

**Minutes – Business Meeting of the SRA Dose Response Specialty Group
Tuesday, December 4, 7-8:15 am, Westin Seattle**

Attendees: Ron Brown, Peg Coleman, Gary Foureman, Jeff Gift, Lynne Haber, John Lipscomb, Steve Olin, Resha Putzrath, Paul Schlosser, Woody Setzer, Daniel Wartenberg, and Jim Wilson

New Officers: We welcomed our new president-elect, John Lipscomb, and Lynne Haber in her new role as officer at-large. Justin Teeguarden was elected the new vice president, but was unable to make the meeting.

Thanks: Appreciation was expressed by all for the contribution of Elaine Faustman (Institute for Risk Analysis and Risk Communication, U. of Washington) to support the DRSG mixer, and Gay Goodman's effort in choosing the menu. Paul Schlosser will contact them directly as well.

Electronic communications: We discussed ways of better utilizing electronic communications and possibly making our YahooGroups functions easier to use. Primary points follow.

- YahooGroups makes maintenance of the e-mail list very easy, and all members can post to the list simply by sending e-mail to DRSG@yahoogroups.com.
- The site also provides space for document storage (such as these minutes), but accessing them requires that the member register with Yahoo and link that Yahoo ID to their regular e-mail address. This creates problems for some people.
- Paul Schlosser will continue as group moderator and can help people with any problems on an individual basis (mailto: Schlosser@ciit.org).
- Other options, including use of the SRA website, are being explored.
- Since Paul also moderates the Research Triangle Chapter website, which allows files to be accessed without a login, that vehicle can be used for the time being to distribute papers and presentation materials for discussions and open forums.

On-line discussions: We discussed ways of allowing for on-line discussions so members can participate without being available at a particular time. This would both allow for more discussions and open them to members in other countries for whom the telecons may be particularly inconvenient or costly. We will seek to implement the following suggestions.

- Presenters for the open forums will be encouraged to make electronic versions of slides or a paper available sufficiently ahead of the forum to allow for e-mail comments prior to the teleconference.
- Other papers may be uploaded and discussed entirely on-line, increasing the number of such discussions above the current 3/year.
- Files will be uploaded in .pdf format so they can be easily read but are fairly secure.
- The best vehicle for such a discussion is probably a parallel, DRSG-discussion e-mail list, but set to distribute as a daily digest so that the overall e-mail volume is not too high (unless the individual wants more frequent e-mails). Paul Schlosser can create such a list and invite current DRSG e-mail list members to join.
- An announcement of this discussion list will be posted in the Risk newsletter, and we will seek to get it into the Japanese and European SRA newsletters.
- This could be a forum to discuss papers being developed prior to submission (to improve the chance of success!) or as a journal club.

Open Forums: The following speakers/topics were suggested for future open forums or virtual meetings.

- Suresh Moolgavkar on the colon cancer model.
- Rory Conolly (and Dave Gaylor) on non-monotonic (e.g., “U”-shaped) dose-response models (Rory is available for the June telecon).
- Peg Coleman on pathogens/microbial risk
- Jeff Gift has 2 students who could speak, respectively, on categorical regression and time-to-effect in neurotox modeling.

John Lipscomb is in charge of the programs for 2002, so contact him if you want to vote for one of these and/or suggest others.

Student Travel Award: While the student travel award has been successful in the past, we wish to improve participation in the contest. Some ideas follow:

- Be sure to include in the announcement the fact that registration is waived for the winner.
- Determine if SRA would also provide a year’s subscription to *Risk Analysis* (Justin Teegarden)
- Note the prestige factor as well – it looks good on your resume!
- Send notice directly to various universities/programs
 - Kansas, Washington, and Duke were specifically mentioned.
 - A list can be compiled by asking the DRSG membership for contacts.
 - We can also ask the SRA secretariat for a list of all members whose e-mail addresses end in “edu”.
 - Target universities in the vicinity of the meeting (e.g., New Orleans in 2002).

Since the vice-president (Justin Teegarden) is in charge of the student award, he will be encouraged to participate in the program meeting (in DC in June, 1-day meeting) to help place the student’s paper in a good slot.

SRA 2002:

- We will need a theme and speaker for the mixer.
- It’s not too soon to start thinking about sessions and symposia. DRSG can sponsor symposia submitted for discussion prior to the deadline and provide feedback for ideas being developed, if they are seen as addressing dose-response issues. However it was thought best not to repeat the same topic in consecutive years.
- We also discussed sponsoring continuing education courses.
 - An outline and budget must be submitted to SRA (Rick Belzer can help).
 - SRA will now split the profits with the organizers, so this is a potential source of income for our specialty group.
- Send your ideas on any of the above to John Lipscomb.
- At the program committee, we should be thoughtful about keeping our best symposia from competing with each other.