President’s Message – December 2009

Dear SRA-NE Members:

I hope this message finds you well and in a good holiday mood!

A good-sized group of SRA-NE members met for happy hour at the SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, in a lovely room with a view of the harbor. Thanks to everyone who made the time to attend during the busy SRA schedule. I also met with the SRA Regions Committee (co-chaired by our own Donna Voorhees), to discuss coordination of the national and regional SRA websites, New Initiatives funding, increasing communication among regions, and other topics. I also sat in on the SRA Education Committee, which discussed ways to increase the knowledge of risk assessment in primary, secondary, and university educational settings. These initiatives will move forward in the next 6 months to one year.

The most recent SRA-NE seminar took place on Thursday, November 19, 2009. We heard three interesting presentations on traffic-related air pollution, and had a lively discussion following the presentations. Our speakers were: Dr. Maria Costantini of the Health Effects Institute, who presented an overview of the main conclusions of the HEI Special Report on Traffic-Related Air Pollution; Dr. Douglas Brugge, Professor in the Department of Public Health and Family Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and the director of the Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health being conducted in the Boston area; and Dr. John Godleski, who presented an overview and some results from studies currently being conducted at the EPA Harvard Particle Center. Thank you very much to all of our speakers. In the near future, the presentations will be available on the SRA-NE website, along with a videotape of the seminar.

A poster session will be held in March (location to be announced) to highlight current research. The attached announcement invites students and post-doctoral researchers, as well as individuals from academia, government, and consulting, to submit abstracts. This event provides an opportunity to learn about multiple topics and to introduce students and post-doctoral researchers to each other, to SRA-NE, and to prospective employers.

Happy Holidays!

Amy B. Rosenstein