



NEWSLETTER

Issue 58 – December 2020



2020 Online
CORESTA Congress



Thank you!

CORESTA Congress, cooperation, contribution, creativity, collaboration, consultation, conviviality, cheerfulness, courage, commitment, confinement, coronavirus ...

On behalf of the CORESTA Board and Scientific Commission, the CORESTA Secretary General, Stéphane Colard and the Secretariat staff would like to sincerely thank all who made the 2020 Congress an exceptional event in so many respects: authors who submitted abstracts, all the presenters who made presentations (and those who were unable to do so due to constraints beyond their control), the organisers of the cancelled physical Congress (Japan Tobacco), and everyone who provided guidance and advice during these disrupted and challenging times.

CORESTA has emerged strengthened and even more united towards serving its members and living up to its vision to be an "authoritative source of publicly available, credible science and best practices related to tobacco and its derived products".

CORESTA CONGRESS Online

12 October – 12 November 2020

Locked down but not knocked out – the virtual Congress as experienced from the inside

Not even a year ago the Covid-19 impacts we are all experiencing today were unimaginable – just a bad science fiction movie. Nevertheless, for many months now it has not been a delusion but our everyday reality - online events have taken over our lives.

When the necessary decision to cancel the Vienna Congress was taken by the CORESTA Board at the beginning of June, it was aching news indeed, like 'an uppercut' for all the people involved in the Congress organisation, not to mention the presenters and potential participants. Such a cancellation has never occurred in CORESTA's history (CORESTA was founded in 1956). It was a hard blow to this event, as for so many other events, and CORESTA had to bounce back rapidly and find a solution. The only alternative was to jump back into the ring and bring the Congress into the virtual arena!

For many of us, "remote" quickly became the norm and our homes were transformed into workplaces. This was also the case for the CORESTA Secretariat staff. From June to September, the key words in the CORESTA office were "adaptability" and "remote teamwork". Most of the Congress participants were in the same situation. Since the beginning of the 'lockdowns' it was important to maintain motivation and group dynamics. Firstly, authors of submitted abstracts were consulted and given the option to switch to an online presentation or opt out of presenting their paper. Secondly, it was essential to the CORESTA Board, Scientific Commission and the Secretariat that online presenters had the best possible digital environment in which to explain their work. Thirdly, it was equally important to keep the attendance free of charge and without registration, but open only to persons from CORESTA Member Organisations.

Unlike the attractive location of a physical venue, for online events the technical details and implementation of the event is emphasized. Therefore the first objective for the 2020 Congress was to find a platform for

the presentations so that they could be easily streamed all over the world.

The CORESTA Secretariat began by determining the necessary tools and needs of the event, and took into account the expectations of authors and visitors alike. Presenters of papers, posters and Sub-Group and Task Force reports required guidance as for many it was the first time they participated in a virtual event. New skills needed to be learned and the CORESTA Secretariat provided instructions on how to record a PowerPoint slide-show including audio, and speaker video, if so wished by the presenter. A solution for posters also had to be found, and it was recommended that posters be divided into a few focused and narrated slides. The presentations then had to be uploaded to a DropBox link as the file sizes were larger than usual.

Once the virtual Congress environment had been defined, implementation needed to be organised, as well as the General Assembly and online voting procedures. The next step was processing presenter files and quality control. In practice, this meant checking all the presentations to see if the audio was audible, to make any necessary corrections and contact the authors if necessary, to add fly-ins, to convert them to video, re-check the videos and finally integrate them all onto the Vimeo video streaming platform. The abstracts and videos then had to be integrated to the Congress area on the CORESTA website Member section.

When 12 October finally arrived the most challenging and time-consuming part was over - access to participants was opened and the Congress went online!

That was great! But where were the delegates? How do you shake hands in a virtual environment and say: "Hello, good to see you!". Even if we all knew that this was the only safe way to meet, it was still strange ... and frustrating. The pandemic has reshaped the world in many different ways, but the changes have not taken away a person's innate need for in-person contact.

2020 Online
CORESTA Congress

12 October - 12 November 2020

"Integrated Science: Opportunities and Challenges"

PROGRAMME

Programme & Abstract Book
(Download PDF)

Password for presentations: CORESTA2020

Introductory Presentations

- Huib Vizeé - President of CORESTA Board
- Lea Scott - President of CORESTA Scientific Commission
- Keigo Miura - Japan Tobacco Inc. (former Congress host)

Agronomy & Leaf Integrity Phytopathology & Genetics	Smoke Science Product Technology
Oral Sessions	
-1- Biotechnology	-1- Cigarette Design
-2- Diseases	-2- E-Vapour
-3- Low Nicotine	-3- HTP Aerosol Analysis
-4- Nutrition	-4- HTP and E-Vapour Design
-5- Organic / Sustainable Production	-5- In vitro Toxicology
-6- Production	-6- Nicotine Pouches
-7- TSNAs	-7- Non-Targeted Analysis of Smoke Free Product Aerosols
	-8- Product Use Behaviour
	-9- Risk Assessment
	-10- Smoke and Tobacco Analysis
Poster Sessions	
-1- Pest & Diseases	-1- Cigarettes and Cigars
-2- Production & Nutrition	-2- HTP and E-Vapour Analysis
	-3- Tobacco and Smokeless Tobacco
	-4- Toxicology

CORESTA Group Reports

- Agro / Phyto Sub-Groups & Task Forces
- Smoke / Techno Sub-Groups & Task Forces



We all realise now that virtual events have become topical and the only opportunity to host an event during autumn 2020 and probably for quite a while into the future. We are all also aware how lucky we are if we are not affected by the coronavirus and still able to work, even if remotely. Yet somehow the importance of this virus has pushed the problems of other megatrends that affect our world into the background - for example, climate change and the actions it requires have not disappeared.

When presenting a poster on “Optimising carbon footprint of international meetings” last year at the CORESTA Conferences, Stéphane Colard and Thomas Verron could never, even in their wildest estimates, have guessed how much the carbon footprint would shrink this year! At least there has been some positive outcome for humanity. It is certainly not superfluous to say that virtual events are an effective and responsible way to reduce carbon emissions. The new CORESTA Congress format brought in numerous technical and organizational challenges but also offered the opportunity to reach a wider

and different audience, thus improving communication, diversity and equity.

After posting the online Congress, the work of the Secretariat was not over. Another digital challenge for the CORESTA Secretary General had to be faced: a virtual General Assembly and voting for resolutions had to be organised.

The statistical aspects of such an event was also interesting to observe and visitor statistics were analyzed weekly by the Secretariat: How many viewers? What was the geographical spread? How was the viewing spread in time?

After the Congress ended on 12 November, the CORESTA Board Events Committee carried out a Visitor and Presenter Feedback Survey to assist the Secretariat in assessing the experience of participants and obtain indications to plan for future events.

By organising its first virtual congress CORESTA showed that it will not surrender when the going gets tough and has the readiness and capacity to react and adapt when situations change. As always CORESTA will continue to proactively play its role for the benefit of all its members and other stakeholders.

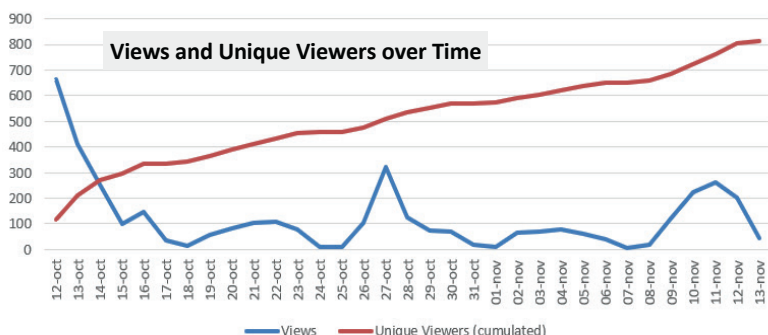
There may be some positive effects in our “new world”, however, it can quite confidently be stated that virtual events do not and cannot replace in-person events. Normally, just before CORESTA Congresses and Conferences, most of the Sub-Groups and Task Forces hold their meetings. This year, some of them met online, but most of them cancelled their meetings. The exceptional circumstances and the feeling of isolation that virtual meetings may cause show the importance that must be accorded to physical meetings. New solutions must be sought, offering a new fascinating challenge. What if the two, virtual and physical meetings, could coexist in the future and together provide something different, something new, something better?

CONGRESS STATISTICS

Day 1: At the opening of the Congress, 118 participants were present. By the end of the day there had been 666 views. **Week 1:** After one week online, presentations had been watched 1735 times by 377 unique visitors, with a total viewing time of 601 hours. **Week 2 to Week 4:** From week to week, participation rates continued to rise at a very steady pace, with an average increase of 20%. **Last Day:** On the Congress closing day, presentations had been viewed 3988 times by 814 unique viewers, with a total of 1600 hours of viewing time.

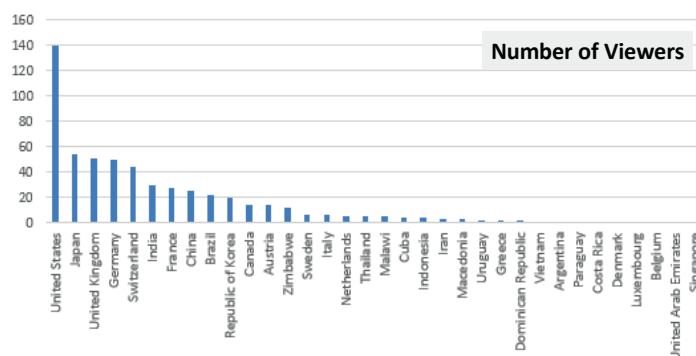
The most viewed presentation was watched 97 times! The average viewing time per video was 64 % of its total duration.

The Congress being open to CORESTA members only, an additional 183 persons requested a CORESTA account in order to access to the presentations. Temporary access was exceptionally given to 10 non-Members.



For the entire broadcast period from 12 Oct – 12 Nov, the “Views” curve shows three peaks, at the beginning, middle and end of the period, while the “Unique Viewers” curve shows the number of participants increasing steadily from week to week.

The map and graph below show the geographical distribution of participants and the numbers. The largest viewing audience was clearly based in the United States, followed by Japan and several European and Asian countries.



POST-CONGRESS SURVEY

A survey was sent to all presenters and visitors to seek feedback on their experience of the Congress. There were 57 replies received. Comments were very positive and encouraging, considering this was CORESTA's first foray into the virtual arena. Overall satisfaction ranged from excellent to fair (excellent 37 %, very good 42 %, good 18 % and fair 3 %).

Presenters were generally satisfied with the instructions provided for the preparation of their files. A few suggested improvements will be taken into account.

With regards to the "attendance" at the Congress, visitors found access via the CORESTA website easy. The streaming platform commenting feature was not used very much as visitors were hesitant to create an account and preferred to contact the authors of presentations directly by email.

The majority of participants found the length of the Congress appropriate, enabling enough time to view presentations at their convenience and repeatedly if necessary. The opportunity for persons to view the presentations who would not normally have travelled to a physical Congress was also appreciated. However, a large number of participants stated that the interaction with presenters and other participants usually found at in-person meetings was greatly lacking and there were some suggestions on how this could be improved in the future. Some participants also reflected on the limited number of research topics covered by the presentations, but this was due to the withdrawal of many presentations following the cancellation of the physical Congress.

The main proposed improvements were related to improving communication between delegates and, when physical meetings are again organised, to consider having hybrid events.

For 2021, delegates sincerely hoped that physical meetings would once again be the norm, as this would mean that the 2020 coronavirus crisis was under control. However, 93 % were willing to once again participate in an online event.

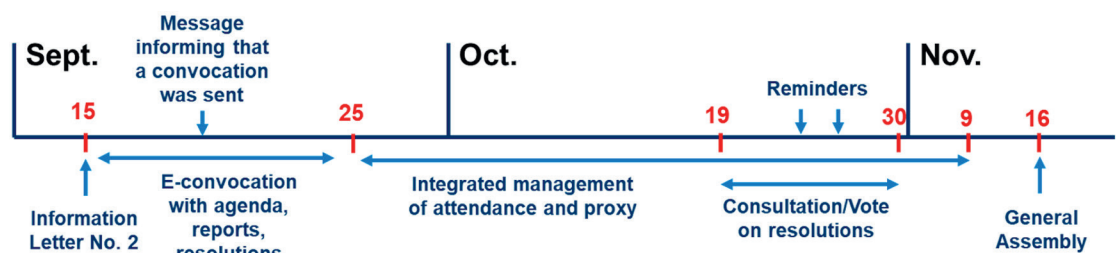
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The preparation of the 2020 General Assembly and consultation

The cancellation of the Congress planned in Vienna led the Board to look for solutions for holding the General Assembly and organizing the elections. Once the Scientific Commission had confirmation that a good programme could be proposed to the Members, the CORESTA Secretariat was asked to organize a virtual Congress. In parallel, the Secretary General was also asked to identify possible options for an online consultation and a virtual General Assembly.

The Statutes of the Association require that an Ordinary General Assembly must meet at least once every other year, during which elections to the Board and to the Scientific Commission take place. CORESTA is an Association governed under French law and must also comply with its own Statutes. To this end, external legal advice was sought to understand our options to hold the General Assembly in compliance with the CORESTA Statutes, and French law, when a face-to-face meeting is not possible. Temporary decrees published by the French government in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic also had to be taken into account. Amongst others, options such as electronic voting or voting by mail were considered. Finally, the decision was taken to organize a Virtual Assembly preceded by an online consultation. A plan was formed and communicated to the Official Delegates of Member Organisations on 17 July. This plan was composed of four phases: i) communication, ii) electronic convocation, iii) online consultation and iv) virtual General Assembly.

A detailed letter of information was sent to the Official Delegates on 15 September to ensure good communication and transparency, and to enable planning for participation. In addition, activity and financial reports for the 63rd and 64th Financial Years, and four resolutions submitted to the

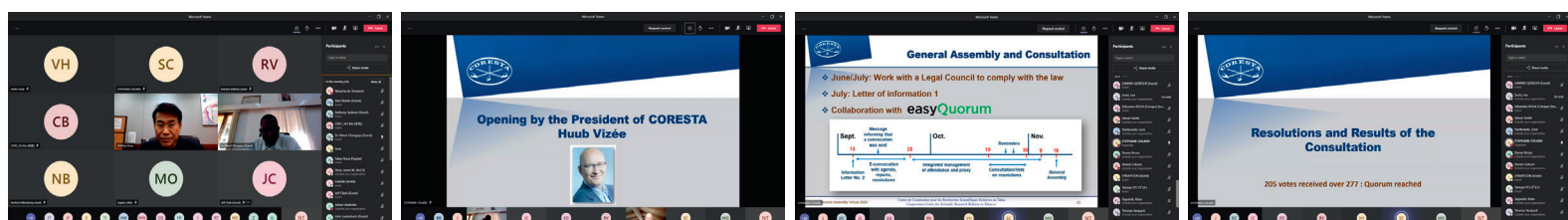


vote were sent more than one month before the opening of the consultation. Resolution 1 and 2 were about the approval of the activity and financial reports, respectively. Resolution 3 and 4 were about an exceptional extension by two years of the terms of office of the members of the Board and the Scientific Commission.

The preparation of the electronic convocation and the organization of the online consultation required a careful and secured approach. There were 157 member organizations to be contacted around the world and all actions had to be under control and traceable in order to comply with the law. Consequently, the choice was made to work with a specialized Company, called easyQuorum. A dedicated platform was designed to send convocations and materials, to collect and record ballots, and to manage attendance and proxies.

At the end of October, all resolutions were approved, and 95 member organizations had confirmed their willingness to participate in the General Assembly. The latter took place on 16 November by videoconference, which gave the President of the Board and the Secretary General the opportunity to show an overview of CORESTA activities, membership, finance and perspectives.

Much happened between the announcement of the Congress cancellation and the General Assembly. The rapid adaptation of the Secretariat to such a unique situation in the history of CORESTA demonstrated its agility. This is why, in this uncertain world, we remain fully confident in CORESTA's capacity to pursue the goal of promoting international cooperation in scientific research next year and beyond.



2020-2022 BOARD

The CORESTA Member Organisations elected to the Board in 2016 and 2018 will serve an extra two years and are as follows:

ELECTED MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| A) Members elected in 2016 (for 4 years + 2 years) | B) Members elected in 2018 (for 4 years + 2 years) |
| Alliance One International, Inc. (USA) | Borgwaldt KC GmbH (Germany) |
| British American Tobacco (UK) | delfort (Austria) |
| China National Tobacco Corporation (China) | Reynolds American Inc. Services Co. (USA) |
| Imperial Brands (UK) | Swedish Match AB (Sweden) |
| Japan Tobacco Inc. (Japan) | Universal Leaf Tobacco Company (USA) |

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (for 2 years + 2 years)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alternative Ingredients, Inc. (USA) | SWM International, Inc. (USA) |
| KT&G Corporation (South Korea) | University of Kentucky (USA) |

Board members proceeded to elect a new President and Vice-President as follows:

Board President: Joseph THOMPSON, Imperial Brands, UK



Joe Thompson has degrees in physiology and toxicology, is a EUROTOX Registered Toxicologist and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in the UK. He has been in the tobacco industry for almost 21 years having held positions in product risk assessment, tobacco & health, product stewardship, compliance, and product quality. As Director of Group Science and Regulatory Affairs for Imperial Brands he leads all research and scientific substantiation of products for harm reduction, stewardship and compliance for Imperial and its subsidiaries worldwide. He joined the Board of CORESTA representing Imperial Tobacco in 2016, was elected as Vice President in 2018, and served on both the Strategy and Communication Board Sub-Committees during that time.

Board Vice-President: Anne FISHER, University of Kentucky, USA



Anne Fisher has degrees in plant breeding and quantitative genetics. She has been in the tobacco industry for 45 years; 27 years with the Tobacco Research Board (TRB) of Zimbabwe and 18 years with the University of Kentucky (UKy). At the TRB, she was Head of Plant Breeding, focusing on nematode and disease resistance. At UKy, where she is currently Research Director at Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center (KTRDC), she has focused on the agronomic aspects of alkaloids and TSNAs, and developed the LC Protocol for screening seed for low conversion. She first participated in CORESTA in 1994, as coordinator of the bacterial wilt Sub-Group. She is the coordinator of the IPM Sub-Group and a member of several other working groups. She has served several terms on the Scientific Commission and has been a member of the Board, representing the University of Kentucky, since 2016. She has also served on the TSRC Policy Committee, and is a member of the Beiträge Editorial Board and of the Tobacco Science Council.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

I feel deeply honoured to be elected as President of CORESTA. I am passionate and proud of the work that we all do within CORESTA to drive us towards our vision: "To be recognised by our members and relevant external bodies as an authoritative source of publicly available, credible science and best practices related to tobacco and its derived products." At the heart of this vision is collaboration, and sound science. We have a strong heritage of working together on the science of traditional tobacco products, right throughout the entire supply chain. From this foundation we are building the future scientific knowledge and method development for vaping products, heated tobacco products, and other emerging product types. We are choosing to do this in a sustainable way, by conducting research that helps promote good health and wellbeing through potentially reduced risk products, economic growth, and responsible production. By pursuing best practices and sound scientific principles we are able to assist regulators in the responsible regulation of the tobacco industry.

This year has been a difficult year for all. As we continue to navigate through the current pandemic I want to thank you for your continued commitment, resilience, and determination. Despite the obvious challenges we have all faced, you have continued to work with each other and drive science, and CORESTA forward. Thank you.

Joe Thompson

2020-2022 SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

Similar to the Board, the Scientific Commission executives had their mandates exceptionally extended by two years. Elections were also held to choose the new President and Vice-President.

The Scientific Commission from 2020-2022 is as follows:

Scientific Commission President



Rob STEVENS, RAI Services Co., USA

Rob has a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Duke University. He has over 27 years of tobacco science, regulatory compliance, and product technology experience. Rob is currently a Principal Scientist in Scientific & Regulatory Affairs at RAI Services Company. He has been a member of the CORESTA Scientific Commission since 2014 as the Secretary of the Smoke Science Study Group and most recently the Vice-President of the Scientific Commission. He has been active in multiple groups within CORESTA including as the Secretary of the E-Vapour SG, and a member of the Cigarette Variability TF, Smoke Analysis SG, Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analysis SG, and Heated Tobacco Products TF. He is also a member of the US Technical Advisory Group to ISO/TC 126.

Scientific Commission Vice-President



Lea SCOTT, Universal Leaf Tobacco Co., USA

Lea obtained a BSc in Agronomy from North Carolina State University. He is currently the Vice-President of Agronomy Services at Universal Leaf Tobacco Company, Inc. He coordinates Universal's global agronomy production and R&D programmes and represents Universal on agro-science issues. Lea has served on the Scientific Commission in various roles within the Agronomy Study Group, and most recently as President of the Scientific Commission. Lea also serves on the CORESTA Agrochemical Advisory Committee and on several agronomy related Sub-Groups and Task Forces.

AGRONOMY & LEAF INTEGRITY STUDY GROUP

President

Lea SCOTT, Universal Leaf Tobacco Co., USA (*see above*)

Vice-President

Anthony JACKSON, Premium Tobacco, Zimbabwe



Anthony holds a BSc. (Hon) in Agriculture from the University of Natal. He currently heads Agronomy Programs for the Premium Group. He has participated in a number of CORESTA activities and has been a member of the Scientific Commission since 2014. He is also a member of the CORESTA Agrochemical Advisory Committee, joining the group in 2016.

Member

Masahiro MIYOSHI, Japan Tobacco Inc., Japan



Masahiro obtained an MSc in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of Tokyo and joined Japan Tobacco Inc. in 1994 as a breeder in the Agribusiness Division. He has been working in the Tobacco Division since 2002 and is currently Senior Scientist in the Leaf Tobacco Research Center, R&D Group. Within CORESTA, he coordinates the Agrochemicals Analysis SG.

Secretary

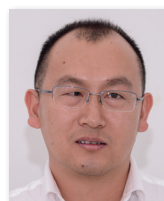
Marcos LUSSO, Altria Client Services, USA



Marcos has a PhD in Plant Pathology and extensive training in tobacco breeding, agronomy and curing practices. He has worked in tobacco since 1992 and his current position is Senior Principal Scientist at Altria Client Services in Richmond, Virginia, USA.

Member

Limeng ZHANG, Yunnan Tobacco Group Co., Ltd. of CNTC, China



Limeng holds a PhD degree in Soil Science and Plant Nutrition from Kiel University, Germany. He is currently the director of the Tobacco Production Technology Research Center of Yunnan Tobacco Company of CNTC. He is also a senior agronomist and chief scientist at the Biological Control Engineering Research Center of CNTC.

PHYTOPATHOLOGY & GENETICS STUDY GROUP

President

Dongmei XU, Altria Client Services, USA



Dongmei holds a PhD degree in Crop Sciences and is trained in plant molecular biology and genetics. She has been working on tobacco since 1992 and is currently a Fellow and Scientific Strategy leader for plant genetics and harm reduction at Altria Client Services in Richmond, Virginia, USA. She has been active in CORESTA since 1999 and participates in various SGTFs.

Vice-President

Susan DIMBI, Tobacco Research Board, Zimbabwe



Susan has a PhD in Agricultural Entomology and a professional background in tobacco plant pathology and entomology. She has worked for the TRB since 2003 and is currently the Assistant General Manager, Research & Extension. Susan also teaches at various Zimbabwean universities and has been active in several CORESTA SGTFs since 2006.

PHYTOPATHOLOGY & GENETICS STUDY GROUP *(continued)*

Secretary

Fabienne LALANDE, JT International GmbH, Germany



Fabienne has an MSc in Agronomy from the National School of Agricultural Engineering of Bordeaux with a specialisation in Plant and Environment Protection. She joined JTI in 2012 and is working in the Global Supply Chain Agronomy Department as CPA Integrity and Compliance Manager. She has been active in several CORESTA SGTFs and participated several times in Agrochemical Advisory Committee meetings as an observer.

Member

François DORLHAC, Imperial Tobacco, France



François holds a PhD in Plant Cell and Molecular Biology from University of Orsay. His current position is Leaf Research Manager for Imperial Tobacco in Bergerac, France. He has been working on tobacco since 1988 and is an expert in Molecular Breeding and GMO detection. François is coordinator of the Proficiency Testing for Detection of Transgenic Tobacco SG.

Member

Colin FISHER, University of Kentucky, USA



Colin has a PhD in Pathology from the University of Rhodesia. After working for the Tobacco Research Board in Zimbabwe and Universal Leaf Tobacco worldwide, he now works as a research scientist at the University of Kentucky. Colin currently leads the CORESTA TSNA SG and participates in other Agro-Phyto SGTFs.

SMOKE SCIENCE STUDY GROUP

President

Martin BLUMENSTOCK, British American Tobacco, Germany



Martin holds a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the Technical University, Munich. During his 16 years of service for BAT he obtained experience on product technology & analysis and scientific & regulatory affairs. He is an active member in various national and regional technical committees and currently heads-up BAT's European and North African Analytical labs in Bayreuth, Germany.

Vice-President

Paul HARP, RAI Services Co., USA



Paul has a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences and is certified as a Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology. He joined R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in 2001 and is currently a Principal Scientist in Scientific & Regulatory Affairs at RAI Services Company. He has also served as a member of the CORESTA Agrochemical Advisory Committee since 2009.

Secretary

Rob STEVENS, ITG Brands, USA *(see previous page)*

Member

Kei YOSHINO, Japan Tobacco Inc., Japan



Kei obtained a Master's degree in Veterinary Science and joined Japan Tobacco Inc. in 1990 as a toxicologist in the Pharmaceutical Division. He has been working in the Tobacco Division since 1999 and is currently Chief Scientist in the Scientific Product Assessment Center, R&D Group.

Member

Xavier CAHOURS, Imperial Tobacco-SEITA, France



Xavier has a PhD in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences. He has worked in a variety of positions in different science areas. Xavier is currently Product Research Senior Manager. He is the secretary of the CORESTA Product Use Behaviour SG and the SC liaison member for the CROM TF.

PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP

President

Karl WAGNER, Altria Client Services, USA



Karl has a PhD in Analytical Chemistry. He is a Senior Principal Scientist working in Regulatory Sciences at Altria Client Services. Karl has worked in the industry for 20 years in a variety of positions including contract lab management, product stewardship and analytical sciences. He is the Coordinator of the Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes SG and Administrator for the US Technical Advisory Group to ISO/TC 126.

Vice-President

Bin HU, Zhengzhou Tobacco Research Institute of CNTC, China



Bin obtained a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Science & Technology of China. He joined ZTRI of CNTC in 2006 and is currently Senior Engineer in tobacco chemistry. His research focuses mainly on agrochemical analysis and chromatography analysis.

PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP (continued)

Secretary

Bernhard EITZINGER, delfort, Austria



Bernhard obtained an MSc degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and a PhD in Non-Linear Systems Theory. He is the coordinator of the CORESTA Physical Test Methods SG, member of the Advisory Board of Beiträge zur Tabakforschung and participates in the DIN working group on tobacco and tobacco products.

Member

Guy JACCARD, Philip Morris International, Switzerland



Guy holds a PhD in Physical Chemistry and has over 20 years of experience in tobacco industry. He is currently Principal Scientist, Product Stewardship at Philip Morris Int'l. He has been active within CORESTA since 1999 in diverse SGs and is currently a member of the Routine Analytical Chemistry SG. He is also a delegate or expert in several technical committees and international working groups related to tobacco products and e-cigarettes.

Member

Jutta PANI, Imperial Tobacco-Reemtsma, Germany



Jutta holds a Mag. rer. nat. in Chemistry/Food Chemistry from the University in Vienna. She has been working in tobacco industry for 20 years obtaining experience in tobacco science, product technology and analysis. Jutta is currently Manager Laboratory Network Operations. She is active in several CORESTA SGs including Smoke Analytes, Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes, E-Vapour and was active in the Routine Analytical Chemistry and Cigar Smoking Methods SGs.

CORESTA PROJECTS

The following projects were approved by the Scientific Commission and launched:

- **Project 275: CROM TF - Virtual Webinar on Consumer Reported Outcome Measures for Assessing Tobacco and Nicotine-Containing Products - December 2020**
TF CROM - Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium - Approved October 2020
- **Project 276: Guide No. 1 The Concept and Implementation of CPA Guidance Residue Levels (GRLs): Addition of new GRL**
ACAC - Agrochemical Advisory Committee – Approved September 2020
- **Project 277: Guide No. 27 Identification and Elimination of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Leaf Tobacco Production: Reference update**
ACAC - Agrochemical Advisory Committee – Approved September 2020
- **Project 278: Technical Guidelines for Connected ENDS**
SG PUB - Product Use Behaviour - Approved December 2020
- **Project 280: Preliminary Proficiency Study for Major Constituents in HTP Aerosols**
TF HTP - Heated Tobacco Products – Approved October 2020
- **Project 281: Routine Stability Study of CRPs Manufactured in 2016**
SG TTPA - Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes - Approved November 2020
- **Project 282: Characterization of University of Kentucky Reference Cigars for Unburned Analytes**
SG TTPA - Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes - Approved November 2020
- **Project 283: Characterization of University of Kentucky Reference Smokeless Tobacco Products**
SG TTPA - Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes - Approved November 2020
- **Project 284: Nicotine Pouches**
SG TTPA - Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes - Approved November 2020
- **Project 285: Report to ISO/TC126/SC3 on CORESTA Activities Related to the EVAP Sub-Group**
CORESTA - Approved November 2020
- **Project 286: Publication Deriving from IVT SG System Parameter Survey**
SG IVT - In Vitro Toxicity Testing - Approved November 2020
- **Project 287: Poster at SRNT 26th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA, March 2020**
TF CROM - Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium - November 2020
- **Project 288: Abstract & Poster at SRNT 27th Annual Meeting, Online, Feb 2021**
TF CROM - Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium - Approved December 2020
- **Project 289: 17th FAPAS CPA Analysis Proficiency Test - 2021**
SG AA - Agrochemicals Analysis – Approved November 2020

CORESTA PROJECTS (continued)

- **Project 290: Abstract & Poster at Virtual ISPOR Conference, May 2021**
TF CROM - Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium - Approved December 2020
- **Project 291: Comments to FDA CTP regarding their “Tobacco Products: Principles for Designing and Conducting Tobacco Product Perception and Intention Studies” (TPPIS) Draft Guidance for Industry**
TF CROM - Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium - Approved December 2020
- **Project 292: 14th Collaborative Study on Cigar Smoke Analysis (2019-2020)**
SG CSM - Cigar Smoking Methods - Approved December 2020
- **Project 293: 15th Collaborative Study on Cigar Smoke Analysis (2020-2021)**
SG CSM - Cigar Smoking Methods - Approved December 2020

CORESTA GUIDES

All CORESTA Guides may be downloaded in PDF format at www.coresta.org

Update

CORESTA Guide No. 1

The Concept and Implementation of CPA Guidance Residue Levels
(Sixth edition – November 2020) [ACAC-276-CTG-01]

Agrochemical Advisory Committee (ACAC) published the sixth issue of its CORESTA Guide No. 1 with the addition of the CPA flupyradifurone to the list of Guidance Residue Levels (GRLs).

GRLs are a tool to assist and provide guidance for the interpretation and evaluation of agrochemical residue testing results and to serve as an indicator that Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) is being implemented. The CORESTA Guide No. 1 lists the GRLs applicable to cured tobacco leaf while focusing on processed tobacco leaf which is predominantly used for the production of traditional cigarette tobaccos and the GAPs associated with the cultivation of these tobacco types.

Revision

CORESTA Guide No. 8

Technical Guide for CORESTA Monitor Test Piece Production and Evaluation Requirements
(Second edition – December 2020) [RAC-229-2-CTG-08]

Monitor test pieces are used to monitor the stability of the analytical processes involved when using a cigarette smoking machine for routine analysis. In particular, they are used to assess whether the analytical process related to the machine smoking of cigarettes is in statistical control. An International Standard, ISO 16055:2003 describes the requirements for and use of a monitor test piece. This guideline gives additional details on specification, production, packaging and evaluation of a CORESTA monitor test piece. This second edition is based on the Technical Report *Influence of Standard Deviations for CORESTA Monitor Test Piece Weight on Tar, Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide Yields* also published in December 2020.

CORESTA Guide No. 27

Identification and Elimination of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Leaf Tobacco Production
(Second edition – October 2020) [ACAC-277-CTG-27]

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) are those Crop Protection Agents (CPAs) or pesticides acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health and the environment. There are relevant binding International Agreements and Conventions to promote awareness of the risks of using HHPs. This Guide promotes these awareness actions in tobacco leaf production and its purpose is to facilitate the access to key basic information on HHPs. The references and links were revised in this second edition.

New

CORESTA Guide No. 28

Technical Guide for Setting Method LOD and LOQ Values for the Determination of Metals in E-Liquid and E-Vapour Aerosol by ICP-MS
(November 2020) [EVAP-210-CTG-28]

This Technical Guide provides a list of considerations for setting method Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ) values when determining select metals in e-liquid and e-vapour aerosol by Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS).

CORESTA REPORTS

The following reports have been released and published on the CORESTA website at www.coresta.org:

- **2020 Nicotine and Nicotine Degradants Proficiency Study**

Technical Report [TPPA-246-CTR] – September 2020 (Sub-Group Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes)

A proficiency study was carried out for the determination of nicotine and nicotine degradants in nicotine pouches and e-liquids, with the objective to provide a continuing assessment of laboratory analysis capabilities. Laboratories were requested to determine nicotine, anatabine, anabasine, nicotine-N'-oxide, myosmine, β -nicotyrine, cotinine, and nornicotine. In many cases labs obtained different results for nicotine degradants and this is likely due to the use of different in-house methodologies. It was recommended that a method be developed for evaluation as a potential CORESTA Recommended Method for the determination of nicotine degradants.

- **Review of Recent Lung Biomarkers of Potential Harm/Effect for Tobacco Research**

Technical Report [BMK-161-1-CTR] – September 2020 (Sub-Group Biomarkers)

Overall, in the past decade, researchers have identified many potential biomarkers of smoking related lung diseases, including COPD. The existing tools such as spirometry may not address all the current gaps; while other cutting-edge imaging tools are rapidly developing and promising for the identification of novel biomarkers. This review identified existing and new biomarkers that have potential for being predictive biomarkers in smokers and COPD subjects, as well as provide insights into disease development and progression. All these identified biomarkers require further development and fit-for-purpose assessments including validation of the biomarkers in tobacco and nicotine context and understanding their potential role in the development of disease.

- **2019 Collaborative Study for the Determination of Formaldehyde and Acetaldehyde in E-Vapour Product Aerosol**

Technical Report [EVAP-127-2-CTR] – November 2020 (Sub-Group E-Vapour)

A collaborative study was initiated for the determination of carbonyl compounds in e-vapour product aerosol generated under CORESTA Recommended Method No. 81 puffing conditions. The target compounds for this study included formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, which were determined following a proposed CORESTA Recommended Method (CRM). The study demonstrated that the proposed CRM was suitable for its purpose and it was recommended that a new Recommended Method be created.

- **4th Proficiency Test (2020) on Diffusion Capacity of Cigarette Papers**

Technical Report [PTM-260-CTR] – November 2020 (Sub-Group Physical Test Methods)

This proficiency test is the fourth one carried out to assess the capability of the participating laboratories to measure diffusion capacity using the CORESTA Recommended Method (CRM) No. 77 as a general guideline. The results from this study serve as a check that laboratory procedures and their development over time does not lead to a substantial increase in between-laboratory variability and it further offers each laboratory the possibility of assessing its performance in comparison with other laboratories and to derive actions for improvement. This study did not show any significant difference in mean values and variability obtained with instruments from different manufacturers.

- **Influence of Standard Deviations for CORESTA Monitor Test Piece Weight on Tar, Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide Yields**

Technical Report [RAC-229-1-CTR] – December 2020 (Sub-Group Routine Analytical Chemistry)

The objective of this study was to assess the influence of the weight of the CORESTA monitor test piece on tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide (TNCO) yields when it is smoked under the smoking regimes defined in ISO 3308 and Health Canada T-115. It was found that changing the weight standard deviation from 16 mg to 25 mg had no substantive effect on smoke yield variation in case of both linear and rotary smoking machines, even when constituent yields were affected by changes of monitor test piece weight in the case of rotary smoking machines. A standard deviation of individual monitor test piece weight of up to 25 mg has been estimated to give acceptable stability for the determination of TNCO.

Extended Diagnostic Expert System (XDES) - A different CORESTA Sub-Group

One may state that the XDES Sub-Group is quite different from the other CORESTA working groups because it does not undertake collaborative studies or proficiency tests and it will never produce Recommended Methods or Guides as most other groups or Task Forces do. Nevertheless, this group is totally within the spirit of CORESTA, which is about cooperation and exchange of information. It is focused on the transmission and sharing of knowledge and how to achieve this when people do not speak the same language.

In 2011 the Scientific Commission proposed a cooperation project with the French National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) to translate their e-Phytia®tabac website from French into English. Through this website, the diagnostic and advice tools to recognise symptoms, signs or pests observed on diseased tobacco plants could be freely accessible to all English speaking tobacco growers. The translation work took two years by a Task Force called Diagnostic Expert System Translation (DEXT) with a small membership: one person from the CORESTA Secretariat for the translation and integration and a liaison member for the follow-up with the Scientific Commission.

Once the translation was over, proofreading was needed and this was done thanks to CORESTA's worldwide network and links with numerous organisations and universities (among others, the North Carolina State University, the University of Kentucky and the University of Georgia).

In 2013, based on the website translation, the INRA team in Bordeaux, France, developed a new application for smartphones and tablets to be taken into the field, and that was how Di@gnoPlant® Tobacco was born. It was the first application by INRA translated into English for international use. Since 2013 CORESTA members have regularly supplemented and improved this 'database' by sending relevant information or pictures on tobacco diseases and protection methods from their institutions or universities.

English is the official language of CORESTA, and all the presentations at Congresses and Conferences all over the world are in English. This was the case also at the 2017 CORESTA Conference that took place in Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil. The fact is that Brazil is one of the largest tobacco growing countries in the world and it was obvious that the English version of Di@gnoPlant® Tobacco was not used by Brazilians. It was time to change this situation and roll up the sleeves again. To begin, CORESTA contacted the local University in Santa Cruz do Sul (UNISC) and initiated a collaboration project to translate Di@gnoPlant® tobacco into Portuguese. The translation work took about two years and was finalised at the end of 2019. All this huge amount of work also needed proofreading, which is now underway by six native Portuguese speaking specialists who are working together in order to finalize the project. Previous translation experience shows that it is a time consuming task ... but time is a relative concept in this Sub-Group. What really counts is perseverance, patience and good will.

Today the main objective of the Sub-Group is to finalise the proofreading and integration of the Portuguese version of the Di@gnoPlant® tobacco application on different digital media especially destined for Brazilian tobacco growers.

The XDES Sub-Group welcomes all additional information relative to tobacco diseases that could be added to the Di@gnoPlant® applications and e-Phytia Tobacco websites, in both English and Portuguese versions (photos, descriptions, diagnostics or available treatments) coming either from individuals or institutions. Please feel welcome to share and collaborate with us!



Eva MARIAGNAC
XDES SG Coordinator



IDENTIFY/KNOWING/CONTROLLING



UPCOMING CORESTA MEETINGS (2020 / 2021)

Due to the ongoing coronavirus situation, CORESTA Sub-Group and Task Force meetings continue to experience disruptions, with many being scheduled online at short notice. Please visit the CORESTA website for the latest updates (www.coresta.org/meetings/upcoming).

The Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Task Force has scheduled a Symposium in December 2020. A full report on the Symposium will be included in the next Newsletter.

Virtual CROM Symposium 2020
Consumer Reported Outcome Measures in Tobacco and Nicotine Research
December 10, 2020 | 4:00 to 7:00 pm CET

CORESTA COMMUNICATION AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (SRNT 2020)



SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH
ON NICOTINE & TOBACCO

In accordance with the initiative to introduce CORESTA activities to the wider scientific community, I presented a poster entitled “A consortium approach for consumer-reported outcome measures for assessing tobacco and/or nicotine-containing products” on behalf of the Consumer Reported Outcomes Measures Task Force (CROM TF) at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT), held in New Orleans, USA, 11–14 March 2020.

The SRNT is a member organization comprising academics, medical practitioners, public health experts and regulatory scientists with the mission “to stimulate the generation and dissemination of new knowledge concerning nicotine in all its manifestations - from molecular to societal.” Recently this has led the Society to become an important forum for the discussion of new and emerging tobacco and nicotine-containing products, and their associated health and regulatory issues.

Reflecting the exponential increase in the generation of product-related data, scientists are invited to submit Industry-supported work for inclusion in the meeting. We were therefore pleased to be accepted to present a poster which explained the measurement gaps in assessing people’s behaviours, intentions, and motivations related to initiation, continuation, or quitting the use of tobacco- and/or nicotine-containing products, and the approach the CROM TF has taken in developing a Consortium framework to consider these issues.

While the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic just before the start of the meeting did reduce the total number of delegates – and led to me being the only member of the CROM TF who was physically in attendance – the response to the poster was encouraging and should help attract a wider base of potential contributors from diverse backgrounds to the work of the Consortium.

The experience of presenting to delegates, some of whom were skeptical of any industry-related activity, was generally good and reflects the quality of the contributions made by members of the CROM TF. It also confirmed a recognition that data from all stakeholders will be needed to shape future tobacco regulatory science.

Neil Sherwood (Neil Sherwood Consulting)

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

ISO/TC126 WG 22 Web Meeting - 27 April 2020

Presentation «Heated Tobacco Products (HTP) Task Force: Update» by Helena Digard (British American Tobacco, UK) and Jason Flora (Altria Client Services LLC, USA), Coordinator and Secretary of the CORESTA HTP Task Force.

ISO/TC126 SC3 Web Meeting - 15 December 2020

Presentation «Report to ISO/TC126 SC3 on CORESTA Activities Related to EVAP Sub-Group» by Stéphane Colard (CORESTA Secretary General).

European Committee for Standardization (Comité Européen de Normalisation - CEN)

CEN/TC437 Web Meeting - 12 November 2020

Presentation «Report to CEN/TC437 on CORESTA Activities Related to EVAP Sub-Group» by Stéphane Colard (CORESTA Secretary General).

The above presentations can be viewed in the Information/CORESTA Communication section of the CORESTA website.

*The CORESTA staff wishes you
a Joyful Christmas, a Peaceful Holiday Season
and a positive, safe and healthy New Year 2021*

