

Dr. Chris Collins



Chris is current SETAC president and is a Reader in Soil Science at the University of Reading. He has over 15 years' experience of the fate and transport of pollutants in the soil-plant system and he has published over 40 refereed papers in this research area. Recent research has focused on investigating the interaction of organic pollutants with soils, e.g. the behaviour of sheep dips to recommend the best

approach for their disposal undertaken for the Environment Agency. Chris and colleagues also produced a framework for the risk assessment of chemicals so that the large number of models available could be used in a structured way across government for the Intergovernmental Group on the Risk to Health from Chemicals.

More recently Chris completed a review to determine the most appropriate approach for modelling the plant uptake of organic pollutants for the Environment Agency. He is a member of the BARGE (BioAccessibility Research Group Europe) group a European network addressing directly the measurement of pollutant bioaccessibility (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/barge/home.html>) and leads the Soil Health Environment Network

(<http://www.reading.ac.uk/soilscience/Research/SHE-Net/ss-SHE-Net-about.asp>) He was recently appointed to the Veterinary Products Committee as a risk assessor for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.



Professor Richard Handy

Richard holds a chair in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Plymouth (<http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/>). He has 20+ years experience of ecotoxicology and chemistry, as well as comparative physiology. He has published about 100 papers and book chapters on different aspects of ecotoxicology and membrane biology of animals, including 12 papers on nanoparticles in the last 2 years. He is a strong supporter of SETAC, and has long experience of organizing meetings for the UK

branch. Being an academic, Richard also has a strong interest in the education and training of scientists, and brings this particular expertise to council, as well as that on fish/vertebrate ecotoxicology.



Professor Mark Cronin

Mark is Meetings Officer for SETAC-UK. He has been on SETAC-UK Council since 2003 and organised the 2006 SETAC-UK Annual Meeting in Liverpool. If you have ideas for new meetings or comments to be made about our current meetings, Mark is your first contact at SETAC-UK.

Mark is Professor of Predictive Toxicology in the School of Pharmacy and Chemistry at Liverpool John Moores University (<http://www.livjm.ac.uk/>). His research interests include the development and application to product development and for regulatory purposes of in silico approaches to predict the toxicity and fate of chemicals. Particular research interests relevant to SETAC-UK include the use of (quantitative) structure-activity relationships ((Q)SARs, category formation and read-across for the prediction of environmental toxicities. In addition, there is a focus into combining these alternative test methods into Integrated Testing Strategies (ITS).



Dr. Dean Leverett

Dean's role within SETAC-UK is to represent the UK Environmental regulator with regard to UK environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology research needs and to provide an interface between the UK environmental research community and the regulator.

Dean is an ecotoxicologist by training and works within the Environment Agency's Ecosystems Science team (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>). He manages a varied portfolio of technical work and research projects focussed primarily on issues related to chemicals in the environment. His current priorities are concerned with Direct Toxicity Assessment, AQC/ QA of ecotoxicological analysis, Endocrine Disruptors and nanotechnology.



Alison Sapiets

Alison's role within SETAC-UK is that of treasurer, which includes the following responsibilities:

- Sole cheque book holder and internet savings accounts access
- Payment of Council costs and awards
- Providing the accountants with all necessary information to prepare the of year accounts

Alison has been employed for over 29 years at Syngenta (formerly ICI and Zeneca) research centre, a major international agrochemicals and seeds business(<http://www.syngenta.co.uk/>). For 20 years, Alison was responsible for measuring and evaluating pesticide residues in food and conducting dietary risk assessments. Subsequently she changed career direction and developed expertise in environmental studies, evaluating the fate and behaviour of pesticides in soil, water and air. Alison is now employed as a risk assessor and has global responsibility for a number of Syngenta's products, leading the strategy for environmental data development and assessment generation and developing risk management strategies for regulatory use.



Dr. Kirit Wadhia

Kirit is the Membership Officer for SETAC UK, and an environmental toxicologist with 20 years of experience working in Industry and Consultancy. He is a Consultant Ecotoxicologist and Applications Specialist at NCIMB Ltd (<http://www.ncimb.com/>) and Principal Ecotoxicologist at ALcontrol Laboratories (<http://www.alcontrol.com/>).

He serves on the UK Environment Agency's MCERTS Direct Toxicity Assessment (DTA) steering committee and on the Standing Committee of Analysts (SCA) (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>). A member of the scientific committees of the International Symposium on Toxicity Assessment (ISTA) and the Society for Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety (SECOTOX).

His areas of particular expertise include development and validation of ecotoxicity tests, testing and evaluation of aquatic and terrestrial environments; development and implementation of research projects for diverse clientele investigating multifarious environmental issues.



Steve Kent

Steve's role within SETAC UK is predominantly representing a commercial biotechnology organisation (AstraZeneca pharmaceuticals) with a strong remit to link academic research of chemicals and biochemicals in the environment to the chemical industry interests and concerns. Steve is keen to ensure that we, as "Environmental Science Ambassadors", maximise the potential to form collaborative links and jointly funded work through our own Environmental research programme within AstraZeneca to aid technology transfer from

Universities and other research organisations (<http://www.astrazeneca.co.uk/>).

Steve has worked at AstraZeneca's Brixham Environmental Laboratory for over 20 years and has 25 years in the chemical Industry. His current area of interest is the application of novel screening approaches to assess chemicals for their environmental persistence, bioaccumulation potential and toxicity (www.brixham-lab.com).



Laura Mcallister

Laura's role within SETAC-UK is that of student representative. This position provides a platform for students to raise issues and ideas to the SETAC council. In addition, there is the responsibility of organising a conference exclusively for students and early stage researchers to present their work. Laura joined the SETAC-UK council as student representative in February 2009.

Laura is a first year PhD student at Lancaster University (<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/>), investigating the bioaccessibility of organic contaminants in soil. Specifically, her research is aimed at examining novel techniques for the measurement of bioaccessible fractions and looking at the impact of black carbon on microbial accessibility of contaminants in soil. After completing her degree in 2006, Laura worked as a sedimentary technician for a research group at the University of Liverpool. She went on to study for an MRes in Science of the Environment at Lancaster University and began her EU-funded PhD studentship in 2008.



Dr. Zachary Hickman

Zac joined the SETAC-UK council in 2009 and represents an academic perspective. Zac coordinates three MSc Programmes in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Aberdeen (MSc Environmental Science, MSc Soil Science and MSc Environmental Microbiology) (<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/biologicalsci/>) and has deep-rooted research interests, lecturing responsibilities and CPD delivery in soil science, soil/contaminant interactions, bioremediation, bioavailability, and risk assessment. His current role also includes aligning MSc graduates with industrial and employer required scientific and practical skills.

His current research includes assessment of bioavailability to differing soil organisms, increasing availability, novel remediation techniques, linking biological responses to soil contamination, and stormwater and stream sediment remediation utilising biosorbents (with links to the South Aberdeen Coastal Regeneration Project). He previously worked at the Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing (<http://www.rcees.ac.cn/en/>), helping develop contaminated soil assessment methods and appropriate risk understanding.