The Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology (SCAHT) in collaboration with Agrexis, Exponent and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) welcome registrations to the Operator and Consumer Exposure module of the Advanced Study Programme in Regulatory Sciences.

Outline of module
The Operator and Consumer Exposure module is the fourth element on the Advanced Study Programme in Regulatory Sciences. The module is designed to give course participants a broad and introductory understanding of operator and consumer exposure relevant to the agrochemical and chemical businesses.

Objectives
Following the risk assessment paradigm the potential health impact posed by the presence of chemical hazards is estimated by comparing human exposure to chemicals with health-based guidance values derived from safety studies. Exposure assessment however is often considered to be the ‘Achilles heel’ of risk assessment because of the difficulties in obtaining accurate and comprehensive exposure information. This lack of data creates concerns about exposure misclassification and serves as a justification for conservative approaches in risk management based on worst-case estimations. Therefore risk assessors and risk managers need to better understand how to refine existing methods aimed at assessing actual exposure.

Target audience
This module is aimed at risk assessors and risk managers in any industry sector, regulatory authority or academic institution dealing with human and environmental risk assessment and management of xenobiotics. The module is designed to complement other modules on the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Regulatory Sciences programme or can be taken as a stand-alone teaching week.

Outline of the module
This one week module will give a general introduction to exposure assessment covering the main types of exposure and the main routes of exposure. It will introduce the current state-of-the-art methodologies for exposure assessment approaches and the regulatory frameworks for pesticides, biocides, industrial chemicals and cosmetics. The course will illustrate (1) that although various guidance documents on exposure assessment have been developed over the years there is little harmonisation across and even within disciplines, (2) show how understanding the current challenges in exposure assessment can help in successfully refining existing methods to derive better risk assessment and risk management decisions. The course is structured by theoretical sessions summarizing current exposure assessment knowledge followed by case studies to deepen the understanding of the challenges associated with the lack of accurate and/or comprehensive data. Course participants are required to pass an exam on the final day of the module.
Learning objectives
After completion of this module participants should be able to understand the

- fundamental concepts of exposure assessment
- major challenges associated with exposure assessment
- methodological differences among different approaches
- importance of sensitivity analyses to test the validity of exposure assumptions

Key Topics covered
- Basic concepts of exposure
- Exposure scenarios and exposure studies
- Human exposure risk assessment to pesticides and biocides
- Exposure to veterinary drug residues
- Exposure to compounds in cosmetics
- Exposure to plant protection product residues
- Exposure to compounds migrating from food contact materials
- Exposure to compounds migrating from toys

Registration
The cost of this module is 3,500 CHF, which includes a presentation folder and all other teaching materials. The participant must meet all travel and subsistence expenses. A reduced fee of 1,750 CHF is available for members of Universities or regulatory authorities. Please register for the module by completing the details on the Registration Form. Places are limited to a maximum of 25 delegates therefore early registration is recommended. Booking will be confirmed by email after registration and final module details will be sent out to delegates in May 2014.

Further information
Further information regarding the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) Regulatory Sciences programme can be found on the University of Basel website on the following link, Regulatory Sciences Programme. For specific information, contact Helen Smethurst, Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology, Tel. +41 61 267 1959 or email: helen.smethurst(at)unibas.ch

Teaching faculty
The teaching faculty for this module is facilitated by expert staff at Agrexis, Exponent and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH).