

Dose-Response Specialty Group, February 4, 2003

Attending: John Lipscomb, Gary Foureman, Jim Wilson, Dave Gaylor, Lynne Haber, Peg Coleman, Paul Schlosser, Peter McClure

Minutes of the January 7, 2003 meeting were reviewed. In response to the January 7 discussion with Ann Bostrom, the SRA liason officer, John proposed that a letter be drafted to the SRA Council outlining four specific suggestions that could lead to better success within all specialty groups: 1) regular meetings of specialty section presidents with SRA Council; 2) provide sections with additional resources (travel money, free registration) to encourage national meeting attendance; 3) advertise to promote section-based student competitions; and 4) encourage sections to submit topics for roundtable discussions. All agreed with this idea. John will draft the letter and circulate to DRSG members for their review and comments.

Further issues discussed were:

Topic and speaker for the Annual meeting mixer: A proposal to have no topic or speaker so that the time for networking could be maximized/increased had some proponents. Others saw value in the technical presentations that have been made at previous mixers. Several liked the idea of a short and informal presentation with a more general and entertaining topic not directly related to dose-response analysis. Gary volunteered to come up with some suggestions and circulate them to DRSG members for their comments.

Declining membership in SRA: Jim noted that the Council is concerned with the trend of 2200 members in 1996 versus 1600 members in 2002 and has been discussing what can be done to reverse the trend. The council has discussed two potential approaches: 1) increase advice and training to developing countries; and 2) increase opportunities to discuss broad policy issues. DRSG members discussed some of the reasons for belonging to SRA (versus other professional societies such as Society of Toxicology and American Society of Microbiology) including easier networking in a smaller society and a sharper focus on risk analysis.

March quarterly teleseminar: Pros and cons were discussed on possible presentations by: Bill Waddell on thresholds for food additive carcinogenicity; Jim Chen on dose-response analysis of mixtures and relative potency factors; and Ed Calabrese or Joe Rodericks on hormesis. It was agreed to start with Jim Chen or Joe Rodericks, if they could be prepared for the March 4 date. Gary will check on this and keep DRSG members advised.

Topics for program sessions at annual SRA meeting: John urged DRSG members to begin email conversations on topics for development into program sessions. Suggestions from the DRSG are due to the Program Committee in May or June, and the sooner dialogue begins, the better. Some ideas briefly mentioned were microbial risk assessment, cyanobacterial toxin hazard assessment, and dose-response modeling with thresholds.