

DRSG Teleconference

April 7, 2009

Participants: Jeff Gift, Michael Dourson, Patty Toccalino, Paul Feder, Leonid Kopylev, Paul Schlosser, and Julie Fitzpatrick

Meeting notes from March were approved.

Annual meeting expenses were \$1,747.46 which includes subtraction of \$500 contribution by SRA.

There are 152 dues paying DRSG members.

1. Program for annual meeting

1. Organization of DRSG symposia (May 25th due date for submittal to SRA)

Michael Dourson – on NAS report – M. Dourson has been invited to a conference call with group of people from industry, government, and non-profits. M. Dourson will organize a symposium for SRA.

Paul Feder will be calling around to explore possibilities and requested all to send him their ideas.

2. Appoint DRSG representative at program committee meeting June 10th.

We need aggressive representation at the meeting. Michael Dourson and Julie Fitzpatrick volunteered to participate. Paul will check on travel funds for Michael Dourson.

3. Abstract Awards for SRA 2009.

The group discussed presenting Abstract Awards. Paul will check with SRA on the number of abstracts and if they will screen abstracts for DRSG based on identification by DRSG and key words? We will then proceed

2. Teleseminar series – Plans for June teleseminar – Jeff Gift

Jeff proposed to focus the June seminar on immediate and short term issues. The second question on background would be most appropriate to focus on chemical insults that form a background exposure. For example risk above the RfD for methylmercury.

2. Risk assessment scientists routinely incorporate background exposures into a dose response assessment of an individual chemical by reference to use of concurrent controls (e.g., BMD methods use either extra risk or added risk). What

about this process does the NAS feel is insufficient for understanding individual chemical dose response? If the NAS is concerned with background exposures to other chemicals evoking similar critical effects, then is this not a chemical mixtures (or cumulative risk) issue addressed with appropriate guidelines? See question 3.

Michael Dourson recommended combining questions 1 and 2 into a new question that incorporates risk above the RfD along with thresholds, probabilistic, and linearity issues.

1. How do experimentally and theoretically evident biological thresholds for adverse effect weigh in on the suggested NAS way forward? What is the impact of individual variability on these thresholds and on determining "safe" doses, such as RfDs and RfCs?

Jeff Gift will work with Ila Cody on revising the questions for the seminar. Jeff will coordinate a subsequent call to hash out the revised question for the June Seminar with Paul Feder, Michael Dourson, and Ila Cody. Panel recommendations for June include Kenny Crump, someone from EPA's phthalate team, and Rick Hertzberg or Linda Teuschler.

3. Student awards – Patti Toccalino

Patty sent announcements to the following places:

- DRSG yahoogroups
- American Statistical Association (Am Stat News)
- Mailing list of chairmen of statistics departments
- Biometrics Society
- SRA May Newsletter (Paul Feder posted along with other DRSG news)
- SOT specialty group mailing lists (individually sent to Chairmen & other officers of 21 specialty groups)
- SOT students
- Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (requested that each of 13 chapters send an announcement to their members)
- List of faculty in SRA membership directory listed under:
 - University + Environmental Science (~40 people)
 - University + Public Health (~45 people)
- Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) at the Oregon Health & Science University
- SRA Officers
- SRA Specialty Group Chairs
- ASPH's Coordinator of Graduate Training Programs

Patty has received the following questions which were discussed by the group.

1. Is the award open to post-docs? *No.*

2. May a student apply if he/she will graduate this August and be employed by the Dec meeting?
Yes - we have previously awarded in this case.

3. May a student apply if his/her work has already been completed? In this specific case, the work was completed in 2007 and was presented at the national SETAC meeting in Milwaukee, WI (November 2007) and the South Carolina Water Resources Conference in Charleston, SC (October 2008), both as platform presentations. It has not yet been published as they are waiting on another data set from a collaborator but they plan to submit the work later this year. *If the person is a student at the time of submittal of the abstract and SRA accepts the abstract we will consider them for the award.*

Submitted by Julie Fitzpatrick