

DIVISION VII, CHEMISTRY AND HUMAN HEALTH

REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2009-2011

Summary: Projects on childhood education, and several glossaries are underway with associated developments for internet distance learning.

1. The Royal Society of Chemistry published the book, "Concepts in Toxicology" in November 2009. This book is designed to help professionals in toxicological sciences, especially chemists, to understand current ideas, often referred to by terminology that has been newly coined, that is being applied in a new way, that has changed its meaning, or that is being used in a new context. The book is organised according to concept relationships shown in concept maps, permitting relationships between concepts to be clarified. Consideration is now being given to a proposal to derive internet-available educational modules derived from the concept maps.
2. The first phase of the Toxicology in the Classroom (Toxiclaro) project has been completed with the construction of a successful interactive website for children (see Chem. Int., Vol. 31 No. 6, November-December 2009). The current website is http://www.prn.usm.my/toxicology_2010/. The website works best with MS Windows but it can be viewed with Apple Macintosh computers with the occasional problem which may be browser related. The Toxiclaro initiative originated from the Division VII, Chemistry and Human Health, and Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE), which formally met to plan the project in May 2005 at the Federal Agency for Risk Assessment, Berlin, Germany. The project is managed by a task group of professionals from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNEP Chemicals, IUPAC, and the National Poison Centre of Malaysia.
3. The Chair of the Division VII Subcommittee on Toxicology and Risk Assessment and the Division President met with Professor Herman Autrup, President-elect of IUTOX, in Washington DC in early March 2011 to discuss closer links between IUPAC and IUTOX, through ongoing collaboration as well as in the contexts of ICSU and IYC. It was agreed that we should plan to work together on projects for developing countries and on educational projects. This will proceed further when Professor Autrup becomes President of IUTOX later this year.
4. A glossary of terms used in immunotoxicology has just been submitted to PAC and it is probable that the IUPAC Glossary of Terms Used in Toxicology, adopted by the U.S. National Library of Medicine on its portal, ToxNet, for its web self-learning tutorial program, ToxLearn, will soon be revised to incorporate this and the glossary of terms used in ecotoxicology. There are also thoughts of producing 2 more textbooks, one on concepts in immunotoxicology and one on concepts in ecotoxicology.
5. The introductory educational material on toxicology on the IUPAC website is due for updating in the near future.