

## **Annual report Netherlands Society of Toxicology (NVT) 2023**

### Board

From January 2023 to June 2023, the board of the Netherlands Society of Toxicology consisted of the following individuals: Paul Jennings (president), Juliette Legler (vice-president), Hester Hendriks (secretary of the board), Yvonne Staal (secretary of the society), Peter Theunissen (treasurer), Laura Hondebrink (treasurer elect), Hans Bouwmeester (board member), Anne Kienhuis (board member) and Joanne Salverda (board member).

During the annual meeting in June 2023, Peter Theunissen, who was treasurer of the society for 9 years, left the board. His effort was much appreciated. As during the annual meeting no new vice-president was secured yet, Juliette Legler stayed as vice-president until September 2023. From September 2023 to December 2023, the societies board consisted of the following individuals: Paul Jennings (president), Frederik-Jan van Schooten (vice-president), Hester Hendriks (secretary of the board), Yvonne Staal (secretary of the society), Laura Hondebrink (treasurer), Hans Bouwmeester (board member), Anne Kienhuis (board member) and Joanne Salverda (board member).

The board met six times in the year 2023.

### Committees and Sections

The following individuals represented the various committees and sections of the society to the board in 2023:

- Henri Heussen (Occupational Toxicology)
- Milo de Baat (Environmental Toxicology)
- Jan van Benthem and Mirjam Luijten (Genetic Toxicology)
- Kim Doornebosch (Risk Assessment)
- Joost Lensen (Toxicological Pathology)
- Yolanda Ponstein (Pharmaceutical Toxicology)
- Hans Bouwmeester (Supervisory Committee PET)
- Walter Brand (Registration Committee)
- Flemming Cassee/Juliette Legler (Concilium Toxicologicum)
- Anja Slikkerveer (Committee for Appeal)
- Barae Jomaa (Editorial board TCDD and website)
- Martijn van Velthoven (Audit Committee)

The NVT bookkeeping was done by Tom Schirris. In 2023 it was agreed that the KNCV (Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (Koninklijke Nederlandse Chemische Vereniging), which also manages our membership administration) will be contracted as bookkeeper from 2024 on. The audit control committee consisted of Martijn van Velthoven and Annelieke Peters.

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 2023 annual reports.

### Annual meeting 2023

In 2023, the annual meeting was held at the Reehorst in Ede. A total of about 150 professionals, PhD candidates and students attended the two-day event. The theme of the annual meeting was: "Toxicology: Does one size fit all?". The organizing committee consisted of Nathalie Dierichs, Irene Gosselink, Joyce van der Heijden, Viënna van de Laarschot, Julia Meerman, Kiri Romano Olmedo, Hans Bouwmeester, Laura Hondebrink, Juliette Legler, Yvonne Staal, and Peter Theunissen.

On the first day (June 7, 2023), the 'young scientist' day was opened with a keynote lecture by prof.dr. Ivonne Rietjens, which was followed by a break combined with a poster session. Subsequently, nine PhD/MSc students got the opportunity to present their research during a speed presentation. After lunch, the participants attended one of the three workshops 'Graphs in R', 'Grant writing', or 'Meet the expert'. The last session of the day was an 'inclusivity' session. During this session, we discussed several questions, including 'Why does inclusion oftentimes evoke such strong and different emotions in people?' And 'Why does inclusion oftentimes receive verbal support, yet very little action?'. Afterwards, it was time for a reception with drinks and a dinner at the Reehorst, followed by a bowling competition during the evening program.

The second day (June 8, 2023), the 'members' day, was opened with a keynote lecture by John Colbourne. After the break, it was up to four PhD candidates (Fabian Wagenaars, Victor Amstutz, Lora-Sophie Gerber, and Deniz Bozdogan) to present their research during the PhD platform session. The first themed session on 'Toxicology for all' was given by Jorke Kamstra, Robert Landsiedel, and Angela Maas. The second themed session on 'new Approach Methodologies' was given by Ad Ragas, Nick Beijer, and Christine Mummery (LUMC). The second and last day ended with an award ceremony. Hanna Marta Dusza was awarded the 2023 Joep van den Bercken prize 2022 for her thesis entitled 'Contaminants of emerging concern in the fetal environment: unravelling the exposure and effects of endocrine disrupting compounds and micro(nano)plastics in utero'. Other people that were awarded were:

- MSc poster award: Kirsten Lassing
- PhD poster award: Joyce van der Heijden
- MSc speed presentation award: Elise van der Koogh
- PhD speed presentation award: Lennart van Melis
- PhD platform presentation award: Deniz Bozdogan

### Finances

The 2023 finances have been approved by the audit committee. For more details, see the 2023 Annual Financial Report.

### Travel bursaries

Seven travel grants (two for travel within Europe, five for outside Europe) were awarded to PhD members in 2023. A special travel grant was awarded to students of the WUR for their scientific PhD trip. Travel reports were presented in the TCDD.

### TCDD, website and journal

The TCDD was released four times in 2023.<sup>1</sup> The chief editor of TCDD is Barae Jomaa. In 2023, the Journal of the Netherlands Society of Toxicology (JNST)<sup>2</sup> was launched. The JNST is dedicated to short manuscripts, mini-reviews and case studies. The peer reviewed articles (max. 2500 words) that are published in the journal are available through ScienceOpen and distributed to members in the TCDD.

### Membership and sponsorship

The membership of the Society as of December 31, 2023, was 618 members (December 2022: 611 members).

In 2023, NVT was sponsored by regular annual sponsors Arxada, Charles River, DSM, ExxonMobil, Nouryon, Reckitt, RIVM, Shell, TNO, Toxys.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> <https://doi.org/10.14293/S2199-1006.1.SOR-MED.CLTZPSE.v1>

### Future proofing the NVT

To future proof our society and make sure we continue to connect with our members' interests and developments in the field, the NVT board has sent out a questionnaire in 2022. The aim of this questionnaire was to learn the perspective of the NVT members on topics like how current sections fit with the field, the future of the NVT sections, topics that are currently not covered by the sections and how to promote interactions and collaborations between sections and other societies. In parallel to the questionnaire, the section boards discussed the future of the sections early February 2023, initiated by the section Risk Assessment. The outcome of the questionnaire as well as exchange of the sections point both towards a need for further discussion on how to future proof the NVT and its sections. To this end the NVT board proposes to start a working group 'Future Proofing' to further discuss and implement next steps with representatives from board, sections and members. Currently, the working group consists of 8 members. During the first meeting in October 2023, fundamental points were raised: what does the NVT stand for? Community only for ERT or to become ERT? Community for everyone involved in toxicology? Mainly a professional organization? Or are we also responsible to communicate to the general public? And what is the aim of the 'Future Proofing' working group? The NVT board agreed that the working group can advise the board on the mission of the NVT. In that context, the statutes<sup>3</sup>, bylaws<sup>4</sup>, but also document from the Concilium Toxicologium<sup>5</sup> were reviewed and summarized. The working group will continue to work on this together with the board in 2024.

Members have also expressed their interest in intervision groups as 'continuous education' to share best practices and share experiences. After all, upon finalizing the PET program and becoming ERT, especially applied toxicologist working in small or medium sized companies may not have direct (expert) colleagues for peer discussions and feedback. Therefore the board has asked the PET office to investigate whether it is possible to facilitate regional or topic specific intervision groups of 8-12 members. The idea is that the group will initially be guided by an intervision mediator/trainer. Possibilities will be further explored in 2024.

### Educators

The list of educators was revised in 2023 and three new educators were appointed (prof.dr.ir J. Legler, IRAS, Utrecht University; prof.dr. F.R. Cassee, RIVM/IRAS, Utrecht University; prof.dr. D.W. de Lange, UMC Utrecht). The list of educators currently consists of 12 educators. The registration committee aims to represent the main education places in the Netherlands in the list of educators, including educators working in applied toxicology in addition to educators from the academic.

### IUTOX and EUROTOX

The 2023/2024 EUROTOX season started again with a major Dutch contribution:

- Theo de Kok as treasurer of the Executive Committee (EC) and member of the Corporate Program SubCommittee
- Manon Beekhuijzen as member of the EC, chair of the Corporate Program SubCommittee, and member of the Education SubCommittee
- Nynke Kramer as member of the Communication SubCommittee
- Paul Scheepers as member of the Registration/ERT SubCommittee

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<sup>3</sup> <https://toxicologie.nl/en/statutes/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://toxicologie.nl/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Huishoudelijk\\_Reglement\\_NVT\\_update\\_2017.pdf?x93240&x41313](https://toxicologie.nl/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Huishoudelijk_Reglement_NVT_update_2017.pdf?x93240&x41313)

<sup>5</sup> <https://toxicologie.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NVT-RulesRequirements-versie-051120.pdf?x93240&x41313>

Also at IUTOX we have a Dutch delegation:

- Henk van Loveren director of the Executive Committee, Scientific Committee and Education Committee

At the European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT), the Netherlands is represented in the 2022-2024 board by:

- Laura Hondebrink as General Secretary

#### PET Courses

In 2023, the Postgraduate Education in Toxicology (PET) program continued in accordance with the requirements for recognition and registration of toxicologists set by the NVT. The new website was launched in March 2023.<sup>6</sup> The website provides information on the PET program and the 21 stand-alone courses coordinated by eight Dutch universities, and three Dutch organizations under the supervision of the NVT.

The course 'New Approach Methodologies for Toxicology' was given for the first time in 2023. In 2023, the new course 'Pharmaceutical Toxicology' was set up and will be given for the first time in June 2024.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://toxcourses.nl/>