

PCB Workshop “Persistent Problems Require Persistent Solutions” Meeting Report

The NIEHS – supported 6th International PCB Workshop, May 30 – June 2, 2010, entitled “[Persistent Problems Require Persistent Solutions](#)”, held in Visby, Sweden, was a great success. Meeting attendees enjoyed more than 55 oral presentations and 53 poster presentations over three full days, six sessions, and other activities. One highlight was the participation of Soren Jensen, the discoverer of PCBs in the Arctic some 45 years ago. He gave a presentation entitled: “PCBs and then? Could Compounds of PCB-phenols be Responsible for Loss of Chemical Energy in Aquatic Ecosystems?”

The meeting organizer, Nilkas Johansson of the Swedish EPA, was a great organizer and a gracious host. Helen Hakansson of the Karolinska Institute, contributed many presenters from the Institute’s recently completed EC FP6 research project ATHON, dealing with the effects of non-dioxin-like PCBs.

Despite the relative difficulty of traveling to Visby, the Workshop was well attended, with nearly 130 participants making the trek to an island in the Baltic Sea. The venue itself was perfect, an ancient walled Hansa city, with beautiful views of the Sea and most pleasant surroundings. The conference facilities were modern, comfortable and spacious. Hotel rooms were plentiful and comfortable. Food and drink, an important aspect of any conference, were excellent.

Two special issues have arisen from the previous Workshop held in Iowa City, IA. One has already been published: [Environmental Science & Technology/Special Focus Issue: PCB Sources, Exposures and Toxicities](#) (20 papers, guest commentary, and several summary articles) April 15, 2010, Volume 44, Issue 8, Pages 2747-3200. The publication of a second special issue in [Environment International](#) is anticipated in September.