

## DSRG Conference Call

February 3, 2009

Participants: Paul Feder, Jeff Gift, Patricia Toccalino, Julie Fitzpatrick, Tony Fristachi, Mike Dourson

Paul Feder called the meeting to order.

Minutes were accepted with no corrections.

**Treasurers Report** – We have \$6380.42 on the statement October – December quarterly report. Annual Meeting expenses have not been deducted from this amount yet.

Paul Feder indicated SRA will allow mixers and provide rooms and program announcements. Additionally SRA will provide \$500 to be used for the student award and \$500 for anything we would like to spend it on (including mixer).

Paul Feder recommended the new NAS Report Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment as a topic for discussion by the group.

**DSRG Poster Awards** - The proposal to organize a DSRG poster award was discussed. Discussed logistics, need listing of posters related to DSRG. Mike Dourson indicated that the Tuesday award luncheon is rather long and that we may not be able to announce the award on Tuesday. Paul indicated that an article in the newsletter would be appropriate. The group did not consider a monetary award. Patty recommended that we check to see how many DSRG posters there were last year, to get an idea of the level of effort expected. Mike Dorson will give Pam Williams, who headed up the poster awards at the last Annual Meeting, a call to discuss how the SRA poster awards are determined and to see if SRA produces a list of posters that includes the appropriate specialty group. If we got the word out that there will be a DSRG award it may encourage more and/or better posters. We should notify all the specialty groups that we intend to present awards so that they will have the opportunity to do so also - SRA has 10 specialty groups. If we are going to do this we should make an announcement on the meeting website. The meeting website is expected to go up in March.

**Tele-seminars** – tele-seminars will be in March, June, and September.

After discussing several options it was determined to focus the three seminars on the new NAS report Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment. With each seminar focusing on a specific topic which will be given a short introduction by a member of the NAS panel followed by point and counter-point commentaries. It is intended that the two commentators' with divergent opinions will start the discussion which will then be opened to include all those who wish to participate. We may need to expand the number of phone lines beyond 25 to accommodate the expected interest. The key to the success of this format is going to be to divide the NAS Report into subtopics that will evoke tantalizing discussions while still remain within the one hour seminar timeframe. Mike will send Jeff a list of potential subtopics and associated speakers. Julie will send Mike the list of speakers and topics from ILSI Research Foundation's recent scientific session on thresholds. The aim is for the subtopic for the March

seminar to be threshold issues. It is intended that notes of the discussion will be prepared and posted on a website.

It was determined that we would invite Jimena Davis to give an additional seminar in the fall. Jimena Davis, a Post Doc who is doing research for Woody Setzer at this time, is willing to give a talk in September on "a general computational approach for specifying informative priors for PBPK Models." Jimena is currently working with Woody Setzer (NCCT) and Rogelio Tornero-Velez (NERL) on developing computational and statistical approaches for quantifying the uncertainty and variability in predictions of linked exposure-dose-effects models for pyrethroid pesticides. We discussed presenting Jimena with an honorarium for the presentation – specific discussion on this will be revisited at a later meeting.

Additional seminar topics that were discussed prior to determining that the focus of the seminars would be the NAS report include the following. Jeff proposed for the March seminar "considerations for the evaluation of nanoparticle dose-response data." He discussed the subject with Mike Davis and Amy Wong (EPA/NCEA) and Jo Ann Shatkin (Chair of SRA Nanotech Emerging Issues Specialty Group). He also presented Kevin Dreher (EPA/NHERL) as another possibility. In addition, NIOSH has a paper out on the subject of nano dose-response. For the June seminar Jeff was pursuing two possibilities, a talk on the "use of pathological progression information an precursor endpoints in dose-response" or a talk on "EPA's intended response to the recent NAS report suggesting that cancer and noncancer quantitative risk assessment approaches be harmonized." Rob DeWoskin has expressed interest and may be willing to give a talk on the pathological progression topic. Lynn Flowers is heading the EPA investigation into possible responses to the NAS report.