

Safety is a rising challenge to the community. It is clear that emerging new compounds and technologies require the responsibility not only from the regulators but also from the industry and people themselves. In the last 100 years over 70,000 new chemicals have been brought into commercial production and released to the environment. The current imperiled state of the world's environment highlights the importance of preserving ecosystems for current and future generations. We may say that we are at crossroads and have to decide which way to go. Choosing the wrong one might result in a situation which would no longer allow to raise a healthy child in this toxic world.

This Supplement of the Journal Neuroendocrinology Letters presents papers from the 17th Interdisciplinary Toxicological Conference TOXCON 2012: Toxicology at the Crossroad held in Stará Lesná, Slovakia from August 27–31, 2012. This event was organized by the Slovak Toxicology Society SETOX, Bratislava, Slovakia, with the Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia, under the auspices of the Federation of European Toxicologists & European Societies of Toxicology EUROTOX. General partner of the Conference was Visegrad Fund.

The scientific program of the conference involved various subjects of experimental, clinical and industrial toxicology. The program was divided into individual sections dealing with specific topics of in vivo and in vitro studies, such as cellular and organ toxicity, genotoxicity, cytotoxicity, mutagenicity, developmental toxicology, military toxicology, ecotoxicology, methodological approaches in toxicology as well as problems of relative safety assessment of drugs and xenobiotics, alternative methods in toxicology, ethical problems and legislation. The meeting attendance exceeded 150 scientists from 7 countries. The presence of outstanding scientists giving keynote lectures provided an opportunity to familiarize with up-to-date research in various fields of toxicology and related subjects. Out of the 124 presentations given at the Conference, the outstanding 30 selected by the scientific committee, are highlighted and documented in this Supplement.

The aim of the ever increasing importance of toxicology on all levels of the society is to save and preserve our environment for future generations. These proceedings from the conference TOXCON 2012 are shaped in the hope to contribute to this crucial commitment.

The content of the supplement underwent regular peer review process according to journal guidelines.

Ing. Jana Navarova, PhD. and RNDr. Mojmir Mach, PhD were appointed as guest editors and approved by the journal Editor-In-Chief. Guest editors and peer reviewers disclosed no conflict of interest. Guest editors acted as the arbitrators in the event of any disagreement between peer reviewers over the content of this supplement.

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