

A brief history of the workshop, and some advice

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A brief history

This year the International Workshops on QSAR in Environmental Toxicology mark their 25th year of existence. Having had the pleasure of being closely associated with it from the outset, it is my great pleasure to give a brief history.

From small beginnings in 1983 and 1986, with the workshops held at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, they workshops were convened every second year, pretty much alternating between European and North American venues. The following will just give you the dates, locations and chairs of the workshops and information on the proceedings.

Some advice

There are many QSAR publications, even in peer reviewed journals, which suffer from a number of problems. Most frequently, their roots lie in inadequate or incorrect information on the compounds studied, resulting in unintentional duplicates (often with different biological data), identical compounds in training and testing sets, and the resulting faulty statistics.

In a nutshell, many of these problems could easily have been avoided by sorting the data and checking for duplicates and inconsistencies.