

Board of Trustees Newsletter #2

July 21, 2017



Dear EBTC Trustees,

I hope you are enjoying the Summer! I thought I would send you an update so you don't forget about EBTC on the beach. As always, I welcome your feedback and am thankful for your support.

First and foremost, the next Board meeting:

Full day **October 24, 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal**, Immediately preceding EFSA / EBTC Colloquium on evidence integration October 25-26, 2017. We have a reservation for 6 rooms for Jack, Marty, Sebastian, Rob, Gerry and myself and a conference room for the day of October 24. If you plan to come but your name is not in the list above, please let me know. The block of rooms needs to be reserved by Monday 7/24/17.

Projects:

○ **ZF SR project progress:**

■ **ZF Pilot study: completed**

■ **ZF pilot study and lessons learned paper**

■ **Level 1 screen completed 3/22/17**

■ **Level 2 – 964 Full-text papers review on-going (52% complete)**

- 8 active reviewers. EBTC's Sebastian Hoffmann is leading (573 full-text papers reviewed), followed by a volunteer graduate student from Turkey Sevcan Akgun (310), and Francois Busquet (242 papers)

○ **Tox21 SR project progress**

■ **Protocol approved**

■ **Search conducted 5818 papers**

■ **Level 1: 5818 titles and abstracts screen - on-going (73% complete)**

- 6 active reviewers. Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Hubert Dirven and Gunn Vist) and Safer Medicines (Rebecca Ram) are leading, with >1,500 papers screened each)

○ **RoB / quality WG progress**

■ **Rob de Vries and Paul Whaley have refocused the group on aspects of RoB/quality that are complementary to NIEHS.**

- **Terms of reference document and detailed plan is developed [here](#).**

Education / Dissemination activities progress:

○ **ToxForum Summer meeting session - July 10-12, 2017 Annapolis, MD**

- **SESSION: Systematic Review – (When) Is it Worth it?**
- **Successful session, generated a lot of interest and questions.**

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- **4th International Symposium on Systematic Review of laboratory Animal Studies August 24-25, 2017. Register [here](#).**
 - Katya had a presentation proposal accepted on use of web-based tools to assist in conducting SRs and a talk on Tox21 project. Rob Wright, a member of the SAC and Tox21 workgroup, will be giving the second talk.
 - EBTC will be sponsoring the poster session on August 24 - budget and co-sponsorship agreement are in process.
 - **EFSA/EBTC Colloquium agenda and [announcement](#)**
 - Please register for the meeting and reserve your hotel room when you can if you have not already done so.
 - **SOT 2018 proposals submitted:**
 - (1) SR in toxicology (Chairs: Katya and Hubert Dirven) - rejected
 - (2) Risk of Bias / Quality (Chairs: Katya and Craig Rowlands) - rejected
 - (3) SR Information Session (Chairs: Daniele Wikoff and Katya) - accepted
 - **Planned: SRA 2017 (December)**
 - proposal on SR in toxicology (Chairs: Katya and Daniele Wikoff)- awaiting response

Building EBTC profile:

- SOT booth space reserved (\$600 that includes 2 full conference passes)
- Pull-up stand:
 - Finalizing design, to be printed for SR symposium at NIEHS August 23-25
- EBT wikipedia page - being updated
- EBTC website listing is listed on Google
- EBTC web site is being modified (Paul Whaley leading)

Staff changes:

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- **Rob de Vries:**
 - On board as staff – contract in place. Current projects:
 - Zebrafish protocol revision and publishing on SYRCLE website
 - Leading Risk of Bias project
 - **Paul Whaley:**
 - On board as staff: 1 day/week with the following projects:
 - RoB / Quality tool for in vitro studies (through November 2017)
 - EBTC communication, external image and marketing
 - Help with marketing materials design: pullup stand, newsletter, website
 - Preparing Fall 2018 Workshop for editors of major toxicology journals on improving transparency and quality of toxicology publications (start December 2017)
 - **Admin support Michelle Downes**
 - point of contact for all reimbursements, contracts and website updates
 - **Budget:**
 - EBTC has been requested by NIEHS to sponsor poster session at the symposium on systematic reviews -TBD, projected not to exceed \$3,000.

Please [email us](#) with news on your work, publications and other news so we could help disseminate the information! Follow us on our new [LinkedIn page](#).