

M E D I C H E M

Newsletter: July 2013

MEDICHEM: Occupational and Environmental Health in the Production and Use of Chemicals

Founded 1972 in Ludwigshafen, Germany

Honorary President: Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Alfred M. Thies

Chairman: Dr. Thirumalai Rajgopal

Hindustan Lever Limited
Hindustan Lever House
165/166 Backbay Reclamation
Mumbai - 400 020 (India)
Tel: +91-22-2285 55 83
Fax: +91-22- 2281 91 97

Secretary:

Treasurer: Dr. Steffen Hitzeroth Procter & Gamble Service GmbH
Sulzbacher Str. 40
65824 Schwalbach / Ts. (Germany)
Tel.: +49-6196-89-5444
Fax: +49-6196-89-2-5444

Board Members:

Dr. Abed bin Onn (Malaysia)
Dr. Peter J. Boogaard (Netherlands)
Dr. Murray Coombs (South Africa)
Prof. Dr. Elpida-Niki Emmanouil-Nikoloussi (Greece)
Dr. Jiin Ger (Taiwan)
Prof. Dr. Koichi Kono (Japan)
Dr. Karolina Lyubomirova (Bulgaria)
Dr. Vedat Mizrahi (Turkey)
Dr. Jorge A. Morales Camino (Mexico)
Dr. Michael Nasterlack (Germany)
Dr. Martina Piasek (Croatia)
Dr. Shrinivas Shanbhag (India)
Dr. Edwin Whiteside (New Zealand)
Dr. Avi Wiener (Israel)
Dr. Robert Winker (Austria)

Dear Medichem Members,

following some unforeseen events and developments you receive an unplanned issue of a Newsletter, improvised and crude, where we apologize for the unprofessional appearance and for any other shortcomings. Please read the following pages.

Steffen Hitzeroth
Michael Nasterlack

For the Medichem Board

Obituary for Diane Mundt

Yesterday we received the shocking news of a tragic vehicle accident involving Medichem's Secretary Diane Mundt, her brother Ken Mundt, and Ken's daughter Amanda. While information is still incomplete, we understand that the accident took the lives of Diane and her niece, while Ken is reported to be hospitalized.

The accident happened in Haiti where Diane, Ken and Amanda, not for the first time, spent their vacations on a relief mission for the people in need there. It was just like Diane that she used her spare time to help others, and it is such a bitter thought that she lost her life while trying to make other's lives better.

Diane Mundt received her Master of Science degree from Harvard University, School of Public Health and her doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Massachusetts. She began her career as an epidemiologist in the Environmental Epidemiology Branch of the US National Cancer Institute. During the last years she was a Senior Manager for ENVIRON International Corporation, specializing in research and policy applications. She had particular expertise in the systematic evaluation of health effects of chemical compounds and an extensive background in the critical review and interpretation of epidemiological studies. Her professional experience included heading ENVIRON's Nanotechnology team of experts on epidemiology, toxicology, industrial hygiene, and environmental fate and transport of nanomaterials; membership on the Industry Advisory Board to Northeastern University Collaborative Nanoscale Science & Engineering Center for High Rate Nanomanufacturing; and directing historical reviews of the asphalt roofing, refining, paving industry sectors. She has also managed and provided scientific input to numerous US National Academies committees, and has served on the faculties at Georgetown University, Washington, DC and the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

It was during a difficult time for Medichem when Diane took over the office as Secretary after the 2008 Amsterdam congress. The former secretary, Georg Wultsch, had had to relinquish office for health reasons and Michael Nasterlack, who had stepped in on short notice, had made clear that this would only be an interim solution. Diane, as was her way, quickly dived into the task and performed it with skill, dedication and enthusiasm. Diane was indeed not just a Medichem officer, but a true and close friend to many of us. Notwithstanding the hard blows she herself had to endure from fate when she lost her beloved husband Alan to an incurable cancer, Diane kept on working, helping, and encouraging others to do their best. And during all this time she maintained an amiable, friendly and caring personality, giving so much more to her fellow beings than she would ever expect to get back from them.

Dear Diane, although with you Medichem has lost a faithful, dedicated and always active member, it grieves us much more that we have lost such a good friend. At the same time, our thoughts are with Ken Mundt and his family. For the time being we do not know how severe your bodily injuries are, Ken, but we sincerely hope that you may recover your full health as quick as possible. We may be at a loss of words but our thoughts and good wishes are always with you. May you find strength and consolation through the support from those who are next to you, and may the thought that the Medichem community shares your grief help you during these weeks and months to come.

Michael Nasterlack and Steffen Hitzeroth

For The Medichem Board
July 12th, 2013

A last Good-bye from Fred Thiess

With deep sadness I have received from Michael Nasterlack the news that Diane Mundt, our Medichem Secretary, died in a terrible car accident yesterday, which also took the life of her niece and injured her brother Ken.

I remember Diane's first visit together with Michael Nasterlack to my home in Ludwigshafen on 10th February 2009, shortly after she had taken over the office. My wife and I were glad to welcome her as the 9th Medichem Secretary and, as usual, she would sign into my guest book. Here she wrote: "Thank you for your good wishes, and I look forward to supporting Medichem."

This was indeed what she did in the following years, with untiring energy and dedication. Dear Diane, I thank you for your great support during these recent years. In you, Medichem has lost a faithful, dedicated and always active member. At the same time, my heartfelt condolences go to Ken Mundt and his family. May the thoughts and good wishes from the Medichem community help to bring him through these difficult times.

Prof. A.M. Thiess

Founder and Honorary President
Ludwigshafen, July 11th, 2013

MEDICHEM 2013 in Istanbul cancelled

This year, for the first time in Medichem's history, the congress planned for September 2013 in Istanbul has to be cancelled due to political unrest and security concerns. You are probably all aware of the recent development in Turkey, where even after several weeks following the first riots the further development of the situation cannot be predicted with sufficient confidence. Several persons and institutions from different countries had submitted respective inquiries and indicated concerns regarding the personal safety of foreign congress visitors. In this situation our Turkish Board Member and organizer of the conference, Dr. Mizrahi Vedat, has reluctantly decided to propose to the Medichem Board to call off the event.

The Medichem Board intensely discussed options for alternative locations as well as for a postponement of the congress but came to the conclusion that this would not be feasible given the short timelines and the congress 2014 already being at the horizon. Thus, after considering in detail all the information received at the time and the foreseeable consequences, the Board decided to cancel this year's Medichem congress due to "force majeure." Great thanks go to Vedat and his team, whose disappointment can be well understood after all the tedious preparations, which turned out in vain for reasons beyond their control. Instead, all the efforts should now be concentrated on the next Medichem congress, which will take place in **Marrakech, Morocco, in September between the 14th and 21st, 2014.**

Mark the Date!

Board election 2013

Following the tragic death of our Secretary Diane Mundt, the Board has currently no access to the results of the Call for Candidates. However, we know from personal communication that, with the end of Thirumalaj Rajgopal's term of office there was only one nomination for the position of Chairman, Medichem Board member Murray Coombs from South Africa. Murray accepted the nomination and will thus take over as Chairman from September 2013. Michael Nasterlack, going to retire by the end of the year, steps down from the Board and will, as no other candidates were nominated, be replaced by Dr. Dieter Junker from Germany (see below). The Medichem Board will have to meet again before the end of 2013 and by that time hopefully have been able to shed more light on the situation. More information regarding the current Board and its work will be shared with the Medichem membership as it becomes available.

Short CV Dieter Junker

Dieter Junker graduated in medicine at the University of Heidelberg in 1998. He is a specialist in general medicine, occupational medicine, and emergency medicine. From 1998 until 2001 he worked as a resident physician in the department of Occupational Medicine at BASF-Pharma KNOLL (now ABBOTT) in Ludwigshafen (Germany). Then he joined the German army as a medical officer for ten years and served in different areas of operations as an army physician, in various military hospitals and foreign deployments. Since 2010 he has been working in the department of Occupational Medicine and Health Protection at BASF SE in Ludwigshafen and he is responsible for the travel medicine consultations of business travellers and transferees.

He is a member of the German Tropical Medicine Society and since 2013 a member of MEDICHEM and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH).