Hello GETA members! You do not want to miss this year’s Dinner Meeting so send in your reservation forms early to ensure a spot. We have a dynamic speaker lined up—Dr. Dino Di Monte, Director of Basic Research at The Parkinson’s Institute in Sunnyvale. I am very much looking forward learning about the research that his institution has ongoing to try to understand the genetic and environmental causes of Parkinson’s disease. This slowly debilitating disease afflicts nearly 1 million Americans. The causes remain largely unknown and may be multifactorial. Clues to this mystery are coming from clinical observations, studies of families with a history of Parkinsons’ disease, and animal studies of chemicals that induce Parkinson-like effects.

Dr. Di Monte’s research has focused on the mechanisms of nigrostriatal degeneration (the main pathologic feature of Parkinson’s disease). Understanding this mechanism may provide targets for pharmaceutical interventions. Dr. Di Monte’s research has studied the effects of neurotoxins that damage the nigrostriatal system, such as MPTP, methamphetamine and 6-hydroxydopamine. These and other test systems have helped understand the mechanism of dopaminergic cell death. (Some GETA members may remember back in the 1980’s that a rash of Parkinsons'-like cases emerged, whose cause was traced to the chemical MPTP present in a designer drug made in an illicit San Jose drug lab.) Currently, Dr. Di Monte’s laboratory is studying the interactions of environmental toxicants (e.g., pesticides and metals) and endogenous proteins that may be involved in Parkinson’s disease.

Registration Deadline is February 27th!!
Directions:

**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.
Greetings GETA Members and Welcome to 2004!

I would like to take a paragraph to extend many thanks to our out-going 2003 GETA Executive Board members. First, I would like to express my gratitude to Melanie Marty who will remain on the Board as the 2003 Past-President and to Steve DiZio, our outgoing Past-President. Due to unforeseen circumstances which resulted in a lack of an incoming 2003 President, both Melanie and Steve stepped up to the plate and served additional terms as President and Past-President, respectively. As the 2003 President-Elect, I very much appreciated their experience and support for a smooth transition into 2004. I would also like to thank Nancy Kirsten, our out-going Treasurer. Nancy did an excellent job of keeping track of membership dues, paying meeting receipts, and attending GETA membership meetings during her tenure which allowed us to “pay at the door.” Thank yous to Michelle Rodrigues (Secretary), Donya Bagheri (Business Representative), Christine Erdmann (Government Representative), and Hanna Ng (Post-Doc Representative) who provided input and support throughout the year. In addition, I would like to acknowledge Colette Rudd and Pam Lee, neither of whom were on the 2003 Board. Both Colette and Pam are long-time GETA members and provided their collective wisdom to help keep things running smoothly. Colette is a Past President, and Pam publishes and distributes our Newsletter.

Turning to welcome our incoming 2004 Board members, Tom McDonald our President-Elect and Program is already off to an enthusiastic start by taking the lead on our 2004 Winter meeting. I’d also like to welcome Marion Russell (Secretary), Bob Baldwin (Business Representative), and Karen Dingley (Government Representative). Welcome “back” to Linda Rausch who has agreed to serve another term as our Newsletter Editor, and a special thank you to Marina Chiarrupa-Zucca who came forward during our 2003 Fall GETA meeting to serve as GETA’s Treasurer. As always, we want our members to feel involved and to have every chance to participate. If you would like to become a GETA Board member or contribute in some way, please contact any of the current Board members.

In closing, I would like to add that I am very much looking forward to working with the 2004 GETA Executive Board. Our next GETA Executive Board meeting is conveniently scheduled on Wednesday March 3 from 4-6 pm immediately before our GETA Winter dinner meeting. All current GETA members are invited to attend.

About The Speaker

DONATO A. DI MONTE, M.D. Director of Basic Research
The Parkinson’s Institute

Dr. Di Monte received his Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Bari, Italy, where he also specialized in Internal Medicine. He completed post-doctoral training in Biochemistry and Toxicology first at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, and then at the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley. In 1988, he joined the Parkinson’s Institute where he is currently Senior Investigator and Director of Basic Research. Dr. Di Monte has been the recipient of several research awards and has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications. He is a permanent member of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Training Grant and Career Development Review Committee and is Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Collaborative Centers for Parkinson’s Disease Environmental Research sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

GETA Board Meeting
Open to All Members

There will be a GETA Board meeting from 4-6 pm before the Annual Dinner meeting. All interested GETA members are encouraged to attend. GETA is looking for fresh input for upcoming meetings and the future of the Society. Please join in to plan the direction of your Society!
2004 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>FAX</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Steering Committee

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<tr>
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<th>E-Mail</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>530-752-3394</td>
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</tr>
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GETA Election Results

Election results were announced at the Fall meeting. Our new Board members are:

- President-elect: Tom McDonald
- Secretary: Marion Russell
- Treasurer (appointed): Marina Chiarappa-Zucca
- Newsletter Editor: Linda Rausch
- Business Representative: Robert Baldwin
- Government Representative: Karen Dingley
- Student/Postdoc Rep:

Thanks to all who ran and all who will serve on the Board. Without the Board, the organization doesn’t exist.

What’s New With You?

Do you have a new job? Has your address, phone number or e-mail changed? Contact GETA Membership Officer Laurie Monserrat at lmonserr@oehha.ca.gov to update your information so you won’t miss out on GETA Newsletters and meetings. And while you’re at it, make sure your dues are current!

GETA WEBSITE

The Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS) is generously hosting our website. To get to the site, first go to the EMS website at www.ems-us.org and click on the link for GETA on the Information Power Page. The Membership Directory is on-line too!

National Meetings

Society of Toxicology (SOT)
March 21-25, 2004
Baltimore, Maryland

Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS)
October 2-6, 2004
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
The title for the 2003 GETA Fall Symposium was “Infectious Diseases – from Discovery to Drug Development to Biodefense.” Five speakers presented very different aspects of this theme. We started the morning with Dr. David Wang (UCSF) who gave a comprehensive presentation which included a review of viral DNA microarrays that contain up to 28,000 elements derived from over 1000 viral genomes. These arrays were used to positively identify and classify SARS as a “…previously unrecognized virus from the coronavirus family…” within one day of receipt of the samples from CDC. On the other side of the exposure spectrum, Dr. Richard Hector (UCSF) presented the Valley Fever Project, an orphan drug program for coccidioidomycosis fungal infections. *Coccidioides immitis* is an endemic soil-dwelling fungus in the arid regions such as California’s Central Valley. Once contracted, victims endure symptoms that may take years of antifungal drug treatments to resolve. The goal of the Valley Fever Project is to develop drugs and vaccines to minimize the impact of this disease.

Dr. William Colston (LLNL), our third speaker, revealed some of the hi-technology that his group is using to develop a fully autonomous pathogen detection system (APDS) that is capable of continuously monitoring the environment for airborne biological threat agents (think anthrax). The system is designed to provide early warning to civilians in the event of a terrorist attack. He showed us a picture of one of the instruments being used at an U.S. airport, and to me it looked a lot like something use in “Get Smart,” the old TV spy-comedy series. William McCormick (Clorox) gave a stimulating anecdotal presentation that contrasted the responsiveness and style of different federal agencies when responding to emergency situations. His example included the regulation and use of bleach (surprise!!) in the neutralization of anthrax used bioterrorism threats through the postal service. In his experience, the CDC quickly recommended the use of bleach whereas another federal agency (un-named) is likely to be still holding committee meetings to figure out the correct bleach concentration that will kill microorganisms.

Our final speaker was Dr. Jon Mirsalis (SRI) whose energetic style and wit kept us awake until the end of the meeting. He spoke about the challenges involved in developing anti-infective therapeutics and discussed the NIH program to support preclinical toxicology and pharmacokinetics studies of drugs for treatment of AIDS, TB, malaria, biowarfare pathogens, and sexually transmitted diseases. In all, we had a full day of very interesting presentations. I know that I learned something new, and I hope that everyone else who attended did as well.
Registration Form

GETA WINTER DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, March 3, 2004
Hs Lordships Restaurant
on the Berkeley Marina

Name: ________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Fax: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

GETA Member? Yes No (circle one)

Registration Fee:
Regular Members/Non-members: $30
Full-time registered students: $20
TOTAL ENCLOSED: ___________

DINNER includes salad, entree, accompaniments, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, tea or milk. Entree choices are: (1) Broiled salmon in dill sauce, (2) Chicken Breast Jerusalem, or (3) Vegetarian Pasta.

Please Indicate choice of entree:       Baked Salmon _____
                                            Chicken Jerusalem _____
                                            Pasta Primavera _____

Send this completed registration form and check made payable to GETA to:

GETA
c/o Marina Chiarappa-Zucca
Forensic Science Center
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
PO Box 808, L-178
Livermore, CA 94551-0808

Phone:

You may also make reservations by E-mail: chiarappazucca1@llnl.gov
Please bring your check to the meeting.

You will be billed if you fail to attend the meeting, unless you cancel before Monday, March 1, 2004.
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 Laurie Monserrat
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Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone: 916-443-2358
Fax: 503-905-7306
E-mail: lmonserr@oehha.ca.gov
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004!