



# GETA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26, No. 2

May 2005

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

## **SPRING SYMPOSIUM**

Co-hosted with NorCal SOT

### ***"Stem Cell Application in Pharmacology and Toxicology"***

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

SRI International

333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

The Genetic and Environmental Toxicology Association (GETA) of Northern California and the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (NorCal SOT) are hosting a day-long symposium entitled, "**Stem Cell Application in Pharmacology and Toxicology**". The morning session will introduce you to different types of stem cells and ongoing research using stem cells. The afternoon session will explore the present and future pharmacological and toxicological uses of stem cells. Immediately following the afternoon session, the day's speakers will lead a 30 minute panel discussion on Stem Cell Applications.

**Posters:** The GETA/NorCal SOT meeting will host a poster session (for everyone) and poster awards (1. \$250, 2. \$150 and 3. \$100, for undergraduate, graduate, post-doc or technical staff. Judging criteria will include but not be limited to subject matter, knowledge, contribution. Posters from any topic related to toxicology, or stem cells are requested. We ask that anyone interested in presenting their poster to submit the title by **May 10** and an abstract by **May 17** (to be distributed in advance of the meeting) to George Clemens - [gclemens@rigel.com](mailto:gclemens@rigel.com) (Tel: 650-624-1377).

***Registration Deadline is May 17th!***

***Poster Titles Due May 10!***

***Abstracts for Poster Session Due May 17th!***

# GETA and NorCal SOT MEETING PROGRAM

9:30 - 10:00 Registration and Poster Setup

## Morning Session: Introduction to Stem Cells

Meeting chair: Linval DePass

10:00 - 10:20 *Welcome and Goals for the Symposium*

Thomas A. McDonald (GETA President), Inge Ivens (GETA Program Chair)

Susan Rice (President NorCal SOT)

10:20 - 11:10 *Stem Cell Biology and the Future of Therapeutics*

Julie Baker, Assistant Professor of Genetics, Stanford University

11:10 - 12:00 *Molecular Engineering of Stem Cell and Gene Therapies in the Nervous System*

David Schaffer, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, UC Berkeley

12:00 - 12:30 *NorCal SOT Business Meeting*

12:00 - 1:30 **Lunch, Poster Session, Poster Judging**

*(The poster session will take place in the atrium, outside the auditorium.)*

## Afternoon Session: Stem Cell Application in Pharmacology and Toxicology

Meeting chair: Inge Ivens

1:30 - 2:10 *Toxicity Testing Using Stem Cell Assays*

Emer Clarke, Senior Scientist, StemCell Technologies Inc.

2:10 - 3:00 *Stem Cells: Biological Tools for Drug Discovery and Development*

Ralph Snodgrass, President and CEO, Vistagen Therapeutics Ind.

3:00 - 3:30 *Panel Discussion: Stem Cell Applications and Their Future*

Discussion Moderators: Linval DePas and Inge Ivens

Panel Members: Julie Baker, David Schaffer, Emer Clarke, and Ralph Snodgrass

3:30 Poster Award Presentation

3:45 p.m. Conference participants: refreshments in the atrium

**E-MAIL ABSTRACTS FOR THE POSTER SESSION TO**

**George Clemens**

**gclemens@rigel.com**

**BY May 17th!!**

**CA\$H AWARDS!!**

**(PDF format preferred)**

# Directions To SRI's International Building and Conference Parking

SRI is located at 333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
The main phone number is 650-859-2000

## 101 Southbound from San Francisco

Take Marsh Rd. - Atherton exit; turn right; go about 1 mile, turn left onto Middlefield Rd; go 1 mile to Ringwood Ave. and turn right; SRI Conference Parking is on the right. Park in the SRI Conference Parking Lot and walk to Ravenswood Ave. Take a left on Ravenswood Ave and follow the directions to the International Building entrance.

## 101 Northbound from San Jose

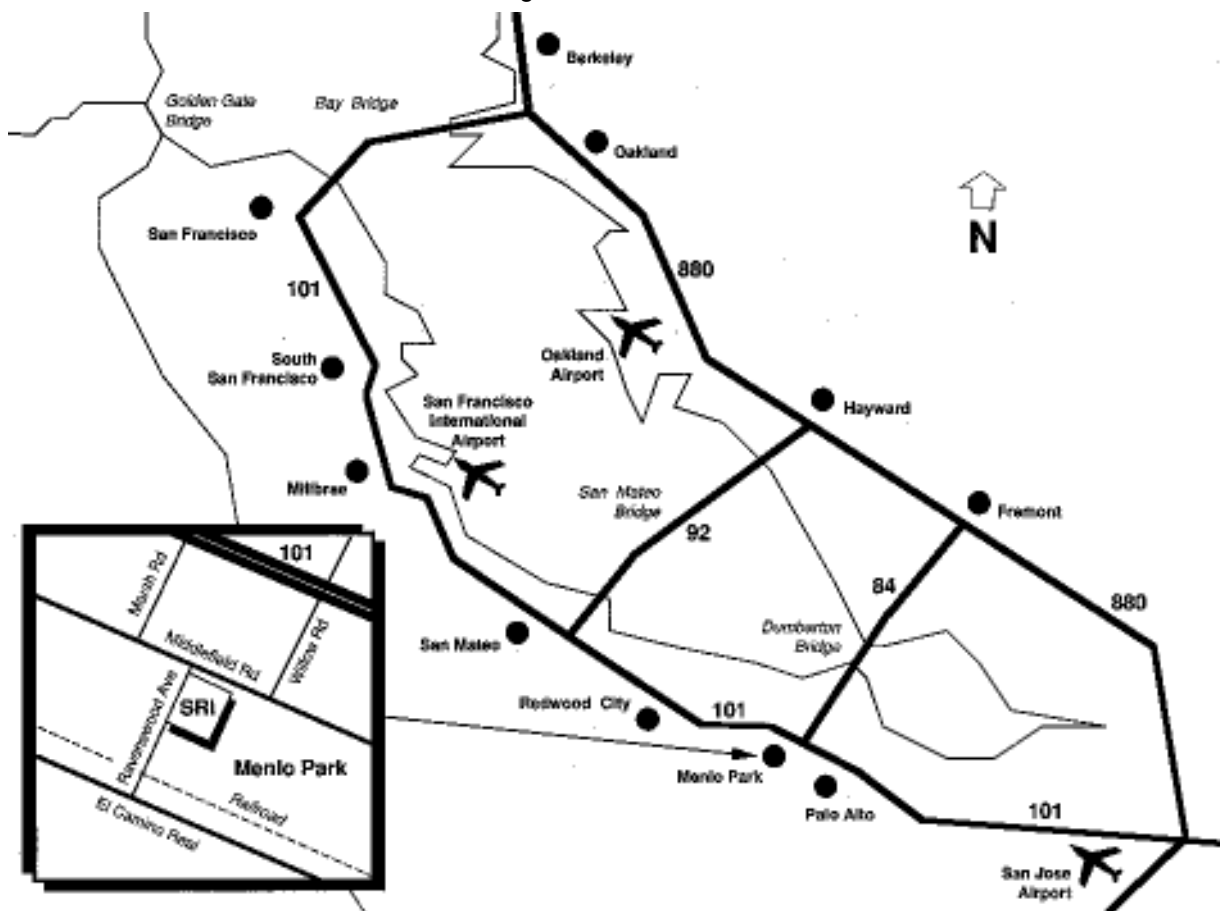
Take Willow Rd - Menlo Park exit; go about 1 mile to Middlefield Rd, turn right and go about 1/2 mile to first traffic light, Ringwood Ave, turn left; SRI Conference Parking is on the right. Park in the SRI Conference Parking Lot and walk to Ravenswood Ave. Take a left on Ravenswood Ave and follow the directions to the International Building entrance.

## 280 Southbound from San Francisco

Take Sand Hill Rd - Menlo Park exit; go about 2 miles to intersection with Santa Cruz Ave; turn left onto Santa Cruz Ave and follow Santa Cruz to El Camino Real; right on El Camino; left at first traffic light (Ravenswood Ave); cross the railroad tracks and continue to Middlefield Rd. (you'll pass the main SRI entrance); turn right on Middlefield Rd.; next traffic light is Ringwood Ave, turn right; SRI Conference Parking is on the right. Park in the SRI Conference Parking Lot and walk to Ravenswood Ave. Take a left on Ravenswood Ave and follow the directions to the International Building entrance.

## 280 Northbound from San Jose

Take Alpine Rd - Menlo Park exit; bear right and follow Alpine Rd to intersection with Santa Cruz Ave; follow Santa Cruz to El Camino; right on El Camino; left at first traffic light (Ravenswood Ave); cross the railroad tracks and continue to Middlefield Rd. (you'll pass the main SRI entrance); turn right on Middlefield Rd.; next traffic light is Ringwood Ave, turn right; SRI Conference Parking is on the right. Park in the SRI Conference Parking Lot and walk to Ravenswood Ave. Take a left on Ravenswood Ave and follow the directions to the International Building entrance.





# President's Comments

.... *by Tom McDonald*

This year seems to be flying by – May already! Well, if you are like me and stop to take the time and think about it, much has transpired in the past five months. On the GETA front, your executive board has met twice to hammer out the society's business and plan strategically to continue our trend of growth and health over the last couple of years. We continue to add new members. Also, the society now has a cash reserve to provide student awards and to ensure that we can bring good speakers to our future meetings.

Our winter dinner meeting was very enjoyable for the many individuals who attended. The speaker talked about the truths and myths of the Marin breast cancer rate. It was very interesting to hear about what really has been studied versus what

has just been speculated. Thanks to the efforts of our new GETA Program Chair, Inge Ivens, we have another exiting meeting planned for later this month. In collaboration with our NorCal SOT friends, GETA will host a meeting on stem cell research on toxicology and pharmacology. For California, I can not think of a more timely topic.

Finally, soon I will be putting together a nomination committee to develop a list of names for next year's GETA board elections. Please let me know if you are interested in running for office, or would like to volunteer to be on the selection committee.

May you and your loved ones have a great summer.

## GETA Past Presidents

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

## 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](http://www.ems-us.org)

and click on the link for **GETA** on the Information Power Page. The Membership Directory is on-line too!

## GETA NOW HAS YAHOO GROUPS

GETA now has a YAHOO group. The URL for the GETA group is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/getamembers/>

Using the links to the left members can post messages, list files, create polls, etc. It's easy and best of all it's free. Using the "Members" link on the left members can access and edit preferences (some groups generate TONS of e-mail and people can choose a "digest version" with e-mail all grouped on a page, or no mail at all and read messages on the web.

The following message is sent to each new member.

"Hello, Welcome to the getamembers group at Yahoo! Groups, a free, easy-to-use e-mail group service. Please take a moment to review this message. To learn more about the getamembers group, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/getamembers>. To start sending messages to members of this group, simply send e-mail to [getamembers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:getamembers@yahoogroups.com). If you do not wish to belong to getamembers, you may unsubscribe by sending an e-mail to [getamembers-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:getamembers-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com). To see and modify all of your groups, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/mygroups>

Regards,  
Laurie Monserrat  
Moderator, getamembers"

# 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.

Officers (*Program Chair)		Phone	FAX	E-Mail
President	Tom McDonald	415-778-4118		tmcdonald@arvesta.com
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



## *Dinner Meeting Review*

*...by Inge Ivans*

The GETA Winter dinner meeting was held on March 24, 2005 at Hs Lordship's restaurant on the Berkeley marina. We had a great speaker presenting the topic "*Marin County Breast Cancer Rate: Myth and Reality.*" Rochelle Ereman heads up the Epidemiology Program of the County of Marin Department of Health & Human Services. She has first-hand research experience with the subject, which was of great concern in Marin County for some years. Elevated rates of breast cancer in Marin County were first reported in the early 1990s, and the incidence rate between 1990 and 1999 increased 3.6% per year, six times more rapidly than in comparison areas. Rochelle reported that the rates were based on population estimates

from older census data and that it became evident after the new 2000 census that the number of women in the age range of concern were underestimated. Corrected cancer rates are less dramatic and very similar to those seen in San Francisco, but they are still among the highest in the nation. Rochelle initiated a lively discussion about other factors such as alcohol and breast feeding, which may influence breast cancer.

The meeting was a great success with over 30 participants from varied toxicology disciplines. It was a great time for the participants to network and "pick the brain" of the speaker.

**National Meetings**  
**Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS)**  
 September 3-8, 2005  
 San Francisco, CA

**Registration Form**  
**GETA / NORCAL SOT**  
**SPRING SYMPOSIUM**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2005**

SRI International

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GETA Member?**            Yes No (circle one)  
**NorCal SOT Member?**    Yes No (circle one)

**Students - Registration Fee: \$10**

**GETA or NorCal SOT Members**

**Early Registration Fee: \$35 (payment received by May 17)**

**Registration at the door: \$40**

**Non-Members**

**Early Registration Fee: \$40 (payment received by May 17)**

**Registration at the door: \$45**

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

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

**GETA**  
**c/o Marion Russell**  
**Lawrence Berkeley 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 Monday, May 23, 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**  
**P.O. Box 863**  
**Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

**Phone: 916-443-2358**  
**Fax: 503- 905-7306**  
**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!**