



Message from the ACTRA President:

I hope you and your family are staying well. For many of you, the current COVID-19 pandemic situation has brought unprecedented restrictions and changes to your life, family and work related activities.

As we pull together to overcome these challenges, it is important for each person to take action to help reduce the risk of infection and slow the spread of the virus. This will help protect the most vulnerable members of our community and not overwhelm our hospitals. We must remember family, friends and colleagues, and reach out to them online where possible. We also need to support those working in our healthcare system who are caring for those infected with COVID-19 and trying to control the spread of infection.

Due to government regulations and travel restrictions, many events you had planned for 2020 have necessarily been cancelled, postponed or delivered fully-online. Members and those expressing interest recently received an email notice that the ACTRA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) planned for 26-28 August 2020 has been postponed to August 2021. The ACTRA Board took this decision to make full use of the excellent program that has already been organised by the ASM Conference Chair Effi Liden and the Organising Committee (Tarah Hagen, Peter DiMarco, Selma Kaasinen, Jen Martin, Rhian Cope, Kerry Nugent, Antii Mikkonen and Katie Richardson). We invite you all to come to Sydney in 25-27 August 2021, and look forward to hosting you at the ParkRoyal Darling Harbour for an exciting scientific and continuing education program focusing on the advances in assessment and understanding of petroleum toxicology, neurotoxicology and their application in risk assessment.

Please note that ACTRA membership provides free access to a range of online training modules (e.g. through IUTOX) and the regular ACTRA Newsletters, while the ACTRA Board is continuing to support its members and are currently planning online continuing education activities for 2020, including a follow-up to the very successful Workshop "Toxicology at the Workplace: The evolution of the workplace exposure standard" held jointly by ACTRA and SafeWork Australia in Sydney on 26 February 2020.

Please take good care of yourselves (stay home, have a healthy diet and exercise regularly) and follow the government guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19. To help you stay informed, consider downloading the official government "Coronavirus Australia" app in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), or join our [WhatsApp channel](#) on [iOS](#) or [Android](#).



Finally, many thanks again to Effi Liden (Toxicologist in Environmental Health Policy & Risk Management at the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services) for providing important information about health advice and keeping informed, as well as these useful links that may also assist you and your family to stay informed:

Commonwealth health site:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Links to state and territory health departments

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/>

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+topics+a+-+z/covid+2019/latest+updates/latest+updates+-+covid-19>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>

Best wishes to you and your family over the official Easter holiday period from myself and the ACTRA Board.

Stay well and best regards,
Paul Wright, PhD FIUPAC FACTRA