

Eurotox 2008

45th Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology: From Toxins to Omics: Health, Safety and Well-being

5-8 October 2008, Rhodes, Greece

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Eurotox is the biggest European toxicology event attracting each year almost 1,000 participants from all over the world. This year, Eurotox was organised by the Greek National Society of Toxicology choosing the topic "From toxins to omics: health, safety and well-being". ILSI Europe was involved in two of the scientific sessions, which were both very well attended.

ILSI initiatives: methods for addressing the human impact of low-level chemical exposure

Chairs: Nico van Belzen (ILSI Europe), Michael P. Holsapple (ILSI HESI)

- **Introduction to ILSI initiatives** (Tanja Wildemann)
- **Overview of the work of the expert group on MoE and report back on the workshop** (Diane Benford, Food Standards Agency, UK)
- **Modelling issues** (Wout Slob, RIVM, NL)
- **In vitro testing of genotoxic carcinogens** (Jennifer C. Sasaki, Tibotec BVBA, BE)
- **Public health impacts of substances detected at low levels in food: a workable approach to risk management decisions** (Thomas D. Trautman, General Mills, US)

The first session was jointly organised with ILSI North America and the ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI). The overarching theme of this session was low-level chemical exposure. Speakers affiliated with the different ILSI entities provided more insight in the various initiatives. After the introduction to ILSI and the presentations by Ms Tanja Wildemann, Dr Diane Benford and Prof Wout Slob reported on the on-going work of the expert group on the application of the margin of exposure (MoE) approach. While Dr Benford gave an overview of the work and a brief report on the workshop which was held the previous week, Prof Slob shared his thoughts and considerations on modelling with the participants.

The following talk by Dr Sasaki provided general information on ILSI HESI as the only global ILSI branch and the committee on *In vitro* Genetic Toxicity Tests (IVGT). Then she described in more detail the work of three subgroups/initiatives on "Examination of emerging technologies and new strategies", "Development of a decision tree for follow-up strategies in case of positive findings" and "Development of quantitative information to support the decision tree".

The last presentation by Dr Trautman introduced the audience to a current project at ILSI North America. Responding to the fact that due to improved analytical methods, very low residues of undesirable chemicals can be detected in foods, a scientifically defensible, transparent approach was developed to link low-level detections of unintended chemicals in food to a potential hazard. This approach is based on the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) concept with the aim to provide a tool to facilitate prioritisation of responses and resource allocation.



T. Trautman, M. Holsapple, W. Slob, N. van Belzen
T. Wildemann, J. Sasaki, D. Benford

***Efforts to improve techniques for identifying
and evaluating food allergens (ILSI/HESI)***

This session, held by ILSI HESI and ILSI Europe, discussed recent outcomes in detecting and identifying food allergens. Prof Løvik presented the framework for applying scientific criteria to food allergens as a tool to establish public health importance, developed by the ILSI Europe expert group on “Scientific Criteria for Identifying Allergenic Foods Critical for Public Health”.

Chairs: Laura Privalle (BASF, US), René Crevel (Unilever, UK)

- **Evaluating the effect of food processing on the potential human allergenicity of novel proteins: Summary from a recent work-shop** (Laura Privalle/Clare Mills)
- **Role of homology comparisons / bioinformatics assessments in allergenicity evaluations** (Gregory S. Ladics, DuPont, US)
- **Emerging methods for evaluating food allergens** (Scott McClain, Monstanto, US)
- **Development of a Weight-of-Evidence approach for identifying food allergens using Evidence-Based medicine approach** (Martinus Løvik, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, NO)