



# GETA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26, No. 1

February 2005

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

## **WINTER DINNER MEETING**

### ***"Marin County Breast Cancer Rate: Myth and Reality"***

**Speaker: Rochelle Ereman, MS, MPH  
Epidemiology Program**

**County of Marin Department of Health & Human Services**

**Thursday, March 24, 2005**

**H's Lordships Restaurant *on the Berkeley Marina***

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

***GETA Board Meeting 5:00 pm - Open to all members***

GETA's winter dinner meeting this year covers a newsworthy topic members won't want to miss. Headlines like "SF and Marin top charts of high breast cancer rates" and "Seeking toxic causes of breast cancer: Effort to find source of Bay Area's unusually high rate" have been in the San Francisco Chronicle for several years. Rochelle Ereman, GETA's Dinner Speaker on March 24, will give a summary of recent research and insight into causes of the unusually high breast cancer rate in Marin County. (Background: Elevated rates of breast cancer in Marin County, California, were first reported in the early 1990s. Marin County breast cancer incidence rates between 1990 and 1999 increased 3.6% per year (95% confidence interval, 1.8-5.5), six times more rapidly than in comparison areas.)

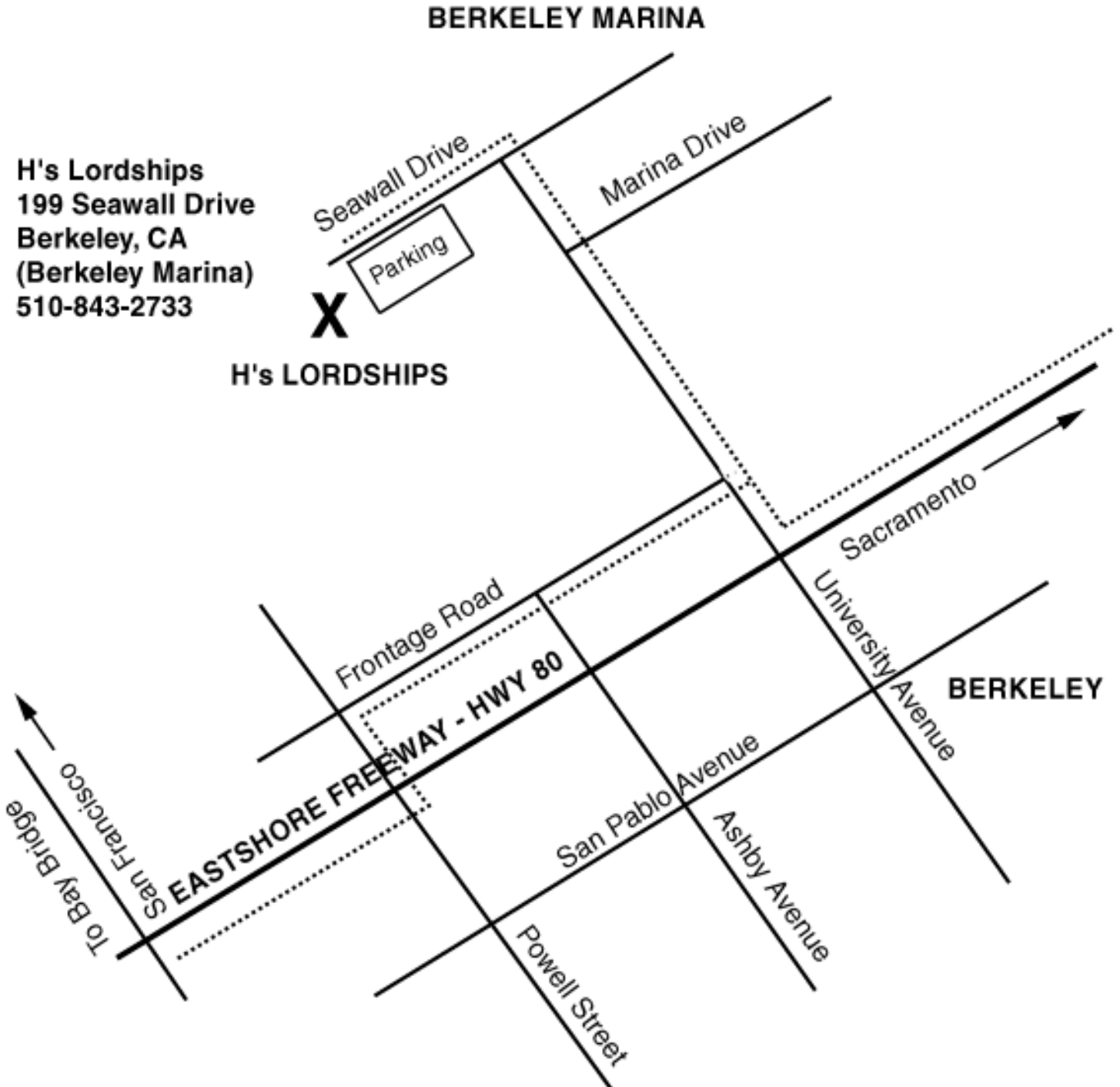
Members are also encouraged to attend the Board meeting at 5 pm. The GETA Board welcomes new ideas and will be discussing the Spring meeting. Come be a part of the discussion and get more involved in GETA!

***Registration Deadline is Thursday, March 17th!!***

## 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 *Tom McDonald*

**W**e have just completed a very good GETA year. Attendance at last year's meetings was high, the number of GETA members has increased, and the Society has more money available for upcoming meetings and student awards than in prior years.

2005 looks to continue the trend. We have a very capable new President-elect/Program Chair, Inge Ivens, whom I look forward to working with in the upcoming year. We have a great start to the year as Inge has lined up for the GETA Winter Dinner Meeting (March 24) a knowledgeable speaker to discuss the latest science surrounding Marin County's high breast cancer rate.

I also want to congratulate all the new and returning GETA Board members. In January, the Board had an excellent meeting in Walnut Creek to discuss a variety of the Society's issues. The Board members really are a great group of individuals with which to know and interact, which brings me nicely to another point that I wanted to make. As Spring approaches, I would like to plant an early seed for next year's elections. Please think ahead about whether **you** would like to run for a GETA office, or nominate a worthy colleague for an office. The continued strength of the society will depend in part on continued participation from smart folks, like you. Please feel free to contact me (510-622-3187) to discuss the duties of the Board members or any other questions you may have.

One of the business items discussed at the Board meeting in January was to update the GETA constitution and bylaws. Some of the most notable proposed changes are to eliminate the Placement Officer and add a Web Officer to the Board. A subcommittee of three board members is currently drafting proposed changes and clarifications to the constitution and bylaws. The Board will bring to the full membership the proposed changes for ratification in the near future.

**T**his is an exciting and challenging time for our field. With the increased use of the automated testing methods of the "-omics," we now generate and must process and understand volumes of information. With the advent of combinatorial chemistry, we must address the challenges associated with our ability to produce thousands of different chemicals per day. And with the huge investments in nanotechnology and micro-instrumentation, we are filled with wonderment and at the same time are nagged by the associated unresolved societal and safety issues. The need for a scientific society like GETA to provide a forum for members to learn and discuss new advances has never been more apparent.

All the best to you and your families,

*Tom McDonald*  
**tmcdonal@oehha.ca.gov**

---

## About the Speaker, Rochelle Ereman

**R**ochelle Ereman, MS, MPH, has dedicated the past 16 years of her career serving women and children in the health field, working primarily in the area of prevention of illness and disease. Currently, she is the head of the newly established Epidemiology Program at the County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services. In her first 2 years as Marin County's Epidemiology Program Chief, she has managed the first county-wide health survey, worked to improve data surveillance for the Health Division, and directed breast cancer research projects for the County. Prior to her work in the County Epidemiology Program she served as the Maternal and Child Health Director for Marin County for 4 years. She has conducted clinical research in the area of human lactation at the University of California at Davis, ran 3 prenatal clinics in Yolo County, and was an associate lecturer at the University of California at Davis in Community Nutrition. Her current research is focused on the epidemiology of breast cancer in Marin County, an area with historically elevated incidence rates, and the translation of epidemiologic concepts to the community.

## GETA

### Board Meeting Open to All Members

**T**here will be a GETA Board meeting from 5-6 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!

# 2005 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.

<b>Officers</b> (*Program Chair)		<b>Phone</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
President	Tom McDonald	510-622-3187	510-622-3211	tmcdonal@oehha.ca.gov
President-Elect*	Inge Ivens	515-332-9272		ingeivens@aol.com
Past President	Karen Steinmetz	650-859-4145	650-859-3444	karen.steinmetz@sri.com
Secretary	Marion Russell	510-495-2915	510-486-7307	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	916-322-9705	LMONSERR@oehha.ca.gov
Placement Officer	Janet Baulch	530-752-9872	530-752-5300	jebaulch@ucdavis.edu
<b>Steering Committee</b>				
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	Adrian Rodriguiz	408-924-4846	408-924-4840	rodriga@email.sjsu.edu
Government	Karen Dingley	925-423-8156	925-422-2282	dingley1@llnl.gov
Student/Postdoc	Andrew Olaharski	510-643-5349		drewski@berkeley.edu

## GETA Election Results

Our new Board members are:

President-elect:	Inge Ivens
Membership:	Lauri Monserrat
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Rausch
Business Representative:	Robert Baldwin
University Representative:	Adrian Rodriguiz
Student/Post-doc Rep:	Andrew Olaharski

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

## DUES REMINDER

Check the upper right corner of your mailing label for your dues expiration date. If it says

**"EXPIRED - RENEW NOW!"**

then please take a minute and send in your dues. You will be removed from the mailing list for the next newsletter if your dues is not current. Don't risk losing contact with GETA!

## NATIONAL MEETINGS

### Society of Toxicology (SOT)

#### 44th Annual Meeting

March 6-10, 2005

New Orleans, Louisiana

[www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org)

### Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS)

#### 36th Annual EMS Meeting & 9th International Conference on Environmental Mutagens (ICEM) *"Global Issues in Genetic Toxicology and Mutagenesis"*

September 3-8, 2005

San Francisco, California

[www.icem2005.org](http://www.icem2005.org)



# Fall meeting review ...by Tom McDonald

The GETA Fall meeting exceeded expectations, as we had to bring in extra chairs to accommodate all the last minute participants. The half-day conference entitled “*Toxicity to the Developing Brain: Recent Research and Mechanisms of Effect*” was held at the Elihu Harris State Building in Oakland on November 9, 2004, focused on current research in California on neurodevelopmental toxicity. Over 80 scientists representing industry, national laboratories, academia and government attended. The meeting highlighted research on how early-life exposures to very different chemicals or other environmental insults alter proper brain development. Chemicals discussed included organophosphate pesticides, PCBs and manganese. Researchers are trying to understand the underlying mechanisms of toxicity to help determine if early-life chemical exposures in humans are involved in outcomes such as hearing loss, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, autism or other long-term learning and perception deficits.

Four distinguished speakers provided updates on their research. First, Dr. Frank Crinella of UC Irvine gave a talk on soy consumption, manganese toxicity and studies of hyperactivity. Soy infant formula contains fairly high levels of naturally occurring manganese and food companies historically supplemented formula with additional manganese. Dr. Crinella reviewed the human and animal evidence indicating that high intake of manganese consumption early in life is associated with hyperactivity later in life. He presented his research in rats indicating clear dose-response relationships with manganese intake and hyperactivity. Mechanistic studies suggested

that alterations to the dopamine neurotransmitter systems may be responsible. Second, Dr. Isaac N. Pessah of UC Davis shared his work on chemically induced alterations of calcium channel proteins (the ryanodine receptor) in nerve cells. These large receptors control calcium homeostasis that is essential for proper nerve cell growth and interconnections. He discussed data on how non-coplanar PCBs and other compounds altered calcium signaling at very low concentrations. Third, Dr. Tal Kenet of UC San Francisco shared her work on environmental influences of proper brain development in the rat. She showed amazing images of how environmental insults such as repetitive noise or PCB exposure could physically alter the patterns of brain organization in the rat. Finally, Dr. Gary Quistad of UC Berkeley discussed work conducted in his laboratory on the toxicity of organophosphates and their effects on secondary non-acetylcholinesterase targets. For example, one mechanism by which these pesticides may cause neurodevelopmental effects is through inhibition of enzymes that remove lysophospholipids from cell membranes. The audience was treated to some very detailed information on myriad ways that environmental exposures can disrupt the intricate dance that is brain development.

As was the case with all of our meetings this year, the presentations were followed by good food! Attendees continued the lively discussion at a reception in the Golden Bear Café, where the caterer served a delicious spread of Indian food. It was an excellent meeting — start to finish.

## GETA Past Presidents

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

**Registration Form**  
**GETA WINTER DINNER MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2005**

**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: \$35**

**Full-time Registered Students:     \$25**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_**

DINNER includes salad, entree, accompaniments, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, tea or milk. Entree choices are: (1) Chicken Mozzarella, (2) Baked Salmon , or (3) Vegetarian.

**Please Indicate choice of entree:** Chicken Mozzarella \_\_\_\_\_  
Baked Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

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

**GETA**  
**c/o Marion Russell**  
**Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**  
**1 Cyclotron road, MS 70-108B**  
**Berkeley CA 94720**

**Phone: 510-495-2915**

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

*You will be billed if you fail to attend the meeting, unless you  
cancel before Thursday, March 17, 2005*



# 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 ( <i>save 5 bucks!</i> )
Regular Member, 3 year	\$35 ( <i>save 10 bucks!!</i> )
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**  
**1369 7th Avenue**  
**Sacramento, CA 95818**

**Phone: 916-443-2358**  
**E-mail: lmonserr@oehha.ca.gov**

**GETA Newsletter  
c/o Linda Rausch  
SRI International PN-169  
333 Ravenswood Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2005!**