The European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT) was founded in September 1964 in connection with a toxicology meeting held in Tours, France. One of the founder members of the Association, Louis Roche, a Professor of forensic toxicology from Lyon, was highly instrumental in promoting the organization as a result of his interest in the work and development of Poisons Centres and his recognition of the need for international collaboration. A commemorative Louis Roche lecture has been presented annually at the Congress since his death in 1998.

Members
EAPCCT members usually have a qualification in medicine, pharmacy nursing or a related science and are professionally concerned with clinical toxicology in a poisons centre, university, hospital, in government or industry. The EAPCCT presently has 266 members from 56 countries in all continents.

Aims and Objectives
- To foster a better understanding of the principles and practice of clinical toxicology particularly through poisons information centres and poisons treatment centres;
- To unite individuals whose professional activities are concerned with clinical toxicology;
- To encourage research into all aspects of poisoning;
- To facilitate the collection, exchange and dissemination of relevant information among individual members, poison centres and organisations interested in clinical toxicology;
- To promote training in, and set standards for the practice of, clinical toxicology and to encourage high standards in poisons centres;
- To collaborate with international and integrational organisations;
- To establish and maintain effective collaboration with governments, governmental organisations, professional bodies and other groups or individuals concerned with clinical toxicology, particularly those working in poisons centres in all countries in Europe.

Meetings
International meetings of the EAPCCT were initially held biannually but annual congresses have been held since 1999. Each Congress lasts three days and is preceded by a one day Pre-Congress symposium focusing on education in an area of topical clinical toxicological importance. Each day of the main meeting typically includes two parallel platform sessions and some 100 posters with various satellite sessions and meetings. The Congress aims to provide an international state-of-the-art update in all current topics and controversies pertinent to the practice of clinical toxicology and Poisons Centre operation.

Membership benefits
Members receive Clinical Toxicology in paper copy, enjoy reduced Congress registration fees and have access to all the benefits of the members area of the website plus the Association Newsletter. Application forms are available on-line.

In addition to an outstanding scientific programme, EAPCCT Congresses are renowned for an excellent social programme, attracting attendees from all over the world to enjoy the varied and stimulating landscapes, architecture and cultures that define Europe.

The XXXI EAPCCT Congress will be in Dubrovnik, Croatia 24-27 May 2011. More information is available on the website www.eapcct.org.