GETA NEWSLETTER

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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

We 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.

This 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

GETA Board Meeting Open to All Members

There 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!

About the Speaker, Rochelle Ereman

Rochelle 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.
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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>FAX</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Tom McDonald</td>
<td>510-622-3187</td>
<td>510-622-3211</td>
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<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Inge Ivens</td>
<td>515-332-9272</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Karen Steinmetz</td>
<td>650-859-4145</td>
<td>650-859-3444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Marion Russell</td>
<td>510-495-2915</td>
<td>510-486-7307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Marina Chiarappa-Zucca</td>
<td>925-422-2144</td>
<td>925-423-9014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
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<td>Membership Officer</td>
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<td>916-322-9705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement Officer</td>
<td>Janet Baulch</td>
<td>530-752-9872</td>
<td>530-752-5300</td>
</tr>
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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        | 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

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
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.
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 (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
1369 7th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone: 916-443-2358
E-mail: lmonserr@oehha.ca.gov
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2005!