



International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathology

IFSTP

The President

Welcome address at the 2nd annual meeting of the Korean Society of Toxicologic Pathology (May 13, 2003)

Mr. President and Committee Members of the **Korean Society of Toxicologic Pathology**, dear Society members and guests

The toxicologic pathologist generally has a background in biological sciences and has spent many years specializing in pathology and toxicology. The toxicologic pathologist is thus in a position to look at toxicity as phenomena which occur in a complex organism at various levels, the molecular level, the subcellular and cellular levels, in organs, organ systems and the whole organism. In other words: among all specialists in toxicology the toxicologic pathologist is thus often the only one with a holistic view, who can try to understand the whole picture consisting of various toxic events. Therefore, I strongly believe that the toxicologic pathologist should get involved in risk assessment and go far beyond supervising autopsies and performing histological evaluation of organs.

The *national and regional societies of toxicologic pathology* were founded to support toxicologic pathologists of the geographic area in their task, e.g. by

- Providing a forum of interaction
- Offering continuing training in pathology, toxicology and related fields
- Improving and maintaining professional and scientific standards
- Interacting with regulatory bodies, academia and non-government groups in the country and the region with regard to issues related to toxicology
- Become active in a coordinated way in other areas of toxicology as needed.

The **Korean Society of Toxicologic Pathology**, a young society, is one of these national societies and I am proud to take part in your 2nd annual meeting.

We live in a world with less and less boundaries - in a global world of science, business, politics, you name it. One aspect of globalization of products and practices is that also with regard to toxicity we face similar risks. Therefore there is a global interest to set standards for risk recognition, assessment, management and prevention as well as for quality regarding the performance of toxicologic pathologists.

It is at this global level, the *International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathologists*, IFSTP, comes into the picture. One of its prime tasks is serving its national and regional member societies by easing interactions at the global level with other societies, federations, government organizations and academia, and thus contributing, together with the member societies, to the advancement of the science of toxicology in general and toxicologic pathology in particular and the promotion of high standards of professionals working in these fields. IFSTP is proud to welcome the **Korean Society of Toxicologic Pathology** as its member. With this admission, IFSTP counts now 9 member societies from North America (1), Europe (6) and the Asia (2), which represent in excess of 1500 toxicologic pathologists.

Together we have achieved a lot. In particular we are now preparing the next triennial IFSTP symposium, the 5th, in collaboration with the Japanese Society of Toxicologic Pathology. It will take place in Kobe, Japan,

from February 15-18, 2004. The main topics are

- Current understanding of mechanisms and risk assessment of carcinogenicity, including the low-dose risk posed by genotoxic and non-genotoxic carcinogens, and an update on the use of genetically modified animals in carcinogenicity testing
- The “-omics”, a challenge to modern toxicologic pathologists in various areas, including general and reproductive toxicity, immunotoxicity and carcinogenicity testing as well as testing of endocrine disruptive chemicals
- Update on information technology in toxicologic pathology
- Future challenges for toxicologic pathologists regarding e.g. stem cell development or detection of infectious agents, e.g. in organ replacement therapy.

For more information please visit the IFSTP homepage (<http://www.ifstp.org/>), where you find the link to the Kobe meeting homepage (<http://www.pac.ne.jp/jstp-ifstp/index.htm>). It would be great to see you all next year in Kobe!

I am also looking forward to the moment, when we will have a joint KSTP/IFSTP symposium here in Korea.

IFSTP is also sponsoring two sessions at international meetings

- One together with the European STP on immunotoxicology and immunopathology during the 2003 EUROTOX congress in Florence (September 28 - October 1, 2003)
- Another one on aspects of modern toxicopathology and how it supports toxicology during the 2004 congress of IUTOX (ICT X) in Finland (July 11-16, 2004)

May be, one or the other from your community can also make it there. Welcome!

Other important initiatives undertaken with the support of the national and regional societies of toxicologic pathology include e.g.

- Accreditation of toxicologic pathologists by the International Academy of Toxicologic Pathology, an organ of IFSTP
- Preparation of a publication on educational standards in toxicologic pathology
- Conduct of a demographic survey on toxicologic pathologists worldwide
- Preparation of a 5-year business plan

Together, IFSTP and its member societies also have an obligation to support toxicologic pathologists in countries without a dedicated professional society, e.g. by supporting them

- In establishing their own society
- By providing training opportunities
- By offering a forum of exchange of professional experience, etc.

Thanks to the support by its member societies including in particular the **Korean Society of Toxicologic Pathology** IFSTP can look with confidence into the future, fully committed to serve the community of toxicologic pathologists worldwide and to foster the science of toxicologic pathology, thus promoting the wellbeing of mankind and the environment.

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