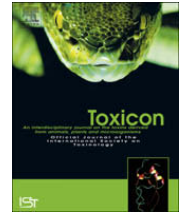




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Editorial

Foreword



Fig. 1. Presentation of the Toxins 2008 cake by Stefania Sella to the scientific committee (from left to right: Alberto Albanese, Joseph Jankovic, Keith Foster, Giampietro Schiavo, Mark Hallett, Hans Bigalke)

This issue of *Toxicon* collects the proceedings of the Sixth International conference on Basic and Therapeutic Aspects of Botulinum and Tetanus Toxins, held in Baveno (Lake Maggiore, Italy) on June 12–14 2008 (www.toxins2008.org). This conference gathered several international experts who reviewed the mechanisms of action, the pharmacological properties and the clinical indications for botulinum and other neurotoxins. The meeting had 45 invited speakers, was attended by 734 delegates from 43 countries and provided a forum for some memorable discussions. There was participation by basic scientists, clinicians and representatives of pharmaceutical companies.

There are many basic science advances in the field which are giving new ideas about new formulations of botulinum toxin. Moreover, the therapeutic indications are still growing.

The papers presented here review some of the issues presented at the conference, including the transcript of a session animated by the representatives from companies that manufacture commercial botulinum toxins' preparations (see page 675). We believe that the papers collected here will provide the readers with state of the art reviews and convenient references in this field.

We are grateful to the DOMM International and particularly to Stefania Sella who provided very efficient organization. We wish to thank also the pharmaceutical companies that helped to support the conference, and look forward to the next congress scheduled to be in 2011.

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