

# *Current Awareness in Clinical Toxicology*

*Editors: Sarah Cage MSc and Allister Vale MD*

*Current Awareness in Clinical Toxicology* (CACT) is a monthly publication which gives a comprehensive list of up-to-date references relevant to clinical toxicology. It is produced by the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) (Birmingham Centre) and funded by the UK Departments of Health, primarily as a service for the UK NPIS. However, CACT is also distributed by the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and the European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists to their members, thereby offering a considerable saving in time and effort for clinical toxicologists worldwide. It provides key coverage of topics in clinical, occupational and environmental toxicology. References are entered into a bibliographic database program to eliminate multiple citations. This gives a searchable database which can also be used to support the writing of scientific papers. Some 70 per cent of citations also have abstracts included in the *Reference Manager* file.

Downloading monthly *Reference Manager* files potentially gives clinical toxicologists the opportunity to build a comprehensive database of useful references. The current monthly file of CACT is available on the NPIS (Birmingham Centre) website (<http://www.npis.org/cact/cact.htm>). It can be downloaded as a self-extracting zip file, which automatically converts to a *Reference Manager* database, including keywords and broad subject headings, and abstracts for some references. This needs the *Reference Manager* program (available from ISI ResearchSoft - <http://www.refman.com>) to read and search the files. Annual *Reference Manager* files of CACT are also available from the website. These cover all the references included in the CACT issues for 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 and the previously published issues of CACT for 2004. They have been produced as annual compilations including any corrections to the date of production of the file.

To use the monthly (or annual) database, download the file (cact.exe) from the website. Then double click on it to extract it, and save it in the directory containing your other *Reference Manager* database files. (Extracting gives two files: a .rmd data file and a .rmx index file). To search the database, open *Reference Manager* and select the required database. To transfer citations from the new database to a master database, you need to have both databases open in *Reference Manager*. You can then select "References – Copy between databases", and choose whether to copy the highlighted reference, all marked references, all unmarked references, or all references in the list.

The NPIS (Birmingham Centre) upgraded to Reference Manager Version 10 in 2002. Databases are now produced in Version 10 only. To produce a Version 9 database from the Version 10 files, delete the .rmx file, and rebuild the database (tools – rebuild database) in Reference Manager 9

As an alternative to the *Reference Manager* files, a monthly print version of CACT can be downloaded from the website as an Adobe Acrobat pdf file. The citations in this are indexed and grouped under broad subject headings, however the file is not searchable and does not include keywords or abstracts.

**NPIS**

*Current Awareness in Clinical Toxicology* is produced monthly by the Birmingham Centre of the UK National Poisons Information Service. The NPIS is supported by the UK Departments of Health