

DRSG Meeting Notes for April 5, 2005

Participants: Greg Blumenthal, James Chen, Peg Coleman, Paul Feder, Gary Foureman, Dale Hattis, Sara Henry, John Keller, Ralph Kodell, Paul Schlosser, Justin Teegarden.

1. Trustee-at-Large:
Greg Blumenthal was welcomed as trustee-at-large for the remainder of 2005, in place of Chandrika Moudgal who has resigned.
2. Website Update:
Paul Schlosser was thanked for updating member contact information on the DRSG website. Currently, 26 members are listed. Ralph Kodell asked if there were any further revisions to the February 1 meeting notes. Hearing none, he concluded that the revised notes are ready for posting to the website.
3. Student Award:
Ralph Kodell presented Mike Zager's report on the student award for the Orlando meeting. The call for papers went out with the general SRA flyer. Mike will send out a mass email that includes the call for papers the first week of April. At the same time, he will begin soliciting extramural funding to support the award. The announcement will also appear as part of DRSG's column in the Q2 issue of *Risk newsletter*.
4. DRSG Poster:
John Lipscomb was recognized for having updated the DRSG poster and circulated it as a flyer at the SOT meeting in March. Ralph will look into updating the poster with respect to teleconferences.
5. SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee (Scott Ferson, Chair):
Jeff Swartout has joined the committee. Other DRSG members are Jim Wilson, John Keller, Annie Jarabek and Resha Putzrath.
6. SRA Fellows:
Fellow nominations of DRSG members were encouraged. Participants were referred to the announcement in the Q2 issue of *Risk newsletter*, and were informed of the materials to be submitted with a nomination.
7. By-laws Amendment:
Gary Foureman indicated that he would proceed with sending out an email ballot to change "President" to "Chair" throughout the DRSG by-laws.
8. Teleseminars:
Justin Teegarden led a discussion of speakers and topics for the June and September teleseminars. Dale Hattis accepted the invitation to speak June 7 on the topic of children's risk. The second of two papers on that topic appears in *Environmental Health Perspectives* 113: 509-516, 2005. Justin will contact Dale for a specific title and an abstract. Dale was urged to keep his presentation to about 30 slides to allow time for discussion. Several names were mentioned as possible speakers for September 6 on the topic of systems biology. Justin emphasized that he wanted to make sure the speaker would address pharmacodynamics, and not concentrate too much on pharmacokinetics. He is also entertaining other potential topics for September.

9. Symposia for Orlando meeting, December 4-7, 2005:
 - a. Paul Feder will follow up with Jim Wilson on a possible symposium on methods for characterizing variability in toxicity testing. Bob McPhail was suggested as a possible speaker.
 - b. Gary Foureman has found some interest in a symposium on acute methodologies and assessments, and has identified some possible speakers. He will continue to explore this topic.
 - c. Gary also mentioned the topic of the relevance (or non-relevance) of hormesis and the idea of a session that would present a balanced look at that. Several members expressed support for the topic, provided the presentations would indeed be balanced and that at least one speaker would explain exactly how information on hormesis would be used in practice.
 - d. It was suggested that we approach Jonathan Wiener about either leading a round-table discussion on the definition of adverse effects or speaking at the DRSG mixer. Ralph will contact Jonathan. It was also mentioned that this topic might be of interest to the Risk Science and Law Group.
 - e. Chris Frey's communication about specialty-group joint symposia at Orlando was discussed. So far, nobody in the DRSG has put forward a specific proposal. John Keller mentioned that the issue has come up in the Program Committee's discussions, but that no specialty group has yet made a proposal. He will report back to the DRSG after the Committee's April 11 meeting, if there is any further guidance. John reflected the Program Committee's view that specialty group joint symposia be encouraged. John did mention the EPA's recently published Cancer Guidelines as a possible cross-cutting topic.

10. Budget:

Ralph reported that the DRSG's account balance was \$2957.05 as of 2/28/05. The DRSG receives the \$15 dues paid annually by its members, and also can receive revenue from sponsored workshops. The SRA provides an additional \$500 annually for the mixer at the annual meeting. It was suggested that some of the current funds might be added to the extramural contributions to enhance the Student Award.

11. Food and Water Specialty Group:

Information was given on the FWSG's proposal to expand its scope, along with contact information for submitting comments.