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OBITUARY

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**Professor Alfred Michael Thiess, MD, PhD h. c.  
(1921-2016)**



On February 3, 2016 Professor Alfred Michael Thiess passed away in Ludwigshafen, Germany, the legendary founder and Honorary President of the International Scientific Association for Occupational and Environmental Health in the Production and Use of Chemicals MEDICHEM.

Professor Thiess was born near Hermannstadt, Romania. He came to Germany to study medicine in Frankfurt and stayed there his entire life. In 1954 he joined BASF where he was head of the Occupational Medical Department from 1963 until his retirement in 1986. During this time he was one of the major forces behind the development of occupational medicine in Germany. He intensified the application of occupational epidemiology in an industrial setting and fostered health promotion not only in the sense of “one-time” campaigns but with a focus on subsequent evaluation of its success. The results of his scientific work were published in more than two hundred articles in national and international occupational medical journals. Besides, he was a teacher at the Mannheim Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg and still found the time to actively participate in numerous national and international expert groups. In 1972 he inaugurated MEDICHEM, which also acts as the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry of the International Commission for Occupational Health (ICOH). He served as MEDICHEM Chairman from 1972 to 1986, and afterwards as Honorary President he always took a keen and active interest in supporting MEDICHEM’s goals and development.

In recognition of his achievements he received numerous awards and honours, among them the Grand Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. But one award, by far not the most prestigious one, just through its title characterized Professor Thiess so perfectly that it shall be mentioned here: It was the Service above Self

Award issued by the Rotary Club. Why that? Immediately after the fall of the iron curtain, Professor Thiess had started activities directed at helping schools, hospitals and other social institutions in Romania, to overcome the many shortcomings accumulated under the dictatorial regime of the past. It was for this reason that the German Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (DGAUM) had to wait for one more year until he found the time to accept the most prestigious award for his lifetime achievements to be issued by this society, the Franz-Kölsch Medal. Coinciding with the intended date for the award ceremony Professor Thiess had already scheduled a truck convoy to Siebenbürgen, Romania. These activities were always more important to him than honours and recognitions directed to himself. In 2002 the city of his ancestors, Urwegen, Romania, bestowed on him honorary citizenship in recognition of his untiring and generous support over many years.

Professor Thiess has lived a long and fruitful life, and he was always aware of and grateful for this. While he received public honours with pride and grace, the prospect of public recognition was never the driver for his desire to influence and help. He was intrinsically motivated, and he was a formidable motivator of others. He was able to combine professional leadership with honest and warm personal interest in his co-workers, thus making it easy for them to adopt and actively pursue his sometimes indeed challenging goals. He has left deep marks not only in the history of German and international Occupational Medicine but also in the hearts of many people who had the privilege to work with him. Our thoughts and best wishes go to his wife, his life and professional companion, Dr Gisela Thiess and their family. We are sad to have lost him, but grateful that we had had him

The connection with Professor Thiess and *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology* is timeless because he was more than a colleague to a number of former and current members of the journal’s editorial boards. He will be remembered as an excellent professional and scientist, a passionate and motivating person with an exceptional personality and a true friend to everybody who had the privilege to meet him.

*Dr Michael Nasterlack*

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**REPORT**

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**The basic course “Principles of Toxicology”**

Zagreb, April 4-8, 2016

The basic course “Principles of Toxicology” was organized by the Croatian Society of Toxicology under the auspices and financial support of EUROTOX. The course was held in Zagreb April 4-8, 2016. Upon the announcement of the course at the websites of EUROTOX and the Croatian Society of Toxicology, an unusually high number of candidates applied for participation (88). Therefore, we faced a difficult choice because most of the candidates had an excellent CV and had worked in the field of toxicology. The course was planned for 25-30 participants, but due to very high interest, we accepted 50 participants as suggested by EUROTOX.

The high number of applicants to “Principles of Toxicology” indicated to us that regular education in toxicology in Europe is necessary perhaps more than ever. This is because, according to our knowledge, many Western countries have closed postdoctoral studies in toxicology, while such studies never even existed in Eastern Europe because of the small number of scientists interested in toxicology.

The participants at the course were from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and the South African Republic.

The invited lecturers covered the most important issues in toxicology: Marina Goumenou (Introduction to toxicology and Scope and ethical principles of toxicology and 3 R), Biljana Antonijević (Role of metabolism), Benay Can Eke (Toxicokinetics), Maja Peraica (Factors affecting toxicity), Corrado Lodovico Galli (Target organ toxicity – liver and kidney, Reach and Risk assessment), Emanuela Corsini (Immunotoxicology), Eva Cecilie Bonefeld-Jorgensen (Endocrine disruptors and Reproductive and developmental toxicity), Ksenija Durgo and Mirta Milić (Mutagenesis), Davor Želježić (Carcinogenesis), Alberto

Ritieni (Food toxicology), Bojan Hamer (Environmental exposure and biomonitoring) and Bas Blaauboer (Alternatives to animal testing in toxicological risk assessment). Their lectures were interesting and comprehensive. At the end of the course, i.e. at the final exam, the participants showed good knowledge about basic toxicology.

The participants were divided into seven working groups and each group had to prepare a 10 minute presentation on one toxic substance. Following the given instructions, they prepared excellent presentations to all of the other participants and lecturers.

Apart from education, the aim of such courses is to make personal acquaintances among the participants and lecturers (“networking”), which could be important for their careers – for instance, when looking for partners for projects. For this purpose, at the end of each presentation, the participants were asked to say a little about themselves as well as something about their research. Sightseeing and dinner were also organized and highly appreciated by the participants and lecturers. We would like to take this opportunity to once more thank all of the participants for their interest and helping to create a great atmosphere altogether.

The participation of eminent lecturers, their excellent lectures and all of their support during the course are also greatly acknowledged. This course could not be organized without the support of the EUROTOX Educational Committee, particularly its president Martin Wilks. Much due to the pleasant communication we had with the President of EUROTOX Prof Aristidis Tsatsakis and the members of the Educational Committee, the organization of the course Principles of Toxicology was a wonderful experience for us. Thank you all and see you at the next EUROTOX Congress.

*President of the Croatian Society of Toxicology  
Maja Peraica, MD, PhD*

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## REPORT

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### **251<sup>st</sup> American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting & Exposition: Computers in Chemistry**

San Diego, California, SAD, 13.-17. ožujka 2016.

Američko kemijsko društvo (ACS) godišnje održava dva najveća nacionalna znanstvena sastanka, koji zajedno privuku više od 25000 kemijskih i srodnih stručnjaka i studenata diljem američkih država. U okviru sastanka ACS ujedno se održavaju i znanstveni, stručni, društveni, obrazovni, gospodarski i brojni drugi susreti s međunarodnim sudjelovanjem u određenoj temi iz svijeta kemije. 251<sup>st</sup> Spring 2016 ACS National Meeting bio je posvećen utjecaju kompjuterske znanosti u kemijskim istraživanjima i okupio je više od 16000 sudionika. Kompjuterska tehnologija ima neprocjenjivu i rastuću ulogu u prirodnim znanostima, od prikupljanja i pohranjivanja podataka do dizajna novih materijala, kao i u brzini razmjene informacija i umrežavanju znanstvene zajednice. Opsežan tehnički program u organizaciji 29 tehničkih odjela ACS, sastavljenih iz svih grana i polja kemije, uključio je više od 12000 predavanja i gotovo 5000 posterskih priopćenja. Dva predavanja pod pokroviteljstvom The Kavli Foundation, organizacije koja podupire temeljna inovacijska istraživanja, nastavila su

tradiciju prezentiranja inovacija u kemiji i poticanja razumijevanja javnosti za najveće svjetske izazove i rješenja koja kemija može omogućiti. Organiziran je niz panela za raspravu aktualnih tema iz područja primjene znanja i novih metoda učenja te područja tržišta rada u kemijskoj znanosti i industriji. Brojni predstavnici izdavača predstavili su nove naslove iz cjelokupnog područja kemije. Konferencija je omogućila održavanje nekoliko desetaka kratkih stručnih tečajeva i radionica za pomoć u karijeri uz mogućnost povezivanja s potencijalnim poslodavcima. Više od 250 tvrtki instrumenata, laboratorijske opreme i servisa promoviralo je svoje nove proizvode i usluge na više od 400 reklamnih štandova. Kao delegat konferencije Pittcon 2016 na 251<sup>st</sup> ACS National Meeting S. Stipičević je sudjelovala u raznim sekcijama ACS posvećenim znanstvenom i obrazovnom radu u regijama Europa i Srednji Istok.

252<sup>nd</sup> Fall 2016 ACS National Meeting održat će se 21.-25. kolovoza 2016. u gradu Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, SAD, a najavljeni su i svi sljedeći skupovi do 270<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting.

*dr. sc. Sanja Stipičević*

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## REPORT

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### **Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry & Applied Spectroscopy 2016. (Pittcon 2016)**

Atlanta, Georgia, SAD, 6.-10. ožujka 2016.

S više od 12800 sudionika iz 88 država diljem svijeta, Pittcon 2016 predstavlja najveću konferenciju i izložbu laboratorijske znanosti u svijetu. Misija Pittcon-a kao neprofitne organizacije Društva spektroskopije Pittsburgh i Društva analitičkih kemičara Pittsburgh, Pensilvanija, SAD, koja djeluje već više od 60 godina, temelji se na unaprijeđenju obrazovanja u znanosti. Uz analitičke kemičare, sudionici konferencije Pittcon su svi istraživači koji analiziraju i testiraju kemijska i biološka svojstva molekula, kao i oni koji upravljaju znanošću, obrazovanjem i gospodarstvom na svim razinama. Većina sudionika (70 %) pripada sektoru industrije, obrazovanja i distribucije opreme.

Ovogodišnji program konferencije otvorio je prof. W. E. Moerner iz Sveučilišta Stanford, Kalifornija, SAD, dobitnik Nobelove nagrade za kemiju 2014. godine, s predavanjem iz područja fizikalne kemije, na temu razvoja i primjene nanoskopije visokog razlučivanja. Bogati tehnički program ponudio je preko 2000 prezentacija najnovijih analitičkih metodologija i njihovih primjena. Prezentacije su uključile više od 350 plenarnih predavanja

(76 sekcija), 756 usmenih priopćenja (110 sekcija), 868 posterskih priopćenja (52 tematske sekcije), 147 poludnevničkih do dvodnevničkih stručnih tečajeva, 46 predavanja sponzora i 31 tematski sastanak sudionika kongresa. Za vrhunska postignuća u području analitičke kemije i spektroskopije dodijeljeno je 14 nagrada. Više od 800 tvrtki s 5000 sudionika predstavilo je najnoviju laboratorijsku i industrijsku tehnologiju i opremu te nakladničku djelatnost.

Program ACS Pittcon Travel Grant 2016, financiran iz fonda Wallace H. Coulter, Društva analitičkih kemičara Pittsburgh i Pittcon konferencije u organizaciji Američkog kemijskog društva, omogućio je sudjelovanje osam kandidata iz država Baltika i Balkana na ovogodišnjoj konferenciji. Među kandidatima s dva posterska priopćenja sudjelovale su S. Stipičević (*Microwave-Assisted Extraction of Triketone and Pyrazole Corn Herbicides from Agricultural Soil*) i D. Klinčić (*PCBs and DDTs in Bluefin tuna from the Adriatic Sea*). Oba priopćenja rezultat su istraživanja provedenih u okviru projekta OPENTOX Hrvatske zaklade za znanost (broj 8366, voditelj: D. Želježić).

Pittcon 2017 održat će se 5.-9. ožujka 2017. u gradu Chicago, Illinois, SAD, a registracija za konferenciju počinje 1. listopada 2016.

*dr. sc. Sanja Stipičević*

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**PETI HRVATSKI TOKSIKOLOŠKI KONGRES S  
MEĐUNARODNIM SUDJELOVANJEM - CROTOX  
2016**

Poreč, Hrvatska, 9.-12. listopada 2016.

Hrvatsko toksikološko društvo organizira V. hrvatski toksikološki kongres pod pokroviteljstvom Instituta za medicinska istraživanja i medicinu rada (Zagreb) i Zavoda za toksikologiju i antidoping (Zagreb). Kongres će se održati u hotelu Valamar Diamant u Poreču od 9.-12. listopada 2016.

Teme kongresa podijeljene su u devet sekcija: Ekotoksikologija, Forenzička toksikologija, Genotoksičnost, Nanotoksikologija, Radiotoksikologija, Toksikologija hrane, Toksikologija metala, Zloupotreba nekih supstancija

i antidoti te Regulatorna toksikologija. U svakoj će sekciji predavanja održati istaknuti znanstvenici tog područja toksikologije, a omogućit će se i mladim znanstvenicima da predstavljaju rezultate svojih istraživanja. Predviđeno je i održavanje posterske sekcije.

Službeni jezik Kongresa je engleski.

Kako bi omogućio mladim znanstvenicima sudjelovanje na Kongresu Organizacijski odbor dodijelit će pet stipendija doktorandima i post-doktorandima. Te se stipendije sastoje od kotizacije i smještaja u dvokrevetnoj sobi tijekom održavanja Kongresa.

Više informacija o Kongresu može se naći na web stranici Kongresa <http://crotox2016.imi.hr/>.

*dr. sc. Maja Peraica, dr. med.*