

## HIGHLIGHTS OF DIOXIN '97

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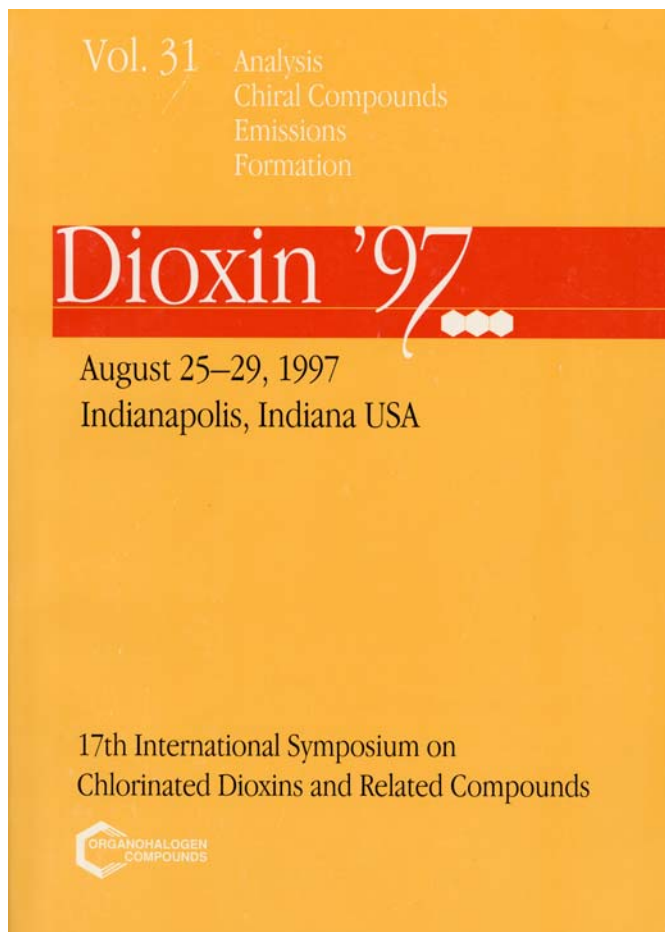
### Introduction

The full title of this conference was the 17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins and Related Compounds, and it was held on August 25-29, 1997 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Indianapolis is the capital of the great state of Indiana (also known as the Hoosier state). Indianapolis consistently ranks as one of the cleanest and safest cities of the nation, and its cost of living and unemployment rates remain below the national average. The 12<sup>th</sup> largest city in the USA, Indianapolis is the center of America's heartland. More than 65% of the nation's population live within a 700 mile radius of Indianapolis. More interstate highways converge in Indianapolis than in any other city in the USA, which makes it one of America's most accessible cities. As a result, Indianapolis is nick-named "The Crossroads of America."

1997 was the last year that the Symposium title referred to only chlorinated compounds; shortly thereafter brominated compounds became a big part of the conference. In 1997, the entire conference fit into the Weston Hotel in downtown Indianapolis so that all of the attendees had housing conveniently close to the meeting rooms. There were about 610 attendees.

### Plenary Lectures in 1997

- Whatever Happened to the PCBs Emitted into the Environment? by Steven J. Eisenreich, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Characterization of Potential Health Risks of Dioxins and Related Compounds, by William H. Farland, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC
- The Global Distribution of Persistent Chemicals, by Donald Mackay, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada
- Development of Children Exposed Prenatally to Organochlorine Contaminants, by Joseph Jacobson, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan



- Environmental Estrogens: Counterpoint, by Stephen H. Safe, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
- Environmental Estrogens: Point, by Louis J. Guillete, Jr., University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

### **Special Sessions in 1997**

- Temporal Trends of Dioxin-like Compounds -- Chair: Kevin C. Jones (United Kingdom)
- Immuno Chemical Analysis and Immunotoxicology of Polyhalogenates -- Chair: Allen Silverstone (USA)
- Chiral Environmental Contaminants -- Chair: Hans-Rudolf Buser (Switzerland)
- Atmospheric Measurements, Trends, Transport, and Fate -- Chair: Gary T. Hunt (USA)
- Endocrine Disrupters: Do Organohalogen Compounds Play a Role? -- Chairs: Larry Needham (USA) and Leon Guo (Taiwan)
- Toxaphene -- Chairs: Deb Swackhamer (USA) and Michael Oehme (Switzerland)
- Beyond TEF's: Mixtures of Dioxins and Non-Dioxins -- Chair: Linda Birnbaum (USA)
- Organochlorines in the Great Lakes -- Chair: Steven J. Eisenreich (USA)
- Emission Control and Remediation -- Chair: M. R. Natarajan (USA)
- Overview of Rapid Analytical Techniques -- Chair: Donald G. Patterson, Jr. (USA)
- Policy Implications of EPA's Dioxin Reassessment -- Chair: Dwain Winters (USA)

### **Social Events in 1997**

The Monday evening reception was held at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art. The galleries were open for the exclusive use of Dioxin '97 participants and their guests. The symposium banquet was held on Thursday evening at the Indiana Roof Ballroom (across the street from the Westin Hotel), and it featured fine dining and dancing to Big Band music provided by Al Cobine and his orchestra. This ballroom, originally built in 1927, resembled the courtyard of a Spanish coastal village. There was an open bar that was enjoyed by many of the conferees. Fun was had by all, especially several of the Russian attendees.

### **1997 National Scientific Committee**

- Ronald A. Hites, Chair, Indiana University
- Kevin S. Knerr, Symposium Coordinator, Indiana University Conference Bureau
- Linda Birnbaum, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- David Cleverly, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Dan Delinger, Core Laboratories, Inc.
- Steven J. Eisenreich, Rutgers University
- John P. Giesy, Michigan State University
- Gary Hunt, ENSR Consulting & Engineering
- Donald G. Patterson, Jr., Centers for Disease Control
- Richard Peterson, University of Wisconsin
- Stephen Safe, Texas A&M University
- Deborah L. Swackhamer, University of Minnesota

### **1997 Local Assistants**

Several Indiana University students and staff played important roles in the preparation and operation of the program for this meeting. They were Jib Baker, Ilora Basu, Wayne Brubaker, Don Cortes, Susan Glassmeyer, Barb Hillery, Sharon Kendall, Beth Shanks, Elin Ulrich, Jacki Vorhauer, Diane Wagrowski, and Kristie Willett.

### **Thanks**

Hosting these sorts of conferences is often a thankless task, but in this case, Prof. Hites received a thank you letter from Dr. Heidi Fiedler on behalf of the International Scientific Committee, which is shown on the next page. Note Heidi's left-handed complement about the city of Indianapolis and her comment about the "dioxin-mafia".

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USA

## DIOXIN'97

Dear Ron,

unfortunately, I did not find you Friday morning to personally thank you for all your work and efforts spent to make DIOXIN'97 a very successful and pleasant meeting!

It was a pleasure and most informative to attend DIOXIN'97 and for me, the Indianapolis meeting was the best dioxin symposium in North America! The hotel facilities were very convenient and the amendments, e.g. handling of breaks, very generous. More important: people liked it and I received many compliments about the meeting (which I herewith forward to you and your many helpers). First, many attendees of former dioxin symposia were not too positive about Indianapolis as the hosting city but during and after the meeting, they loved it. Also, the proceedings, program, etc., was done very professional and nice. Last not least, the whole meeting with schedule and arrangements were in an excellent shape - even the speakers were on-time in most cases. With the present experience, I do not believe that the dioxin symposia will end soon. Once again thank you and your staff very much for this excellent conference. It was pleasure to attend and I hope you will stay in the dioxin mafia for the next years.

Sincerely yours,

Heidi Fiedler

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