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The 17th World Congress of the International Society on Toxinology and Venom Week 2012

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## The 17th World Congress of the International Society on Toxinology and Venom Week 2012

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This issue of Toxicon contains scientific manuscripts whose abstracts were presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Society on Toxinology (IST) and Venom Week 2012 meeting, held in Honolulu, HI, July 8 – 13, 2012. The IST/Venom Week meeting was attended by 350 participants from 44 countries, including those investigating the basic science of natural toxins, terrestrial and marine human and veterinary envenomations, venomous animal science, venomous animal collections management, public health and regulatory issues, and the development of new toxin-derived drugs.

There were 344 abstracts presented over the course of the meeting in three parallel tracks, two basic science- and one clinical science oriented, thereby providing venues for presenting advances in these two broad areas of toxinology research as well as translational aspects that bridge these two components. In addition to the annual meeting of the IST, other toxinologic societies were able to organize or have special meetings during this time, including the organizational meeting of the North American Society of Toxinology (NAST), formed to promote toxinology research and to organize and support future Venom Week meetings, the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH), the Antivenom Index Medical Advisors, a meeting of the Editorial Board for Toxicon, and others. The scientific and collaborational impact and benefits of this meeting on the advancement of the study of natural toxins, venomous animals and related subjects is global in scope and will be years in duration.

In this issue of Toxicon are 29 full manuscripts from that effort. They include some of the best of the basic and clinical science presented, as well as the Redi Award Lecture from David Warrell, MD, the Elsevier Lecture by Leslie V. Boyer, MD, and an invited manuscript by Dietrich Mebs, PhD on the history of IST.

No meeting of this scope and magnitude could be held without the contributions of time and energy of the scientific and local organizing committees, conference planners, and the generous financial support of meeting sponsors, to whom we extend our sincere thanks:

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