

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### CBRN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, ANTIBES 2015



The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference « CBRN Research and Innovation » co-organized by the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), the Armament procurement Agency (DGA), the Army Health Services, the Alpes-Maritimes Fire and Rescue Services (SDIS06) and Nice Conference Association was held in the Antibes-Juan-les-Pins Congress Center (France) from March 16 to 18, 2015 ([www.cbrn-conference.com](http://www.cbrn-conference.com)).

Jean Leonetti, mayor of Antibes-Juan-les-Pins, member of the French Parliament, minister in charge of the European Affairs in 2011-2012, officially opened the Conference.

The involvement of the Scientific Committee, a multidisciplinary group of 27 members, the promotion from media partners (« Soldats du feu magazine » from TFD -medias, Biofutur, CBRNe world, Global Biodefense, Intelligence-sec, CBNW) and scientific Societies, the support from public and private partners (Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes, Union Départementale des sapeurs-pompiers des Alpes-Maritimes, Pôle risques Aix-en-Provence, Vitamed, GIE-NBC, NBC-Sys, SERB Laboratories, Tradeways, IMS, Paul Boyé, Bertin, CEA, Cristanini, Ouvry, Securetec) strongly contributed to the success of this event.

About 320 delegates representing 20 countries participated in this conference.

The program was designed to stimulate exchanges between communities (scientists, industrials, practitioners, research support agencies, deciders) and be-

tween experts in the various aspects of the CBRN domain. This specificity was one of the most appreciated features of this CBRN conference.

A dozen of CBRN industrials presented their most innovative products in a dedicated showroom and during a specifically designed session.

The mobile lab “VDIP” (Sampling Detection Identification Vehicle) from the Marseille Fire Brigade and the specifically designed CBRN medical vehicle from SDIS06 were presented to the attendees.

The program, including 160 speakers (7 plenaries and 18 keynotes) and 5 poster sessions, covered 3 topics: human and environmental decontamination, detection and diagnosis, medical countermeasures (prophylaxis and treatments). For each topic, the authors of the best poster were rewarded.

The introductory session was dedicated to presentations by the European and French institutions in charge of the CBRN risks management and of the research funding policy, *i.e.* DG Migration and home affairs from the European Community, General Secretariat for Defense and National Security (SGDSN), DGA, CEA, General Directorate for civil protection and crisis management (DGSCGC), French Federation of Fire and Rescue Services (FNSPF).

The EU-funded projects GIFT, CBRN Integrated response Italy and ECHEMNET, OPCW and the French CBRN-E civilian and military education and training center were also part of this session.

Bullet points of this conference were noticed as following:

- Development of new uranium chelators, new associations of drugs for the treatment of nerve agents intoxication, new acetylcholinesterase reactivators following OP inhibition
- High-throughput and targeted mass spectrometry
- Diagnosis of B agents (more specifically Ebola virus) infection in the field
- Therapeutic antibodies against ricin and Ebola virus and broad spectrum inhibitors of the intracellular trafficking
- Biomarkers of C agents exposure, feedbacks from samples of the Syrian conflict
- Specificities and financial difficulties related to antidote development
- New US guidelines for mass decontamination
- Nanophotocatalysts for C agents absorption and neutralisation
- New in vitro and in vivo models for studying skin and wound decontamination
- Evaluation of new active nanoparticles for skin protection and decontamination
- Sebomics to evaluate external contamination
- Engineering of hyperthermostable enzymes for depollution
- Performances of new PPE : the EU-funded IFREACT project
- Solutions for radioactive waste management following the Fukushima accident

The editors of « Environmental Science & Pollution Research » (Philippe GARRIGUES) and « Chémico-Biological Interactions » (Daniel DIETRICH) agreed to have a special issue (published by the end of 2015) dedicated to the CBRN Antibes conference. It will include reviewed papers that will fit within the scope of these two scientific journals.

Analysis of the satisfaction survey indicated that the CBRN Research & Innovation Conference was largely appreciated.

Building on the success of this 1<sup>st</sup> edition, the organizers have already started to work on the next one which is currently planned from March 20 to 23, 2017 (dates and location in France to be confirmed). The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the international CBRN Research and Innovation Conference will definitely be a rendez-vous not to be missed!



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