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# Abstracts of the $\mathbf{6}^{\text {th }}$ Croatian Congress of Toxicology with International Participation <br> CROTOX 2021 

Rabac, Croatia, 3-6 October 2021

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# Abstracts of the $6^{\text {th }}$ Croatian Congress of Toxicology with International Participation 

CROTOX 2021

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## EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,
It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Supplement to the Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology which comprises abstracts of all the presentations at the $6^{\text {th }}$ Croatian Congress of Toxicology with International Participation, which is taking place in Rabac, Croatia in the period 3-6 October, 2021. The rich conference programme is showcased herein by all the abstracts which encompass a wide range of plenary and invited lectures and oral and poster presentations.

It must be admitted that the circumstances of holding this edition of the conference are significantly different from years past. The adage, and not meant in a positive sense, "May you live in interesting times" seems particularly apt to describe the period which we are currently passing through. Indeed, the rapid spread of a coronavirus and the accompanying declaration of a pandemic have dramatically altered the way in which we have lived our lives for the last year and a half, with concommitant effects on many planned public events which have either been drastically curtailed, postponed or cancelled. It is against this backdrop that the Croatian Congress of Toxicology with International Participation has endeavoured to realise its quadrennial conference and overcome all the challenges associated with holding such an event in a period of lockdowns and disrupted national and international travel.

It is with some resonance that these global events highlight the vital role that toxicology and toxicologists play in the modern world. In particular, the full spectrum push to rapidly roll out population-wide experimental treatments against coronavirus symptoms, and hence any potentially deleterious effects that may arise over short to long time scales, emphasises the need to support increased monitoring and research efforts in the field of human and clinical toxicology. The conference addresses not only coronavirus related issues such as the impacts of increased disinfectant and alcohol use but broader exposure scenarios ranging from exposure of foetuses to tobacco smoke, children taking analgesics and anti-inflammatory pharmaceuticals to adults consuming psychoactive substances. An aspect oftentimes overlooked is exposure through poisoning from accidental consumption of potentially harmful materials such as plants, which this conference addresses in addition to investigating potential benefts such as the anti-cancer, anti-oxidative, and antibacterial potential of plant-derived bioactive substances. Hand in hand with clinical toxicology goes exposure risk assessment and a broad variety of studies focussing on issues such as neonicotinoid and legacy pesticides use and hidden exposure pathways such as that through house dust provide an ideal base to support discourse among all the experts and participants at the conference. Advances in these areas will be underpinned by new developments in
laboratory test systems, and a range of data is presented on emerging approaches incorporating 3D cell models and in silico computation methods.

Of course, there is an array of other modern challenges present in the world around us underscoring the continuing need for new approaches and efforts, for example addressing issues ranging from the application of genetically modified organisms to release of micro- and nanoscale materials in the environment, in the fields of food and environmental toxicology, respectively. It is entirely appropriate that attention is given to the area of ecotoxicology as our integration in the biome inevitably puts us at risk due to consumption of foods that may have bioaccumulated, trophically transferred and biomagnified toxic substances of anthropogenic origin such as herbicides and heavy metals. Indeed, this overlaps to a significant degree with food toxicology, where the safety of foodstuffs, ranging from fresh fuit and vegetables to honey and fermentation products, is of primary concern. In addition to the presentation of these studies, the recent rapid increase of interest in anthropogenic materials with micro- and nanodimensions reaching the environment is also addressed, with data on microplastics, nanoparticles, and nanotubes impact on plant and animal models presented. Unfortunately, these few brief comments can only give a mere glimpse of the rich programme on offer at the $6^{\text {th }}$ Croatian Congress of Toxicology with International Participation, and the important fundamental and applied data that is being presented.

While the presenters are rightly the stars of the show, it should be mentioned that a large number of people have been working quietly in the background to organise and bring to life this conference, and I feel it is appropriate to mention at this point, with thanks, the contributions of the Editor-in-Chief, Assistant Editors and Editorial Board of the Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology who have helped us realise this Proceedings book as a supplement to the journal. The enormous contribution of the members of the Organising and Scientific boards is also gratefully acknowledged.

In conclusion, the new data and approaches presented at the $6^{\text {th }}$ Croatian Congress of Toxicology with International Participation, and outlined in this issue, are timely as they address an enormous wealth of both legacy and contemporary issues in all the fields of toxicological research. Looking around us, it seems we are indeed living in interesting times, and it is clear that the role toxicologists play will remain as important as ever as we continue into the future.

Guest Editor
Prof Daniel Mark Lyons, PhD

## WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
It is my great pleasure and honour to be able to welcome you on behalf of CROTOX 2021 and the Croatian Society of Toxicology (CST) at this $6^{\text {th }}$ Croatian Congress of Toxicology with international participation in the charming town of Rabac.

Our plan was to organize CROTOX in October last year, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic we had to postpone it on three separate occasions. In the meantime, while we were waiting for the permission of health authorities for holding the congress, our Scientific and Organising Committees prepared plans for the Congress, invited the lecturers, edited our book of abstracts and organised each detail of the Congress. I am always delighted by the enthusiasm of our committees because the results of their efforts are amazing: we all have the opportunity to hear eminent toxicologists presenting the results of their most recent research in a joyful, smooth, and relaxed atmosphere.

In spite of all the problems, we can proudly say that the CST is very active and that our activities provide an adequate response to the modern challenges in toxicology. Due to the pandemic, we could not invite all of the members of our and other similar societies to give lectures in various fields of toxicology. However, we organised online lectures and gave fellowships to our members for participation at online scientific meetings.

The Croatian Society of Toxicology made use of the lockdown(s) to publish the monograph " 25 Years of the Croatian Society of Toxicology". In this monograph, nine toxicologists from various institutions (medical schools, institutes, toxicology agencies, and public health agencies) gave an overview of the scientific, educational, and practical position of toxicology in Croatia. This monograph, written
in Croatian and English, covers the 25-year history of the CST.

The systematic education of toxicologists in our country is still lacking and therefore we decided to organise a Continuing Education Course (CEC) before the beginning of the Congress. This CEC, financially supported by EUROTOX is entitled "Old methods, new perspective: new regulation and approach to toxicity testing of food chemicals". Eminent Croatian and international scientists agreed to share their knowledge with young scientists. As usual, in order to help young scientists to participate at CROTOX, the Organising Committee gave eight fellowships to young scientists. They will hold oral presentations of their works together with eminent scientists from various fields of toxicology. The abstracts of the oral and poster presentations will be published in the Abstract Book as a Supplement to the journal Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology, the official journal of the Croatian Society of Toxicology. I would like to thank the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board of the Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology for accepting the abstracts of CROTOX 2021 to be published.

The Congress is held under the auspices of the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, which is greatly acknowledged. We would like to thank our sponsors for supporting the organisation of the Congress.

On behalf of the Organising and Scientific Committees, I wish to thank all the participants of the Congress and all sponsoring organisations that made this Congress possible.

President of the Congress
Maja Peraica, MD, PhD, ERT

CROTOX 2021, Rabac, Croatia, October 3-6

## Programme

| Sunday, 3 October 2021 (Day 1) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12:00-18:00 | Registration of participants |  |
| 12:00-18:00 | Continuing Education Courses (CEC), including coffee \& lunch breaks <br> Moderator: Emanuela Corsini (Milan, Italy) |  |
| 19:30-20:00 | Opening ceremony |  |
| PLENARY LECTURE <br> Chairs: Maja Peraica, Daniel Mark Lyons |  |  |
| 20:00-20:45 | IL-1 | Andrew Collins (Oslo, Norway) <br> The comet assay; from nanoparticles to human populations |
| 21:00 | Welcome reception |  |
| Monday, 4 October 2021 (Day 2) |  |  |
| 8:00-9:00 | Posters will be put up by presenters |  |
| SESSION 1 CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY <br> Chairs: Arnes Rešić, Željka Babić |  |  |
| 9:00-9:35 | IL-2 | Ines Potočnjak (Zagreb, Croatia) Intoxications in clinical settings |
| 9:35-10:10 | IL-3 | Mila Lovrić (Zagreb, Croatia) The diagnostic needs and possibilities of detecting new psychoactive substances in clinical practice |
| 10:10-10:25 | OP-1 | Jelena Macan (Zagreb, Croatia) Toxicological aspects of the increased use of disinfectants during the COVID-19 pandemic in Croatia |
| 10:25-10:40 | OP-2 | Zrinka Franić (Zagreb, Croatia) <br> Plant poisoning reported to the Croatian Poison Control Centre during a ten-year period (2010-2019) |
| 10:40-11:00 | Silver sponsor presentation | Labtim d.o.o. Ivica Blažević |
| 11:00-11:30 | Il2 Poster viewing and coffee break sponsored by Medic d.o.o |  |
| SESSION 2 ANALYTICAL TOXICOLOGY <br> Chairs: Davorka Sutlović, Alica Pizent |  |  |
| 11:30-12:05 | IL-4 | Snežana Đorđević (Belgrade, Serbia) Unconventional psychoactive substances - big analytical challenges |
| 12:05-12:20 | OP-3 | Tanja Živković Semren (Neuchâtel, Switzerland) Real-time (on-line) chemical characterisation of thermal aerosols by super secondary electrospray ionisation coupled with high-resolution mass spectrometry (Super SESI-HRMS) |


| 12:20-12:50 | Golden sponsor's presentation | Alphachrom d.o.o. Matea Kovač \& Ines Topalović Piteša Microplastic - reality or science fiction? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12:50-14:00 | Lunch break |  |
| SESSION 3 EMERGING APPROACHES IN TOXICOLOGY <br> Chairs: Davor Želježić, Biljana Antonijević |  |  |
| 14:00-14:35 | IL-5 | Bojana Žegura (Ljubljana, Slovenia) In vitro 3D cell cultures in genetic toxicology |
| 14:35-15:10 | IL-6 | Ivica Dimkić (Belgrade, Serbia) <br> A new insight into Bacillus lipopeptides in terms of cytotoxic, genotoxic, and embryotoxic potential in correlation with synthetic pollutants |
| 15:10-15:25 | OP-4 | Marijana Ćurčić (Belgrade, Serbia) <br> The effects of decabrominated diphenyl ether (BDE-209) and cadmium ( Cd ) mixture on thiol groups ( SH ) and copper $(\mathrm{Cu})$ balance in Wistar rat's brain |
| 15:25-15:40 | OP - 5 | Ivan Ožvald (Zagreb, Croatia) <br> Micronucleus cytome assay results in obese patients with body mass index (BMI) $\geq 35$ on a 500 -kcal-3-week diet controlled in hospital |
| 15:40-16:10 | Poster viewing a | offee break sponsored by Medic d.o.o |
| SESSION 4 YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARDS Chairs: Nevenka Kopjar, Andreja Prevendar Crnić |  |  |
| 16:10-16:25 | YSL-1 | Antonio Zandona (Zagreb, Croatia) Cytotoxic effects of vitamin B3 derivatives in cultured cells |
| 16:25-16:40 | YSL-2 | Milan Gavrilović (presenter: Pedja Janaćković) <br> (Belgrade, Serbia) <br> In vitro toxicology screening of Centaurea calcitrapa (Asteraceae) extracts, their phenolic profiles, and bioactivity |
| 16:40-16:55 | YSL-3 | Martina Štampar (Ljubljana, Slovenia) In vitro 3D cell model for detection of genotoxic effects |
| 16:55-17:10 | YSL-4 | Renata Biba (Zagreb, Croatia) <br> Differently coated silver nanoparticles cause oxidative stress and induce cellular damage in tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum) seedlings |
| 17:10-17:25 | YSL-5 | Carina Lackmann (Frankfurt am Main, Germany/ <br> Osijek, Croatia) <br> The effects of chronic exposures of four commercial pesticide preparations on multiple levels of biological organisation in earthworm (Eisenia andrei) |
| 17:25-17:40 | YSL-6 | Vedran Micek (Zagreb, Croatia) <br> Individual and combined subchronic oral exposure to ochratoxin A and citrinin affect the expression of organic cation transporters in rat kidneys |
| 17:40-17:55 | YSL-7 | Zuzana Redžović (Zagreb, Croatia) <br> Adenylate energy charge (AEC) as a useful indicator of environmental stress in Synurella ambulans (Müller, 1846) from the hyporheic zone of the Sava River |
| 17:55-18:10 | YSL-8 | Karla Jagić (Zagreb, Croatia) Polybrominated diphenyl ethers in Croatian house dust and assessment of human exposure |


| 19:30-21:30 | Poster \& beer party sponsored by Carlsberg Croatia |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 21:30-22:00 | Posters will be taken down by presenters |  |
| Tuesday, 5 October 2021 (Day 3) |  |  |
| SESSION 5 ECOTOXICOLOGY \& EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT Chairs: Maja Peraica, Bojan Šarkanj |  |  |
| 9:00-9:35 | IL-7 | Doris Marko (Vienna, Austria) Alternaria toxins in food - an underestimated hazard? |
| 9:35-10:10 | IL-8 | Maja Šegvić Klarić (Zagreb, Croatia) Aspergilli in damp dwellings - how diverse and dangerous are they? |
| 10:10-10:25 | OP - 6 | Zdenko Franić (Zagreb, Croatia) <br> Toxicity and radiotoxicity of honey and other beehive products |
| 10:15-10:30 | OP-7 | Marija Kovačević (Osijek, Croatia) <br> Effects of strobilurins (azoxystrobin, pyraclostrobin, and trifloxystrobin) on reproduction and hatching delay in Enchytraeus crypticus |
| 10:45-11:15 | N1" Coffee breal |  |
| SESSION 6 GENOTOXICOLOGY AND AGING <br> Chairs: Andrew Collins, Goran Gajski |  |  |
| 11: $15-11: 50$ | IL-9 | Vanessa Moraes de Andrade (Santa Catarina, Brazil) Melatonin supplementation over different time periods until aging modulates genotoxic parameters in mice |
| 11:50-12:05 | OP - 8 | Marko Gerić (Zagreb, Croatia) Toxicological assessment of wastewater treatment processes: impact of pressure boat washing |
| 12:05-12:20 | OP-9 | Gonca Çakmak (Ankara, Turkey) <br> Investigation of genotoxicity in buccal epithelial cells and determination of urinary metal levels of children with exposure to urban and industrial air pollution |
| 12:20-12:40 | Bronze sponsor presentation | VWR International, LLC <br> Cassandra Rusher <br> HTP-MS solutions from Avantor |
| 12:40-14:00 | Lunch break |  |
| 15:00-23:00 | Excursion and | ess dinner |
| Wednesday, 6 October 2021 (Day 4) |  |  |
| SESSION 7 COMPUTATIONAL TOXICOLOGY <br> Chairs: Daniel Mark Lyons, Predrag Putnik |  |  |
| 9:00-9:35 | IL-10 | Goran Klobučar (Zagreb, Croatia) <br> Toxicity prediction and prioritisation of pharmaceuticals in the aquatic ecosystems |
| 9:35-10:10 | IL-11 | Tin Klanjšček (Zagreb, Croatia) Beyond descriptive modelling - predictive ecotoxicology using dynamic energy budgets |


| 10:10-10:25 | OP-10 | Ines Haberle (Zagreb, Croatia) Dynamic Energy Budget theory in (eco)toxicological research |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10:25-10:55 | ?l! Coffee breal |  |
| SESSION 8 NANOTOXICOLOGY \& MICROPLASTICS <br> Chairs: Bojana Žegura, Marko Gerić |  |  |
| 10:55-11:30 | IL-12 | Daniel Mark Lyons (Rovinj, Croatia) <br> The humble sea urchin in the Nano-cene: the gift that keeps on giving |
| 11:30-12:05 | IL-13 | Mirta Smodlaka Tanković (Rovinj, Croatia) Microplastics in the marine environment - distribution, availability, and risk assessment |
| 12:05-12:20 | OP-11 | Ivana Hazdovac (Rovinj, Croatia) <br> The adverse impact of copper nanoparticles and role of copper speciation in the embryogenesis of sea urchin Sphaerechinus granularis |
| 12:20-12:35 | OP-12 | Petra Burić (Pula, Croatia) <br> Interaction of microplastics with silver nanoparticles and cypermethrin and their effect on early embryonal development of the sea urchin Arbacia lixula |
| 12:35-13:00 | Closing lecture | Ivica Prlić (Zagreb, Croatia) Toxicity of "5G"!? |
| 13:00-13:20 | Closing ceremo |  |

# Cyto/genotoxicity evaluation of promising antileukaemic palladium-based drugs 

Mirjana B. Čolović ${ }^{1}$, Goran Gajski², Tian Ma ${ }^{3}$, Anđelka Isaković ${ }^{4}$, Sonja Misirlić-Denčić ${ }^{4}$, Ulrich Kortz ${ }^{3}$, and Danijela Z. Krstić ${ }^{5}$<br>${ }^{1}$ Department of Physical Chemistry, "VINČA" Institute of Nuclear Sciences-National Institute of the Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia<br>${ }^{2}$ Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Zegreb, Croatia<br>${ }^{3}$ Department of Life Sciences and Chemistry, Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany<br>${ }^{4}$ Institute of Medical and Clinical Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia<br>${ }^{5}$ Institute of Medical Chemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Polyoxometalates (POMs) are discrete, negatively charged metal-oxo clusters of early transition metal ions in high oxidation states. Their biological significance has greatly increased in recent years because of their approved anticancer, antibiotic, and antidiabetic properties. However, toxicity studies have reported adverse effects after in vivo POM studies, which limits their potential application in biomedicine. The aim of this study is to evaluate the in vitro cyto- and genotoxic properties of two polyoxopalladates(II) containing tetravalent metal ion guests, $\mathrm{SnPd}_{12}$ and $\mathrm{PbPd}_{12}$, that were found to possess potent antitumor activities against the human acute promyelocytic cell line HL-60. For this purpose, blood samples obtained from a healthy female donor were treated with three different concentrations ( $12.5,25$, and $50 \mu \mathrm{~mol} / \mathrm{L}$ ) of the tested POPs, and incubated at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 4 and 24 h , respectively. Cytotoxicity studies were performed on isolated human peripheral blood lymphocytes which were stained with acridine orange and ethidium bromide, and then viewed under a fluorescence microscope. The genotoxicity was tested in whole blood by alkaline comet assay (microgel electrophoresis). The percentage of tail DNA was used to determine the level of DNA damage. The obtained cytotoxicity results indicated that neither $\mathrm{SnPd}_{12}$ nor $\mathrm{PbPd}_{12}$ induced statistically significant alterations of cell viability related to the control, at all of the investigated concentrations. Moreover, the results of the comet assay showed that none of the tested POPs resulted in a statistically significant relative increase of tail DNA. Accordingly, both $\mathrm{SnPd}_{12}$ and $\mathrm{PbPd}_{12}$ could be considered as safe promising antileukaemic drugs from a cyto/genotoxicity point of view.
KEY WORDS: antitumour drugs; cell viability; comet assay; in vitro toxicity; polyoxopalladates

## P-57

# Selenium and trace metal levels in tissues of wild birds from an area contaminated with superhigh-organicsulphur Raša coal and ash 

Andreja Prevendar Crnić ${ }^{1}$, Nina Bilandžić ${ }^{2}$, Marija Sedak ${ }^{2}$, Gordana Medunić ${ }^{3}$, Maja Horvat ${ }^{2}$, Iva Horvat ${ }^{3}$, Ena Oster ${ }^{1}$, and Siniša Faraguna ${ }^{1}$<br>${ }^{1}$ University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia<br>${ }^{2}$ Croatian Veterinary Institute, Zagreb, Croatia<br>${ }^{3}$ University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Geology, Zagreb, Croatia

The Labin (Croatia) city area is a locality where local Raša coal had been mined at six localities from the $17^{\text {th }}$ century until the late 1990s, while significant quantities of the coal were used in a local coal-fired power plant during the period 19702000. Raša coal belongs to a class of superhigh-organic-sulphur coals, as it contains high levels of sulphur and selenium, which was the reason for conducting ecotoxicological studies previously. Selenium is of great concern as it is characterised by a narrow range between dietary essentiality and toxicity. The aim of this study was to determine the concentrations of Se and some trace metals (iron, copper, arsenic, cadmium, and lead) in different tissues of wild pigeons (Columba livia) collected within the vicinity of the mentioned industrial areas and to compare them with those originating from an uncontaminated area. Element analysis was carried out by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry. Statistically significant differences in the concentrations of the investigated element in edible tissue (i.e. muscles) were found only for selenium, The average values of Se in muscle, liver, kidney, and brain of birds were $0.344,0.575,1.011$, and $0.233 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{kg}$ fresh weight (fw), respectively. Only values measured in muscle tissue were significantly higher in pigeons from the area in comparison to those from the uncontaminated area. Still, these values were below the quantity intended for the consumption as a single meal and maximum levels permitted in food, respectively ( $50-100 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{kg}$ ). These results are consistent with the increased concentration of selenium in soil, water, and vegetables from the study area, which means that wild pigeons are good biomarkers and can provide additional insight into the environment in which they live.
KEY WORDS: coal mining; ecotoxicology; element levels in food; wild pigeons

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