

Annual report of the board 2024

Board

From January 2024 to June 2024, the board of the Netherlands Society of Toxicology 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).

From June 2024 to December 2024, the societies board consisted of the following individuals: Frederik-Jan van Schooten (president), Paul Jennings (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 2024.

Committees and Sections

The following individuals represented the various committees and sections of the society to the board in 2024:

- Henri Heussen and Fenneke Linker (Occupational Toxicology)
- Milo de Baat (Environmental Toxicology)
- Jan van Benthem and Mirjam Luijten (Genetic Toxicology)
- Kim Doornebosch and Esther de Jong (Risk Assessment)
- Joost Lensen (Toxicological Pathology)
- Yolanda Ponstein and Lambert Creuwels (Pharmaceutical Toxicology)
- Hans Bouwmeester (Supervisory Committee PET)
- Walter Brand (Registration Committee)
- Juliette Legler (Concilium Toxicologicum)
- Anja Slikkerveer (Committee for Appeal)
- Barae Jomaa (Editorial board TCDD)
- Melissa Mulder (Website)
- Annelieke Peters (Audit Committee)

Since 2024, the NVT bookkeeping is done the KNCV (Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (Koninklijke Nederlandse Chemische Vereniging). The KNCV also manages our membership administration. The audit control committee consisted of Annelieke Peters and Melissa Mulder.

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 2024 annual reports.

Annual meeting 2024

In 2024, the annual meeting was held at the Reehorst in Ede. Over 200 professionals, PhD candidates and students attended the two-day event to celebrate 45 years of NVT. The theme of the annual meeting was: "Tox to the Future: A Journey Through Toxicology's Evolution?". The organizing committee consisted of Damian Roelofsen, Heleen van der Hout, Tanne Meuwissen, Maria Koukinioti, Jiayi Yang, Julia Meerman,

Kirsten Veltman, Laura Hondebrink, Yvonne Staal, Anne Kienhuis, Joanne Salverda, and Frederik-Jan van Schooten.

On the first day (June 18, 2024), the program was kicked-off with a keynote lecture by prof.dr. Horst Thiermann, which was followed by a quick coffee break and subsequently the first two parallel sessions on “Interconnected Hazards: Bridging Disciplines in Toxicology” and “ToxTalk: Short Communications from the Field”. After lunch, young researchers presented their work during a poster session, followed by the second parallel session. At the PhD Platform session, four PhD candidates (Maxim Carlier, Irene Gosselink, Lennart van Melis, and Nienke Ruijter) presented their research, the other session was on “Fit for Purpose Testing: Opportunities and Challenges in Experimental Models”. The final part of this first day consisted of workshops on data visualization, weighted correlation network analysis, or a networking session. The day was ended by a dinner and party.

The second day (June 19, 2024), was opened with a keynote lecture by prof.dr. Frans Russel. Subsequently, another parallel session was organized: “Public Perception and Data Availability: the Risk of Quantity over Quality?” and “The Toxicologist's Guide to the Regulatory Landscape”. These sessions were followed by presentations from the winners of the Joep van den Bercken-award for 2022 (Hanna Dusza) and 2023 (Tim Jonkers). After the annual business meeting and a second poster session, it was time for the final parallel sessions: “Computational Frontiers in Toxicology: Unveiling in silico Horizons” and PhD Candidate's and Student's Speed Presentations where young researchers got to pitch their research. After a break, the annual meeting was ended with a presentation from futurist Tessa Cramer and the award ceremony. People that were awarded were:

- Joep van den Berckenprize 2023: Tim Jonkers (thesis entitled “Effect-directed analysis for the identification of contaminants of emerging concern in the water cycle”)
- MSc poster award: Elise van der Koogh
- PhD poster award: Nicole Pinckaers
- MSc speed presentation award: Sara van Kaam
- PhD speed presentation award: Nathalie Dierichs
- PhD platform presentation award: Irene Gosselink

Finances

The 2024 finances have been approved by the audit committee. For more details, see the 2024 Annual Financial Report.

Travel bursaries

It has been a good tradition for years that the NVT has budget for travel grants for young researchers who want to visit an international conference. Two travel grants (both for travel outside Europe) were awarded to PhD members in 2024. Travel reports were published in the TCDD.

In recent years, the board has also received requests for financial support for study/group trips. That is why, from January 2025 onwards, it will be possible for a group from a university to apply for a group budget once every four years (with a maximum of €2500), at the discretion of the board and availability of the budget for trips. For more information see <https://toxicologie.nl/en/travel-scholarships/>.

TCDD, website and journal

The TCDD was published four times in 2024.¹ The chief editor of TCDD is Barae Jomaa. In 2023, the [Journal of the Netherlands Society of Toxicology](#) (JNST) 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

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.

journal are available through ScienceOpen and distributed to members in the TCDD. In 2024, four publications were published in the JNST.

Besides the TCDD and JNST, the NVT has a [NVT LinkedIn Group](#), which is a closed group, and a [public LinkedIn page](#) which can be used for open platform discussion.

Membership and sponsorship

The total number of members of the Society as of December 31, 2024, was 642 (December 2023: 618 members).

In 2024, NVT was sponsored by Charles River, DSM, Nouryon, Reckitt, RIVM, Scymaris, Shell, TNO, Toxys.

Future proofing the NVT

The future proofing NVT activities are currently centered around three themes:

- 1) Subgroup 1 - Communication: this subgroup consists of Margriet van der Zee, Charlotte Pauwels, Yvonne Staal and Barae Jomaa and is focusing on how to improve the communication strategy of NVT and make better use of available channels. The group is currently advised by an external communication expert to develop a communication strategy and to come with a strategic communication plan. Also the NVT website will be updated.
- 2) Subgroup 2 - Communication Positioning NVT: this subgroup consists of Hester van der Woude, Iris van de Gevel and Kelly Caris, and is focusing on how NVT is positioned in comparison to other professional networks (in NL and outside NL). Through questionnaires and interviews, the sub-group collected information on other societies with same or similar field of expertise.

Based on this information, they concluded that the NVT is well-positioned regarding the activities provided to their members, and around sending out news, although the NVT might learn from other societies about the use of social media.

To be future proof, the group came with the following recommendations:

- Extension of the professional support, especially to facilitate Board and Sections with the organization and logistics of meetings (IT support, registration, central location, certificates). This will enable to be more focused on the contents of events and less on organizational aspects. Although paid support may lead to an increase of the NVT fee, the current fee is remarkably low as compared to the fee of the other interviewed societies.
 - Improved alignment between Board and sections, e.g. to make a central program together and to have the board being represented in the meetings of the sections.
 - Improved balance between human versus environmental toxicology, the latter seeming underexposed at the moment.
 - Improved balance in the representation of members from academic and applied working fields. This seemed to be no issue in other interviewed societies, but the questionnaire that led to the creation of the working group Future Proofing demonstrated that members from applied working fields (~50% of the members) often feel not well served by the NVT. People working in industry do not feel the topics of the meeting sufficiently legitimate them joining section meetings. For a Future Proof NVT, the working group is of the opinion that applied toxicology can and should be better represented, not only concerning meeting topics, but also in the organization (i.e. leading roles within Board, Educators).
 - The German Toxicology Society works, next to sections, with “interest groups”. These interest groups are temporary sections in response to current developments in the field and/or society. Next to existing sections, these interest groups could be of interest to the NVT. Initiatives of interest groups could come from members. Also, in some cases, a more central organization could be helpful, eventually the board could take the initiative and give this to a section. This aspect is currently being picked up by subgroup 3, see below.
- 3) Subgroup 3 - Suborganization in sections: this subgroup consists of Lambert Creuwels, Anja

Slikkerveer, Jan van Benthem and Giel Hendriks, and is focusing on how to best subdivide NVT. Some of the current sections are very active and have a large group of active members, whereas other sections are seeing a reduction in members. The subgroup is investigating what would be the best way forward to make sure NVT can continue to bring its members together and enjoy having fruitful events. The idea of special interest groups (see above) is also being explored.

Media contact persons

Regularly, the NVT is contacted by journalists, lawyers or TV program makers, with the question whether they can speak to an expert in toxicology. For this, the NVT has a list of experts who have indicated that they could be contacted for such requests. This list was updated in 2024.

Collaboration German Society of Toxicology (GT)

In 2024, the NVT board and the board of the German Society of Toxicology (Gesellschaft für Toxikologie, GT)² met (online) to talk about what we can learn from each other in terms of how the organizations are structured with management, administrative burdens, committees and sections, and whether there is interest in organizing a joint event or opportunities to share knowledge by organizing a joint conference.

Educators and professors

The list of educators was updated in 2024 and prof.dr. D.W. de Lange and dr.ir. P.T.J. Scheepers were appointed as educators. 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.

In 2024 prof.dr.ir. Hans Bouwmeester was appointed as professor Toxicology at the Wageningen University.

IUTOX and EUROTOX

The 2024/2025 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 and chair of the Corporate Program SubCommittee
- Nynke Kramer as member of the Communication SubCommittee
- Paul Scheepers as member of the Registration/ERT SubCommittee

Also at IUTOX we have a Dutch delegation:

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

We are proud that two prominent Dutch toxicologists have received prestigious awards at the 2024 EUROTOX Congress in Copenhagen:

- Prof.dr. Ivonne Rietjens was honored with the EUROTOX Merit Award 2024
- Prof.dr. Juliette Legler received the EUROTOX Lecture Award 2024

PET Courses

In 2024, the Postgraduate Education in Toxicology (PET) program continued in accordance with the requirements for recognition and registration of toxicologists set by the NVT. The PET website³ provides information on the PET program and the stand-alone courses coordinated by eight Dutch universities, and three Dutch organizations under the supervision of the NVT.

The course 'Pharmaceutical Toxicology' was given for the first time in 2024.

² <https://toxikologie.de/>

³ <https://toxcourses.nl/>