



GETA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No. 3

October 2007

*A publication of the Genetic and Environmental Toxicology
Association (GETA) of Northern California*

FALL DINNER MEETING

***“The New Generation of Contaminants That
Could Affect the Bay: Flame Retardants,
Pharmaceuticals, Perfluorinated Compounds”***

Speaker: Dr. Mike Connor

**Executive Director
San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)**

Thursday, November 1, 2007

**Hs Lordships' Restaurant on the Berkeley Marina
199 Seawall Dr.
Berkeley CA 94710**

Reception: 5:30 pm (no-host bar)

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Presentation: 7:30 pm

Mike Connor will present the efforts by the Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) for Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary, which is administered by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, to evaluate the presence of emerging contaminants in the Estuary.

RMP is evaluating three emerging contaminants in three separate studies: a study to determine concentrations of pharmaceutical compounds in waters of the Estuary and in influent and effluent from two wastewater treatment facilities; a collaborative study with the Marine Mammal Center to determine the level of emerging contaminants in seals as part of a larger study to track the health of harbor seals; and lastly a study evaluating contaminants and hormone concentrations in fish from the San Francisco Bay.

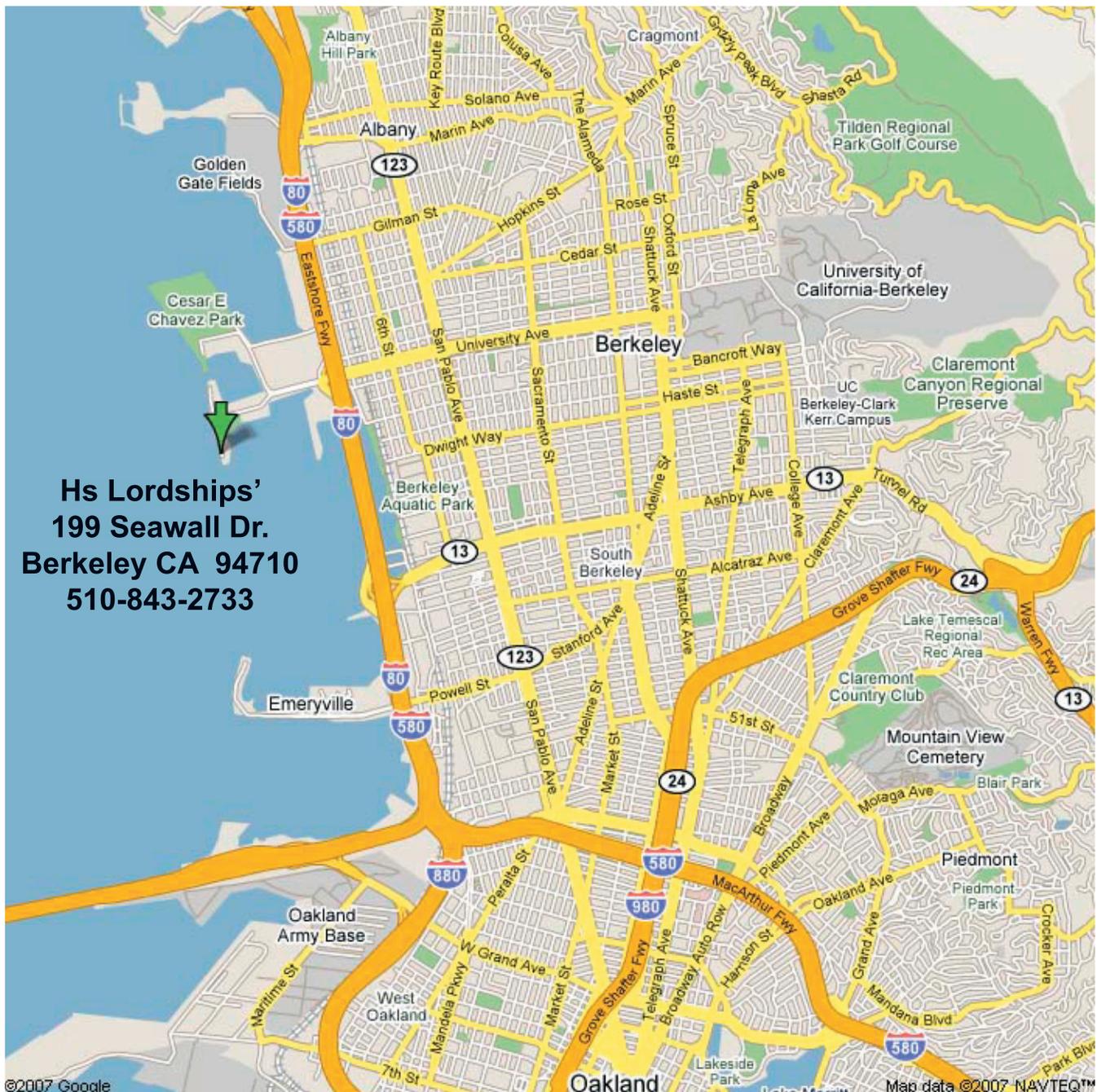
Registration Deadline is Wednesday, October 31st!!

Directions to Hs Lordships'

Approaching from the North: From Highway 80, take the University Avenue exit follow the loop WEST to University Avenue. Make the left on University and stay in the left lane. At Marina Blvd. stop sign stay left and go to the end (Berkeley pier will be in front of you). Turn left onto Seawall Drive and go to the end of the road.

Approaching from the South: Exit Highway 80 at Powell Street in Emeryville. Make a left turn under the freeway overpass and an immediate right turn onto Frontage Road. Proceed NORTH on Frontage Road until the stop sign at University Avenue. Turn left onto University Avenue and stay in the left lane. At Marina Blvd. stop sign stay left and go to the end (Berkeley pier will be in front of you). Turn left onto Seawall Drive and go to the end of the road.

Go To www.hslordships.com for more information.





President's Comments

.... by Amy Arcus

Our last scientific meeting of the year will be on Thursday November 1, 2007. Mike Connor, PhD, the Executive Director of the SF Bay Estuary Institute will give a presentation on "The New Generation of Contaminants That Could Affect the Bay: Flame Retardants, Pharmaceuticals, Perfluorinated Compounds." This is sure to be a very interesting presentation. RSVP soon to ensure a seat and dinner.

The 2007 year is coming to an end. During 2007, GETA will have hosted 3 scientific meetings with topics that included micronutrients in our diets (Bruce Ames), a half-day of talks on autism, and our upcoming meeting on the state of contaminants in the SF Bay. With the diverse geographic base of GETA members, we tried to accommodate members south of San Francisco with the 2007 winter meeting in Burlingame.

Coordinating the scientific meetings and other activities of GETA does take time. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the 2007 GETA Board and Steering Committee for all their contributions that kept GETA running smoothly. I would highly recommend getting involved with GETA. It's a great way to network, learn of state-of-the-science research, and contribute to a great organization. Nominations are due by October. Please contact myself (aarcus@oehha.ca.gov 510-622-3199) or another Board member if you are interested.

Amy Arcus, President GETA, 2007

GETA NOW HAS YAHOO GROUPS

GETA now has a YAHOO group. The URL for the GETA group is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/getamembers/>

Using the links to the left members can post messages, list files, create polls, etc. It's easy and best of all it's free. Using the "Members" link on the left members can access and edit preferences. Contact Drew Olaharski Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com if you have questions.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
FOR FALL MEETING IS
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 31st!

2007 GETA Executive Board

The Executive Board is given the responsibility of determining all policy and business related to the Association. To this end, you are urged to contact any Board member with any suggestions you may have, concerns, meeting topics, and general business to be considered.

Officers (*Program Chair)

		<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
President	Amy Arcus-Arth	510-622-3199	aarcus@oehha.ca.gov
President-Elect*	Lida Antonian	925-330-8220	lidaant@comcast.net
Past President	Inge Ivens	510-705-4204	ingeivens@aol.com
Secretary	Linda Rausch	650-859-5008	linda.rausch@sri.com
Treasurer	Bob Baldwin	408-245-6912	DrBob@iname.com
Newsletter Editor	Linda Rausch	650-859-5008	linda.rausch@sri.com
Membership Officer	Drew Olaharski	650-855-6569	Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com
Web Officer	Pamela Lee	650-859-6739	pamela.lee@sri.com

Steering Committee

At-Large	Hanna Ng	650-859-3676	hanna.ng@sri.com
Business	Tom McDonald	510-705-5195	mcdonaldpartyof4@yahoo.com
University	Adrian Rodriguiz	408-924-4846	rodriga@email.sjsu.edu
Government	Steve DiZio	916-255-6634	sdizio@dtsc.ca.gov
Student/Postdoc	Rebecca Erickson	650-859-2049	rebecca.erickson@sri.com
Student/Postdoc	Sunoz Soroosh		



Symposium Review

...by *Lida Antonian*

The GETA spring symposium was held at the Alumni House at UC Berkeley on March 10, 2007. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Northern California Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (NCCSRA) and was well attended by scientists mostly from government and academic laboratories. There were four expert speakers at the symposium.

The symposium topic was "Genetics and Environmental Risk Factors for Autistic Spectral Disorders." Four experts provided different perspectives on Autism, ranging from epidemiological and clinical to environmental and genetic research. In addition the speakers also discussed effective and proven approaches for academic and social development of children with Asperger's and other neurocognitive disorders.

Dr. Antonio Hardan presented "Developmental Abnormalities in Brain Structures in Autism Spectrum Disorders." He is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. He is also Director of the Autism and Developmental Disabilities clinic at Stanford University. Dr. Hardan described morphometric alterations in autistic children involving several brain structures including cerebellum, hippocampus, amygdala, and corpus callosum. The most replicated finding was related to increased cerebral volume which was consistent with head circumference studies observing increased head size and macrocephaly in autism. Brain size alterations appear to be the consequence of grey and white matter enlargement and seem to be more evident in children than in adults with autism. Brain enlargement may be a biologic marker for this disorder.

Dr. Joachim Hallmayer presented "Autism is a Complex Genetic Disorder." Dr. Hallmayer is Associate Professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. He is principal investigator on a multi-center project, the Autism Genome Project at more than 20 University centers that are facilitating the discovery of genes that contributes to autism. This study is the largest study ever conducted, in terms of both researchers and research subjects. Over 1,400 families with more than one affected family member participated. Two types of data were combined to determine which chromosomal regions might be involved in the development of autism: linkage analysis, which tests whether specific genetic markers are located near a putative autism susceptibility gene; and chromosomal copy number variation, in which subtle chromosomal abnormalities among affected individuals are tracked.

Dr. Hallmayer detailed that autism is a complex genetic disorder and most likely influenced by a combination of mutations in single genes, deletions and duplications, and by more

common alleles. He stated that identifying candidate autism susceptibility genes will allow us to better understand how these genes interact with environmental factors to influence early brain development. It is likely that a number of autism genes will be identified in the next couple of years. His presentation is posted on the GETA website.

Dr. Irva Hertz-Picciotto presented "Environmental Risk Factors and Genetics of Autistic Spectral Disorders." She is a Professor at UC Davis Department of Public Health Sciences; she directs several large studies funded by the NIH (National Institutes of Health) on environmental hazards to immune and neurobehavioral development in young children. One of these is the CHARGE study (Childhood Autism Risk from Genetics and the Environment), which is examining the interaction between genetic susceptibility and environmental agents in relation to the development of autism.

Dr. Kathryn Stewart presented "Education of Students on the Neurocognitive Spectrum-Using Theory to Inform Program Development: A Look at Orion Academy." She is a clinical psychologist and the founder and Executive Director of Orion Academy. Dr. Stewart presented the unique approach of engaging students with Asperger's and other Neurocognitive Learning Disability (NLD) into a college preparatory high school curriculum. Her presentation is posted on the GETA website.

**CHECK OUT THE
GETA WEBSITE**

- The Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS) continues to generously host our website. To get to the site, go to the EMS website at
- www.ems-us.org/geta**
- You can download previous Newsletters and find links to selected speaker presentations from past meetings.
- While you're at it, peruse the EMS page and consider joining EMS!

GETA Past Presidents

1980	Anthony Carrano	1989	Regine Goth-Goldstein	1998	Kim Hooper
1981	Robert Hill	1990	Carol Green	1999	Janice Yager
1982	James MacGregor	1991	Charles Salocks	2000	Jim Cleaver
1983	James Bartholomew	1992	James Tucker	2001	Steve Dizio
1984	Joseph Brown	1993	Jon Mirsalis	2002	Melanie Marty
1985	James Felton	1994	Collette Rudd	2003	Melanie Marty
1986	Caroline Sigman	1995	George Alexeff	2004	Karen Steinmetz
1987	Martyn Smith	1996	Andrew Wyrobek	2005	Tom McDonald
1988	Ann Burrell	1997	Rob Scofield	2006	Inge Ivens

GETA NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC!

After consideration by the GETA Board, it was decided to eliminate mailing paper copies of the Newsletter and instead, send it to the membership as a pdf file via e-mail. A review of the membership rolls showed that all members had provided e-mail addresses.

It now becomes even more important for members to keep the GETA Membership Officer informed of changes in contact information, especially e-mail addresses.

If you need to update your information, send an e-mail to Drew Olaharski at Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com

**DON'T RISK MISSING AN ISSUE
OF THE NEWSLETTER!**

KEEP YOUR INFO UP TO DATE!

GETA DUES NOW DUE IN JANUARY

Just a reminder to all GETA members, early in 2007, GETA's Executive Committee made a revision to our dues policy such that eventually everyone's membership year will coincide with a calendar year. The purpose of this change is so that all of you as well as GETA can more easily keep track of membership expirations and renewals. While there have been a few "bumps" in the implementation of this change, we are trying not to increase the net membership costs to our members. So, if you think that this change has treated you unfairly, please let us know ASAP!

E-mails to those of you who have not renewed (some not since 2004!) will be coming your way soon to remind you to renew for 2008 or let us know you want to be dropped from GETA's membership roster. This will also give everyone the opportunity to update your membership information, especially your e-mail address as there will no longer be hard copy newsletters issued.

Should you wish to renew your membership now, send an e-mail to Drew Olaharski at Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS

38th Annual EMS Meeting

October 20-24, 2007

Atlanta, Georgia

www.ems-us.org

Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)

December 9-12, 2007

San Antonio, Texas

www.sra.org

Society of Toxicology (SOT)

47th Annual Meeting

March 16-20, 2008

Seattle, Washington

www.toxicology.org

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

April 12-16, 2008

San Diego, California

www.aacr.org



GETA MEMBERSHIP

(New or Renewing Members)

Name _____

Title _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Business Phone _____

FAX Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please give the above information as you would like it to appear in the
On-Line Membership Directory.

RENEWING MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS!!

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Check here if above address is new _____

Regular Member, 1 year \$15
Regular Member, 2 year \$25 (*save 5 bucks!*)
Regular Member, 3 year \$35 (*save 10 bucks!!*)
Student/Postdoc, 1 year \$ 7

Total Enclosed _____

Please send this completed form and check made payable to **GETA** to:

GETA Membership
c/o Drew Olaharski
3431 Hillview Ave, A5-2
Palo Alto, CA 94304