



### **Steve Kent**

Steve is current SETAC-UK president and his 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](http://www.brixham-lab.com)).



### **Dr Danielle Ashton**

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

ecotoxicologist by training and works in the Environment Agency Evidence Directorate as part of the Air, Land and Water team. Since joining the Environment Agency 13 years ago, Danielle has managed a variety of large projects and work areas, on issues such as contaminated land risk assessment, endocrine disruption, genomics and pharmaceuticals in the environment. Her current priorities are concerned with the implementation of biota standards under the Water Framework Directive and developing a risk framework for spreading waste products to land.

### **Dr. Chris Collins**



Chris 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, and is the director of the Ecotoxicology Research and Innovation Centre (ERIC) at UoP: <http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/eric>. He has 20+ years experience of ecotoxicology and chemistry, as well as comparative physiology. He has published over 100 papers and book chapters on different aspects of ecotoxicology and membrane biology of animals, including 15 papers on nanoparticles in the last 3 years. He is a strong supporter of SETAC, and has long experience of organizing meetings for the UK branch. Being an academic, Prof. Handy 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.



### **Dr. Zachary Hickman**

Zac joined SETAC-UK in 2009 and represents an academic perspective. Zac coordinates and teaches upon 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/>). His research interests are broadly related to soil science, soil/contaminant interactions, bioremediation, bioavailability, and risk assessment.

His current research includes assessment of bioavailability to differing soil organisms, increasing availability, novel remediation techniques (including the use of earthworms and vermicompost), linking biological responses to soil contamination, and stormwater and stream sediment remediation utilising biosorbents. 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.



### **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 at WCA Environmental Ltd and 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.



### **Tom Sizmur**

Tom is the student representative on the SETAC-UK council. His role is to represent the student members of the society in meetings and raise the issues that matter to them. He joined the council in June 2010 and during his term hopes to increase student membership and student participation at meetings with an emphasis on students interacting and networking with senior scientists at SETAC-UK meetings. Students wishing to raise an issue or suggest an idea to the council should in the first instance contact Tom.

He is in the third year of his PhD studentship in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Reading and his research addresses the interactions between soil biota and chemistry in contaminated soils with a focus on the impact of earthworms on metal speciation, mobility and availability. Tom also studied for his undergraduate degree at the University of Reading before completing 3 month internship at Syngenta as a terrestrial ecotoxicologist and gaining an MSc in Land Management from Cranfield University. He started his BBSRC and BGS funded PhD studentship in 2007. You can visit his website at [www.personal.reading.ac.uk/~asr07tps/](http://www.personal.reading.ac.uk/~asr07tps/)



**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.