Joint Publication Arrangement between "Environmental Health Perspectives" and the Toxicology Information Program

by Henry M. Kissman*

The following review article, "Toxicity and Health Threats of Phthalate Esters," by John Autian, was sponsored by the Toxicology Information Program of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. It is the first in a series to be prepared for publication in this journal.

The Toxicology Information Program was organized at the National Library of Medicine in 1967, following recommendations in a 1966 Presidential Science Advisory Committee report on the "Handling of Toxicological Information." It has two overall objectives: to create automated toxicology data banks, using data from the scientific literature and the files of collaborating government, industrial, and academic organizations; and to establish toxicology information services for the scientific community.

In order to fulfill the latter objective, the Toxicology Information Program sponsors the production of review articles on topics of special current interest in toxicology, with particular emphasis on environmental toxicology. Recognized experts submit proposals for writing such reviews; these proposals are evaluated and ranked in order of importance by the Toxicology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health. The preparation of the actual article is funded by a contract between the author and the Toxicology Information Response Center (TIRC) at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This center is affiliated with, and wholly funded by, the Library's Toxicology Information Program. Completed manuscripts are then submitted, in the usual manner, to the editor of *Environmental Health Perspectives.*

The Toxicology Information Program has also devised two other modes of disseminating toxicology information to the scientific community: (1) TIRC performs literature searches in toxicology, on demand; a partial cost recovery fee of $50 being charged for each search;† (2) the Toxicology Information Program operates an on-line, interactive toxicology information retrieval service called TOXICON,‡ provided via a nationwide communications network. It gives users access on their own terminals to citations, abstracts, keywords, and index terms for some 250,000 journal articles in toxicology and related fields from 1965 to the present.

We hope that this collaborative publishing venture between the National Institute of

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† To request literature searches, contact Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Toxicology Information Response Center, P.O. Box Y, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.

‡ More information about TOXICON can be obtained by writing to Informatics Inc., 6000 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Environmental Health Sciences, the sponsor of *Environmental Health Perspectives*, and the Toxicology Information Program, will create a steady flow of review articles in environmental toxicology useful to the scientific community.

Readers interested in preparing state-of-the-art reviews or learning more about the Toxicology Information Program, should write this author at the National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.