

Board of Trustees Newsletter

May 19, 2017



Dear EBTC Trustees,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying the Spring that finally has arrived in the US at least! Some of you have requested an update newsletter between the meetings, so below I have summarized the work that we have done between the March 11 Board meeting and now. As always, I welcome your feedback and am thankful for your support.

First and foremost, please **save the date** for the next Board meeting:

Dinner October 23, Full day October 24, 2017

Place: Lisbon, Portugal

Immediately preceding EFSA / EBTC Colloquium on evidence integration
October 25-26, 2017

Projects:

- **Primer published** (Thank you, Sebastian, for the hard work!!)
- **ZF lessons learned** (Marty took the lead, in progress)
- **ZF SR project progress:**
 - Level 1 screen completed 3/22/17
 - Full text Level 2 – 964 papers on-going (35% complete)
- **Tox21 SR project progress**
 - Protocol approved
 - Search conducted 5818 papers
 - Level 1 screen - on-going (33% complete)
- **RoB / quality WG progress**
 - Rob de Vries and Paul Whaley have refocused the group on aspects of RoB/quality that are complementary to NIEHS. More details [here](#).

Education / Dissemination activities progress:

- **ToxForum Summer meeting session - July 10-12, 2017 Annapolis, MD**
 - **SESSION: Systematic Review – (When) Is it Worth it?**
 - A Survey of the Systematic Review Landscape in Toxicology and a Discussion to Inform When and How Systematic Review Can Most Meaningfully Be Used As an Approach to Evaluate Toxicological and Risk Assessment Questions
 - Speakers: Daniele Wikoff, Katya Tsaion, Elisa Aiassa Panelists: Panelists: Vincent Cogliano, Kris Thayer, Suzanne Fitzpatrick, and Nancy Beck
- **EFSA/EBTC Colloquium agenda and pre-announcement**
- **SOT 2018 proposals submitted:**

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- (1) SR in toxicology (Chairs: Katya and Hubert Dirven)
 - (2) Risk of Bias / Quality (Chairs: Katya and Craig Rowlands)
 - (3) SR Information Session (Chairs: Daniele Wikoff and Katya)
 - **Planned: SRA 2017 (December)**
 - proposal on SR in toxicology (Chairs: Katya and Daniele Wikoff)

Building EBTC profile:

- SOT booth space reserved (\$600 that includes 2 full conference passes)
- Pull-up stand:
 - Katya and Michelle working on design with outsourced designer (\$1,000 budget)
 - Target date for printed stand – November 1
- SRA Booth – have not reserved yet. Question to the Board: shall we do the booth at SRA?

Staff changes:

- **Rob de Vries:**
 - finally on board as staff – contract in place
 - Risk of bias group progress
- **Paul Whaley:**
 - Expressed interest in joining as a post-doc after December 2017 defense of his dissertation
 - Active participant in EFSA Colloquium Organizing Committee and already working with Rob on RoB /quality tool of in vitro studies
 - Associate editor for systematic reviews at Environment International
 - Organized December 2016 workshop on SR in London

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- We propose for Paul to start July 1 as a contractor 1 day/week with the following projects:
 - RoB / Quality tool for in vitro studies (through November 2017)
 - 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 and web site updates

Capacity building / reaching out to other groups:

- **KT gave EBT talk at US Army / Aberdeen Proving Ground May 3, 2017**
 - Follow-up: interest in collaborating on zebrafish project
- **KT participated in GRADE Modelled data Working Group:**
 - Participated in McMaster University workshop May 15-17, 2017
 - The group is working on a manuscript on outcomes
- **Safer Medicines Trust**
 - participating in Tox21 SR by screening papers
- **OpenTox / Douglas Connect**
 - Joined Tox21 project in April on data integration and visualization, mapping the results to liver AOPs
- **Cardiff University**
 - Dr. Kelly Berube has joined Tox21 reviewers team and asked us to develop an EBT lecture for students. Students will be trained on using SysRev software and review papers over the Summer. In the Fall the work will be continued and developed into a project in Dr. Berube's course. Students will be graded on a written assignment as well as reviewed papers.

- **Board changes:**

- Dr. Suzanne Fitzpatrick has been elected to the Board. Welcome, Suzy!

- **Budget:**

- We will be ending the year with \$50,000 in the positive territory (Per Helena) due to the Beagle Freedom Prize awarded in February

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](#).