

Annual report of the board 2025

Board

From January 2025 to June 2025, the board of the Netherlands Society of Toxicology 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).

From June 2025 to December 2025, the societies board consisted of the following individuals: Frederik-Jan van Schooten (president), Daan Touw (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 eight times in the year 2025.

Committees and Sections

The following individuals represented the various committees and sections of the society to the board in 2025:

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

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

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 2025 annual reports.

Annual meeting 2024

In 2025, the annual meeting was held at the Reehorst in Ede. Over 250 professionals, PhD candidates, and students attended the two-day event. The theme of the annual meeting was: "Lab to Law: Bridging the Gap from Science to Policy". The organizing committee consisted of Kirsten Lassing, Imke Bruns, Olivia Klatt, Filippo Di Tillio, Roxana Mirzarbandi, Damian Roelofsen, Laura Hondebrink, Hans Bouwmeester, Joanne Salverda, and Paul Jennings.

On the first day (July 4, 2025), the program was kicked off with a keynote lecture by Dr. Tewes Tralau, Vice-President of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), followed by a break, after which the PhD/MSc speed presentations took place. This year, young professionals were also given the opportunity to present their work. After lunch, (young) researchers presented their work during a poster session, followed by parallel workshop sessions. These workshops focused on communicating scientific findings to non-scientific audiences, computational tools in regulatory toxicology, and networking. After a short break, parallel sessions followed. One session focused on career perspectives, in which experts in toxicology shared their career paths and experiences. The other session addressed environmental exposure to pharmaceuticals. The day concluded with a reception, followed by a joint dinner and social event.

The second day (July 5, 2025) started with a keynote lecture by Prof. Dr. Martina Vijver, leader of the research group on chemical stressors and impacts on biodiversity. This was followed by a break, after which the PhD Platform session took place. During this session, several PhD candidates (Marika de Hoop-Sommen, Nicolaj Bischoff, Hedwig van Hove, and Maria Kloukinioti) presented their research. Subsequently, the winner of the Joep van den Bercken Award (Frances Widjaja-van den Ende) presented her work. After the annual business meeting and a second poster session, a session on a multifaceted perspective on risk and regulation took place, including case studies presented by NVWA employees. After a short break, the meeting concluded with a closing session on future-proofing toxicology from lab to law, followed by the award ceremony.

The following awards were presented:

- Joep van den Bercken Prize: Frances Widjaja-van den Ende (thesis entitled “Relative potency (REP) of pyrrolizidine alkaloid N-oxides (PANOs)”)
- MSc poster award: Jack Koster
- PhD poster award: Michele Davigo
- MSc speed presentation award: Tessa Steenhof
- PhD speed presentation award: Lenya de Brouwer
- PhD platform presentation award: Nicolaj Bischoff

Finances

The 2025 finances have been approved by the audit committee. For more details, see the 2025 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. Five travel grants for outside Europe, and two travel grants for travel within Europe were awarded to PhD members in 2025. 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 is 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.

A new requirement stipulates that, as of 1 January 2027, individuals must have held NVT membership for a minimum of one year to be eligible for a travel bursary, whether individual or group-based.

For more information see <https://toxicologie.nl/en/travel-scholarships/>.

TCDD, website and journal

The TCDD was published four times in 2025. 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 journal are available through ScienceOpen

and distributed to members in the TCDD. In 2025, three publications were published in the JNST. The chief editor of TCDD is Barae Jomaa.

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, 2025, was 685 (December 2024: 642 members).

In 2025, NVT was sponsored by Charles River (Silver), DSM, Nouryon, Reckitt, RIVM, Shell, TNO, Toxys.

Future proofing the NVT

In 2025, the members working on future proofing the NVT finalized their task. They assessed subjects like the structure, communication, positioning and professionalization needs to strengthen NVT's services to members and public relevance.

Theme 1 Subdivision of Sections

Objectives: review section structure relative to current toxicology topics; clarify interactions between sections and the board; identify new thematic areas and professionalization needs.

Key outcomes:

- Membership benefits need clearer definition and verification that any additional fees cover associated costs.
- Section administration requires improvement (invoicing, annual member lists, aligned participation costs and terms).
- Targeted communication is desired to engage members and recruit section board members.
- Digital infrastructure: updated website and an online document-sharing platform are needed.
- Operational support: sections request paid Professional Conference Organization (PCO) support for meeting administration and facilitation.
- Activity role: sections want a more active role in organizing toxicology activities (e.g., PET, annual meeting, cross-section collaborations).
- New topic areas identified: 3R, NAMs, biomonitoring, PBPK, One Health, Omics, AI.

Recommendation: appoint a board member with responsibility for section matters.

Theme 2 NVT and Communication

Objectives: develop a strategic communication framework that defines NVT's status, vision, target audiences and next steps.

Key outcomes:

- Clarify and promote membership and ERT registration benefits (e.g., event discounts) to attract members, especially early-career professionals.
- Website redesign with member pages, facts and figures, active content (testimonials, interviews) and LinkedIn integration.
- Optimise channels: coordinated use of website, TCDD, email, LinkedIn, webinars and workshops with a consistent visual identity and posting frequency.
- Visibility and outreach: increase TCDD visibility and consider public communication to inform societal debates on toxicology.
- Language policy: clarify internal language use (English versus Dutch).

Recommendation: appoint a board member responsible for internal communication.

Theme 3 Positioning NVT

Objectives: define NVT's scope and positioning; identify professionalization opportunities and lessons from other associations; balance applied and scientific priorities.

Key outcomes:

- Stronger alignment between sections and board through dedicated section-board meetings for planning and coordination.
- Balance: seek parity between scientific and applied toxicology and between human and environmental toxicology across board composition, sections and activities.
- Professionalization: secure paid PCO support for event logistics, hybrid IT, registration and certificates.
- Communications and press: enhance member and public communication and consider formal press contact.

Recommendation: ensure board composition and activities reflect the recommended balances and professionalize administration and events via a paid PCO.

Collaboration German Society of Toxicology (GT)

In 2024, the NVT board and the board of the German Society of Toxicology (Gesellschaft für Toxikologie, GT) met (online) for the first time 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. In 2025, the plans were further developed, resulting in the organization of the 11th German Pharm-Tox Summit 2026 (DGPT) in cooperation with the Working Group Applied Human Pharmacology (AGAH) and the Dutch Society of Toxicology (NVT). The conference will take place from 17 to 20 March 2026 in Düsseldorf, Germany.

In 2025, the GT established an interest group on Endocrine Effects, and members of the NVT were invited to join. The group initially focused on EATS activity (Estrogen, Androgen, Thyroid, Steroidogenesis pathways), but its scope has since broadened to include topics such as thyroid modes of action, ToxCast data, the predictive value of in vitro studies for endocrine-related adverse effects, and cross-species extrapolation in endocrine disruptor assessments.

Educators and professors

The list of educators currently consists of 12 educators, no new educators were appointed in 2025. 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 2025, prof.dr. Anne Kienhuis was appointed as professor Toxicology in Transition at Utrecht University. Prof.dr. Mirjam Luijten was appointed as Professor of Human-Relevant Risk Assessment of Chemical Substances at the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR) of the Leiden University.

IUTOX and EUROTOX

The 2025/2026 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:

- Flemming Cassee as Secretary-General of the Executive Committee
- Henk van Loveren as member of the Science Committee and Education Committee

PET Courses

In 2025, 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 website 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.