

SRA Biological Stressors Specialty Group
Teleconference May 1, 2007, 11 am EDT

Attendees

Sherri Dennis
Christina McLaughlin
Isabel Walls
Don Schaffner
Mark Powell
Audrey IchidaGeoff Patton
Peg Coleman
HeeJeong Lattimer
Dan Byrd
Sandy Hoffman
Michael McElvaine

Meeting was chaired by Sherri Dennis, Chair of BSSG. She reported that articles about BSSG were placed in both the SRA newsletters this year. Don Schaffner has made great updates on the webpage; he invites all to visit, review, and send him more info to post. The new URL is <http://www.biostressors.org/> and we have requested that the SRA site at: http://www.sra.org/about_specialty_groups.php be updated to reflect this change. It was suggested that we could post presentations on the web.

Sherri raised the subject of how we can attract more student abstracts for annual meeting. There is a box on the abstract form for students to identify themselves as eligible for awards. We had long discussion about different awards and travel stipends. SRA gives awards but we can give travel awards. It was suggested that \$500 was not a high enough figure. We also discussed an awards committee to establish criteria and make any selections for awards for this year. Those volunteering are Sandy Hoffman, Mark Powell, and Sherri Dennis.

It was recommended that we check with other SRA specialty groups and other groups associated with professional organizations about what they have done in the past. It was recommended that we send a flyer to all of our members in academia so that they can share with their associates. (Deadline is May 21 this year.)

Sherri then talked about symposia that she was aware of so far. The Education Committee plans to do a follow up to their "Risk Analysis 101" from last year. One group is discussing a symposium on risk profiling, a semi-qualitative method used popularly in the EU. Another suggestion was a symposium about the barriers between RA people and researchers for IDing data gaps. The last subject discussed was a followup to the IOM nutrition and risk assessment meeting earlier this year. Michael said that he would follow up with that this week.

Christina suggested that our name, BSSG, still doesn't capture all of the areas that we should be including. She will send an email out to group about her thoughts. Audrey Ichida provided some information later about definitions that EPA OW has been using:

stressor

- 1) Any physical, chemical, or biological entity that can induce an adverse response. (EPA 1998a)
- 2) Physical, chemical, or biological entities that can induce adverse effects on ecosystems or human health. (EPA 2005b)
- 3) The term "stressor" includes the connotation that the adverse response can be the result of a lack of something - such as a habitat - which would also be called a "stressor." The term "agent" does not have this connotation, and is only used to denote a causative entity that actually physically exists as part of the environment. (IPCS 2001)
- 4) Any entity, stimulus, or condition that can modulate normal functions of the organism or induce an adverse response (e.g., agent, lack of food, drought). (IPCS 2004)

EPA 1998a - Guidelines for Ecological Risk Assessment.
EPA/630/R-95/002F. Federal Register 63(93):26846-26924. [Last updated on Friday, November 10th, 2006]
<http://www.erg.com/portfolio/elearn/ecorisk/html/resource/glossary.html>.

EPA 2005b - Terms of Environment: Glossary, Abbreviations and Acronyms. Washington, D.C. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (downloaded July 6, 2005; last updated June 13, 2005). <http://www.epa.gov/OCEPATERMS/>.

IPCS 2001 - Glossary of Exposure Assessment-Related Terms: A Compilation.
http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/methods/harmonization/en/compilation_nov2001.pdf.

IPCS 2004 - International Programme on Chemical Safety. IPCS risk assessment terminology: Part 2. IPCS Glossary of Key Exposure Assessment Terminology.
http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/methods/harmonization/en/compilation_nov2001.pdf

Final funding subject was to support an evening mixer, maybe co-hosted by Dose-response group this year since there are so many groups. Peg will follow up on that.

Perhaps there will be some riparian entertainment along the Riverwalk after the mixer...

Submitted by Michael McElvaine