Message from the Chair of the UK Register of Toxicologists

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Over a year has flown by since our last newsletter and much has happened during that time...

There have been several changes in Panel membership: Dr Eian Massey, Dr Christine McAlinden, Professor Atholl Johnston and Mr George Kowalczyk have completed their tenure in accordance with the Register's constitution. We would like to thank each one for their sterling contribution in supporting the work of the Register. In their place, we welcome Dr Claire Terry, Dr Stacey Wyke and Mr Mark Hosford. As George’s replacement, Mark provides representation for the Royal Society of Chemistry. A new representative for the Royal College of Pathologists (to replace Atholl) will be announced shortly.

As outlined in the last newsletter, some of the administrative functions of the Register are being automated via a new on-line system sponsored by the Society of Biology. This will include maintenance of CPD records, which directly supports the central ethos of the Register. Transfer from the existing (paper-based) system is mandatory and each Register member will be contacted by the Register Secretary when their re-registration is due for renewal. Further information can be found below. This is going to be a period of considerable change for the Register. Thus, whilst we are making every conceivable effort to ensure that this transition will be seamless, we ask for your understanding and patience in advance, should there be any issues with the implementation of the new system.

European Registered Toxicologist (ERT) status provides each of our members with formal peer recognition of professional knowledge and experience. Moreover, it provides a form of quality assurance to current or potential employers. For this reason, we are going to focus on raising the profile of the Register with employers of toxicologists within government, academia and industry to ensure a better awareness of the benefits conferred by the ERT designation. To this end, the Panel requested volunteers to lead on this important development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who kindly stepped forward to offer their support and assistance. After due consideration, the Panel elected to co-opt Dr Stacey Wyke for this role and we hope that many of you engaged in the management and employment of toxicologists will support Stacey and the wider Panel in encouraging membership of the UK Register of Toxicologists.

Finally, I’d like to ask you to consider making a personal contribution to the Register. This can be done through written submissions to the newsletter and/or volunteering to deal with media, public or legal enquiries by joining our communications list. Over the last year, members of the Register have made a significant contribution to the public understanding of science, have supported the criminal justice system and have also helped members of the public deal with personal issues relating to toxicology. This work can provide great personal satisfaction, as well as representing a broader contribution to society.

Best wishes,

Rob Chilcott.
Contents: Click to follow link

Message from the Chair of the UK Register of Toxicologists

Continuing Professional Development: Change to Existing Arrangements:

Contact Details
New Website
Fee Notification
Panel Meetings
Panel Membership
Register Membership
Changes to the UK Register of Toxicologists (UKRT)
Instructions for UKRT Register Transfer
Media and Consultancy Referrals
Recent publications
International Diploma in Toxicology (IDT)
Now for something a little different
And Finally…

Updates

Continuing Professional Development: Change to Existing Arrangements:
As previously reported, many administrative functions of the Register are moving to an on-line system provided by the Society of Biology. This will vastly improve communication, registration reminders and the CPD recording process as well as providing a simple method for on-line payment. This system went “live” in April 2014; detailed instructions are included below. Consequently, use of the current CPD spread sheet will be gradually phased out by April 2018. However, alternative CPD schemes (e.g. DABT and RCPath) will remain acceptable according to existing criteria.

Contact Details:

In order to ensure the timely receipt of instructions for using the new on-line system, it is essential that all Register members check their contact details by visiting the existing Register website (http://www.toxreg.org.uk)

*** Failure to update contact details may result in removal from the Register ***

New Website:
As previously communicated, The Register became a Special Interest Group of the Society of Biology (SB) in 2012. As such, we will be migrating to a new website, hosted by the SB, over the next few months, (please see the SB website). This will be a single point for information for all things related to the Register, including dates of Panel meetings, examples of CPD submissions and an opportunity for members to publicise forthcoming events.
**Fee Notification:**
The new application fees and retention fees for 2014 remain unchanged at £100 and £50, respectively. Re-registration is now free, being covered by the £50 annual retention fee.

**Panel Meetings:**
The next Registration Panel meeting is scheduled for week commencing 22nd September 2014, so the deadline for application submissions to be considered at that meeting will be Friday 12th September.

The dates for meetings next year, and the appropriate submissions deadlines, will be published in future issues of the Newsletter and on the website.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to get their submissions in early - and particularly before the deadlines.

**Panel Membership:**
The current Panel is made up as follows:

Rob Chilcott (Chair), Lesley Stanley (Vice Chair), Colin Davies, Jane Collard, Claire Terry, Mark Hosford (Royal Society of Chemistry representative), and Stacey Wyke.

As outlined earlier, formal representatives from the Royal College of Pathologists and the British Toxicology Society will be announced shortly.

**Register Membership:**
During The Panel’s January 2014 meeting, we reviewed new membership and re-registration applications and reviewed the administrative functions of the Register. As of February 2014, the Register comprised 141 members. During the year there were 40 successful new registrants and 21 successful re-registrants. One member retired from the Register.

**Changes to the UK Register of Toxicologists (UKRT):**
As described earlier, the UKRT is being transitioned from its current website to the Society of Biology’s (SB) website and into the Society’s own database. This means all future applications for membership and re-registration, and the collections of membership and re-registration and/or retention fees will done through the UKRT part of the SB website. Current registrants will be invited to transfer during the year, although you can move to the new system in advance of this request if you wish.

This transfer will have several benefits for the UKRT. It will be easier for individuals to apply, re-register and maintain their CPD through the online system, easier to pay fees by the secure credit card portal and more efficient for the Panel and the SB to administer and manage the Register.

You will need to pay your retention fee (£50) for 2014 at the time of transferring. When it comes to the payment section please insert the discount code **UKRT2** otherwise you will be charged the full £100 first time application fee.

Once you have transferred to the UKRT’s area on the SB website, you will need to enter your CPD activities through the on-line system. This means that you will be able to enter your activities as you complete them, making it easier to record this contemporaneously. At the end of the year, you will be issued a certificate
showing the successful completion of the year’s CPD, assuming you have gained enough points. You need to keep this for your 5 yearly re-registration. You will also be able to print out a PDF copy of your CPD record.

However, there are a number of differences to the current system. Your CPD year will start when your transfer is accepted. While you can retrospectively enter activities at any time during a CPD year, once the year finishes, your record becomes locked and you cannot enter further activities for the previous year. If you have difficulty in acquiring sufficient CPD points to pass the year, you should contact the Register administrator in advance of your year-end who will assist you. It will be much more difficult to change your CPD record once the year is finished and the record is locked.

There will be transition period over the next 5 years when CPD activities before your transfer to the new system will still be entered on the current Excel spread sheet (which can be downloaded from the SB website) and activities after transfer will be entered using the on-line system. If you have any queries about this transition period please email the Register Administrator.

**Instructions for UKRT Register Transfer:**

Please read and follow these instructions carefully and fully before starting to enter your details. Additional information and instructions are given on each relevant page of the website.

You do not have to enter all your details in one go, but can save and return to your application later.

To transfer your details to the UKRT Register:

1. Go to the relevant page of the Society of Biology website
2. Follow the link to mySociety in the text at the bottom of the page
3. Insert your name and email address to join mySociety, your password will be emailed to the address you have just given. If you have already joined mySociety then just login to mySociety using your existing username and password.

4. Once you are inside mySociety, go to MyRegisters at the top right, and select the UK Register of Toxicologists tab. Follow the Apply or view the register link at the bottom of that page. You can apply following the instructions in the following windows. Existing registrants can also view the register from here.

5. **Please be careful only to apply to register with mySociety only and then join the UKRT, and not to apply to join the Society of Biology itself. You do not have to be a member of the Society of Biology to join the UKRT.**

6. If you have already started your application follow Continue with your application.

7. If you haven’t, follow Continue and then Apply online to be on the UK Register of Toxicologists’ followed by ‘Start Application’.

8. Complete each of the sections in turn. As you complete each section you need to Save changes at the bottom of the page and then after checking your details again and are confident they are correct then Click here if no changes are needed and you wish to mark this page as complete.

9. Check the details are correct then follow the link Back to Application Overview Page and move to the next section.

10. Work through each of the registration pages and click on Add at the bottom of each page.

**Please note:**

When you are only transferring to the new register
- Do not give the names of any referees – this is only for new applicants.
- Do not upload degree certificate/s – this only for new applicants.
11. When everything is completed Submit Application. Once it is submitted it becomes locked and you cannot change any of your details until it is accepted.

12. You will need to pay your retention fee of £50. You can do this by credit card online. Make sure you enter the discount code UKRT2 or you will be charged the £100 first time application fee.

13. Please log out after submitting, you will receive an email acknowledging your application.

14. Once the application has been reviewed by the Register administrator and accepted, you will get a further email telling you it has been accepted and that you are enrolled in the Register CPD scheme. Activities can be entered by logging on to your mySociety page and following myCPD. Information on CPD is given on the page and further details are given in the Learning for Life guide, which can be downloaded from the web page.

If you have any queries or experience any problems transferring or entering CPD activities, please email the Register Administrator.

Media and Consultancy Referrals:
The Register currently has a contact list for dealing with media enquiries. However, we urgently need more members to engage in this high profile role. Please contact the Register Administrator to request a media contact form to make a contribution to this important area of public communication.

Recent publications:
Molecular and Cellular Toxicology: An Introduction
By Dr Lesley A. Stanley
Published by John Wiley and Sons, Ltd, 2014

This book focuses on the timely topic of current advances in the field of molecular and cellular toxicology. The book starts with a review of how cells and tissues respond to damage and the consequences of damage that overwhelms normal cellular protective mechanisms. With this background, new technologies for evaluating cellular and tissue damage along with investigating the toxicological outcomes are described. This includes the use of ‘omics technologies (transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics), the use of 3D tissue models to obtain a more biologically relevant assessment of toxicity and the use of in silico approaches for predicting toxicological effects. The final chapter provides a look forward at emerging technologies that are sure to further impact the field of molecular and cellular toxicology in the years ahead.

This book will be of utility to all interested in the latest advances in toxicology including postgraduate/graduate life science students interested in toxicology as well as individuals starting out in the cosmetics, consumer products, pharmaceutical and testing industries who need a knowledge of current approaches in toxicology.

International Diploma in Toxicology (IDT):
The Society of Biology offers the IDT examination annually. The examination ensures that successful candidates have adequate knowledge of toxicology outside their own speciality and that they are able to apply the skills learnt for the examination when dealing with toxicological problems. The examination covers areas generally recognised as comprising toxicology but in such a way that particular groups of scientists (e.g. regulatory toxicologists and those working for contract research organisations) are not excluded.
Graduates with a minimum of 5 years’ experience in toxicology are eligible to complete the IDT. The examination is held annually in mid-June and the closing date for applications is mid-April. The fee for the exam is £350, payable in advance. This includes the fee for the dissertation as well as the examination.

The examination consists of a 6 hour examination of three (2 hour) papers:

i. multiple choice question paper
ii. short answer question paper
iii. essay question paper

On successfully passing the examination, the candidate is required to complete a dissertation on an approved topic within 12 months (after the synopsis has been approved). If a candidate fails the examination, they are given an opportunity to retake the examination the following year.

For more information see the Society Website or email the Register Administrator for a syllabus and application form.

Now for something a little different:
A 60 second interview with Professor Rob Chilcott, PhD, CBiol, FSB, FRSC, ERT (and Chair of the UKRT Panel since 2012).

Rob, Thanks for volunteering to try the “60 Second Interview” challenge…

Q: What is the best advice you have ever received?
   A: “Assumption is the mother of all cock-ups”

Q: How would you spend your last £50?
   A: Re-registration fees

Q: What do you do to keep fit?
   A: Being on the treadmill of life

Q: What couldn’t you live without?
   A: Oxygen

Q: Which book are you reading at the moment?
   A: Collected Works of Oscar Wilde

Q: Which trait do you most dislike about yourself?
   A: Impatience

Q: What is the most satisfying part of your current role?
   A: The tangible outputs

Q: What advice would you give a new starter in the field of toxicology?
   A: Expect to still be learning toxicology in 20 years’ time!

Favourites, and why?

Meal: Pistachio kulfi: why not?!
Album: “Back in the DHSS” by half man half biscuit: the only band that ever truly understood the cultural and social significance of Trumpton, Subbuteo and Blue Peter

Film: Anything with dark humour

And Finally...
This Newsletter is one of the primary sources of information for UK Registered Toxicologists and as such is for all of us. Therefore, if anyone has any suggestions for things that they would like to see (or not) in future issues of the Newsletter, please let us know via the Register Administrator. Examples include Register member’s recent publications, presentations or other contributions to the field of toxicology. Similarly, we would be happy to publicise any forthcoming meetings.