

Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

Presidents' Message - June 2007

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Dear SRA-New England Members:

The next and final NE SRA meeting of the year will be held on **Tuesday, June 19, 2007 from 4:30-6:45 pm on the MIT Campus** in Cambridge. Please note that we will be meeting on a **Tuesday**, not our regular Wednesday, and will be in a new room in Building E51 near the Kendall Square T station along Memorial Drive (<http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg>). The topic will be: **Children's Exposure and Risk Issues – Where Are Things Going?** Given federal efforts to consider heightened exposures and susceptibilities of children to chemicals and with some state initiatives in various stages of contemplation or completion, we wanted to provide a discussion involving individuals who are involved with aspects of this issue to highlight some of the underlying issues of incorporating children's characteristics into risk assessments and standard setting. While incorporation of child-specific parameters into risk assessments and environmental standards has been slow in coming, our goal is to present a practical understanding of why children might be different than the theoretical adult often used, to pinpoint shortcomings in current toxicity testing protocols with suggestions for improvements, to present one state's experience with incorporating children's risk issues into its regulatory program and to provide a discussion opportunity for audience members to query panelists and hear perspectives from several additional invited discussants. Our panelists will be Dr. Sandra Baird, Mass DEP; Dr. Gary Ginsberg, CT Department of Public Health and Dr. Helen Goeden, Minnesota Department of Health. In addition, we have invited representatives of some of the other northeastern states' environmental and health agencies to join us in the discussion.

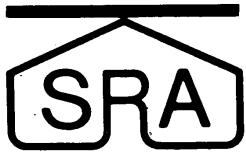
In order to provide members with better access to our session, the meeting will have a conference call line available for the seminar. The call-in number will be on the chapter website and will be in a reminder email to be sent just prior to the meeting. We will also post copies of the presenters' presentation materials on the Chapter website (<http://www.sra-ne.org>) several days before the meeting so that you can have that material in front of you during the meeting.

As I am coming to the end of my year's tenure as President of NE SRA, I am soliciting nominations or volunteers to run as President for next year. We have encouraged co-Presidents the last few years to help share the duties and to provide an opportunity for newer recruits to the field and organization to join more quickly in the leadership of the organization by working with co-President's having more tenure in the field and historical involvement with the chapter. I look forward to hearing from any willing to serve.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting later in the month.

Sincerely,

Michael Hutcheson
President



Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

JUNE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

NE SRA PANEL DISCUSSION ON CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE AND RISK ISSUES – WHERE ARE THINGS GOING?

DATE: Tuesday, June 19, 2007
LOCATION: MIT, Room E51-145
TIME: 4:30 –6:45 pm

Directions for Getting to MIT: <http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg?section=directions>
Directions for finding Building E51: <http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg>

Telephone call-in information will be on Chapter's website several days before the meeting (<http://www.sra-ne.org>)

Program Objectives:

The purpose of this Session of the New England Society for Risk Analysis is to present current issues associated with consideration of unique exposures and susceptibilities of children to chemicals in the environment. The program will include presentations of the underlying biological and physiological bases for viewing children as having higher exposures and greater potential susceptibilities to chemicals than adults, shortcomings for identifying early life stage susceptibility in current toxicity assessment protocols, and national and state efforts to provide for consideration of children's issues. After presentations by three panelists, the program will continue with an open discussion led by chosen discussants on specific questions related to implementing consideration of children's risks in regulatory programs. Representatives of northeast states and other states working on these issues have been asked to participate. Presentations will be structured to provide practicing risk assessors with an understanding of the issues and uncertainties in this area of risk assessment and to provide a glimpse of the directions regulatory agencies have taken, are taking or may take to protect this subset of the population.

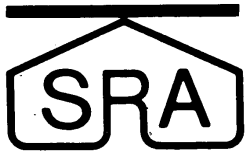
Program Agenda

4:30 – 5:45 pm

Welcome and Introduction – Michael Hutcheson, President, NE SRA

Why are Kids Different? – The Underlying Biological and Physiological Characteristics

Dr. Sandra Baird, Toxicologist
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Research and Standards



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Abstract: Since the 1993 NAS publication of *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*, the awareness that children are not “little adults” has grown in the risk assessment and medical communities. Children’s behaviors and physiology are different from adults, and change continuously during different stages of development from birth to sexual maturity. Because of these differences, kids tend to have a greater exposure dose and can be more sensitive to the effects of a chemical. This presentation highlights differences in the respiratory systems of adults and children to illustrate underlying biological and physiological differences.

Limitations of Current Toxicity Testing Regimes for Identifying Early Life Stage Susceptibilities

Dr. Gary Ginsberg, Toxicologist
Connecticut Department of Public Health,
Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program

Abstract: Animal testing paradigms were initially designed to be a broad screen of toxicity endpoints relevant to human risk. The basic array of studies captures the potential for acute irritancy and toxicity, chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity in adult animals, reproductive success across several exposed generations and developmental toxicity from *in utero* exposure. Additions to the matrix over the years have included mutagenicity/genetox test batteries, pharmacokinetic studies to better understand dose selection and MOA, neurotoxicity batteries in adult animals and developmental neurotoxicity in juvenile animals. Exploratory tests looking for endocrine disruption or immune alteration have still not become standardized or a routine part of the testing paradigm. Futuristic high throughput assays and omics technologies offer great promise but their application to risk assessment is currently uncertain. The testing system that has evolved contains numerous datagaps in terms of evaluating offspring for key endpoints such as cancer, sexual development, immune function, airway development, and a variety of other effects. Further, developmental neurotoxicity, the one testing protocol that specifically focuses on a postnatal endpoint, is sparingly used. This presentation will discuss the uncertainties in toxicity testing databases with respect to children's risks and the need for the development of testing triggers that determine when specialty early life studies should be required.

Implementation Issues when Considering Children in Setting Environmental Standards

Dr. Helen Goeden, Toxicologist
Minnesota Department of Health
Environmental Health Division

Abstract: The state of Minnesota has been in the process of developing new state groundwater protection standards for the protection of human health which incorporate consideration of children’s risks. This presentation will provide brief background of the legislation supporting this initiative, a chronological summary of activities to date, discussion of the technical issues that they have addressed trying to incorporate children’s risk issues into standards and potential future initiatives which may include revision of their ambient air rule.



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5:45 – 6:45 pm

Structured Open Discussion

Invited Discussants –

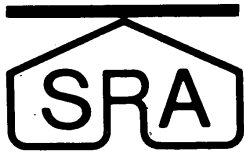
Razelle Hoffman-Contois, Vermont Department of Health
Dr. Donna Vorhees, The Science Collaborative – North Shore, MA

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES:

Dr. Sandra Baird: Dr. Baird is a Toxicologist with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Research and Standards. She supports the air toxics and drinking water programs through the development of toxicity values, evaluation of the implications of new toxicological information and guidance, evaluation of site-specific toxicity and exposure assessment issues, and development of guidance in support of risk-based decision making. Before joining the department, Dr. Baird was a senior scientist with Menzie-Cura & Associates, Inc., where she was involved in developing risk-based values for cancer and noncancer effects of chemicals. Her work experience includes dose-response modeling, mixtures risk assessment, and probabilistic characterization of uncertainty in risk assessment. She received her B.S. in toxicology from Northeastern University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr. Gary Ginsberg: Dr. Ginsberg is currently a toxicologist at the CT Dept. of Public Health within the Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health. He has responsibility for human health risk assessments conducted in the state. He is also the project manager for several cooperative agreements with USEPA. One project is researching pharmacokinetic differences between children and adults while the other is exploring the influence of genetic polymorphisms on susceptibility to toxicants and inter-individual variability. Dr. Ginsberg serves as adjunct faculty at the Yale School of Medicine and is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He recently finished serving on the National Academy of Science Panel on Biomonitoring and he currently serves on the NAS Panel that is evaluating USEPA risk methods. He also serves as a member of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee to the USEPA. He received a Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of Connecticut (Storrs) and was a post-doctoral fellow in carcinogenesis/mutagenesis at the Cornell Institute for Medical Research. Dr. Ginsberg's toxicology experience has involved a variety of settings: basic research, teaching, working within the pesticide and consulting industries, and now working in public health. He has published in the areas of toxicology, carcinogenesis, physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modeling, inter-individual variability and children's risk assessment. He is also co-author of a book on toxics for the lay public, "What's Toxic, What's Not:" Berkley Books, December 2006.

Dr. Helen Goeden: Dr. Goeden received her B.S. in Biology and Chemistry and her Ph.D. in Environmental Health and Toxicology. After spending a year and a half in a postdoctoral position at the University of Calgary researching developmental effects of low-level hydrogen sulfide exposure, Dr. Goeden moved to California. While in California, Dr. Goeden worked at a small environmental consulting firm and at the University of California at Berkeley. Her work involved development of toxicity values for California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and conducting risk assessments for waste combustion facilities. In 1992 Dr. Goeden took a position as a Research Scientist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. While at the Pollution Control Agency her major responsibilities involved development and refinement of risk assessment methodologies, chemical specific toxicity assessments, and site-specific risk assessments. In December 2001 Dr. Goeden joined the Health Risk Assessment Unit of the Environmental Health Division of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Currently, her main responsibility at MDH is related to the Health Risk Limit for Groundwater rule revision effort. Her role is to evaluate recent scientific research (toxicological as well as exposure) to identify the best science available and to determine its application in making public health policy decisions regarding groundwater and drinking water contamination.



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COURSES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

13th Annual Meeting & Short Course **North Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry** **June 13-15, 2007** **Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI**

PROGRAM

- Wednesday, June 13, 2007** Short Course - all day, lunch included.
- Thursday, June 14, 2007** Morning & afternoon sessions w/ lunch. Poster Session, Social Mixer, & Barbeque overlooking the Mount Hope & Narragansett Bays.
- Friday, June 15, 2007** Morning sessions. Annual Membership meeting. Board of Directors business luncheon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

Mike Thompson, Meeting Chair (mthompson@woodlotalt.com) 207-729-1199
Dodi Borsay Horowitz, Treasurer/Secretary. (borsay.dodi@epa.gov) 401-782-3042

See attached flyer or check our website WWW.NACSETAC.ORG for details!

- July 15-19, 2007, **International Congress of Toxicology**, Montreal, Canada. www.ict2007.org
- August 8-9, 2007, **Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products: State of the Science**, Portland, Maine. www.neiwpcc.org/ppcpconference
- November 11-15, 2007, **SETAC North America 28th Annual Meeting**, Midwest Express Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. <http://milwaukee.setac.org/home.asp> Meeting theme: Urban Environmental Issues: Impacts on Ecological Systems.
- Spring 2008. **Nanomaterials: Environmental Risks and Benefits**. NATO Advanced Research Workshop. Portugal. Contact Organizers: Dr. Jeffery Steevens (Jeffery.A.Steevens@us.army.mil) or Dr. Igor Linkov (ilinkov@intertox.com)

POSITIONS (none this month) *Please note that the job-posting fee for this newsletter is \$100 for recruiters/commercial and \$50 for government and nonprofit organizations. Please make your payment to Arlene Levin, NE-SRA Treasurer at Eastern Research Group, Inc. 110 Hartwell Street, Lexington, MA 02421*