

The UPCC Celebrates 50 years of Excellence

The poison center movement began in 1950 when the American Academy of Pediatrics established an injury prevention committee to look at ways to reduce injuries in children. In the early 1950's, poisoning was one of the most common injuries. A serious problem at that time was the lack of good information on product ingredients. As a result, the Chicago chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics established the first poison center in 1953. The poison center gathered product information and disseminated the information to other pediatricians so that they were better informed to treat their patients who had ingested household products. The first poison center in Utah was established in 1954, making it the 2nd or 3rd poison center to be established in the United States.

Alan K. Done, MD, a pediatrician, established the first poison center in Utah at Salt Lake General Hospital. It was located in the emergency department (ED) and ED staff would answer the phones and consult with Dr. Done as needed. Like its predecessor in Chicago, the Utah poison center was primarily a service to physicians.

In 1966, Anthony R. Temple, MD, then a chief pediatric resident, began working with Dr. Done. Drs. Done and Temple developed the concept for regional poison centers. This led to a change in focus of the service from physician only to a service that anyone could call. This concept became the Intermountain Regional Poison Control Center (IRPCC), established in 1971. They were also commissioned to author a paper on the regionalization concept for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Later, Dr. Temple would assist the American Association of Poison Control Centers in authoring guidelines for regional poison control centers. The concept of regional poison control centers still holds today.

The College of Pharmacy is an integral part of the poison center history. Through the efforts of Dean Ewart Swinyard

and a graduate student in the Department of Biopharmaceutical Science, David George, the poison center was identified as a rich environment for students. Dr. Done developed a student training manual that was used by Drs. George and Temple to train pharmacy and medical students. When the hospital moved to its current location on the University of Utah campus, the poison center moved also.

The IRPCC began operation in 1971 and was located in a room adjacent to the emergency department at University Hospital. While Dr. Done left in 1971 to work for the FDA, his influence was strong in the teaching curriculum of the program. Initial funding was obtained from the Intermountain Medical Program and through an NIH training grant. Dr. Temple was the IRPCC's first director and Dr. George, the associate director. The IRPCC served the entire state of Utah and provided outreach to some of the surrounding states in early years.

Joseph Veltri, PharmD was the first employee hired by the IRPCC. When Dr. George left in 1973 to become the director of the Center for Human Toxicology, Dr. Veltri was appointed associated director. Dr. Veltri later became the director and held that role until 1992. Barbara Insley Crouch, PharmD, MSPH joined the IRPCC in 1990 as the associate director. She was appointed director in 1992.

Many pharmacy students and medical students have trained and worked at the Intermountain Regional Poison Control Center over the years. The program grew and flourished under the direction of Drs. Temple and Veltri. Staffing changed from a primarily student run program to paid dedicated staff and eventually 24-hour staffing. Funding was obtained from the Utah Department of Health as well as other sources.

The poison center has had two other medical directors since Drs. Done and Temple. Douglas E. Rollins, MD, PhD

joined the IRPCC in 1980 as the medical director, a title he held until 2000 when he stepped down to become Medical Director for Doping Control for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Dr. Rollins is currently the associate medical director. In 1987, E. Martin Caravati, MD, MPH joined the poison center as the associate medical director. He did a preceptorship with Dr. Rollins and became board certified in medical toxicology in 1999. He assumed the position of medical director in 2000.

Funding became a critical issue in the 1990's. The center was threatened with closure on more than one occasion. While primary funding was provided by the Utah Department of Health, the poison center outgrew that funding source. In 1998, the Utah legislature passed Senate Bill 221 which established a surcharge on all phone lines to fund the poison center. This landmark legislation stabilized the funding for the poison center and allowed the center to become fully staffed and expand its services throughout the state. The poison center changed its name in 1992 to the Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) to more accurately reflect the service area.

UPCC Staff

The backbone of the poison center is its staff. The UPCC has a tremendous team of professionals who support all aspects of the program and includes specialists in poison information, pharmacist-preceptors, educators, toxicologists, administrators and student interns. Together this team ensures that the UPCC carries out its mission to prevent and minimize adverse health effects from a poison exposure through education, service, and research. The specialists in poison information are pharmacists and nurses with intensive training in clinical toxicology. The current staff is a tremendously talented group who come from varied backgrounds. Nurses have at least 3 years of emergency department or intensive care experience. Our current group of nurses also have experience in public health, dialysis, cardiology, information technology, forensic nursing and emergency preparedness. One pharmacist staff member originally began working in 1973 as a pharmacy student. The

professionals at the UPCC are dedicated to serving all of Utah and to especially helping other health care professionals in the management of poisoned patients.

Our public education team is directed by Marty Malheiro, MS, CHES with assistance from Joel Arvizo, a health education intern, and pharmacy students from the College of Pharmacy. Together this team has reached over 20,000 individuals in 2004. Professional education is under the leadership of Drs. Caravati and Crouch who provide educational presentations to health care providers.

Facility Locations

The poison center has had a variety of homes. It began in the ED at the Salt Lake General Hospital and moved to University Hospital when it was opened. The poison center remained in the ED at University Hospital until 1993 when it moved to Research Park. The current space has back-up generator power and also houses the Office of Information Technology, which maintains the network and communications for the entire University.

Information Resources

The poison center currently uses many electronic and print references to assist in the management of poisoning exposures. Prior to the electronic age, a file card system was the first product reference system available to poison centers. This system was initiated in the 1950's and replaced by a microfiche system in the 1970's. The microfiche product evolved into a computer based product that became available in the late 1980's. It evolved from a main-frame to a CD-Rom based product and was available across a variety of network platforms. Today our computers are state-of-the art. In addition to the computer databases, the poison center maintains a confidential electronic medical record system. The poison center maintains a library of over 250 references and holds subscriptions to several journals that publish toxicology related articles.

The Utah Poison Control Center expresses its sincere thanks to

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for their generous contribution that allows us to produce and distribute this newsletter.

About the "Founding Fathers"

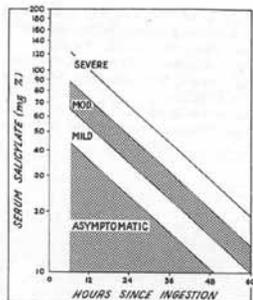


Alan K. Done, MD

Dr. Done passed away March 18, 1999 in Salt Lake City Utah. He is most known for the development of the "Done Nomogram" for salicylate poisoning.

Dr. George left the University in 1980 to work for American Home Products (Whitehall Robbins Corporation). He retired several years ago as Senior Director for Regulatory Toxicology.

Dr. Temple was elected as the President of the American Association of Poison Control Centers in 1980 and McNeil Consumer Products Company hired him that same year. Dr. Temple is currently Vice President for Medical and Regulatory Affairs and McNeil Consumer and Specialty Pharmaceuticals. During his 24 years at McNeil he has overseen the funding for several medical and clinical toxicology fellowship training programs throughout the United States, supported the production of the American Association of Poison Control Centers Toxic Exposure Surveillance System Annual Report



"Done Nomogram"



Anthony R. Temple, MD

and supported numerous poison centers nationwide in their academic endeavors. Dr. Temple is currently chair of the UPCC Advisory board.

Dr. Veltri is currently a Research Director at Glaxo Smithkline



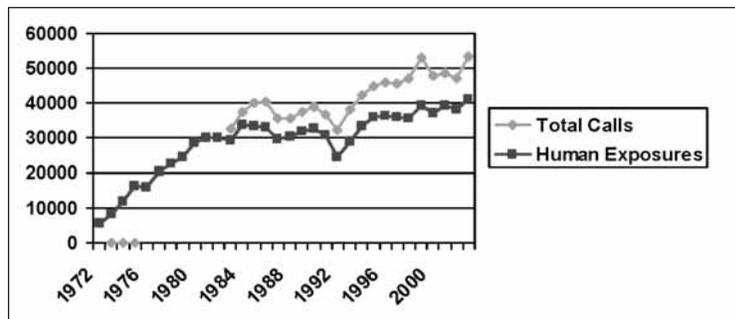
Joseph C. Veltri, PharmD

in Parsippany, New Jersey.

Thank You

The UPCC had a big birthday this year....and we wish to thank all those in the health care community that have made our continuing success possible. We look forward to another 50 years of providing expert poison center services to the state.

Calls To Poison Center 1972-2003



Regional Certification Status

The Utah Poison Control Center was one of the first poison centers to achieve regionalization status and has maintained that status ever since. The UPCC recently received a five-year extension to its national certification effective until 2009.

Frustrated With the Phone Menu?

Health care professionals can skip listening to the message on the UPCC's phone menu by pressing "1" then "2" as soon as the message begins. Pressing these numbers allows you to skip the message and places your call in line for the next available specialist in poison information.



Meet the UPCC Staff

Scott Marshall has been employed at the UPCC on a full-time basis for nearly 2 years. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry in 1995, then completed his training with the University of Utah College of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy program in 2000. Poisonous creatures and plants and toxic alcohols are several topics of special interest to him. When away from the poison center, Scott enjoys biking, skiing, and gardening.

New Employees

The Utah Poison Control Center is pleased to welcome Su Bryner-Brown, RN, BSN, Deborah Melle, RN, BS and Sandee Oliver, RN, BSN as Specialists in Poison Information. These great ladies come from varied backgrounds including forensics, bioterrorism/disaster planning, and information technology in addition to emergency and critical care nursing. Welcome!

Utah Poison Control Center Staff

Director

Barbara Insley Crouch, PharmD, MSPH

Medical Director

E. Martin Caravati, MD, MPH

Associate Medical Director

Douglas E. Rollins, MD, PhD

Assistant Director

Heather Bennett, MPA

Office Support

Renate Hulen

Katrina Jensen

Specialists in Poison Information

Kathleen T. Anderson, PharmD, CSPI*

Su Bryner-Brown, RN, BSN

Bradley D. Dahl, PharmD, CSPI*

David Evans, PharmD, RPh, CSPI*

Scott Marshall, PharmD, CSPI*

Deborah Melle, RN, BS

Ed Moltz, RN, BSN, CSPI*

Sandee Oliver, RN, BSN

John Stromness, BS Pharm, RPh, CSPI*

Mary Towns, RN

Erlynn R. Wallace, RN, CSPI*

Outreach Education Provider

Marty C. Malheiro, MS, CHES

Intern, Community Outreach

Joel Arvizo

Intern, Information Technology

John Roth

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*CSPI denotes Certified Specialist in
Poison Information.

Advanced HAZMAT Life Support (AHLS) Course

The date for the nationally accredited AHLS Course is set for March 16-18, 2005 in Salt Lake City. The 2-day provider course will provide a complete and in depth review of HAZMAT principles, toxic agents, biological agents and antidotes for all health care professionals involved in pre-hospital and emergency care (EMS, nurses, pharmacists and physicians). The format is both lecture and interactive case study sessions and focuses on medical management. The third day is for those wishing to certify as AHLS instructors. Continuing education credit is approved by ACEP for 23 hours. The registration deadline is January 21, 2005. For more information, please see our website at <http://uuhsc.utah.edu/poison/current/ahls.htm>.

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