

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Science Advisory Board (SAB)  
Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee (STAA)**

**Minutes of the Closed Meeting on July 9-10, 2015**

Date and Time: Thursday, July 9, 2015, 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. ET; and Friday July 10, 2015, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. ET

Location: George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health, 950 New Hampshire Ave, NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, A&B conference rooms, Washington, DC 20052

Purpose: The purpose of the July 9-10, 2015 closed meeting was for the SAB Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Committee to review scientific publications nominated by EPA managers and make recommendations to the Administrator for STAA awards, and to discuss possible improvements to the process and program.

Participants:

STAA Committee (See Roster, Attachment A):

Dr. George Daston, Chair  
Dr. C. Marjorie Aelion  
Dr. Adriana C. Bejarano  
Dr. Linda T.M. Bui  
Dr. Jerry Campbell  
Dr. Judith C. Chow  
Dr. Sarina J. Ergas  
Dr. Zhihua (Tina) Fan  
Dr. Richard S. Grippo  
Dr. Jack R. Harkema  
Dr. Philip K. Hopke  
\*Dr. Arpad Horvath  
Dr. Robert J. Johnston  
Dr. Wayne G. Landis  
Dr. Timothy V. Larson  
Dr. Cindy M. Lee  
Dr. Michael I. Luster  
\*Dr. Audrey L. Mayer  
\*Dr. James R. Mihelcic  
Dr. Eileen A. Murphy  
Dr. Mira S. Olson  
Dr. Krishna R. Pagilla  
Dr. Thomas F. Parkerton  
Dr. Kent E. Pinkerton  
\*Dr. Kenneth M. Portier

Dr. Robert L. Tanguay  
Dr. Jay R. Turner

\*Participated via teleconference

EPA SAB Staff:

Mr. Edward Hanlon, Designated Federal Officer  
Mr. Christopher S. Zarba, Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office  
Mr. Thomas Brennan, Deputy Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office  
Mr. Thomas Carpenter, Designated Federal Officer

### **Meeting Summary**

The closed meeting was announced in the Federal Register<sup>1</sup>. A summary of the meeting follows.

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) submitted a total of 118 nominations comprised of 201 publications in 13 science and technology categories for review by the SAB STAA Committee for the 2015 STAA awards.

The thirteen topical categories and total number of nominations per category that were submitted to the Committee for review were:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Number of Nominations Submitted to SAB</b>
Control Systems and Technology	3
Ecological Research	12
Environmental Policy and Decisionmaking Studies	5
Health Effects Research and Human Health Risk Assessment	21
Homeland Security	3
Industry and the Environment	4
Integrated Risk Assessment	4
Monitoring and Measurement Methods	11
Other Environmental Research	8
Review Articles	10
Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration	7
Sustainability and Innovation	14
Transport and Fate	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118</b>

In advance of the meeting, Committee members reviewed the nominations and reported their initial recommendations to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) who entered this information into a master table.

## **July 9, 2015**

### **Opening Statements and Welcome**

Mr. Ed Hanlon, the DFO, opened the meeting, and made a brief opening statement noting that the STAA Committee of the SAB operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). He noted the meeting was closed to the public because it was concerned with selecting which employees are deserving of awards, a personnel matter with privacy concerns, which is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to section (c)(6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act. He stated that the SAB Staff Office had planned to hold an administrative session open to the public on July 10, and noted that that session was cancelled and thus this entire meeting was closed to the public. He noted that the SAB Staff Office had assessed whether there were any conflict-of-interest or appearance of a lack of impartiality issues for any of the STAA committee members for this review and whether they were co-authors or contributors for any of the nominated papers. He noted that the SAB Staff Office instructed some members to recuse themselves from the review of certain 2015 STAA nomination packages upon review of the submitted ethics information. Mr. Hanlon also noted that minutes were being taken to summarize discussions and action items in accordance with requirements under FACA. Mr. Chris Zarba also welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance and participation. Mr. Hanlon then turned the meeting over to the Chair, Dr. George Daston.

Dr. Daston welcomed everyone and noted that scientists and engineers on the SAB STAA Committee have diverse backgrounds. He stated that this was an Advisory effort where an SAB report seeking consensus would be prepared by the committee, reviewed by the chartered SAB, and sent to the EPA Administrator. He reviewed the charge to the Committee, which included identification of SAB recommendations for Level I, II, and III STAA awards, and recommendation for Honorable Mention. He then discussed the criteria associated with recommending each of these categories for STAA recognition.

The Committee discussed each nomination. Each nomination was assigned to two Committee members for review, and the principal reviewers started the discussion on each nomination followed by full Committee deliberation. The Committee decided whether it agreed on a preliminary final ranking for each nomination. In instances where a strong majority of members did not agree on a single final ranking, Dr. Daston requested members to further deliberate on the nomination, and then vote on the preferred recommendation of the Committee. In a few situations where a strong majority of members did not agree on a single final ranking, Dr. Daston asked a third member of the Committee to conduct a detailed review of the nomination before the committee continued deliberation on those nominations. The Committee's preliminary final rankings for each nomination were recorded.

**July 10, 2015**

The Committee continued discussion on each nomination and the Committee’s preliminary final rankings for each nomination were recorded, until all nominations were discussed.

After the Committee developed preliminary final rankings for all nominations, Dr. Daston asked if all members were satisfied with the deliberations and preliminary rankings on each nomination, and wanted to further discuss any nomination.

The Committee then agreed upon the final recommendations for awards. The Committee recommended one nomination for Level I, the highest award; three nominations for Level II; 38 nominations for Level III; and 42 nominations for Honorable Mention.

The Committee then discussed and identified several administrative improvements to certain aspects of the STAA nomination process that would be documented in the final SAB Report to the EPA Administrator.

Dr. Daston thanked the STAA Committee members for their efforts. With the meeting business concluded, the Designated Federal Officer Ed Hanlon adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted:

*/signed/*

Mr. Edward Hanlon  
Designated Federal Officer

Certified as Accurate:

*/signed/*

Dr. George Daston, Chair  
SAB Scientific and Technological  
Achievement Award Committee

**NOTE AND DISCLAIMER:** The minutes of this closed meeting reflect diverse ideas and suggestions offered by Committee members during the course of deliberations within the meeting. Such ideas, suggestions and deliberations do not necessarily reflect consensus advice from the Committee members. The reader is cautioned to not rely on the minutes to represent final, approved, consensus advice and recommendations offered to the Agency. Such advice and recommendations may be found in the final advisories, commentaries, letters or reports prepared and transmitted to the EPA Administrator following the meeting.

**Attachments**

- A. 2015 SAB STAA Committee Roster

## Materials Cited

The following meeting materials are available on the SAB website: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>, at the July 9-10, 2015 meeting website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/a84bfee16cc358ad85256ccd006b0b4b/c96115bf0ec676a985257e4a00491a18!OpenDocument&Date=2015-07-09>

<sup>1</sup> Federal Register Notice announcing the meeting.

**ATTACHMENT A – ROSTER**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Science Advisory Board  
SAB 2015 Scientific and Technological Achievement  
Awards Committee (STAA)**

**CHAIR**

**Dr. George Daston**, Victor Mills Society Research Fellow, Proctor & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH

**MEMBERS**

**Dr. C. Marjorie Aelion**, Dean, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Amherst, MA

**Dr. Adriana C. Bejarano**, Environmental Toxicologist and Marine Ecologist, Research Planning, Inc., Columbia, South Carolina

**Dr. Linda T.M. Bui**, Associate Professor of Economics, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

**Dr. Jerry Campbell**, Scientist and Associate Director of the Center for Human Health Assessment, Institute for Chemical Safety Sciences, The Hamner Institutes for Health Science, Research Triangle Park, NC

**Dr. Judith C. Chow**, Nazir and Mary Ansari Chair in Science and Entrepreneurialism, and Research Professor, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada

**Dr. Sarina J. Ergas**, Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

**Dr. Zhihua (Tina) Fan**, Research Scientist/Program Manager, Chemical Terrorism, Biomonitoring and Food Testing, New Jersey Department of Health, Ewing, New Jersey

**Dr. Richard S. Grippo**, Professor of Environmental Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Arkansas State University

**Dr. Jack R. Harkema**, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Pathobiology & Diagnostic Investigation, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

**Dr. Philip K. Hopke**, Bayard D. Clarkson Distinguished Professor, Director of the Center for Air Resources Engineering and Science, and Director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

**Dr. Arpad Horvath**, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

**Dr. Robert J. Johnston**, Director of the George Perkins Marsh Institute and Professor of Economics at Clark University, Worcester, MA

**Dr. Wayne G. Landis**, Professor and Director, Institute of Environmental Toxicology, Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

**Dr. Timothy V. Larson**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Dr. Cindy M. Lee**, Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences, Clemson University, Anderson, SC

**Dr. Michael I. Luster**, Research Professor, School of Public Health, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

**Dr. Audrey L. Mayer**, Associate Professor in Ecology and Environmental Policy, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan

**Dr. James Mihelcic**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

**Dr. Eileen A. Murphy**, Senior Director Corporate & Foundation Relations, RBHS Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences, Rutgers University Foundation, New Brunswick, NJ

**Dr. Mira S. Olson**, Associate Professor, Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Dr. Krishna R. Pagilla**, Professor of Environmental Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois

**Dr. Thomas F. Parkerton**, Toxicology & Environmental Science Division, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences Inc., Houston, Texas

**Dr. Kent E. Pinkerton**, Professor and Director, Center for Health and the Environment, University of California, Davis

**Dr. Kenneth M. Portier**, Vice President, Statistics & Evaluation Center, Intramural Research, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA

**Dr. Robert L. Tanguay**, Distinguished Professor of Molecular Toxicology, Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

**Dr. Jay R. Turner**, Associate Professor, Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

**SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD STAFF**

**Mr. Edward Hanlon**, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory Board Staff, Washington, DC