



# GETA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 29, No. 2

June 2008

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

## *Late Spring / Early Summer Symposium*

### ***“Chemicals...Chemicals...Everywhere! Evaluating Potential Exposure to Chemicals in Consumer Products”***

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Elihu M. Harris Building  
Rooms 2-4 (Second Floor)  
1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA  
(Near the 12th Street BART Station)

On-site Registration: 1:00 to 1:30 pm  
Symposium: 1:30 to 5:00 pm  
(Refreshments Included)

**N**ewspaper headlines appearing on practically a daily basis are focusing ever greater attention on potential exposure to chemicals in consumer products, particularly lead and phthalates in children's toys and child care products. GETA is pleased to present this symposium on such a timely topic. Five distinguished speakers will provide different perspectives on evaluating potential exposure to chemicals in consumer products, ranging from toxicology and exposure considerations, to enforcement, to challenges associated with using science in a legal context.

***\*\*Bring in something from your home or office to be tested  
for metals using NITON's XRF analyzer\*\****

***Registration Deadline is June 12th (by mail)  
or June 16th (3 pm by e-mail)!***

# GETA

## Late Spring / Early Summer Symposium

### Meeting Agenda

- 1:00 - 1:30 pm Registration
- 1:30 - 1:40 pm Opening Remarks by GETA Officers
- 1:40 - 2:10 pm *Reproductive Toxicity of Phthalates: from Rodents to Men*  
Ling-Hong Li, PhD, Staff Toxicologist, OHHEA
- 2:10 - 2:40 pm *Considerations for Estimating Exposure to Chemicals in Consumer Products*  
Renee Kalmes, MSPH, CIH, Senior Managing Scientist, Exponent
- 2:40 - 3:10 pm *Thermo Scientific NITON Analyzers: Solving Problems with XRF*  
Deblyn Palella, Instrumentation Specialist, Geotechnical Services
- 3:10 - 3:40 pm Break (including refreshments)\*\*
- 3:40 - 4:10 pm *Consumer Protection: Toxicity in Products*  
Gale Filter, JD, Deputy Director, Enforcement and Emergency Response Program, DTSC
- 4:10 - 4:40 pm *Does Science have a Role in Proposition 65? To Warn or Not to Warn: The Importance of Regulatory Guidance*  
Eileen Notolli, PHD, JD, Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP
- 4:40 - 5:00 pm Follow-up Questions for Speakers

**\*\*Bring in something from your home or office to be tested for metals using NITON's XRF analyzer!**

## 2008 GETA Executive Board

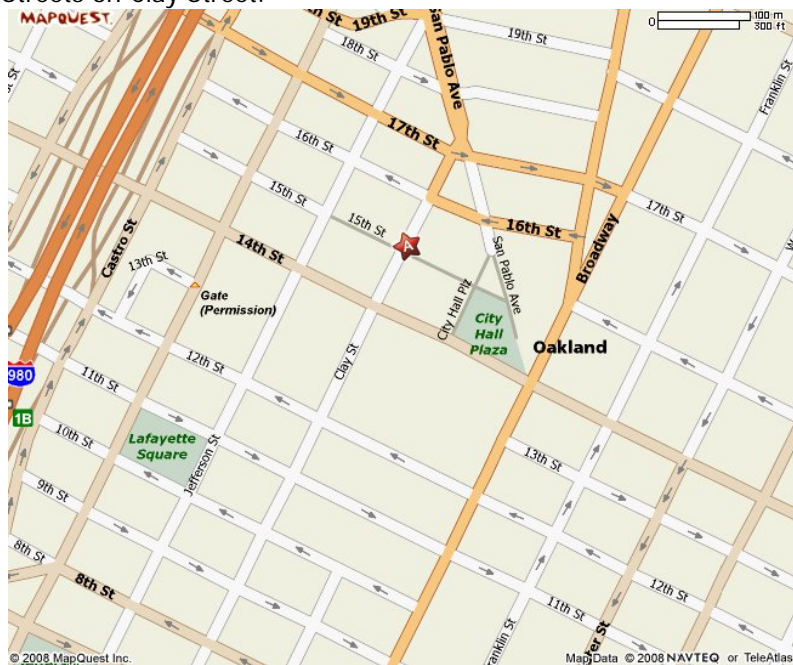
The Executive Board is given the responsibility of determining all policy and business related to the Association. To this end, you are urged to contact any Board member with any suggestions you may have, concerns, meeting topics, and general business to be considered.

<b>Officers</b> (*Program Chair)		<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
President	Lida Antonian	650-562-1615	lidaant@comcast.net
President-Elect*	Greg Brorby	510-268-5006	gbrorby@exponent.com
Past President	Amy Arcus-Arth	510-622-3199	aarcus@oehha.ca.gov
Secretary	Linda Rausch	650-859-5008	linda.rausch@sri.com
Treasurer	Bob Baldwin	408-245-6912	DrBob@iname.com
Newsletter Editor	Open position		
Membership Officer	Drew Olaharski	650-855-6569	Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com
Web Officer	Pamela Lee	650-859-6739	pamela.lee@sri.com
<b>Steering Committee</b>			
At-Large	Kathleen Vork		kvork@oehha.ca.gov
Business	Tom McDonald	510-705-5195	mcdonaldpartyof4@yahoo.com
University	Adrian Rodriguiz	408-924-4846	rodriga@email.sjsu.edu
Government	Steve DiZio	916-255-6634	Sdzio@aol.com
Student/Postdoc	Open position		
Student/Postdoc	Open position		

# GETA LATE SPRING/EARLY SUMMER AFTERNOON SEMINAR Thursday June 19, 2008

## Directions to Elihu M. Harris Building

The Elihu M. Harris Building is located at 1515 Clay Street Oakland, CA. 94612, between 14th & 16th Streets on Clay Street.



### FROM SACRAMENTO:

Take Highway I-80 West, and then take I-580 East toward OAKLAND. Merge onto I-980 West toward DOWNTOWN OAKLAND and take the 14th - 18th Street exit, stay straight to go onto BRUSH Street. Turn LEFT onto 17th Street, turn RIGHT onto Clay Street and the Elihu M. Harris Building is immediately on the right.

### FROM SAN FRANCISCO:

Cross the Bay Bridge, stay in the middle right hand lanes and merge onto I-580 East toward OAKLAND. Merge onto I-980 West toward DOWNTOWN OAKLAND take the 14th - 18th Street exit, stay straight to go onto BRUSH St. Turn LEFT onto 17th Street, Turn RIGHT onto CLAY Street and the Elihu M. Harris (EMH) Building is immediately on the right.

### FROM WALNUT CREEK:

Take Highway I-680 South merge onto CA-24 West, after the Caldecott Tunnel CA-24 West becomes I-980 West. Take the 14th - 18th Streets exit stay straight to go onto Brush Street. Turn LEFT onto 17th Street, turn RIGHT onto Clay Street and the Elihu M. Harris Building is immediately on the right.

### FROM HAYWARD:

Take I-880 North merge onto I-980 East towards DOWNTOWN OAKLAND take the 13th - 17th Streets exit and stay in the right hand lane and go 2 blocks. Turn RIGHT onto 14th Street, continue on 14th Street to Clay Street; Turn LEFT onto Clay Street and the Elihu M. Harris Building is immediately on the left.

### BART:

BART runs parallel to Broadway Street in downtown Oakland. The City Center (12th Street) Station is just two blocks east of the Elihu M. Harris Building in the City Center Retail Area. The SF/Concord, SF/Richmond and Richmond/Fremont lines stop at City Center Oakland. Riders on the Pleasanton/SF and Fremont/SF line must transfer to one of the above line.

### AC TRANSIT:

AC Transit has numerous buses that stop within two blocks of the building. Contract AC Transit for schedules and fares.

### AMTRAK:

Rail service, including the Capitol Express connects to Elihu M. Harris Building by both BART and AC Transit.

### PARKING:

There is a public parking garage immediately across Clay street from the Elihu M. Harris Building, though it often fills up. There is a parking garage between 12th and 13th Streets with an entrance on Jefferson Street that often has parking during the day.

For more information about GETA, please see our website: [www.ems-us.org/GETA/](http://www.ems-us.org/GETA/)



# President's Comments

.... by *Lida Antonian*

**G**reetings to our GETA members! It is June already and we would like to invite you to our second scientific event of 2008. Our president-elect Greg Brorby has planned the next stimulating meeting which will be a half-day symposium on June 19, 2008. Chemical exposure in consumer products will be explored. See announcement details for the meeting in this newsletter.

This year GETA started off with a well-attended first meeting in April. The meeting was on April 3rd and highlighted the pharmaceutical industry practices in evaluation of drugs for cardiovascular safety. Dr. Dinah Misner from Roche Palo Alto described the utility of the hERG assay and other cardiac ion channels and in vivo cardiovascular safety studies early on in drug development.

**F**or those of you who may be interested, on our website we have posted a link to the Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS) annual meeting which will be held in October in Puerto Rico.

GETA's membership is growing steadily. We continue to encourage GETA members to recommend students and post docs to join our organization and take advantage of networking with members.

**S**oon, I will be putting together a committee to develop a list of names for next year's GETA board elections. Please contact me ([lidaant@comcast.net](mailto:lidaant@comcast.net)) if you are interested in running for office.

Have a safe and fun summer.

## GETA DUES NOW DUE IN JANUARY

**A**s many of you have discovered, GETA has begun converting our term of memberships to a calendar year basis. Previously, memberships expired on the anniversary of the date of sign-up or renewal. While that practice is seemingly simple, it has created a series of administrative problems. The most obvious problem is for both the members and GETA to remember when a membership is about to expire. We have been trying to make the conversion process as easy as possible, while trying to minimize any adverse financial consequences for our members. One of the ways that we are trying to facilitate this conversion can be seen in the schedule of registration fees for our next meeting. Paid up members are charged one price, while non-members are charged that same base price plus \$15 and will include membership for the remainder of this calendar year. To encourage attendance and membership by students and postdocs, their heavily subsidized registration fee will also include GETA membership for the balance of 2008.

If anyone has serious objections to these practices or suggestions for improvements, please send your comments to [DrBob@iname.com](mailto:DrBob@iname.com). To avoid my spam filters, do not include in the subject line the name of any pharmaceutical, favorite body part, or the words "mortgage", or "prize winner". But all of you knew that already, right?

*Bob*

## GETA NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC!

**A**fter consideration by the GETA Board, it was decided to eliminate mailing paper copies of the Newsletter and instead, send it to the membership as a pdf file via e-mail. A review of the membership rolls showed that all members had provided e-mail addresses.

It now becomes even more important for members to keep the GETA Membership Officer informed of changes in contact information, especially e-mail addresses.

If you need to update your information, send an e-mail to Drew Olaharski at [Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com)

**DON'T RISK MISSING AN ISSUE  
OF THE NEWSLETTER!**

**KEEP YOUR INFO UP TO DATE!**

## CHECK OUT THE GETA WEBSITE

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

You can download previous Newsletters and find links to selected speaker presentations from past meetings. Website generously hosted by the Environmental Mutagen Society!.

## 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@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.Olaharski@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## GETA Past Presidents

1980	Anthony Carrano	1990	Carol Green	2000	Jim Cleaver
1981	Robert Hill	1991	Charles Salocks	2001	Steve Dizio
1982	James MacGregor	1992	James Tucker	2002	Melanie Marty
1983	James Bartholomew	1993	Jon Mirsalis	2003	Melanie Marty
1984	Joseph Brown	1994	Collette Rudd	2004	Karen Steinmetz
1985	James Felton	1995	George Alexeff	2005	Tom McDonald
1986	Caroline Sigman	1996	Andrew Wyrobek	2006	Inge Ivens
1987	Martyn Smith	1997	Rob Scofield	2007	Amy Arcus
1988	Ann Burrell	1998	Kim Hooper		
1989	Regine Goth-Goldstein	1999	Janice Yager		



## *dinner meeting review*

*...by Greg Brorby*

**T**he GETA Spring dinner meeting was held at the Terrace Café in Millbrae on April 3, 2008. The featured speaker was Dr. Dinah Misner of Roche Palo Alto, LLC. The topic was "Strategies to Predict QT Prolongation and Arrhythmias: Assessing hERG and Other Cardiac Ion Channels Early in Drug Development."

Dr. Misner presented preclinical strategies to assess new chemical entities (NCEs) for cardiovascular liabilities early in the development process, with an emphasis on detection of QT prolongation and arrhythmias. Specifically, although drug-induced prolongation of the QT interval is common, in rare cases, it may lead to a form of ventricular tachyarrhythmia known as torsades de points (TdP). Several drugs have been withdrawn for TdP, and numerous others have been denied approval, discontinued for development, or labeled for their TdP propensity. Since 2005, FDA has specifically required preclinical assessment of QT prolongation, including an in vitro IKr (hERG) assay, which determines the ability of a chemical to block the function of the hERG channel, and

in vivo QT assay. Dr. Misner discussed recent advances in the hERG assay, which significantly increases the throughput compared to conventional methods, thereby allowing testing of more compounds earlier in development. She also discussed several factors that need to be taken into account when interpreting hERG data (e.g., solubility, protein binding) and truths and misconceptions regarding assay results (e.g., hERG block does not necessarily lead to QT prolongation, QT prolongation does not necessarily lead to TdP) because the majority of compounds are positive in this assay. Dr. Misner also discussed several options to assess potential QT effects, including isolated heart assays, anesthetized guinea pig model, and conscious dog telemetry, each of which has advantages and disadvantages. In conclusion, Dr. Misner recommended placing a high priority on in vitro/in vivo safety pharmacology early in drug development, individualizing the "risk assessment" for each project and compound, and continuing research and/or refining predictive tools for cardiovascular risk.

### UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS

#### **Environmental Mutagen Society**

##### **39th Annual Meeting**

October 18-22, 2008

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

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

#### **Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)**

December 7-10, 2008

Boston, Massachusetts

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

#### **Society of Toxicology (SOT)**

##### **48th Annual Meeting**

March 15-19, 2009

Baltimore, Maryland

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

#### **American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)**

April 18-22, 2009

Denver, Colorado

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

## Registration Form

# GETA LATE SPRING /EARLY SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, June 19, 2008  
Registration 1:00 to 1:30 pm  
Symposium: 1:30 to 5:00 pm

Elihu M. Harris Building, Rooms 2-4 (Second Floor)  
1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

GETA Member?      Yes      No      (circle one)

**Registration Fee (including refreshments)\*\*:**

**Regular Members:      \$20**

**Full-time Registered Students/Post-Doc**

**(includes 1-yr membership):      \$15**

**Non-members (includes 1-yr membership):      \$35**

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

\*\*There is a \$10 surcharge for same-day registration w/o an RSVP

Send this completed registration form and check (made payable to **GETA**)  
and postmarked by **Thursday June 12th to:**

**GETA  
991-C La Mesa Terrace  
Sunnyvale CA 94086-2416**

You may also make reservations by e-mail by Monday June 16th at 3 pm to:  
**rsvp2geta@bigfoot.com, and pay at the door (cash/check)**

*You will be billed if you fail to attend the meeting, unless you  
cancel before Monday, June 16, 2008 at 3 pm*



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