

ACTRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

29 AUGUST 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Acknowledgment of Country:

We in ACTRA acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and their Ancestors of the unceded lands and waters across Australia where we conduct the business of the society. We also respectfully acknowledge Elders past and present.

Welcome to all members of the Australasian College of Toxicology and Risk Assessment (ACTRA) to this AGM for 2024. This is ACTRA's second in-person only AGM since 2019, due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. We are thankfully returning to pre-pandemic activities.

2024 ASM & CE day: The ACTRA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and Continuing Education (CE) program is being held again as a face-to-face only event. We have a 3-day program, with the CE day on the first day (28 August), followed by the ASM over the next two days (29 – 30 August) at the Rex Hotel in Canberra. We hope conference registrants enjoy the excellent scientific and CE program focusing on the theme of "Climatotoxicology: Assessing risk in a time of rapid change", as well as the networking event and ASM Dinner. The contributions of invited speakers are greatly appreciated by all attendees. Whilst we do not have an international in-person speaker this year, we have an international speaker joining us virtually on Friday August 30 (Professor Lisa Miller, University of California Davis), as well as numerous distinguished invited speakers joining us in person from across Australia. We also very much appreciate the presentation by the Student Travel Grant recipient (Luke Thompson, University of Sydney).

The ASM Organising Committee has been meeting since January to develop and implement an excellent conference program. I sincerely thank Lana Barbour (Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) and Dr Rhian Cope (SLR Consulting and ACTRA Secretary) as co-chairs of the 2024 ASM Organising Committee, and its members and sub-committees including:

- *Student Travel Grant, Posters and Abstracts:* Effi Liden (Department of Health Victoria and ACTRA Registrar), Katie Richardson (RACTRA; Senversa and ACTRA Vice President), Dr Adam Wightwick (RACTRA; Ramboll), Assoc. Prof. Paul Wright (FIUPAC, FACTRA; RMIT University and ACTRA Immediate Past President).
- *Sponsorship and Marketing:* Lana Barbour, Tarah Hagen (FACTRA; SLR Consulting and ACTRA President), Dr Andrew Harman (Department of Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety WA and ACTRA Treasurer), Dr Adam Wightwick.
- *Social:* Lana Barbour, Tarah Hagen, Alyson Macdonald (RACTRA; Australian Environmental Auditors).
- *Program:* Dr Rhian Cope (FACTRA) and all of the above.

Conference organising support was provided by Adam Druce from Conference Management Solutions.

Our sincerest thanks to the following sponsors for their generous financial support and also for supporting their staff to attend the ACTRA ASM & CE Day: Gold ASM Sponsor – Botanical Resources Australia; Silver ASM and CE Day Sponsor – SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd; Silver ASM Sponsor – Senversa; Bronze ASM and Student Travel Grant Sponsor – Dr Peter Di Marco of Benchmark Toxicology Services Pty Ltd; ASM Thursday Day Catering Sponsor – SA Health, Government of South Australia; with special thanks to Andrew Harman for his invaluable assistance with the various contract arrangements.

Online activities: To continue providing members with value for their membership, several online activities have occurred since the last AGM, including regular webinars, e-Newsletters, as well as LinkedIn posts (at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/actra-1/>) thanks to Dr Maryam Moslehi (RACTRA; Environment Protection Authority Victoria) and Mirella Goetzmann (RACTRA; Netgate Toxicology and Edith Cowan University, ECU), along with further updates to the ACTRA website (at <https://actra.org.au/>) thanks to Mirella and Paul Lumsden (Secretariat, The Association Specialists, TAS). Please remember to repost or comment on the LinkedIn posts, and also send your ideas for activities and topics that you would like to see in the future via the Members' Suggestion Box. Many thanks to Dr Rhian Cope, as Editor of the ACTRA e-Newsletter ('Risky Business') supported by Tarah Hagen and the ACTRA Secretariat at TAS, for an excellent edition of the e-Newsletter in Summer 2023 and Autumn 2024.

Mirella and Dr Martyn Cross at ECU have also developed a "Principles of Applied Toxicology" short course, with expert review and large contributions to course content provided by our very own Assoc. Prof. Paul Wright. Thank you all for your tireless efforts in getting this course off the ground. This fully online course is endorsed/co-badged by ACTRA (as per our MOU, July 2022). ACTRA was provided a modest fee of \$3,000 by ECU for Paul's mammoth review efforts. The course is self-paced and fully online and costs \$3,000 to register. Assessment includes several self-assessment tests, as well as a final open-book assessment completed online. Registration is available here: <https://www.ecu.edu.au/short-courses/medical-health-sciences/principles-of-applied-toxicology>. This short course is considered to be of such high quality that ECU is allowing it to count as credit for the occupational toxicology unit in their Graduate Diploma of Occupational Hygiene and Master of Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology courses.

As the Chair of the ACTRA Education Committee, Dr Maryam Moslehi has continued to co-ordinate the very successful monthly ACTRA webinar program with support from Paul Lumsden at TAS. This regular feature held on the first Thursday of the month has included a range of interesting and engaging presentations, along with interactive Q&A sessions moderated by Tarah Hagen and Paul Wright, and has attracted consistent participant numbers and much interest from other societies. Since the last AGM, these have included webinars #29 - 35: Paul Newell (FRACI, CCHEM; Department of Water and Environmental Regulation WA) on "*The new wave* synthetic opioid abuse, trends, trafficking, and the road ahead for public health professionals" (5 October 2023); Dr Farzana Kastury (University of South Australia) on "Human health exposure from legacy gold mining sites using bioaccessibility, bioavailability and speciation" (2 November 2023); Anne Gourmelon (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD) on "What currently keeps the OECD Test Guideline Programme busy?" (7 March 2024); Dr Ian Delaere (DABT, FACTRA; Expotox Pty Ltd) on "enHealth Guidance for the human health risk assessment of volatile chlorinated hydrocarbon vapour intrusion" (4 April 2024); Dr Silvia Pineiro (Food and Drug Administration, FDA) on "Comments on FDA/CVM guidance for industry #159 (VICH GL36): Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Establish a Microbiological ADI" (2 May, 2024); and two sessions by Dr Rhian Cope (DABT, DABVT, FACTRA; SLR Consulting) on "Human Health Assessment of Pesticide Food and Feed Metabolites" (1st part: 4 July 2024; 2nd part: 1 August 2024). You can purchase access to past webinars that you might have missed at the time via the following webpage: <https://clems.eventsair.com/actra-webinar-series/actrawebinars-past/Site/Register>. Thank you very much to our ACTRA experts for their time and contributions – we look forward to the future webinars on toxicology, risk assessment and exposure science.

Executive Committee: ACTRA Management Committee Meetings were held on 4 October and 6 December 2023, and 30 January, 9 April, 4 June and 7 August 2024. I sincerely thank the Executive Committee for their dedication and input in the running of our society, i.e. Paul Wright (ACTRA Immediate Past President), Katie Richardson (ACTRA Vice President), Rhian Cope (ACTRA Secretary, Marketing & Communications Chair), Andrew Harman (ACTRA Treasurer,

Governance & Finance Chair), Effi Liden (ACTRA Membership Officer/Registrar), Maryam Moslehi (Committee Member, ACTRA Education Chair), Lorraine Webster (Committee Member) and co-opted co-ordinator members, Mirella Goetzmann (ACTRA website), Len Turczynowicz (ACTRA Exposure Science Group) and Peter Di Marco (IUTOX Past President), with excellent support from Paul Lumsden (ACTRA Secretariat; TAS). A new streamlined election process for committee positions, which was first used in 2023, was conducted via email in July, with successful candidates announced at the AGM. Many thanks also to Dr Felicity Grzemski (DABT; Novotech) for kindly again displaying ACTRA's poster at the 2024 Society of Toxicology meeting in Salt Lake City, USA.

Membership/Registration: The ACTRA membership is currently at a total of 132, including 18 RACTRA members and 18 FACTRA members (including 2 Emeritus and 2 Honorary FACTRA). The re-registration process occurs 5 years after inclusion in the ACTRA Professional Register and is continuing successfully – many thanks to the ongoing efforts of ACTRA Registrar Effi Liden.

Financial status of ACTRA: ACTRA's financial position is reasonably stable, with the audited finances showing a small decrease in retained equity. Annual membership fees for 2023/2024 were increased, as they had remained unchanged for over a decade despite increases in running costs. Many thanks again to Andrew Harman for his valued contribution as Treasurer.

Service Awards:

Life Member Award 2024: Prof. Brian Priestly is being presented with a Life Membership Award for his outstanding dedication, exceptional service and continuous contributions since being a founding member and the first President of ACTRA from 2006 to 2011.

ACTRA Recognition of Service Awards 2024:

- Dr Maryam Moslehi (PhD, RACTRA; EPA Vic), for dedicated and exceptional service to ACTRA as a member of the Management Committee, Chair of the Education Committee and Webinar Program Co-ordinator from 2020-2024.
- Dr Lorraine Webster (PhD, ERT, DABT, FACTRA; Preclinical Solutions Pty Ltd), for dedicated and exceptional service to ACTRA in many roles including member of the Management and Education Committees, and Continuing Education Day Co-Chair between 2018 and 2024.
- Mirella Goetzmann (GradDipTox, MAppSc (Tox), RACTRA; Netgate Toxicology & ECU), for contributions to Toxicology Education and dedicated and exceptional service to ACTRA in many roles including member of the Management and Marketing and Communication Committees between 2018 and 2024, and Chair of the ASM in 2018.
- Ruth Jarman (MAppSc (Tox RA), RACTRA; enRiskS), for many contributions to ASMs and dedicated and exceptional service to ACTRA as a Registrar from 2011-2015.

2025 ASM: We are currently in formal discussions with SETAC Australasia to partner with and co-chair the next SETAC/ACTRA Annual Scientific Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand. It will be exciting to hold the first ACTRA event in New Zealand, and we hope that you can all support the society by planning your attendance in late August 2025. Watch for updates in our e-Newsletter 'Risky Business'.

On behalf of our whole society, I am very appreciative of our members who help to make ACTRA vibrant and responsive. I hope you and your family are staying well and best wishes to you all from myself and the ACTRA Executive/Management Committee. I look forward to another fruitful year of scientific exchange!

Tarah Hagen, MSc DABT FACTRA, SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd
President of ACTRA
13 August 2024