

Dioxin 2005
Part I: Preparing for Dioxin 2005
August 21–26, 2005
Toronto, Canada

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We are honored and privileged to host the silver anniversary of these symposia, and have organized a number of special events to commemorate this major milestone. Dioxin 2005 begins one day earlier on Sunday August 20 with a special 25th Anniversary celebration. The plenary talks on Monday and Tuesday are dedicated to highlighting the many advances seen over the past 25 years. The session on Tuesday morning will begin with a tribute to the founders of the Dioxin Symposia.

Preparations for Dioxin 2005 began a few years ago when a number of scientists in Southern Ontario decided that it was time for Canada to host yet another meeting. This Canadian group was awarded the honors in 2001. In fact, Dioxin 2005 represents the fourth time that Canada has hosted a Dioxin Symposium. Canada has been host country to the highest number of symposia of this series, except for the USA, and Toronto is the only city – other than Bayreuth, Germany – to host Dioxin twice. Shortly after we started planning for this meeting, it was realized that this was the silver anniversary for the Dioxin Symposia, which made our work even more exciting.

After Dioxin 2001, a local organizing committee (LOC) was immediately formed. Their first task was to survey Toronto for possible venues. After visiting a number of sites the committee unanimously selected Fairmont Royal York where the charm of early 20th century is combined with the comforts of 21st century. This venue is appropriate not only because of its international reputation for elegance and quality, but because it is in a central location to take advantage of the best Toronto has to offer.

Around the same time, the International Society for Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds (ISPAC) also chose to hold their 20th meeting in Toronto in 2005. As many of the



topics of the ISPAC annual meeting paralleled those of Dioxin 2005, and some members of both organizing committees were long-time colleagues, it seemed logical to combine forces. As a result, delegates from both Dioxin 2005 and ISPAC 20 can attend any session in either conference, for no additional charge! Over the past couple of years numerous meetings of the LOC, National Organizing Committee, and meetings with various hotel staff and vendors/sponsors have been held, with a combined meeting time of over 1,000 person-hours. Any who have organized a meeting like Dioxin 2005 must understand very well that old expression: “the Devil is in the Details”! In addition to Dioxin 2005 and ISPAC 20, the inaugural FLUOROs conference will precede the combined meeting and also, for the first time delegates can attend users meetings from major instrument manufacturers like Waters, Agilent and Sciex.



One of the early tasks of the LOC was to design the Dioxin 2005 logo. To generate interest and new ideas, it was decided to run a logo-design contest – which was promoted primarily among the two organizations which supplied most of the committee volunteers: the National Water Research Institute (Environment Canada), and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Laboratory Services Branch. Out of more than twenty innovative designs submitted, the winning design was by Dr. Adrienne Boden from the Ontario Ministry of Environment. Her second entry to the contest was also chosen as the *unofficial* logo for Dioxin 2005, which proved to be a popular keepsake distributed from the Dioxin 2005 exhibitor booth at the 2004 meeting in Berlin in the form of a pin.



As the event got closer we became busy with many last minute preparations and feel it is necessary to give thanks for the countless number of hours many individuals (please see list of committees below) have put into the preparations for this event. Karen MacPherson and Grazina Pacepavicius are especially acknowledged for their tremendous “behind-the-scene” contributions. We are also grateful for a record number of exhibitors and sponsors – their financial support made it possible to prepare for what we hope to be

a truly elegant experience for delegates. Finally, we acknowledge the understanding, contribution and support of our families throughout the preparation for Dioxin 2005.

Dioxin 2005 Co-Chairs

Dr. Mehran Alaei; Environment Canada

Dr. Eric Reiner; Ontario Ministry of Environment

ISPAC-20 Co-Chairs

Dr. Chris Marvin; Environment Canada

Dr. Brian McCarry; McMaster University

National Scientific Committee

Dr. Terry Bidleman; Environment Canada

Mr. Brock Chittim; Wellington Labs

Dr. Ray Clement; Ontario Ministry of Environment

Dr. Coreen Hamilton; AXYS Analytical

Mr. Petro Oh; Phillip Environmental

Dr. Michael Ikonomou; Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Dr. Robert Letcher; Environment Canada

Dr. John Lynch; Agriculture Canada

Dr. Scott Mabury; University of Toronto

Dr. John Macaulay; Research and Productivity Council

Dr. Serge Moore; Quebec Ministry of Environment

Dr. Derek Muir; Environment Canada

Dr. Taras Obal; Maxxam Analytics

Dr. Allan Okey; University of Toronto

Dr. John J. Ryan; Health Canada

Dr. Gary Stern; Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Local organizing Committee

Dr. Gilles Arsenault; Wellington Labs

Dr. Pierrette Blanchard; Environment Canada

Dr. Adrienne Boden; Ontario Ministry of Environment

Ms. Debbie Burniston; Environment Canada

Ms. Christine Camenzuli; Ontario Ministry of Environment

Mr. Patrick Crozier; Ontario Ministry of Environment

Dr. Miriam Diamond; University of Toronto

Ms. Terry Kolic; Ontario Ministry of Environment

Ms. Karen MacPherson; Ontario Ministry of Environment

Ms. Grazina Pacepavicius; Environment Canada

Dr. Joanne Parrott; Environment Canada

Ms. Yvonne Stokker; UNEP GEMS/Water

Dr. Frank Wania; University of Toronto

Please look for Dioxin 2005 Part II in the Gold Anniversary Book!