

Dose-Response Specialty Group, January 7, 2003

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Ann Bostrom, the SRA liaison officer attended the call and she invited a discussion of what is that makes DRSG be as successful as we are. We indicated monthly calls with the option to pass when nothing is critical, the Yahoo list server where central mailings are coordinated, the quarterly risk telefora with pre-mailed presentation materials (accessed through posting on Yahoo), and our work to hold a competition for student travel funding. Ann invited us to call on or identify to Council when we wanted or needed their help. She asked for suggestions which could lead to a higher success with the specialty groups and increase the value we got from the annual meeting. Several points were discussed, including 1) developing a specific meeting of specialty section presidents with SRA council, 2) consider providing the specialty sections with specifically allocated resources (travel money, free meeting registration) which we can use to promote attendance at the national meeting – the intent was that these resources not be deducted from our section funds as they are now, 3) assist in advertising to promote section-based student competitions, 4) consider inviting each specialty section to develop and submit an idea for a roundtable discussion on a highly important topic for that section. We were encouraged to take advantage of SRA's distribution of student travel awards, which are distinct from section-based student competition awards. We may consider this as an additional marketing tool for our efforts at recruiting

Next Year's meeting will be on the harbor in Baltimore, and we may anticipate help from the Washington/Baltimore-based SRA members, Kara Morgan at RTI may be a good contact. Given the location of the meeting, we may be able to make maximal use of travel funds (student awards), given the high concentration of risk assessors and students potentially interested in risk assessment in the Metro DC area.

DRSG-sponsored SRA sessions went well. Attendance at the Endocrine Disruptor session could have been better, perhaps the session was more toxicologically-oriented than were the bulk of SRA attendees. The short-term exposure limits session went well, some early speakers were absent, it presented some novel information, some suggested that including EPA/OW to show diversity of short-term methods was not adequately compensated by the absence of new methods in the presentation; the Round Table session went OK, panelists may have been too many in number, and their remarks addressed a large number of individual topics and cut too far into audience participation time; poster session on dose-response was not overly well attended, but the attendees were really interested – the session formed as a small group and toured the posters as such.

Notes on the annual DRSG Business meeting have been posted on the website.

Electronics: Paul has done a bang-up good job of hosting the DRSG's website, taking charge of helping those who are not computer-gifted, modifying the mailing list and posting files for the telefora. There seem to be no real concerns over the theft of posted intellectual property, if such arise, we can use SRA's web site for security.

Any Lessons Learned this year? (-) we should further promote the student award competition, (-) we should try to better make the point to the SRA meeting planning committee that dose-response sessions are often run concurrently, (+) the electronics communication medium is working rather well, (-) the mixer might not need a speaker inasmuch as the entire meeting is devoted to scientific communication – can we consider not having a speaker for the next mixer?, (-) we need not to have to scramble to get candidates for officer positions.

Put more mix in the mixer: Some discussion seemed to indicate a broad support for fostering more interaction and networking at the mixer. This social event occurs only once per year, and occurs during the annual meeting, a time of intense scientific communication. It may be to our advantage to forgo soliciting a speaker and sitting en masse through another valuable presentation, rather, spend that precious time with each other. It was suggested that we not schedule a speaker for our next mixer. We should consider this and solidify our thoughts on it next month.

Teleforum topics/speakers: Gary and John discussed this. Two candidates came up in the initial conversation: Ed Calabrese (U Mass Amherst) and hormesis, and Bill Waddell (U Louisville – retired, Tox Sci 62#2, August, 2002) and the issue of thresholds for food additive carcinogenicity. Any other ideas on potential topics for the teleforum should be spread around for discussion.