



A Bimonthly Newsletter

2017 Volume 1

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President’s Perspective

Charles A. McKay, MD, FACMT President



The ACMT Board of Directors just completed its strategic planning meeting for 2017-2019, continuing our attempts over the last decade to evaluate and refine our

mission and goals/objectives as the opportunities and challenges of our medical specialty practice grow. Aably led by our Director of Business Development and Philanthropy, Leslie Lindquist, and our ever-diligent Executive Director, Paul Wax, the Board spent 1 ½ days assessing the marked changes in our professional society and discussing the impact of these changes on our strategic plan. Over the last 5 years, our budget has grown 4-fold and our level of involvement in a number of

areas has also grown, stretching our staff and Board, both of which are also larger than 5 years ago. I want to thank our Board of Directors (listed at the end of the newsletter) for their service and commitment to the organization; and to publicly recognize our staff for their persistence, patience, and professionalism.

Our revised Strategic Planning Goals are to:

- Establish the value of medical toxicology
- Establish member value
- Enhance member engagement

I want to give you just a glimpse of some of these issues and encourage everyone to attend the ACMT business meeting at ASM – being held this year in San Juan Puerto Rico on Friday,

March 31st at 5PM – where we will challenge you with opportunity.

What is the value of medical toxicology? I think that all of us find personal value in an enhanced understanding of how our bodies react to external threats, the very nature of medical toxicology. Yet, how does that translate into value for others? I would argue that your superior understanding of the intricacies and reproducibility of acetaminophen metabolite toxicity has value for the patient and provider in the midst of clinical overdose management, both in terms of confidence in the prediction of outcome and necessary (versus harmful or unnecessary) testing and treatment...yet our colleagues in the U.K. have been saddled with a silly policy decision to lower the “treatment line” indication, which is having enormous cost at no improvement in health outcomes – we need to be more successful in bringing our value to society. The “Choosing Wisely”



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statements were a move in that direction, and the Metrics Project is another. In what other ways should we marshal resources to have an impact? Our impact on outcomes (clinical and educational) is only limited by the imagination and expertise of our members! Please don't let lack of participation limit the potential for vigorous growth within your specialty of medical toxicology.

What about medical education? Have you informed your medical school, residency program directors – pediatrics, preventive/occupational medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine (the one you graduated from, if you are not involved in an academic program now) about the availability of travel awards, research support, mentorship, (very inexpensive) membership and benefits, and education – online and on-site available to their trainees through ACMT? If you

haven't forwarded the emailed requests for travel award applications from ACMT, please do so. These are wonderful opportunities for individuals to experience the energy of a group of specialists as they look to their own professional futures. As a College, we will be working to improve the visibility of these activities and improve their accessibility – sending all members a PDF of these opportunities for medical students and residents that you can just forward to your medical school dean, department chairs, and residency directors/coordinators.

What is the value to our members and how do we engage you more in the specialty of medical toxicology? This is after all a member organization. Please inform your Board of Directors about the issues you are facing, and where a national organization can help. From moving CMS to designate a specialty code for Medical Toxicology;

to working on metrics for toxicology practice; to enhancements of ToxC for research; to publishing Position Statements in support of scientific rigor and medical toxicology practice; to reinvigorating the mentorship program for toxicologists – of any age – who want to explore additional avenues of practice; to increasing our involvement with federal and international agencies for toxicology education and preparedness – your membership organization needs your involvement and expertise. If we aren't reaching you, let us know. This year will mark a renewed effort to streamline communications and increase the effectiveness of our committees and sections. Look for additional information on the website, as well as in these newsletters, and other messages.

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ACMT Educates

Bryan Judge, MD, FACMT, Education Committee Chair

The next Education Meeting for all committee members will occur in the Pinnacle Room from 3:30 – 4:30 PM EST on April 1, 2017 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Reports from working group leaders will be due approximately one week prior to the meeting.

I am really excited about all of the educational events offered by ACMT at the 2017 Scientific Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico from March 31 through April 2, 2017 at the Intercontinental Hotel! Several dynamic speakers are slated to deliver the latest innovative ideas and updates in toxicologic research, practice, and teaching. The 2017 Scientific Meeting brings with it two satellite sessions: 1) Epidemic of Addiction: Prescription Opioids, Heroin, & Fentanyl will be held on March 30, 2017 and; 2) Zika Overview: A 360° Look at the Epidemic which will also be held on March 30, 2017. Thank you to the conference planners, satellite session organizers, and ACMT Staff who have been hard at work for more than a year to ensure an exceptional meeting experience.

The ACMT Education Committee needs your help. Education is an important mission of ACMT and we can't do it without the input, vision, and assistance of others. The ACMT Education Committee is not only a great way to collaborate with others and move ACMT forward, but it can also help build professional development skills and contribute to your academic portfolio through active participation.

If you want to get involved with the Education Committee please contact me at bryan.judge@acmt.net. You can also contact Adrienne Dunavin at adrienne.dunavin@acmt.net.

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**2017 Seminars
in Forensic
Toxicology**

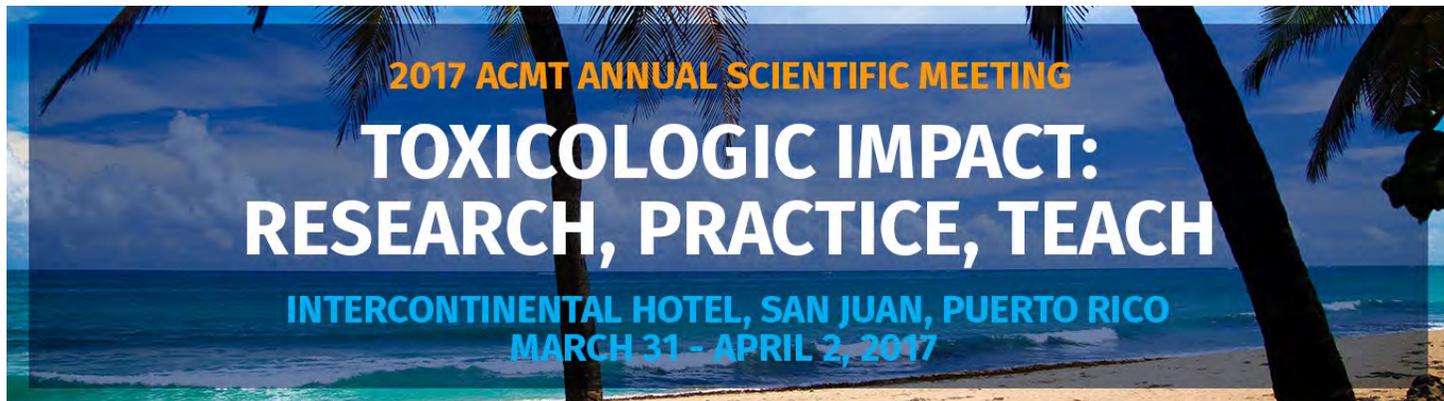
[Click here for
more information](#)

OPIOIDS, TOXICOLOGY, AND THE LAW:
MEDICAL-LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC
CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, PHILADELPHIA PA
DECEMBER 11-12, 2017



ACMT 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting

Join us March 30 - April 2 for the 2017 ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting & Satellite Sessions in lovely San Juan, Puerto Rico



[REGISTER HERE](#)

The 14th ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting is coming up in a few short weeks. Many of you probably remember this meeting was first held in 2002, focusing on our fellows-in-training and introducing them to the world of environmental toxicology. Over the last 15 years of planning, this annual conference has evolved into a much larger activity, with original research presentations, and showcasing the breadth of medical toxicology practice. This year, we will address some of the difficult issues of safety and risk – including discussion of pesticide use and mosquito control in the face of concern about Zika virus transmission. Over the years, other educational and outreach efforts have been developed or piloted at the ASM, including the ACMT Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory course and the ACMT Opioid course. Spin-off educational sessions include the biennial Seminars in Forensic Toxicology – showcasing world-renowned experts in aspects of toxicology that are the subject of civil and criminal litigation (FYI: reserve your spot for the December 2017 Philadelphia course focusing on the medical legal aspects of the opioid epidemic and its fallout).

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Medical Toxicology Foundation



[Click Here to Make a Donation](#)

The Medical Toxicology Foundation is a not for-profit charitable organization affiliated with the American College of Medical Toxicology and is intended to provide ACMT members, the general public, and commercial sponsors with a tax deductible mechanism to support Medical Toxicology. Your gift to the Medical Toxicology Foundation - a 501(c)(3) educational organization - is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

To learn more about the Medical Toxicology Foundation and its mission, [please click here.](#)

Donations always welcome.
[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)



ACMT International Committee

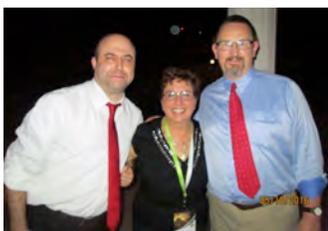
Michael Mullins, MD

Dr. Michael Mullins represented the ACMT International Committee at two meetings in Mexico this fall. In October, Dr. Mullins attended the triennial IUTox meeting in Merida, Mexico. The next IUTOX meeting will be 15-18 July 2019 in Honolulu, Hawaii. More information is available at www.iutox.org.

In addition to presenting an abstract on Fab antivenin safety, Dr. Mullins spent time with leaders of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Toxicología (ALATOX).

The next meeting of ALATOX is planned for July 6-8, 2017 in Lima, Peru. Information should soon be available at www.alatox.org.

In November, Dr. Mullins and Dr. Suzanne White represented ACMT at the World Congress of Emergency Medicine in Cancun. This meeting had 395 registered participants from 18 countries. Dr. Mullins presented a pre-congress workshop on toxicology and both Dr. Mullins and Dr. White were keynote speakers in the main congress. Next year's meeting will be in Puebla, Mexico (dates TBA and more information coming soon at www.urgenciasmexico.org).



Dr. Mullins (right) with Dr. José Marucci of Argentina (President of ALATOX) and Dr. Laura Borgel of Chile (Secretary of ALATOX).



Dr. Mullins and Dr. White with speakers at VI WCEM and Dr. Carlos Garcia-Rosas (conference organizer).

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Mentorship vs Sponsorship: What are they and why do you need them?

Ayrn O'Connor, MD, FACMT

If you asked accomplished and high-achieving physicians to reveal the secret of their success, many would stress the importance of mentorship and sponsorship in addition to their hard work and perseverance. Mentors and sponsors serve different purposes, but both serve to support you in achieving your goals. Sponsors are those who will advocate for you in the workplace helping you gain visibility and demonstrate your value. Mentors play a slightly different role in that they serve as a source of guidance and advice based on wisdom gained through experience, but may not be in a position to directly advocate on your behalf (i.e., be your sponsor). Establishing these relationships can be easy and natural for some, yet others may not be able to readily identify potential mentors or sponsors in their immediate work environment or know how best to initiate such a relationship.

Mentorship programs can be structured in many different ways, including corporations that administratively match mentors with mentees versus self-matching programs. However, examination of the most successful mentorships seem to have a foundation of friendship and good chemistry. It is essentially a two-way street that is valuable to both mentor and mentee. A good mentor can provide guidance on academic promotion, requesting higher

compensation, more protected time, or give advice on navigating office politics or hospital administration. Initiation of a successful mentorship is most likely accomplished when individuals can meet in person to ensure establishment of a good rapport. The ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting is a great opportunity for these introductions, as are the various interest-group meetings. ACMT would like to further assist in coordinating these in-person introductions when possible and help with remote introductions when a face-to-face meeting is not feasible.

Both mentors and sponsors are important in maximizing career growth and can lead to the formation of valuable relationships. Although we recognize the importance of both, ACMT would like to focus on providing opportunities for mentorship, as sponsorships often require close geographic proximity and long-term cultivation. In order to help our members in connecting with either mentors or mentees, ACMT will distribute a survey to identify members willing and interested in participating in the program and how best to structure the program to maximize its utilization. When you receive the survey, please take a few minutes to provide input so that we can best serve you. Also I would like to thank those who have served as mentors previously and hope you will continue your participation in the program.

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PEHSU Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units
A network of experts in children's environmental health

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) Program

Lizzy Nguyen, MPH, PEHSU West Program Coordinator

As part of the [PEHSU Webinar Series](#), ACMT hosted a Grand Rounds Webinar entitled *Toxic Chemicals in Children's Consumer Products* on December 14, 2016. Region 10 presented on chemical consumer product concerns, regulations in Washington State, the Children's Safe Product Act, and the impact on children. There were 67 attendees on that day and since the live webinar, 85 people have received Continuing Education (CE) credit from the CDC. The webinar is currently available on-demand in the PEHSU National Classroom.

ACMT also hosted a PEHSU Journal Club, on February 15, 2017 entitled *Environmental Uranium Exposure from Drinking Water* with 77 attendees. During this webinar, Region 8 led a discussion on four articles pertaining to uranium exposure through drinking water, testing options, and treatments. ACMT PEHSU's next webinar is scheduled for April 19, 2017. This webinar will be available on-demand in the PEHSU National Classroom mid-March.

For more information and to register for upcoming webinars please visit <http://www.pehsu.net/webinars.html>

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Women in Toxicology

Aryn O'Connor, MD, FACMT, and Meghan Spyres, MD

Several ACMT members have expressed an interest in developing a program to foster gender equality including the advancement of women in medical toxicology and academic medicine. We would like to hold the inaugural meeting of the group at the 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting in Puerto Rico. We would like to invite **all** interested members to join us after the satellite conference on March 30th at 6:30 pm, in the Surfside Room of the Intercontinental.

ASM 2017 Meeting Agenda:

1. Discuss goals of the group
2. Establish a mentorship network, identify members, and establish goals of the network
3. Assess needs of the meeting attendees (i.e. mentorship, academic/speaking opportunities, etc)
4. Identify relevant literature and plan article discussion on key topic for next meeting (i.e. implicit bias)

Proposed Goals for the group:

1. Promote awareness of gender inequality and its implications for both men and women in medicine
2. Propose actions to address gender inequality including:
 - Increase female mentorship in medical toxicology
 - Promote achievements of women in medical toxicology
 - Ensure women are well represented in topic lectures at national meetings
 - Address barriers to the advancement of women in academics

Please note this is meant to be inclusive of all ACMT members, men and women alike. We hope you can join us and contribute to the mission of the group.

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Member Certificates Available Upon Request

Did you know that you can get a copy of your ACMT Membership Certificate by simply sending a request to membership@acmt.net? Request it today!





Membership Committee Outreach

Evan Schwarz, MD, FACMT, Membership Committee Chair

One goal of the membership committee is to improve our member's experience. As part of this, we have developed 3 new taskforces this year. We have already recruited members to serve on the affiliate and the recruitment groups. Currently, we are looking for members interested in serving on the longitudinal study taskforce. The goal of this group is to look at how our member's practice changes over time and what ACMT can do to meet their member's changing needs. To this extent, 3 cohorts of members were recruited and surveyed a number of years ago. Unfortunately, this project lost its momentum and has been dormant for a few years. James Cao, MD has volunteered to lead and re-boot this project. If you are interested in participating with the longitudinal study or either of the other projects, please contact me at schwarze@wustl.edu. Also if you have any other suggestions of what the membership committee can do to improve your experience, feel forward to share those ideas with me, too.

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Journal of Medical Toxicology

Rachel Wightman, MD, JMT Fellow-in-Training Member

The Journal of Medical Toxicology looks forward to its 13th year of consecutive publication. After an exciting start to the new year, rest assured JMT is still here and our March 2017 issue is our biggest and best to date.

The highlight of this issue are the abstracts to be presented at the 2017 ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Every abstract is available for download -- many thanks to all who participated in reviewing the abstracts and the ACMT Research Committee for getting them together for our Spring issue.

For authors presenting their work at ASM, we invite you to seek out any JMT editor if interested in getting your abstract published as a full manuscript in our journal. JMT Editors are always looking for innovative work and happy to help our authors in any way needed.

The March issue also features selected Proceedings from the Forensics Conference held in Denver in December 2015. You'll find many expert reviews on the hot and evolving topic of legalized cannabinoids. These Proceedings have been among our most download articles in recent months.

The March issue also includes a Thank You to our peer reviewers. The success of our journal depends on the enthusiasm and attentive service of reviewers who help us identify what is publishable and how to make submissions better. If you reviewed for JMT in 2016, don't forget to claim your continuing education credit (check your email inbox for details).

Finally, at ASM, we will introduce the next Fellow-in-Training (FIT) member of our editorial board.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming March issue. And if you happen to be located outside the United States, don't worry! You'll never need a visa to read JMT online.

If any questions or comments about JMT, we're always happy to hear from you: jmtinfo@acmt.net.

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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 or Section.

Click on the links below for a description of each group. Email info@acmt.net to join any ACMT committee or section.

[ACMT Committees](#)

[ACMT Sections](#)



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Toxicology Investigators Consortium (Toxic)

Diane Calello, MD, FACMT



There's a lot going on in Toxic these days! The registry went live on the REDCap platform successfully on January 1, with ongoing case entry. We now have a unique website for Toxic, www.toxicregistry.org, highlighting the work of investigators to the scientific community and beyond. Meghan Spyres, MD is the newest addition to our team, and launched a social media campaign on behalf of the registry. Check out the Twitter hashtag #Toxic_ACMT and the Toxic Registry Facebook page.

7 abstracts utilizing the registry were accepted for ASM in Puerto Rico. Congrats to all investigators! (All abstracts listed "On Behalf of the Toxicology Investigators' Consortium" in addition to authors):

- 1) **Acute adverse events associated with the administration of FabAV within the North American Snakebite Registry.** Kurt Kleinschmidt, Anne-Michelle Ruha, Paul Wax, Jeffrey Brent, Sharan Campleman, NASBR.
- 2) **The Epidemiologic and Clinical Characteristics of Snakebites in the North American Snakebite Registry.** Anne-Michelle Ruha, Kurt Kleinschmidt, Spencer Greene, Meghan B Spyres, Paul Wax, Jeffrey Brent, Angela Padilla-Jones, Sharan Campleman, NASBR.
- 3) **Citalopram Ingestions: A Two-Year Retrospective Study of the Toxicology Investigators Consortium.** Tony Rianprakaisang, Lynn Farrugia, Sean Rhyee.
- 4) **Comparison of Pediatric vs. Adult Rattlesnake Envenomations: The Toxic Experience.** Michael Levine, Michelle Ruha, Rais Vohra, Brian Wolk, Meghan Spyres, Jeffrey Brent, Paul Wax, Sharan Campleman.
- 5) **Hydrogen Peroxide Exposures Reported to the Toxicology Investigators' Consortium.** Benjamin Hatten.
- 6) **Trends in the Occurrence of Opiate Exposure as Reported to the Toxic Registry, 2010-2015.** Sharan Campleman, Anne Riederer, Paul Wax, Jeff Brent.
- 7) **Increased Severity of Neuropsychiatric Outcomes with Acute Synthetic Cannabinoid Toxicity as Compared to Marijuana in Adolescents Presenting to Emergency Departments.** Sarah Ann Anderson, Peter Dayan, Diane Calello, Andrew Monte, Anna Oprescu, Yasmin Hurd, Alex Manini.

Be sure to attend the Toxic presentations at ASM:

Registry to Bedside: Using Toxic to Study Cardiovascular Drug Toxicity

Alex Manini MD, FACMT, The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Elmhurst Hospital Center, New York, NY

Making an Impact Using Toxic: Research, Practice, and Education

Tim Wiegand, MD, FACMT, University of Rochester Medical School, Rochester, NY.

Lastly, we're happy to announce that we have created a new award for "Best Toxic Presentation" based on an abstract. Winners will be announced after the meeting. See you in San Juan!

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ACMT/AACT Medical Toxicology LLSA Review Webinar Wednesday, July 19, 2017 - 1pm ET

The ABMS Medical Toxicology Subboard facilitates continuous learning by identifying a set of Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) readings every other year to guide diplomates in self-study of seminal Medical Toxicology literature. The ACMT/AACT LLSA 2017 Webinar provides a dynamic and comprehensive review of these articles. Mark your calendar and watch your email for registration details!

The same presentation will occur at NACCT 2017.



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Webinar Schedule

March 2017

March 14, 2017 at 12pm ET
ACMT National Journal Club

March 16, 2017 at 1pm ET
ACMT National Case Conference

March 21, 2017 at 12pm
ACMT Grand Rounds

April 2017

April 19, 2017 at 1pm ET
PEHSU Webinar

April 20, 2017 at 1pm
ACMT National Case Conference

[Visit the ACMT Webinar Webpage to view recordings of previous webinars.](#)

Calendar of Events

2017

March 12-16 **SOT Annual Meeting and Tox Expo**
Baltimore, MD
[More Information](#)

March 30 **ACMT Satellite Courses**
San Juan, Puerto Rico
[More Information](#)

March 31- April 2 **ACMT Annual Scientific Meeting**
San Juan, Puerto Rico
[More Information](#)

May 16-19 **SAEM Annual Meeting**
Orlando, FL
[More Information](#)

May 16-19 **EAPCCT Congress**
Basel, Switzerland
[More Information](#)

We want to hear from you! Please share with us any news of yourself or ACMT colleagues and we'll include it in the next ACMT newsletter. We also welcome comments and suggestions for future newsletters. Send information to newsletter@acmt.net.

Thank you - The Editors

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