

Annual report Netherlands Society of Toxicology (NVT) 2021

Board

From January 2021 to June 2021, the board of the Netherlands Society of Toxicology (NVT) consisted of the following individuals: Juliette Legler (president), Paul Jennings (vice-president), Hester Hendriks (secretary of the board), Nicole Nijhuis (secretary of the society), Peter Theunissen (treasurer), Suzanne Heemskerk (board member), Anne Kienhuis (board member) and Martijn Rooseboom (board member).

During the annual meeting in June 2021, Juliette Legler announced that she would like to stay on as chair for another year as due to the extraordinary circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Suzanne Heemskerk and Nicole Nijhuis, who respectively joined the board for nine and two years, left the board. Their efforts were much appreciated.

From the annual meeting in June 2021 to December 2021, the societies board consisted of the following individuals: Juliette Legler (president), Paul Jennings (vice-president), Hester Hendriks (secretary of the board), Yvonne Staal (secretary of the society), Peter Theunissen (treasurer), Hans Bouwmeester (board member), Anne Kienhuis (board member) and Martijn Rooseboom (board member).

The board met six times in the year 2021.

Committees and Sections

The following individuals represented the various committees and sections of the society to the board in 2021:

- Jolanda Rijkels (Occupational Toxicology)
- Nico van den Brink (Environmental Toxicology)
- Jan van Benthem and Mirjam Luijten (Genetic Toxicology)
- Harrie Buist (Risk Assessment)
- Manon Beekhuizen (Teratology and Reproductive Toxicology)
- Joost Lensen (Toxicological Pathology)
- Yolanda Ponstein (Pharmaceutical Toxicology)
- Suzanne Heemskerk/Hans Bouwmeester (Supervisory Committee PET)
- Martijn van Veldhoven (Registration Committee)
- Flemming Cassee (Concilium Toxicologicum)
- Jolanda Rijkels (Committee for Appeal)
- Barae Jomaa (Editorial board TCDD and website)
- Job Schreuder (Audit Committee)

The NVT bookkeeping was done by Tom Schirris. The cash control committee consisted of Job Schreuder and Karin van Ede.

Since its inception, the society has functioned largely through the committees and sections, each of which deals with a specific subfield of toxicology. Details of the activities of the committees and sections can be found in their individual 2021 annual reports.

Annual meeting 2021

For the first time in history, the annual meeting was held online rather than face to face, using the online platform SpatialChat and facilitated by in3 Solutions. The organizing committee consisted of Paul Jennings, Peter Theunissen, Suzanne Heemskerk, Martijn Rooseboom, Gina Mennen, Christy

Tulen, Lennart van Melis, Charlotte Hoogstraten and Victoria de Leeuw. The theme of the annual meeting was 'The (r)evolution of toxicological models: How to address safety in target species'. As the meeting was online, the organizing committee had send out packages beforehand with snacks and drinks to the participants. The online platform was equipped with two stages, eight poster rooms, three coffee/networking rooms, a pubquiz room, and a concert room which could virtually be entered to listen to presentations and meet other participants.

On the first day (June 9, 2021), the first Keynote lecture was by prof. dr. Aldert Piersma, followed by a second Keynote lecture by dr. Rob Stierum. As due to the COVID pandemic the annual meeting of 2020 was postponed to 2021, the Joep van den Bercken prize winner 2019 Carin Lunenburg could finally present her thesis entitled 'Personalised medicine of fluoropyrimidines using DPYD pharmacogenetics'. In the afternoon, three workshops were organized: abstract writing, presentation skills, and PROAST BMD modelling. Subsequently, PhD and MSc student were given the opportunity to present their research by speed presentations. The evening started with 'College Tour' with dr. Chantal Smulders who was interviewed by moderator dr. Peter Theunissen. As having dinner together was not possible, participants could cook at home by following the Great NVT Cooking Class under the guidance of Victoria de Leeuw. The first day ended with pub-quiz and a live performance by Shishani.

The second day (June 10, 2021) started with a third Keynote lecture, this time by prof. dr. Greet Schoeters. During the first parallel session, PhD students presented their work while on the other digital stage NVT members were invited to present their work. The second parallel session was consisted of the NVT business meeting which was visited by 49 NVT members, and a News Café session which covered two topics that have recently been in the news (microplastics, and the relationship between Parkinson's disease and pesticides). The Joep van den Bercken prize 2020 was awarded to Anke Tukker for her thesis entitled 'Exciting Models – Exploring the applicability of human neuronal cell models for in vitro neurotoxicity screening and seizure liability assessment'. During the subsequent plenary session, The (r)evolution of human safety assessment was explained by three different presentations of dr. Remco Westerink, dr. Arne van Schanke, and dr. Marjolein Wildwater. Three of the NVT sections took the opportunity to promote their section. During the Award Ceremony, prizes were presented to:

- MSc Poster Award: Damian Roelofsen (Radboudumc)
- PhD poster award: Charlotte Hoogstraten (Radboudumc)
- MSc/PhD speed presentation award: Lora Gerber (IRAS, UU)
- PhD platform presentation award: Megan Houweling (Amsterdamumc)

The annual meeting was closed with a Grande Finale by prof. dr. Martin van den Berg. During the annual meeting, 32 posters were presented by members, PhD and MSc students. About 95 participants attended the online annual meeting 2021.

Finances

The 2020 finances have been approved by the audit committee. For more details, see the 2020 Annual Financial Report.

Travel bursaries

No travel grants were awarded to AIO members in 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 measures, many conferences were cancelled or held digitally.

TCDD and Website

The TCDD was released four times in 2021.¹ The NVT website <https://toxicologie.nl/> is managed by Floris Groothuis, the overall webmaster is Flemming Cassee. The chief editor of TCDD is Barae Jomaa.

Membership and sponsorship

The membership of the Society as of December 31, 2021, was 592 members (December 2020: 617 members).

In 2021, NVT was sponsored by regular annual sponsors Charles River, DSM, , Nouryon, RB, RIVM, Shell, TNO, and Toxys.

Registration and re-registration

As of January 1, 2021, the costs for registration and 5-year re-registration as a European Registered Toxicologist (ERT) were increased to €200. This increase appeared necessary to keep the costs of re-registration covered in the future.

Online search tool registered toxicologists

In 2022, the online tool to search for registered toxicologists will be added to the website. This tool allows visitors to search whether a toxicologist is formally registered. Toxicologists personally manage whether they want to make their status as registered toxicologists publicly available or not.

Forum for members

Due to weak points in the security of possible platforms, the [NVT group on LinkedIn](#) (closed group) is currently in use as platform for discussions. In addition, a [public LinkedIn page](#) is available.

Code of Conduct

In 2021, it was decided to add some sentences on plagiarism in the Code of Conduct. The new version of the Code of Conduct will be submitted to the members for approval during the business meeting in May 2022.

IUTOX and EUROTOX

The 2021/2022 EUROTOX season started with a major Dutch contribution after nomination by the NVT board:

- Paul Scheepers started as new member of the Registration/ERT SubCommittee
- Martin van den Berg started his second term as chairman of the Education SubCommittee
- Theo de Kok is renominated as treasurer of the Executive Committee (EC)
- Manon Beekhuijzen started as a new member of the EC.

ICT 2022

From September 18 to 22, 2022, the [XVI International Congress of Toxicology](#) will be organized by IUTOX and EUROTOX in Maastricht. Several NVT members take part of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

PET Courses

In 2021, the PET program continued in accordance with the requirements for recognition and registration of toxicologists set by the NVT. In this year, 16 of the 21 modules of the PET program were scheduled. A record number, because due to the COVID-19 pandemic, courses from 2020 had

¹ Copies of the TCDD from 2013 can be found on the website (<https://toxicologie.nl/en/tcdd-newsletter/>), or at the National Library of the Netherlands (all volumes since 1978) under ISSN 2772-5065.



also been postponed to 2021. As a result, the total number of participants in the PET courses in 2021, at 163, was also the highest since the PET program began in 1987. From the PET Course Development Fund (PCDF), another investment was made in 2021 for developments within PET education. This financial support has been used to make the online PET course General Toxicology more interactive by adding short knowledge clips that will discuss the different chapters of the Casarett and Doull's book. The updated course will be up and running in the second quarter of 2022. Furthermore, in 2021, the (re)new(ed) PET courses Epidemiology for Toxicologists, Molecular Toxicology, Human Exposure Assessment and Risk Communication were taught for the first time with great enthusiasm and success.