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LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

18

Events

55th Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology : Call for Abstracts / Register now!

We would like to announce the **55th Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX 2019)** which will take place in Helsinki, Finland from **8 to 11 September 2019**.

“Toxicology – Science Providing Solutions” – the theme of EUROTOX 2019 focusses on a diverse congress programme which covers new and emerging technologies, personalized medicine, and epidemiology of exposure to chemicals. Additionally, climate change and the modifying effects of the arctic environment will have their place in the programme. Six Continuing Education Courses (CECs), 28 top-notch scientific sessions as well as keynote lectures from renowned scientists will cover these aspects with about 1,500 participants and more than 60 exhibitors on four eventful days in Finlandia Hall, a historical yet modern venue.

The preliminary programme as well as registration and abstract submission information are available on our website www.eurotox2019.com

The EUROTOX 2019 Organizing and Scientific Committees cordially invite you to join us on this occasion and warmly welcome all novel contributions for poster and oral presentations.

Deadline for Abstract Submission and Travel Grant Application: 31 March 2019
Deadline for Registration at the Early Bird Fee: 15 May 2019

ISO-FOOD International Symposium on Isotopic and other techniques in Food Safety and Quality_April 2019_Slovenia

We would like to inform you that the **"1st ISO-FOOD International Symposium on Isotopic and Other Techniques in Food Safety and Quality"** will be held **April 1-3, 2019, in Piran, Slovenia**.

The conference is organised by ISO-FOOD ERA Chair, Department of Environmental Sciences at the Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia (<http://iso-food.academicevent.net/>).

Topics:

- Food authenticity and traceability;
- Food safety and quality;



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- Metrology in food;
- Food databases and semantics;
- Nanomaterials and nanotechnology;
- Foodomics.

On-line registration is open at: <http://iso-food.academicevent.net/registration/> .

More information is available at: <http://iso-food.academicevent.net/> .

For any further information please contact the organiser at: erachair@isofood.eu

Webinar: Bayesian tools for the harmonization of disease prevalence estimates

We would like to inform you about the webinar on “**Bayesian tools for the harmonization of disease prevalence estimates that are collected under different sampling and testing settings**”.

The webinar is organised by the [Hotline Project](#), a consortium of European organisations that were beneficiaries of an EFSA Partnering Grant. The webinar will take place on Tuesday **19th February 2019** (13:00 CET - 14:30:00 CET).

Countries typically collect disease data in a way that is best suited for their needs. Therefore, differences exist in the sampling schemes and the diagnostic methods, which produce non-comparable estimates of the prevalence and spectrum of disease. The HOTLINE project has the objective to make disease information comparable and interpretable across different sampling and testing settings. Like the hotline used to serve for direct communication between the leaders of the superpowers. To serve this objective we are providing a series of Bayesian tools with step by step explanations as well as material for reporting guidelines on surveillance.

Should you have any questions, please write back to **Polychronis Kostoulas** (pkost@vet.uth.gr).

Call for Abstracts now open: FSAI Science Conference 2019

In honour of its 20th anniversary, in 2019, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) is delighted to host its **international food science conference, The Science of Food Safety – What’s our Future?** The **two-day event** will focus on microbiological safety and chemical safety and will be held in the **Convention Centre Dublin on Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd August 2019**.

The conference will feature international and national keynote speakers, speakers chosen from abstracts, student posters, and a social event.

Regulatory chemists; toxicologists; microbiologists; policy makers; food law enforcement practitioners; academics and their teams working in chemical and microbiological food safety; food industry scientists; scientific consultants and non-governmental organisations from Ireland, Europe and beyond are invited to participate in a unique and valuable event programme designed to inspire, inform and evoke ideas.

The call for abstracts is now open.

For further details visit: www.foodsafety2019.com

Conference registration and accommodation can be completed through our online booking portal.



Training

EuroMix training on mixture risk assessment using the EuroMix toolbox

EuroMix project would like to invite you to a one-day training on March 11 or 12, 2019, at 10.30-16.30 at Hilton Amsterdam Airport Schiphol hotel.

The aim of the training is to provide

- Understanding of the EuroMix approach for improving mixture risk assessment, in line with international guidance
- Hands on training in the use of the EuroMix toolbox for mixture risk assessment, <https://mcra-test.rivm.nl/EuroMix/WebApp/#/>

The hands on training in the toolbox will include

- How to derive relative potency factors from dose response data using benchmark dose response modelling and from NOAELs from literature
- How to estimate the combined exposure using probabilistic exposure assessment and relative potency factors
- How to use QSAR data to inform grouping of substances into assessment groups

The same training is provided on March 11 and 12.

The participation is free of charge but the participants must cover their costs for travel and any accommodation.

Register for the training: <https://survey.ki.se/Survey/14370>; Deadline is February 21, 2019.

For further information please contact: Johanna Zilliacus, Horizontal activity leader for training in EuroMix, Karolinska Institutet, E-mail: johanna.zilliacus@ki.se, tel: +46 8 52483544

For more information on the EuroMix project visit our website: <https://www.euromixproject.eu>

IMRB International Summer school on « Environmental stress and chronic diseases », Maisons-Alfort (France) 3-5 July 2019

International Summer school on « **Environmental stress and chronic diseases** », organised by the Mondor Biomedical Research Institute (IMRB) will take place in **Maisons-Alfort (France) from 3 to 5 July 2019**.

The first edition of the IMRB International Summer School will be dedicated to environmental stress in the development of chronic diseases. Four main sessions will deal with:

1. nutritional stress and infection in the development of diseases;
2. pollution and inflammation in chronic diseases;
3. molecular mechanisms of inflammation; and
4. role of environmental agencies and start-ups in combating the burden of chronic diseases.



Each session will have interventions by IMRB and foreign investigators that are at the forefront of the scientific topics proposed, representatives of French and European environmental agencies and start-ups. A visit to the environmental laboratory at the University of Paris Est, a workshop on project design and short presentations from selected abstracts are integrated in the program, enabling young researchers to work directly with senior investigators to promote their scientific training

Application deadline: 15 March 2019

The school is limited to 20 participants and is open to PhD students and postdoctoral fellows.

Registration fee: 100 euros. Hotel accommodation for 3 nights and all meals during the duration of the school will be offered to the selected candidates.

For more information, please see the attached document.

Publications

Animal health: harmonised data collection for more effective risk assessment - SIGMA

The scientific report marks a step forward in efforts to make the process for collecting data on animal diseases in the European Union more agile. The report proposes an approach that optimises the way data are gathered by Member States and submitted to EFSA for analysis and reporting.

News story: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/190121>

Report: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5556>

Other

Call for experts to join the UK FSA's register of specialists who can be contracted to carry out scientific work for FSA

Join the Food Standards Agency's Register of Specialists

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is seeking to appoint new members to its Register of Specialists.

Following the recent campaign to expand our Scientific Advisory Committees, we are now launching a separate exercise to expand our wider access to experts through the FSA's Register of Specialists. The Register is a list of pre-approved experts who the FSA may use to commission short pieces of ad hoc scientific and technical work under contract. We want to expand the Register to bring in new experts and to cover new areas of expertise and types of work.

This includes provision of evidence, analysis or expert advice to inform our work and that of our Scientific Advisory Committees on risk assessment and other scientific issues, and other technical advice to inform risk management decisions. In addition, we need experts to provide peer review and appraisal of research questions, research proposals, materials and outputs, and provide other forms



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of expert advice. The Register covers all areas of expertise relevant to our remit across the natural, analytical and social sciences.

Your work will contribute directly to ensuring the safety of food, benefitting UK consumers and the effective, evidence-based regulation of food.

If you would like to be considered for the Register, please see the [application form and the information pack](#). If you are selected to join the Register the FSA will be able to approach you directly to undertake specific pieces of work. At that stage a day rate will be agreed, and you will be asked for some further administrative information. Inclusion on the Register does not guarantee that you will be called upon to undertake work for the FSA.

The closing date for the current call is Monday 11th March 2019.