



# GETA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No. 1

February 2007

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

## ***WINTER DINNER MEETING***

### ***"Delaying (or Accelerating) the Degenerative Diseases: DNA Damage"***

**Speaker: Dr. Bruce Ames**

**Member of the National Academy of Sciences  
Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, UC Berkeley  
Senior Scientist at Children's Hospital Oakland  
Research Institute (CHORI)**

**Thursday, March 1, 2007**

**Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport  
1333 Bayshore Highway  
Burlingame, CA 94010**

**Reception: 5:30 pm (no-host bar)**

**Dinner: 6:30 pm**

**Presentation: 7:30 pm**

Bruce Ames will discuss his current research on how micronutrient inadequacy can lead to cancer and other long-term degenerative diseases. Could micronutrient deficiency trigger a triage response in the organism in favor of short-term survival and at the cost of accelerating degenerative diseases? Do episodic shortages of micronutrients play an evolutionary role in natural selection?

***Registration Deadline is Wednesday, February 21st!!***

# Directions to Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport:

The Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport is located five (5) minutes from San Francisco Airport at:

1333 Bayshore Highway  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
650-347-1234

## Directions:

- (1) **via BART:** To reach the hotel, take BART to the airport, then take Hyatt Regency shuttle from the airport to the hotel, it departs at the airport departure level.
- (2) **via Car from the North:** Take Highway 101 south. Exit onto Millbrae Avenue East. Go over the overpass toward the Bay, then turn right at the stoplight onto Bayshore Highway. Go through 4 stoplights. The Hyatt is visible on the right-hand side.
- (3) **via Car from the South:** Take Highway 101 north. Exit at Broadway/Burlingame and stay to the right. Turn left at the stoplight onto Bayshore Highway. Go through 1 stoplight. The Hyatt is visible on the left-hand side.
- (4) **PARKING:** Parking will be \$3 flat rate for the event (self parking) at the Hyatt.



## UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS

### Society of Toxicology (SOT)

#### 46th Annual Meeting

March 25-29, 2007  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
[www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org)

### American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

April 14-18, 2007  
Los Angeles, CA  
[www.aacr.org](http://www.aacr.org)

### Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS)

#### 38th Annual EMS Meeting

October 20-24, 2007  
Atlanta, Georgia  
[www.ems-us.org](http://www.ems-us.org)

### Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)

December 9-12, 2007  
San Antonio, Texas  
[www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org)



# President's Comments

.... by Amy Arcus

**H**appy 2007! GETA is off and running, already busy making plans for a year of stimulating scientific meetings. Our first scientific meeting will be a dinner meeting on March 1, with guest speaker Bruce Ames (see announcement in this newsletter). The second scientific meeting of the year will probably be in May and is typically a full day session. Stay tuned for more details. The third meeting is planned as a half-day session in the fall. If you would like to make suggestions for specific speakers or if you know of reasonably priced conference accommodations, please contact our President-Elect, Lida Antonian [lidaant@comcast.net](mailto:lidaant@comcast.net).

Though elections for this coming year will not occur until the fall, please consider now getting involved in GETA. GETA is a volunteer organization and it takes quite a bit of work to put on a scientific meeting. If you would like to help out but not be committed to a full year or more of typical officer work, please contact me. Your talents or knowledge can help GETA continue to provide top-notch scientific meetings.

If you are unsure when your membership runs out, check the date on the address label of this newsletter. Or contact our Membership Officer.

**O**r sign into Yahoo GETA Groups to check the membership list. If you have not yet joined the Yahoo GETA Group, do

so soon – its easy! Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), click on Groups in the left column, type in “geta”, go to the “getamembers” group site, and click the “join this group” in the upper right. You will receive an email from our Membership Officer before you are able to access the GETA Yahoo groups.

Hope to see you on March 1!!

*Amy Arcus, President 2007*

## GETA Election Results

Our new Board members are:

- President-elect: Lida Antonian
- Treasurer: Bob Baldwin
- Membership: Drew Olaharski
- Web Officer: Pamela Lee
- University Representative: Adrian Rodriguez
- Student/Post-doc Rep: Sunoz Saroozh

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

## 2007 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	E-Mail
President	Amy Arcus-Arth	510-622-3199	<a href="mailto:aarcus@oehha.ca.gov">aarcus@oehha.ca.gov</a>
President-Elect*	Lida Antonian	925-330-8220	<a href="mailto:lidaant@comcast.net">lidaant@comcast.net</a>
Past President	Inge Ivens	510-705-4204	<a href="mailto:ingeivens@aol.com">ingeivens@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Linda Rausch	650-859-5008	<a href="mailto:linda.rausch@sri.com">linda.rausch@sri.com</a>
Treasurer	Bob Baldwin	408-245-6912	<a href="mailto:DrBob@iname.com">DrBob@iname.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Linda Rausch	650-859-5008	<a href="mailto:linda.rausch@sri.com">linda.rausch@sri.com</a>
Membership Officer	Drew Olaharski	650-855-6569	<a href="mailto:andrew.olaharski@roche.com">andrew.olaharski@roche.com</a>
Web Officer	Pamela Lee	650-859-6739	<a href="mailto:pamela.lee@sri.com">pamela.lee@sri.com</a>
<b>Steering Committee</b>			
At-Large	Hanna Ng	650-859-3676	<a href="mailto:hanna.ng@sri.com">hanna.ng@sri.com</a>
Business	Tom McDonald	510-705-5195	<a href="mailto:mcdonaldpartyof4@yahoo.com">mcdonaldpartyof4@yahoo.com</a>
University	Adrian Rodriguez	408-924-4846	<a href="mailto:rodriga@email.sjsu.edu">rodriga@email.sjsu.edu</a>
Government	Steve DiZio	916-255-6634	<a href="mailto:sdizio@dtsc.ca.gov">sdizio@dtsc.ca.gov</a>
Student/Postdoc	Rebecca Erickson	650-859-2049	<a href="mailto:rebecca.erickson@sri.com">rebecca.erickson@sri.com</a>
Student/Postdoc	Sunoz Soroosh		



## Fall meeting review ...by Amy Arcus

The title for the Fall 2006 GETA meeting was “Green Chemistry: Coloring California Green.” Green chemistry can be defined as the design of chemical products and processes to reduce and/or eliminate substances hazardous to human health and the environment. Green chemistry has broad applications that extend beyond simply using less toxic chemicals. For example, green chemistry includes using and producing less toxic raw and intermediary substances and using less energy. Green chemistry can be applied to such diverse industries as biotechnology and building design.

Our first presenter for the Fall GETA meeting was Richard Lam, a State of California toxicologist and member of the State Sustained Building Committee. Dr. Lam described recent work to establish standards for building materials and guidelines for building designs. He pointed out that a Governor’s Executive Order provided the impetus for the state to require that these standards and designs be used for all new state buildings. Since the state is a major purchaser of materials and products such as carpet and computers (for offices, schools, prisons, etc.), the standards will, and have had, a tremendous impact on the development of “green” building materials and furnishings (e.g., lower levels of formaldehyde emitted from particle board despite the initial claim that technically it could not be done).

The second presentation was given by Michael Wilson, an assistant research scientist and the lead author on a report commissioned by the California Senate Environmental Quality

Committee to assess chemical policies and propose changes to create a more cohesive process of evaluating the ‘safety’ of chemicals to which the public is exposed (the report can be found at: <http://coeh.berkeley.edu/greenchemistry1.htm>). Mr. Wilson discussed the federal Toxic Substances Control Act and other regulations that impact the current production and use of chemicals. He described three barriers to green chemistry (data, safety, and technology gaps) and proposed broad policies to overcome these barriers.

The final presentation was co-led by Drs. Andrew Salmon and Jim Collins, toxicologists with the State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the state office responsible for setting “safe” exposure levels for environmental chemicals. They presented information on alternatives (chemicals and processes) to the traditionally used dry cleaning solvent perchloroethylene, which is known to have some toxic properties. There are advantages and disadvantages of all alternatives, with the least toxic (steam cleaning) having a high cost of equipment replacement, as well as claims of not cleaning as well as perchloroethylene. The California Air Resources Board has begun plans to decrease the use of perchloroethylene and encourage other alternatives for dry cleaning in California.

If you were unable to attend the Fall GETA meeting, you may link to pdf files of the presentations on the GETA website [www.ems-us.org/geta](http://www.ems-us.org/geta).



### GETA WEBSITE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

Thanks to the web creativity of Dave Provenza Designs (Pam Lee’s nephew) and input from the GETA Board members, GETA’s website has a new look. With the creation of a new Board Member for “Web Officer,” the updates to the site should be more timely. We’re including pdf files of past Newsletters, and even some of the past meeting presentations. Check it out and send suggestions or feedback to Web Officer Pam Lee at [pamela.lee@sri.com](mailto:pamela.lee@sri.com).

The Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS) continues to generously host our website. To get to the site, go to the EMS website at

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

While you’re at it, peruse the EMS page and consider attending the next annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia or better yet, join EMS!

## GETA Past Presidents

1980	Anthony Carrano	1989	Regine Goth-Goldstein	1998	Kim Hooper
1981	Robert Hill	1990	Carol Green	1999	Janice Yager
1982	James MacGregor	1991	Charles Salocks	2000	Jim Cleaver
1983	James Bartholomew	1992	James Tucker	2001	Steve Dizio
1984	Joseph Brown	1993	Jon Mirsalis	2002	Melanie Marty
1985	James Felton	1994	Collette Rudd	2003	Melanie Marty
1986	Caroline Sigman	1995	George Alexeff	2004	Karen Steinmetz
1987	Martyn Smith	1996	Andrew Wyrobek	2005	Tom McDonald
1988	Ann Burrell	1997	Rob Scofield	2006	Inge Ivens

## GETA Job

GETA provides selected Bay Area job listings as a service to its members. For additional job listings we encourage you to check out the Placement Service on the EMS website at [www.ems-us.org](http://www.ems-us.org).

**Toxicologist.** Chevron has an excellent opportunity for a Toxicologist in Richmond, CA. The toxicologist we are seeking will join an existing team of Health Environment and Safety professionals serving Chevron operating companies world-wide. Toxicologists in our group characterize health hazards, exposures, and potential health risks associated with petroleum products and materials. Serves as an expert consultant to Operating Companies on technical projects, product regulatory compliance, and key health issues. This position will provide global subject matter expertise to operating companies. PhD desired. Please apply online to job 03223121 [careers.chevron.com](http://careers.chevron.com)

**Bioanalytical Chemist.** SRI International's Biosciences Division in Menlo Park, Ca has an immediate opening for a bioanalytical chemist. Responsibilities include: Develop and validate bioanalytical methods using HPLC with UV and fluorescent detection, LC-MS, and other techniques as appropriate, for a wide variety of chemical classes, on projects for both government and commercial clients. Perform bioanalysis of samples generated in vivo and in vitro to determine concentration of new therapeutic agents. Prepare reports describing the methods, calculate and summarize all data, presenting the results of these analyses for inclusion in pharmacokinetic and toxicology study reports. Perform in vitro drug metabolism assays using subcellular fractions of human and animal tissues - cytochrome P450, glucuronidation, sulfation and other enzyme assays with bioanalysis by LC-MS. Experience with HPLC and LC-MS for bioanalysis is required

and knowledge of GC-MS and/or NMR and experience with metabolite identification is desired. BS/MS degree in chemistry required, plus 1-7 yrs relevant work experience with bioanalytical techniques including HPLC, LC-MS, quantitative bioanalytical assays for pharmacokinetic studies. Meticulous record keeping under federal Good Laboratory Practices guidelines is necessary. Apply on-line for **Req ID: 3029** at <https://sri.ats.hrsmart.com/index.html>

**Research Assistant, Bioanalytical Chemistry.** SRI International in Menlo Park, CA has an immediate opening for a Research Assistant in the Biosciences Division. As part of the Bioanalytical Chemistry team, you will support research in the conduct of pharmacokinetic and drug metabolism studies, by preparing solutions and standards, processing plasma and tissue samples for analysis, performing general analytical techniques, calculating and summarizing data for inclusion in reports, maintaining study records, calibrating and maintaining laboratory equipment. The Bioanalytical group is committed to providing the opportunity for growth as a scientist for each member of our team, and thus advancement to more complex tasks would be expected. Experience with basic laboratory skills including analytical techniques. Strong organizational and documentation skills required. Experience with HPLC is desirable. BS degree in chemistry or biochemistry, 0-2 years laboratory experience. Post-offer, pre-laboratory placement physical examination will be required. Apply on-line for **Req ID: 3362** at <https://sri.ats.hrsmart.com/index.html>

### 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. Contact Drew Olaharski [andrew.olaharski@roche.com](mailto:andrew.olaharski@roche.com) if you have questions.







# 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 Drew Olaharski**  
**3431 Hillview Ave, A5-2**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94304**

**Phone: 650-855-6569**

**E-mail: [andrew.olaharski@roche.com](mailto:andrew.olaharski@roche.com)**

**GETA Newsletter  
c/o Linda Rausch  
SRI International PS-395  
333 Ravenswood Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**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!

***TIME SENSITIVE!  
MEETING REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 21, 2007!***