New Milestones

Jeffrey Brent, MD, PhD, FACMT

Paul Wax, MD, FACMT

The ACMT ToxIC Case Registry is continuing to grow at a rapid rate. There are now over 8,500 cases on the database and the number is growing everyday. Please take note of the 5 abstracts at NACCT based on Case Registry data.

There are now two full manuscripts based on the Case Registry accepted for publication and a third has been submitted. One is a general description of the evolution of the Registry and two are based on online data. Two studies are currently being developed aimed at more extensive medical record-based analyses – one on Bath Salts and another on muscle relaxant toxicity. Any participant in the Case Registry desiring to develop their own studies are encouraged to [contact us](#), or [Dan Rusyniak](#), Chair of the Research Committee.

Studies published using just information entered online (referred to as “upper level data”) used cases reported by all participants in the case Registry. For that reason, and by Registry policy, the author lines of these publications include the phrase “On behalf of the ToxIC Case Registry Investigators”. If you are one of the investigators, and have been entering all of your cases on the Case Registry, you may cite these in a variety of ways. When applying for promotion, or if you have to undergo periodic academic review, you can list the papers and abstracts using this phrase as evidence of participation in this project. If you choose, you could list them on your Curriculum vitae. We will defer to your own discretion regarding how to list them. We do suggest, however, if you do so to do it in a way that makes clear that you were part of the study group (as opposed to a primary author).

NACCT is looming and we hope to see you at the meeting of the ToxIC group. That meeting will take place on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. We have lots of important issues and new developments to discuss. If you have any agenda items you would like included, including proposals for new studies, please let one of us know or send an e-mail to [ToxIC@acmt.net](mailto:ToxIC@acmt.net).

Travel safely ..... see you in Washington.

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## JMT Update

Leslie R. Dye, MD, FACMT

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Medical Toxicology

### New Editor-in-Chief for JMT

ACMT is very proud to announce **Leslie R. Dye, MD, FACMT** as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Medical Toxicology.



Leslie has been active with JMT since its inception and has been instrumental in much of its growth and success. She has an extensive editorial background and served as the Associate Editor of JMT for five years and as the Managing Editor for four year. She completed her toxicology fellowship at the University of Cincinnati and is currently a Training Coordinator/Physician Editor for Medisync in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has been actively involved with ACMT for many years and currently serves on the ACMT Board of Directors.

### Associate Editor

It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of a new associate editor to JMT. **Mark Mycyk, MD, FACMT** served on the editorial board as the feature editor for the Art of Toxicology. He is a Chicago native and lives there currently. Mark graduated from Harvard with a degree in English and American Literature and Language, and he attended Medical School at the University of Chicago. After completing his residency at Boston City hospital, he completed his toxicology fellowship with the Toxikon Consortium in Chicago. He is currently the research director for Toxikon and the ACMT-ATSDR representative for his region. He is also the feature editor for The Art of Toxicology. In his new role as associate editor, Mark will oversee the features for JMT. In addition to being an advisor for the editor-in-chief, he will also investigate smart phone apps for JMT.

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## JMT Update (cont.)

### Changes in Feature Editors

**Michelle Ruha, MD, FACMT** formerly the Case Reports Editor for JMT, is now the Review Editor. She is the Director of the Medical Toxicology Fellowship Program at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, where she also provides admitting and consulting in-patient toxicology services. Additionally, she serves as a consultant to the Banner Good Samaritan Poison and Drug Information Center. Dr. Ruha is a member of the Board of Directors of the American College of Medical Toxicology and has served on the Editorial Board for JMT since the journal's inception. Dr. Ruha is responsible for overseeing and soliciting for review articles.

**Jeanmarie Perrone, MD, FACMT** has also been a member of the Editorial Board for JMT since it began. She trained in Emergency Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Emergency Medicine Residency in Philadelphia and then completed medical toxicology fellowship at New York University/Bellevue Hospital Center. She is a faculty member in the the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania where she teaches emergency medicine and medical toxicology and is a consulting toxicologist with the Philadelphia Poison Center and consultant faculty at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She is currently Director of the Division of Medical Toxicology and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics and Laboratory Medicine. In her new role as Case Reports Editor, Dr. Perrone will be responsible for all case reports submitted to JMT.

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### Five New JMT Editorial Board Members

**Daniel Brooks, MD** completed his medical school education at the University of Stony Brook, New York (SUNY) and went on to do an emergency medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh and his medical toxicology fellowship at Good Samaritan hospital in Phoenix. He is the co-medical director of the Banner Good Samaritan Poison and Drug information center and is an associate clinical professor for the University of Arizona Medical School.

**Howard Greller, MD, FACMT** received his BA from Yale University and his MD from the New York University School of Medicine. He did his residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and completed a fellowship in Medical Toxicology at the New York University School of Medicine / New York City Poison Control Center. Currently, Dr. Greller is an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine. In addition to serving as a member of the ACMT board of directors, he has served as the Chairman of the ACMT Website Committee for the past four years, launched the Enduring Education committee, and is the moderator and administrator of the Forum of ACMT.

**Michael Hodgman, MD** is a clinical toxicologist with the Upstate New York Poison Center in Syracuse, NY as well as a practicing emergency physician for Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, NY. His interests include acute care medical toxicology. He is CQI director at the Upstate New York Poison Center and also program director for the fledgling Medical Toxicology fellowship at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

**Richard Wang, MD, FACMT** is a senior medical officer at the Division of Laboratory Sciences / National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Wang provides medical interpretation of the concentrations of toxic chemicals measured in the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals and in the Rapid Toxic Screen, and consultation with others in the field to enhance the understanding of human toxicology. Dr. Wang participates on several national and federal committees and working groups, and serves as the chairperson of the Division of Laboratory Sciences Safety Committee at CDC.

**David Wood, MD** is a Consultant Clinical Toxicologist at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK. In addition to an interest in the management of acute poisonings, he has a specialist clinical and research interest in recreational drugs, particularly novel psychoactive substance ("legal highs"). He has written and co-authored on numerous research papers and review articles in this field, has advised both the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA) on novel psychoactive substances, including drafting the EMCDDA risk assessment on mephedrone. Additionally, he is a co-opted member of the ACMD technical committee and the novel psychoactive substances and polysubstance working groups. Dr. Wood is also the Vice-Chair of the ACMT International Committee and was responsible for co-ordinating the Committee's International Toxicology Survey in 2011.

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## Enduring Education Committee

Howard Greller, MD, FACMT

The Enduring Education Committee of ACMT is dedicated to collect and catalog the educational efforts of the college while promoting toxicology education through novel means that exist beyond location-specific, lecture-based formats. The educational materials are designed for multiple different levels of learners and it is a further goal of the committee to widen the audience of these efforts beyond members of the toxicology community.

We need your help! We are looking for motivated members of the college to help provide, collect, collate and review materials for placement online. Educational materials can take any format that you'd like. They can be lectures, presentations, videos, tests and quizzes, podcasts, pictures, pearls, or anything else that you would potentially use to teach someone about toxicology. We are looking for all levels of materials from the lay public through an advanced toxicology topic for board certified physicians.

If you are interested, please contact Howard Greller at [howard.greller@acmt.net](mailto:howard.greller@acmt.net).

## Website Committee

Howard Greller, MD, FACMT

The Website Committee is looking for volunteers to help with a redesign / refresh of the site layout and function. The only experience that is needed is knowledge of how to use a computer and web browser. Looking for ideas to increase the visual appeal, ease of use and overall functionality of the site. Ideas, comments, questions and suggestions are greatly appreciated at [web@acmt.net](mailto:web@acmt.net).

A recent addition to the website has been an update to the [ACMT Medical Toxicology Lifelong Learning Assessment \(LLSA\) Center](#). Go here to review the materials for the 2009 and 2011 Medical Toxicology LLSA Exam, and watch a video review of the readings.

Also, be sure to check out the [Educational Meeting Calendar](#) as well as the [Enduring Education Center](#) for continued updates and expansion.

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## GET INVOLVED!

Our members are the lifeblood of our organization and you are always invited to become a more active member by joining a committee.

[Click Here](#)

to learn more about ACMT Committees.

Email [info@acmt.net](mailto:info@acmt.net)  
if you are interested in joining one.

## VISIT US ONLINE

[www.acmt.net](http://www.acmt.net)

Check Out Our:

[Educational Meeting Calendar](#)  
[Enduring Education Center](#)  
[LLSA Review Center](#)  
[National Case Conferences](#)  
[Regional Conferences](#)  
[Webinars](#)

## National Case Conference

Don't forget to join your colleagues for an hour of fast-paced, multi-national, interactive discussion of several intriguing or controversial medical toxicology cases. This web and phone-based conference is held on the third Thursday of each month at 1pm EDT.

If you have a case that you think would make for interesting and educational fodder, please forward it to [ncc@acmt.net](mailto:ncc@acmt.net) for consideration.

Did you miss the last conference?  
Don't worry, you can listen to all previous case conferences on the ACMT website [here](#).



Physicians Specializing in the Care of Poisoned Patients

## Toxicology in the News

Andrew Stolbach, MD

### AS A CELEBRATION OF THE END OF SUMMER, WE PRESENT THE FIRST **TOXICOLOGY IN THE NEWS QUIZ**

1) American counterterrorism officials are concerned that Al Qaeda is trying to obtain:

- A) [Zubaz](#) pants
- B) Ricin
- C) Paraoxon
- D) Trained cobra

Intelligence officials [report](#) that Al Qaeda's arm in insurgent-controlled regions of Yemen is trying to process castor beans to obtain ricin which could be packed in explosives. Authorities are monitoring the threat closely, although there are doubts that this would be an effective way to distribute ricin.



2) A man on a flight from Seattle to Anchorage was stung by:

- A) The surprise ending of the in-flight movie by M. Knight Shyamalan
- B) [Snakes on a plane!](#)
- C) Black Widow Spider
- D) Scorpion

Thirty minutes from Anchorage, [this man was a stung on the arm by a scorpion](#). Medics met the man upon landing, but they weren't sure what to do because "scorpion bites aren't common in Alaska." Thankfully, the man did well. In the news report he described only local burning. It is likely that the scorpion got on the plane in Austin.

There was no word on whether planes will stock centuroides antidote. Anascorp, an equine-derived immune Fab against centuroides venom was [approved](#) by FDA August 4. The drug was approved the the orphan drug process, partially based on a [study](#) of 15 children in which all 8 patients receiving drug (and only 1 of 7 receiving placebo) experienced symptomatic relief with 4 hours.



3) The film "Poisoning Paradise" is [leading more than](#) 1200 others in the Popular section of the international "Culture Unplugged" film festival. The film depicts:

- A) Administration of cyanogens to parakeets in Brazil
- B) A "do-it-yourself" murder website
- C) Alcoholism among Disney World employees
- D) Administration of sodium fluoroacetate to rodents in New Zealand

The film "[Poisoning Paradise](#)" describes the use sodium fluoroacetate, (1080 <sup>TM</sup>) to kill possums in New Zealand. The pesticide is applied via ground-based bait and dropped from aircraft. Although the TCA cycle-inhibiting pesticide is supposedly formulated to be unattractive to other types of animals, there is controversy over the degree to which other wildlife is affected. Proponents feel that the substance is necessary to control diseases that could harm livestock, while others believe the pesticide is harming the ecosystem and making humans ill.

Thanks for participating in the "Toxicology in the News" Quiz. I hope you find the scoring guide helpful.

Score: 3/3: You are a superior toxicologist, guesser, or you watch too much news.

Score: 1-2/3: You are hopelessly average and forgettable. What's your name, again?

Score: 0/3: Your honesty is eclipsed only by your dim wits.

## HOT TOPIC IN THE NEWS [Arsenic and Apple Juice](#)

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## Calendar of Events 2011

Sept 21-26 **North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology**  
Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC  
[More Information](#)  
[Register Here](#)

Nov 12-14 **Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology**  
10th Annual Congress  
Golden Sands Resort, Penang  
[More Information](#)  
[Register Here](#)

## 2012

February 29 **Use and Misuse of Metal Chelation Therapy**  
CDC Roybal Campus  
Atlanta, GA  
[More Information](#)

March 15 **Prescription Opioid Academy**  
Catamaran Resort & Spa  
San Diego, CA  
[More Information](#)

March 16-18 **10th Annual ACMT Spring Conference**  
Catamaran Resort & Spa  
San Diego, CA  
[More Information](#)  
[Register Here](#)

September 8-10 **Medical Toxicology Board Review Course**  
Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel  
New Orleans, LA  
[More Information](#)

### ACMT Board of Directors

Lewis Nelson, MD, FACMT - President  
Erica Liebelt, MD, FACMT - Past President  
Suzanne White, MD, FACMT - Vice President  
Leslie Dye, MD, FACMT - Secretary-Treasurer  
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Michele Burns Ewald, MD, FACMT  
Howard Greller, MD, FACMT  
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Michelle Ruha, MD, FACMT  
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Tricia Steffey - Administrative Assistant  
Jim Wiggins, MPH - Educational Coordinator

ACMT members please share with us any news of yourself or ACMT colleagues. We would like to hear about awards, grants, collaborations, moves, promotions, interviews, media interactions, invited national or international presentations or any other accomplishments for incorporation into our bimonthly newsletter. How do you like the new format of the newsletter? Send information to [newsletter@acmt.net](mailto:newsletter@acmt.net).

Thank you - The Editors

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# Save the Date



September 8-10  
**2012**

**New Orleans**  
Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Canal & Bourbon Street

# Medical Toxicology Board Review Course