

Scientific Committee

Chairs

DR ANU KAPANEN

European Chemical Agency / Finland

Dr Anu Kapanen is a Senior Scientific Officer in European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). She is positioned in Evaluation Directorate focusing on activities related to evaluation of compliance of registration dossiers for environmental toxicity and fate. She is also involved in developing regulatory risk assessment strategies for terrestrial compartment and in her role as a coordinator of scientific activities between ECHA and SETAC, she has been working in the interface of implementing regulation and science. Since her Master thesis on soil microbial activity, she has been involved in research related to soil quality. She has a PhD in Environmental Microbiology from University of Helsinki focusing on ecotoxicity and environmental fate assessment of biodegradable and biobased materials. Her long experience in research field at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland covers environmental biotechnology applications in the area of water and waste treatment, environmental safety of nano/materials and environmental fate including recycling and bioremediation.

DR JOSE V TARAZONA

European Food Safety Authority / Italy

Dr Jose V. Tarazona is the Head of the Pesticides Unit at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Doctor in Veterinary Medicine with a PhD in Toxicology, started as Associated Professor of Toxicology and the University of Madrid, and from 1982 to 2009 worked at the Spanish National Institute for Agriculture and Food Research and Technology (INIA), serving as Head of the Division of Environmental Toxicology and Director of the Department of the Environment. His main field of expertise is ecotoxicology and environmental risk assessment. Has participated in over 30 research projects in this area at the national and European levels, and is co-author of over 250 scientific papers related with (eco)toxicology and risk assessment. Involved in the scientific advisory board of the European Union since 1992; was member of the CSTE, second vice-chair of the Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment (CSTEE), chair of the Working Group on Environmental Risks at the Task Force for the Harmonization of Risk Assessment Procedures of the Scientific Steering Committee, and vice-chair of the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER). He has been external expert-consultant for different European bodies including the European Commission, ECHA, EFSA, EMEA and EEA, as well as for the OECD, WHO and UN, chairing the OECD Expert Group on Chronic Aquatic Hazards and the OECD and UN Expert Groups on Terrestrial Hazards within the GHS strategy, and member of the UNEP POPs Review Committee. From 2009 to 2013, he worked at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) as Chair of the Committee for Risk Assessment and Scientific Chair of the Evaluation Directorate.

Members

MS CHARMAINE AJAO

European Chemical Agency / Finland

Charmaine Ajao is an ecotoxicologist. She has been working with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki for 8 years. At ECHA she is involved in the negotiation of consensus positions amongst different stakeholders at the Member State Committee. She is also a member of the Science Board of ECHA. She has over 13 years of experience in regulatory science. Previously she worked with chemical market surveillance and EU environmental legislation on ozone depleting substances, hydrofluoro carbons and industrial emissions. She has served in many regulatory committees and boards, both nationally and EU-wide. She received a Bachelors degree with Honours in Chemistry and Biology and a Masters degree in Biology, both from the University of Malta. Her postgraduate research focused on the assessment of the biological impact of heavy metals generated by shipyard activities on sediments, bottom and surface waters and a marine gastropod. She is also a SETAC council member.

DR MARIA ARENA

European Food Safety Authority / Italy

Dr Maria Arena is a scientific officer at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA, Parma, Italy) since almost 4 years. In her current work she supports the PPR Panel of EFSA in the development of new Guidance Documents for the Environmental Risk Assessment of Pesticides, with the current activities focusing on effect assessment for in-soil organisms. She has a background in food science and technology and a PhD in environmental sciences with a focus on ecotoxicology and environmental chemistry. She worked before in several different research institutes in Italy (University of Catania, University of Turin, University "Cattolica del Sacro Cuore" in Piacenza and EC Joint Research Centre in Ispra). Her main research activities focused on microbial ecology in soils, assessment of biodegradation potential of xenobiotics including pesticides and nanomaterials in different environmental matrices and the application of novel techniques in assessment of the soil microbial community status, composition, gene occurrence and expression.

DR MARK BONNELL

Environment Canada / Canada

Mark Bonnell currently holds the position of Senior Science Advisor within the Science and Risk Assessment Directorate of Environment Canada. By combining 25 years of risk assessment experience from both the private and public sectors and having conducting over 1200 risk assessments since his graduation from Trent University in 1990, Mark provides advice at all levels of government both domestically and internationally. Mark has a strong background and specialty in risk assessment modeling and has several scientific publications in this regard. He is or has been co-chair or steering committee member of various global advisory groups on chemical fate and behavior including the OECD's Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship Expert Group and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's Global Advisory Groups on Bioaccumulation and Fate and Exposure Modeling.

DR CHARLES EADSFORTH

Shell / United Kingdom

Charles Eadsforth is a senior ecotoxicologist/Research Manager for the Risk Science Team in Shell Health. He has worked for Shell since 1980, initially in research on agrochemicals at Sittingbourne Research Centre and then on research and regulatory support for chemicals and petroleum products at Shell Technology Centre, Thornton. His current research at Shell Technology Centre, Amsterdam focusses on innovative methods for screening products and effluents for toxicity, biodegradation and bioaccumulation potential. He is a member of a number of international working groups (e.g. ECETOC, CEFIC, CONCAWE, ERASM and ISOPA) addressing research and environmental safety assessments of chemicals and oil products. Prior to working with Shell, he worked in the Department of the Environment and Health and Safety Executive. Dr Eadsforth received a first class B.Sc in Applied Chemistry and a Ph.D in Biochemistry from the University of Salford, Manchester.

DR MARK EGSMOSE

European Food Safety Authority / Italy

Mark Egsmose has held positions in a governmental agency (Danish EPA), in a contract laboratory, in consultancy and in industry. In these positions Mark Egsmose has among other activities been involved in risk assessment to the consumer and the environment of plant protection product, existing and new chemicals as well as pharmaceuticals. Currently Mark Egsmose is holding a position as Senior Scientific Officer in the Pesticides Unit within the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and is directly involved in the development of new - and revision of existing guidance documents for risk assessment of plant protection products for use in EU.

DR MARC S. GREENBERG

US EPA / United States of America

Dr. Marc S. Greenberg is the Deputy Branch Chief of the U.S. EPA's Environmental Response Team. His office supports various clean-up, emergency, and other response actions within the U.S. EPA Superfund program. Marc's technical area of focus has been the assessment, remediation, and management of contaminated sediment sites. His research experience includes both human health and aquatic ecological toxicology. Marc has provided technical and policy advice in the fields of contaminated sediments and soils, toxicology, ecological risk assessment, and oil spill response. He has mentored and coached numerous technical specialists inside and outside the Agency. Dr. Greenberg has served as a member of the EPA Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG), Risk Assessment Forum Ecological Oversight Committee, Superfund Sediments Team,

and EPA Headquarters Chair of the Agency's Ecological Risk Assessment Forum (ERAF). He has participated in the standardizing of sediment toxicity testing methods for the U.S. EPA, has co-authored many EPA technical and guidance documents, and has contributed to the authorship of numerous peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. Internationally, he has advised the Government of Thailand on potential environmental quality issues associated with offshore oil operations, French Ministry of the Environment on issues regarding PCBs in the Rhône River, government officials and scientists in Finland and the European Union on contaminated sediment management; and provided training in sediment management to environmental officials from Southeast Asian nations. He is an active member of the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) and he served on its North America Board of Directors (2007-2010) and Editorial Board for the SETAC journals (2010-2012). He obtained a B.A. in Zoology (1990) and a M.S. in Aquatic Toxicology (1993) from Miami University, and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from Wright State University (2002).

DR DEREK KNIGHT

European Chemical Agency / Finland

Dr Derek J Knight, who is British, has worked at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) since September 2008. As the Senior Scientific Advisor, he is responsible for providing the Executive Director and the Director of Regulatory Affairs with expert scientific and technical advice on matters relating to chemical regulation, with the focus on the EU REACH, CLP and Biocides Regulations and the operations of ECHA. Previously he headed a team of regulatory affairs professionals at a UK contract research organisation for almost 18 years, covering a wide range of regulatory schemes worldwide. He has also registered medicinal products and worked as a Technical Support Chemist. He has a broad understanding of the regulation of chemicals and is especially interested in approaches to hazard and risk assessment using non-standard data. He is an external expert member of the Scientific Expert Panel of the SEURAT-1 research initiative 'Towards the replacement of in vitro repeated dose systemic toxicity testing'. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and Chartered Chemist, a Chartered Scientist and a Fellow of the Organisation of Professionals in Regulatory Affairs. His doctoral studies at the University of Oxford in the UK were in organosulphur chemistry.

DR PAUL HENNING KROGH

Aarhus University / Denmark

PROF DR WILLIE PEIJNENBURG

National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) / Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Willie Peijnenburg is senior researcher at the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven (The Netherlands) and extraordinary professor at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) of the Faculty of Science of Leiden University, Leiden (The Netherlands), chair position "Environmental Toxicology and Biodiversity". He obtained his PhD at the Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands) on photochemical transformations of organic chemicals and he currently is involved in research aimed at underpinning the risk assessment of chemical substances, amongst others dealing with chemical bioavailability in the aquatic and terrestrial environments. Research topics include fate assessment, dosimetry, transformation/dissolution, impact of water composition on nanomaterial fate. Apart from research he is also involved in the risk assessment of chemicals according to REACH.

DR ELEONORA PETERSOHN

Federal environment agency (UBA) / Germany

Dr. Eleonora Petersohn is a research associate at the Federal Environment Agency Germany (Umweltbundesamt, UBA), Section Biocides, since 2006. Her main field of work is the environmental exposure assessment of biocides (e.g. rodenticides, insecticides, repellents and disinfectants) as one aspect in the environmental risk assessment of biocides (active substances and products) in the context of regulation 528/2012. She is a core member of the BPC Working Group Environment since 2014 and of the BPC Ad hoc Environmental Exposure Working Group. Currently, her major fields of research focus on the development of environmental emission scenarios for biocides and the use of FOCUS groundwater and surface water models (initially developed for exposure assessment of PPPs) for biocide applications. She worked before as a project manager in industrial research: development of new technologies to apply in the field of purification and treatment of soil, groundwater and industrial waste water. She has a PhD in Material Sciences (UPMC Paris, France) and a Diploma in Physical Chemistry (Universität Leipzig, Germany).

DR VÉRONIQUE POULSEN

French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) / France

Dr. Véronique Poulsen is a senior ecotoxicologist. She is Head of the Ecotoxicology and Environmental fate Unit in the Regulated Products Department at ANSES (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety). Her team of 30 ecotoxicologist and environmental risk assessors is in charge of the risk assessment of pesticides prior to their authorisation. She has been involved in the organisation of many workshops at EU and international level, related to pesticide risk assessment methodology (e.g. aquatic macrophytes, bees, endocrine disruptors, non-target terrestrial plants, ecosystem services,...) and their regulation. She obtained her PhD in conducted research on aquatic microcosms at INERIS (National Institute of Industrial Environment and Risks, France).

DR KEES ROMIJN

Bayer / France

Kees Romijn is the global head of Regulatory Policy and Issue Management for Bayer CropScience in Monheim Germany. Kees holds degrees in Biology and Insect Pest Management from the Utrecht (NL) and Southampton (UK) universities. In his present position Kees is specifically interested in trend in public opinion and (international) policy that may influence future regulatory provisions for the various crop protection techniques (conventional crop protection products, biologicals, seeds, GM and non-GM traits). Kees has over 20 years of experience working in the agro-industry, mostly related to environmental safety questions around the various crop protection techniques, and how these are considered in regulatory documents. Good regulatory practise and enabling well-informed decision making are within his field of personal interest. He is the current chair of the Environmental Expert Team of the European Crop Protection Association.

DR JÖRG RÖMBKE

ECT GmbH / Germany

Dr. Römbke has a Ph.D. and a Diploma in Biology from the University of Frankfurt a.M.. In 1994, he co-founded ECT Oekotoxikologie GmbH as a private contract research laboratory, where he is still one of two Managing Directors. ECT GmbH is located in Flörsheim/Germany and employs some 35 scientists and technicians. Dr. Römbke is responsible for ecotoxicological and environmental fate tests and environmental risk assessment for the chemical industry, especially in the area of soil ecotoxicology. In addition he works as a consultant for national and international governmental authorities (e.g. in the area of pesticide registration). Dr. Römbke is specialized in the taxonomy of different groups of soil fauna (in particular Oligochaeta such as earthworms and potworms). He was involved in several ecological and ecotoxicological field studies in Germany and other European countries as well as in Brazil. As Chair of ISO TC 190 SC4 he is interested in the development and international standardization of ecotoxicological test methods as well as methods for biological soil monitoring.

DR ILSE SCHOETERS

Rio Tinto / Belgium

Ilse Schoeters is Manager – Global Product Safety and Stewardship at Rio Tinto, a global mining company. One of her key responsibilities is ensuring compliance of Rio Tinto's Copper & Coal products with product legislation worldwide (e.g. REACH, GHS).

She was trained as an environmental engineer - specialisation soil science at the Catholic University of Leuven – Belgium and started her career as a researcher. In this role she was amongst others involved in the European risk assessment of Cadmium for the environment.

From there she moved on to the metals industry where she held positions at Eurometaux, the European association representing the non-ferrous metal industry, and the European Copper Institute before joining Rio Tinto. In these roles she built up more than 15 years of experience with hazard and risk assessment of metals, from coordination of research to application of the research results in hazards and risk assessments of metals for regulatory compliance (Existing Substances regulation, REACH, GHS) and development of guidance documents. Projects in which she held key responsibilities include:

-the development of a model to predict the toxicity of Copper in soils and application of the model in the European risk assessment of Copper.

-the GEMAS project, which resulted in the mapping of the geochemical background for over 60 chemical elements in addition to the parameters determining their availability in soil across Western Europe.

PROF DR JOSÉ PAULO SOUSA

University of Coimbra / Portugal

Professor at the Department of Life Sciences – University of Coimbra (UC), and a senior researcher at CFE-Centre for Functional Ecology. With over 120 papers published in indexed journals, he has been developing research on soil ecology and soil ecotoxicology. On soil ecology, his activities are focused on the development and validation of ecological and biodiversity indicators (using soil invertebrates and trait based approaches) to assess changes in soil quality derived from changes in land-use and landscape fragmentation in agricultural and forest systems. More recently he is interested in evaluating effects of extreme climatic events on soil organisms and service provision in agro-forest systems (in Mediterranean and sub-tropical systems). Regarding soil ecotoxicology, he has been working mainly in the Mediterranean region and the tropics (mainly Brazil) focusing on the development and adaptation of bioassays with soil organisms to assess effects of chemical substances and wastes on soil quality and to integrate in ERA schemes of contaminated soils. He is also involved in evaluating interaction between climate change and pesticides on soil communities and service provisioning and in the development of new approaches to assess effects of pesticides on soil-water interfaces. He is also involved in the elaboration of test guidelines with soil invertebrates edited by ISO and OECD. Between 2009 and 2015 he was a member of the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) Scientific Panel for Pesticides, being involved in the elaboration of the new technical guidance documents for pesticide registration in Europe. He still collaborates with EFSA as an external expert in different working groups. Since 2014 he has been appointed head of the thematic panel for Pesticides and GMOs for the Portuguese Food Safety Agency (ASAE). Besides doing active research he is also involved in consulting involving both prospective (for Portuguese paper industry and Shell Thiogro) and retrospective risk assessment (for PETROBRÁS) activities.

DR CORNELIS A.M. VAN GESTEL

Vrije Universiteit / Netherlands

Dr. Cornelis A. M. (Kees) van Gestel has been working as Associate Professor of Ecotoxicology at the VU University in Amsterdam since 1992, where he is teaching biology, ecology and (eco)toxicology at BSc, MSc and PhD level. He has been supervising over 35 PhD students. His research is mainly on soil ecotoxicology with main interests in issues like bioavailability, mixture toxicity, toxicokinetics and toxicodynamics, the assessment of field-contaminated soils and ecological risk assessment. Dr. van Gestel has authored or co-authored over 250 papers in peer reviewed journals, 3 books, >25 book chapters, and >60 reports. His H factor is 43. He is Editor of Applied Soil Ecology and member of the editorial boards of Ecotoxicology, Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety and Environmental Pollution. He had several risk assessment related advisory tasks, e.g. on the behaviour and side-effects of pesticides within the frame-work of the Dutch Pesticide Act, on the setting of standards for soil and water quality and on deriving criteria for soil clean-up urgency on the basis of ecotoxicological data, and within the frame-work of the Netherlands Health Council. He currently is member of the Netherlands Advisory Group on the Risk Assessment of chemicals in air and water. He was on the steering committee of the SETAC Global Soils Advisory Group, and currently is member of the Registration Committee of the SETAC Europe Certification of Environmental Risk Assessor programme. Dr. van Gestel studied Environmental Sciences at Wageningen University. From 1981, he worked as a scientific advisor on pesticide risk assessment at the Dutch National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). At RIVM he also started his research in soil ecotoxicology based on which he obtained his PhD from Utrecht University in 1991.

Speakers

MR BRUCE CALLOW

Exponent International Ltd / United Kingdom

Bruce Callow is a Senior Managing Scientist in Exponent International Ltd's Health Sciences Centre for Chemical Regulation and Food Safety, based in their Harrogate office in the United Kingdom. His current role is the provision of expert regulatory advice relating to the environmental fate of agrochemicals, biocides and industrial chemicals including the performance of environmental risk assessments and modelling. He has over 20 years' regulatory experience; the majority of which is in environmental risk assessment, with 15 years working in industry as a consultant. Prior to this he worked for the UK Chemicals Regulation Directorate (then PSD). Mr Callow received a Bachelor's degree in Zoology (Animal Ecology) from the University of Aberdeen and a Master's degree in Ecotoxicology from the University of Reading.

DR JANET CERMAK

Environment Canada / Canada

Dr. Janet Cermak has 8 years' experience as a Senior Evaluator with the Ecological Assessment Division of Environment Canada, where she conducts regulatory assessments of chemical substances, especially petroleum-related substances. Prior to this, she worked in the soil laboratory of a consulting firm as an ecotoxicologist and consultant. In this capacity, she conducted soil toxicity tests with plants, earthworms and collembola on petroleum hydrocarbons in support of the Canada-wide Standards for Petroleum Hydrocarbons, as well as on other substances, and prepared a review of factors affecting the bioavailability of petroleum hydrocarbons in soil. In addition, she has participated on committees related to Environment Canada's soil test methods, including the Scientific Advisory Committee for Environment Canada's biological test method with springtails, the review committees for Environment Canada's "Tests for Toxicity of Soil to Earthworms" and "Guidance Document on Statistical Methods for Environmental Toxicity Tests", and participated in Environment Canada's workshop "Toxicity Test Methodologies for Assessing the Impacts of Contaminant Mixtures in Soil Using Terrestrial Species of Ecological Relevance to Canadian Soil Systems". Her doctoral research was on the toxicity and bioaccumulation of petroleum hydrocarbons by soil organisms. Dr. Cermak received a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Toxicology) and a Master of Science (Environmental Biology/Toxicology) from the University of Guelph, and her Ph.D. (Biology/Environmental Toxicology) from the University of Waterloo.

DR ROMANAS CESNAITIS

European Chemicals Agency / Finland

Dr Romanas Cesnaitis is working at the Evaluation directorate since June 2009. He is involved in the dossier and substance evaluation activities as well as in verification of intermediate status of registrations. His main area of expertise is environmental risk assessment - hazard identification and exposure assessment - of chemicals. Romanas Cesnaitis studied chemical engineering (M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering) at the Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania. In 2008 he obtained degree of Doctor of Science in the field of environmental technology at the Institute of Environmental Engineering, Lithuania. He began his career at the Institute of Environmental Engineering as the researcher dealing with risk assessment and management of chemicals and hazardous waste.

DR DAVID W. CHARTERS

US EPA, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation / United States of America

Dr. Charters is an ecological and human health risk assessment expert in the Environmental Response Team in Edison, New Jersey. Dr. Charters also serves as the Superfund Ecological Risk Program Manager in the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Information (OSRTI) and serves as Ecological Science Advisor to the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). As part of his job Dr. Charters responds to chemical and WMD incidents and assists in the evaluation and remediation of these incidents. He works on national policy workgroups for OSRTI and OSWER and is the Project Officer for Interagency Agreements with the Natural Resource Trustees.

Dr. Charters attended Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York where he received his degree in Biological Sciences. He continued his studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton in Binghamton, New York where he received his doctorate in Biology (Environmental Pathology). Dr. Charters eventually moved into environmental studies when initial studies were conducted out of SUNY Binghamton and Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York to evaluate indigenous small mammals for effects of living on, or near the Love Canal Hazardous Waste site in Niagara Falls, New York .

After joining EPA in 1985, Dr. Charters has specialized in risk assessment. He co-authored the Superfund Ecological Risk Assessment Guidance for Superfund with Dr. Mark Sprenger also of EPA. He has numerous domestic and international responses and has responded to the September 11th World Trade Center, the Anthrax Contamination of the Legislative Offices in Washington, DC as well as serving as Environmental Unit Leader for the Federal Katrina Hurricane Response and assisting the Deep Water Horizon with Quality Assurance issues. His most recent response has been leading the Environmental Unit for the Gold King Mine Spill in Colorado.

DR MICHEL CLAESSENS

Chemours / Belgium

Dr Michiel Claessens is an ecotoxicologist employed by The Chemours Company and has been working in industry for 4 years. He received a MSc in Biology from Antwerp University (Belgium) in 2005, a Master's degree in Environmental Sanitation from Ghent University (Belgium) in 2006, and a Ph.D in Applied Biological Sciences (Environmental Technology) from Ghent University in 2013. His doctoral research focused on the use of passive sampling and passive dosing techniques as central tools in integrated environmental risk assessments of

micropollutants. In addition, he participated in two research projects which focused on the occurrence of microplastics in the marine environment and their potential adverse effects on marine organisms. In his current role, he performs environmental hazard and fate assessments of industrial compounds and provides general environmental support to Chemours businesses. His main areas of interest include PBT assessment of chemicals, hazard assessment of chemical mixtures and life-cycle assessment.

DR GREGOR ERNST

Bayer CropScience AG / Germany

Gregor Ernst is a soil ecologist employed by Bayer CropScience AG. For about six years he worked in chemical industry where his work focused on risk assessment of plant protection products for non-target organisms, in particular for soil organisms. He actively contributes to the development of new testing and risk assessment approaches aiming to improve the current soil risk assessment scheme. Prior to working for chemical industry his research focused on earthworms, i.e. on community developments in agricultural soil ecosystems, the functional significance of earthworms in soil, and their interaction with soil micro-organisms.

DR MICHAEL KLEIN

Fraunhofer IME / Germany

Michael Klein is a senior scientist who joined Fraunhofer in 1987 after finishing his degree in Chemistry. He is an environmental fate modeller and developed about 20 computer models (e.g. FOCUS PELMO, FOCUS STEPS, ESCAPE, AppDate) which are currently used in different regulation on EU and national level. He was member of various EU-FOCUS working groups and involved in the development of fate guidelines related to pesticides. As a member of the EFSA PPR Panel he participated in the EFSA working group that developed the new EFSA PECsoil guidance. Michael Klein was also chair of the working groups that developed the guidance on tiered risk assessment for plant protection products for aquatic organisms in edge-of-field surface waters and the related EFSA opinion for sediment organisms. For some years Michael Klein is teaching at the university (RWTH) of Aachen, topic "Modelling of the fate of chemical substances in the environment". In addition, he also organises training courses in the field of environmental fate modelling and interpretation of experimental studies for stakeholders.

DR KOEN OORTS

ARCHE / Belgium

Dr Koen Oorts is senior project scientist at ARCHE, a consulting company based in Belgium. He obtained his master's degree in environmental engineering and his Ph.D. in applied biological sciences from the University in Leuven (Belgium). After his Ph.D., Koen worked as a postdoc researcher at the Division for Soil and Water Management at the same university on research projects related to metal bioavailability and toxicity in soils. In 2009, he was a co-founder of ARCHE. His main expertise area comprises the fate and behaviour of substances in the environment, soil chemistry and terrestrial ecotoxicology, with special focus on the development of predictive models for bioavailability and toxicity of contaminants in soils and their implementation in various regulatory frameworks. He is involved in several, mainly metal related, risk assessments (e.g. under REACH). Dr Oorts is co-author of more than 20 papers or book chapters on toxicity and risk assessment of metals in soil and contributed to several guidance documents on environmental risk assessment of metals.

DR JOSE-JULIO ORTEGA-CALVO

Institute for Nature Resources and Agrobiology, CSIC / Spain

Dr. José-Julio Ortega-Calvo is scientific researcher at Institute of Natural Resources and Agrobiology, from Spanish National Research Council (IRNAS-CSIC), Seville (Spain) and head of the research team "Bioremediation and Bioavailability". After obtaining his Ph.D. in 1991, he worked on different aspects of microbial ecology during postdoctoral stays in Amsterdam University (The Netherlands) and Cornell University (USA), and obtained his permanent position as tenured scientist at IRNAS in 1996. He has experience in microbiology and environmental chemistry, working on microbial aspects of bioavailability of organic pollutants since the last 21 years. He is the author of 70 SCI publications with an h index of 26. Dr. Ortega has wide experience in leading national and international research projects, having led 13 projects (total cost €1.8 million) since 1997. He is the current Vicepresident of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) -Europe, and President in 2016.

DR AARON REDMAN

ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc. / United States of America

Mr Redman provides support on the environmental fate and effects of contaminants to ExxonMobil. He has spent the last 15 years interested in the bioavailability of metals and organics with an emphasis on the toxicity of complex petroleum substances. Mr. Redman has written, or contributed to, nearly 25 papers on the application of mechanistic modeling and passive sampling to study the environmental behaviour of contaminants. This work includes development of the PETROTOX and PETRORISK models, which are widely used in the petroleum industry to perform hazard and risk assessments for complex petroleum substances for REACH. Mr. Redman's undergraduate degree is in Microbiology from Brigham Young University, with a Master's degree in Environmental Science from the Colorado School of Mines.

DR CHRISTIAN SCHLEKAT

Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association / United States of America

Chris Schlekat is a Senior Environmental Toxicologist with the Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association (NiPERA). He has been with NiPERA since 2003, and has supported the Nickel Industry's risk assessment needs in regulatory frameworks that include the European Union's Existing Substances Regulation, REACH, and the Water Framework Directive. He has research and risk assessment experience in all environmental compartments, including aquatic (freshwater and marine), sediment, and soil, as well as involvement in assessments of secondary poisoning and exposure of humans through environmental sources. A focus of his work has been the development of bioavailability relationships between ecotoxicity endpoints and Ni exposure, and the incorporation of these concepts into regulatory risk assessment. He has a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology from the University of South Carolina, a MS in Marine Science from the University of Delaware, and a BA in biology from Case Western Reserve University. Prior to joining NiPERA, he has worked for the Maryland Department of the Environment, the US Geological Survey, and Rio Tinto Borax. He has over 40 publications in environmental and human health toxicology and risk assessment, and has been a board certified toxicologist (Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology) since 2009.

DR BJÖRN SCHOLZ-STARKE

RWTH Aachen University / Germany

Dr. Björn Scholz-Starke is employed as a research assistant by the Institute of Environmental Research of the RWTH Aachen University since the year 2004, interrupted only by a 1.5 year employment at the Federal Environmental Agency of Germany (UBA). At UBA, he was entrusted with national and European level registration issues of plant protection products and in His main research interests focus on the impact and risks of current agricultural practices on biodiversity and the analysis of complex patterns of terrestrial and soil biocoenoses under stress. He participated in international workshops on risk assessment in soil and is experienced in bridging scientific and regulatory viewpoints. He published and presented contributions on aquatic and soil risk assessment, applying statistical and modelling methodologies. Dr. Scholz-Starke received a Diploma degree in Environmental Sciences and a Ph. D. in Ecotoxicology from the RWTH Aachen University.

DR MARTA SOBANSKA

European Chemicals Agency/ Finland

Marta Sobanska joined the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on 1 March 2009. She is working in the Directorate of Evaluation as an expert of environmental toxicology. She is also involved in coordination of CoRAP developments and some activities related to the substance evaluation process. Before joining ECHA she worked for seven years at the European Chemicals Bureau at the Joint Research Centre - European Commission firstly as a post-doctoral fellow and then as a scientific officer working on REACH Implementation Projects and the risk assessment of chemicals under various regulatory frameworks. She has been a member of different policy and expert groups in the European Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Marta has studied biology and environmental science and policy. She obtained her PhD in the field of environmental chemistry at the Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland.