

SRA Biological Stressors Specialty Group (BSSG) Meeting Minutes

**December 10, 2007
San Antonio, Texas**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sherri Dennis. Members and participants were introduced, including Vice-Chair Emma Hartnett. Michael McElvaine, Secretary/Treasurer could not attend. Official attendance was 36.

Sherri briefly reviewed activities and achievements of BSSG in 2007. The over goal was to enhance communication within the group. A major achievement was the update of the BSSG website. A sub-committee researched server options, selected a url name and developed an outline of content. Don Schaffner was recognized for his service as webmaster for www.biostressors.org. Another sub-committee (Mark Powell, Sandy Hoffman and Emma Hartnett) developed evaluation criteria and a flier to announce and invite applications for the student merit award. Additionally, Michael McElvaine, Linda Abbott and Sherri Dennis served on the Program Committee, representing BSSG. An announcement was made for the joint mixer with the Economics and Benefits Specialty Group on December 12th.

It was noted that a treasury report would be provided in the meeting minutes, and is as follows

Treasures Report: As of date of 12/10/07, balance in BSSG account was \$5,046.40. This includes \$165 collected from dues payments this quarter. There are still outstanding bills for reception mixer (cost TBD), student scholarship (\$500), and website renewal (\$17 for 2 years). As of 01/31/08 these charges are still to be accounted for.

The BSSG student merit award for best abstract was awarded to Jade Mitchell Blackwood. Sherri then handed over the 'gavel' to incoming chair Emma Hartnett.

First order of business was selection of a new Vice-Chair. A request for nominees was made prior to the meeting. One person, Steven Anderson, was nominated and a motion was made and seconded during the meeting to elect Steven Anderson as the new Vice-Chair.

Discussion of Activities for 2008 -

- 1) A request was made for ideas for workshops or symposia at the 2008 annual meeting. Suggestions of possible workshop topics included import safety, GIS/spatial analysis, and biostressor risks.
- 2) A suggestion was posed to co-sponsor a meeting or workshop possibly in the Washington DC area to attract and involve others that would not typically attend SRA's annual meeting. Specifics were not determined.
- 3) Content for the BSSG website.

- A suggestion was made to post presentation of BSSG members on the BSSG website and/ or link to presentations posted at www.foodrisk.org .
- A suggestion was made to include a list of recent publications of interest to BSSG on the BSSG website.
- A suggestion was made for a bulletin board for the website. Although it was acknowledged that this would require significant increase in management and capabilities for the website that might be unrealistic.
- A request was made for submission of a possible logo to use on the website.
- A suggestion was made to post reports on the meetings and workshops, for example how they went, how many attended

4) Revisit BSSG name and definition. A suggestion was made to form a sub-committee to revisit the group name and how Biological Stressors is defined. In particular, does it include nutrition and consumer product risks as well as environmental concerns?

Meeting was adjourned by general consensus due to time limitations for use of the room.