

EUROTOX2015 Gala Dinner wellcome speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends, Colleagues and guests,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am delighted to welcome you to the EUROTOX 2015 Annual Gala Dinner here in the magnificent city of Porto. It is a great pleasure to welcome not just many good and long-standing (I would never use the word "old" as I don't see old people here) friends and colleagues, but also many new people who are joining us now.

Even though these are very difficult economic times, both for our member societies and, for that matter, EUROTOX, we are still growing.

As always, there are many people I want to thank for their tremendous work over the past few weeks and years to make tonight and this congress in total such a success. None of this would be possible without the dedicated work of Professor Carvahlo and the organizing committee, who they worked hard for all of us to enjoy a great meeting and get to visit a beautiful city Porto.

Porto is one of the oldest European centres, and its historical core as I am sure you all know, was proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996. Porto is a wonderful city and its people are very kind, beautiful and hospitable.

One of the benefits that EUROTOX accomplishes by its congresses, apart from the fact that it supplies a professional and educational forum for the science of toxicology, is that we get to visit the countries of our members' societies, we get acquainted with their culture and we get a feeling of the aura of their state.

Portugal's aura, apart from today's great scientists, at the past inspired magnificent pioneers as Ferdinand Magellan, Vasco da Gama, and, amongst others, Luís da Câmara Pestana, the foremost pioneer of bacteriology in Portugal, and António Egas Moniz who developed cerebral angiography and prefrontal leucotomy, for which he got the Medicine Nobel Prize in 1949 and so many more.

Nowadays, more than ever, as technology has made communication easy and provides to people the opportunity to stay in contact without travelling, we, through EUROTOX get a wonderful opportunity to get together every year, exchange ideas in person, get to know each other better and work more effectively for EUROTOX, welcome new members and associates and get feedback from all.

For the science of toxicology, EUROTOX is the obvious network across continental Europe. So we have a challenging time ahead of us, and we take our responsibility seriously.

Yet, tonight is for all of us to enjoy each other's company in these wonderful surroundings.

Thank you for your participation this evening to our Gala and once again, I want to thank the Portuguese society of toxicology for their fantastic effort and their hospitality and the KIT people Franziska Jorg and Mandy, for all efforts done.

Have a lovely evening. Thank you.