



GETA NEWSLETTER

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

WINTER DINNER MEETING

"Genetic and Environmental Clues in Parkinson's Disease Research"

Speaker: Donato A. Di Monte, M.D.

Director of Basic Research

The Parkinson's Institute, Sunnyvale, CA

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

H's Lordships Restaurant *on the Berkeley Marina*

Reception: 6:00 pm Dinner: 7:00 pm

Open to all members - GETA Board Meeting 4:00 pm

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.

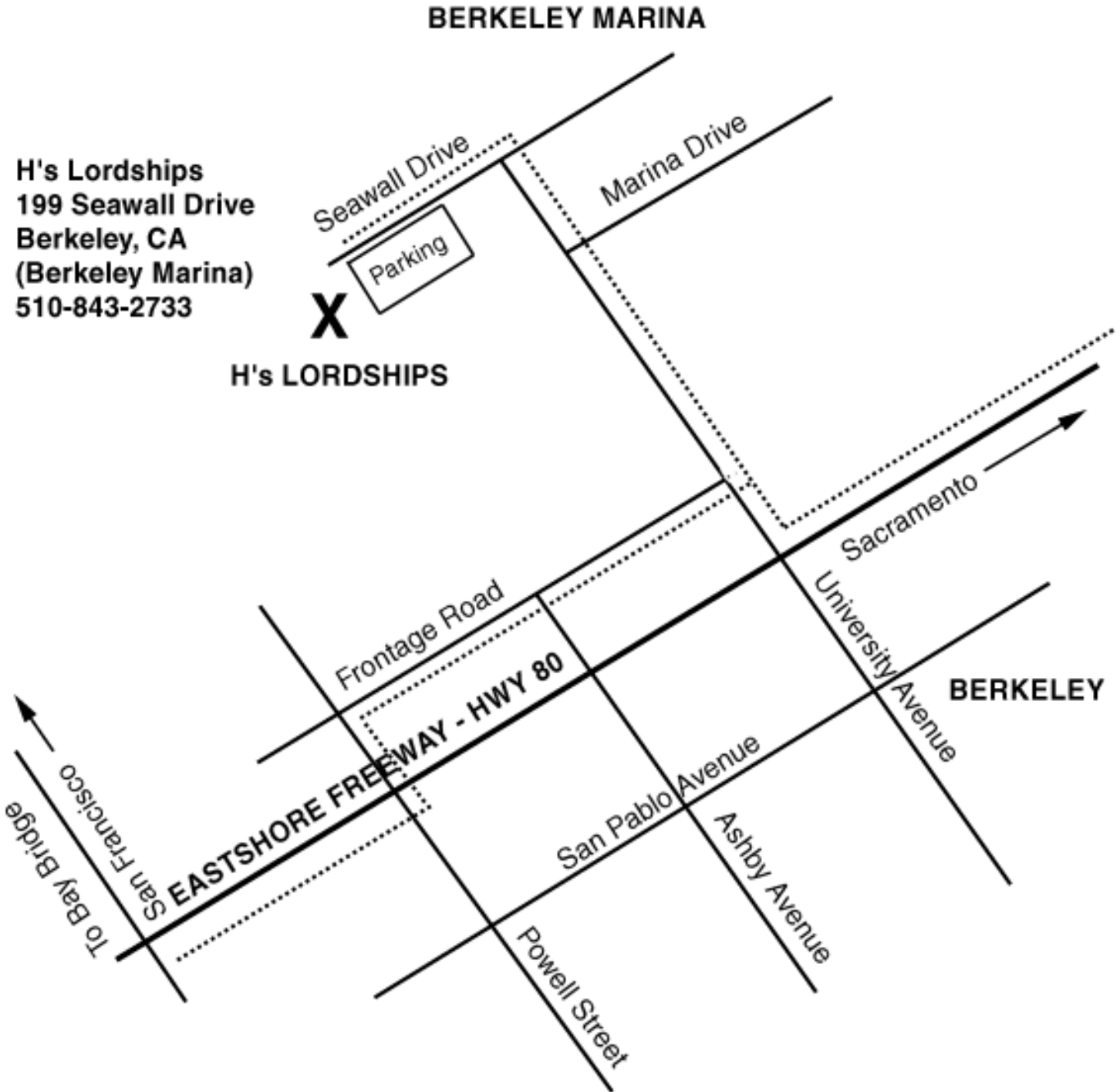
Dr. Di Monte's research has focused on the mechanisms of nigrostriatal degeneration (the main pathologic feature of Parkinson's disease). Understanding this mechanism may provide targets for pharmaceutical interventions. Dr. Di Monte's research has studied the effects of neurotoxins that damage the nigrostriatal 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.





President's Comments

.... *by Karen Steinmetz*

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 you 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)		Phone	FAX	E-Mail
President	Karen Steinmetz	650-859-4145	650-859-3444	karen.steinmetz@sri.com
President-Elect*	Tom McDonald	510-622-3187	510-622-3211	tmcdonal@oehha.ca.gov
Past President	Melanie Marty	510-622-3154	510-622-3210	mmarty@oehha.ca.gov
Secretary	Marion Russell	510-495-2915	510-486-7303	mlrussell@lbl.gov
Treasurer	Marina Chiarappa-Zucca	925-422-2144	925-423-9014	chiarappazucca1@llnl.gov
Newsletter Editor	Linda Rausch	650-859-5008	650-859-2889	linda.rausch@sri.com
Membership Officer	Laurie Monserrat	916-327-7333		lmonserr@oehha.ca.gov
Placement Officer	Janet Baulch	530-752-9872	530-752-5300	jebaulch@ucdavis.edu
Steering Committee				
At-Large	Moire Creek	925-948-2965	925-948-2901	Moire.Creek@valent.com
Business	Bob Baldwin	408-245-6912	360-838-0888	DrBob@iname.com
University	Nina Holland	510-642-8781	510-642-5815	ninah@uclink4.berkeley.edu
Government	Karen Dingley	925-423-8156	925-422-2282	dingley1@llnl.gov
Student/Postdoc	Elaine Khan	530-752-4174	530-752-3394	emkhan@ucdavis.edu

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/Post-doc 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



Fall meeting review ...by Karen Steinmetz

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.

GETA Past Presidents

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

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:

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c/o Laurie Monserrat
1369 7th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone: 916-443-2358
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SRI International PN-169
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Menlo Park, CA 94025**

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004!