

# ACMT International Member Survey, Summer 2013

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*On Behalf of the ACMT International Committee*

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## Introduction:

- ACMT's International Committee formed in 2008.
- Goal: unite medical toxicology educators and researchers worldwide.
- The committee surveyed the international ACMT members in the summer of 2013.
  - To evaluate their needs, goals, and priorities.
  - In order to facilitate strategic planning for this globally distributed network of toxicologists with diverse skills and needs.

## Methods:

- Survey Monkey Questionnaire
- An online survey was created with input from International Committee members and ACMT leadership.
- We requested all international ACMT members provide feedback about their current responsibilities, projects, and short- and long-term goals.
- Also asked feedback about how ACMT and the International Committee could serve their professional and educational needs.



## Results:

- There were thirty-two responses from 12 countries.
- The primary employment areas of respondents were:
  - Bedside or inpatient consultation services
  - Poison control centers
  - Clinical education, research, and public health agencies
- The most common areas of interest within toxicology included:
  - Pharmaceutical drug toxicity, pesticides, agrochemicals, emerging illicit drugs, and snakebites.
- Topics desired for continuing education included:
  - Heavy metals, medico-legal issues, emerging drugs, addiction medicine, industrial and occupational toxicology, radiation safety, and grant-writing/ research funding opportunities.
- Funding remains a common barrier to international members' goals.
- Accreditation of international members as Fellows of ACMT is highly valued in countries which lack other official medical toxicology recognition.
- Respondents thought ACMT could better serve the members needs by:
  - Providing online continuing education
  - Facilitating research collaborations within the worldwide toxicology community.
- A number of international conferences and scientific meetings were also suggested for possible ACMT-sponsored symposia.
  - Would allow members to interact with their medical communities while showcasing the value of clinical toxicology for addressing the global epidemic of poisonings worldwide.

## Conclusions:

Online education, research, international conferences, and grants- finding were the most commonly expressed themes. Although limited by the small sample size, this survey experience provides valuable insights for strategic planning.

ACMT International Committee projects that advance the international medical toxicology community's goals include:

- **International Toxicology Investigators' Consortium (ToxIC) Registry** for research collaborations
- **Global Education Toxicology Uniting Project (GETUP) Project** for educational outreach online
- **International ACMT Symposia** to enhance outreach to toxicologists and emergency/ critical care/ community doctors

