

**Summary Minutes of the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Science Advisory Board Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee
Closed Meeting, July 19-20, 2017**

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 9:00 A.M. – 5:45 P.M. ET; and Thursday, July 20, 2017, 8:00 A.M. – 2:15 P.M. ET.

Location: Melrose Georgetown Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Purpose: The purpose of the closed STAA Committee meeting was to discuss award recommendations for the EPA’s 2017 STAA program, and to discuss possible improvements to the process and program.

Participants:

2016-2018 SAB STAA Committee (See Roster, Attachment A):

Dr. Jay R. Turner, Chair
Dr. C. Marjorie Aelion
Dr. William A. Arnold
Dr. Adriana C. Bejarano
Dr. Linda T.M. Bui
Dr. Joseph J. DeGeorge
Dr. Sarina J. Ergas
Dr. Zhihua (Tina) Fan
Dr. G. Frank Gerberick
Dr. Richard S. Grippo

Dr. Jack R. Harkema
Dr. Robert J. Johnston
Dr. Terrence Kavanagh
Dr. Mira S. Olson
Dr. Krishna R. Pagilla
Dr. Thomas F. Parkerton
Dr. Kent E. Pinkerton
Dr. Robert W. Puls
Dr. Alan Stone

EPA SAB Staff:

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

Meeting Summary

The closed meeting was announced in the Federal Register (Volume 82, Number 129, Pages 31594 – 31595, published on July 7, 2017) and was conducted according to the meeting agenda (See Attachment B). A summary of the meeting follows.

July 19, 2017

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 that the meeting was closed to the public because it dealt with selection of awards for employees, 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 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 the following Committee members to recuse themselves from the review of certain 2017 STAA nomination packages upon review of the submitted ethics information, due to appearance of loss of impartiality: Drs. Bejarano, Bui, Johnston, Kavanagh, and Stone. 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. Jay Turner.

Dr. Turner welcomed everyone and noted that scientists and engineers on the SAB STAA Committee have diverse backgrounds. He stated that the Committee's efforts to review the 2017 STAA nomination packages and develop recommendations for award was an advisory effort where the Committee would seek consensus on an SAB report that would be prepared by the Committee, reviewed by the chartered SAB, and sent to the EPA Administrator. He reviewed the Committee's charge which included identification of SAB recommendations for Level I, II, and III STAA awards, and recommendation for Honorable Mention. He then discussed the criteria that the SAB STAA Committee would consider associated with recommending each of these categories for STAA recognition.

Committee Review of and Deliberation on Nominations:

Two Committee members conducted the initial review of each nomination, with one exception: the initial review of one nomination was conducted by four Committee members, because its category of research was incorrectly labeled in the spreadsheet provided by ORD. Thus, two additional Committee members with expertise in the correct research category also reviewed that nomination. 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. Turner implemented one of two options: 1) requesting further discussion of that nomination later in the meeting, or 2) conducting a vote of the Committee on final recommendations for award. The Committee's preliminary final rankings for each nomination were recorded.

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) submitted a total of 58 nominations comprised of 87 publications within ten science and technology categories for review by the SAB STAA Committee for the 2017 STAA awards.

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

2017 STAA Nominations by Topic Category

Topic	Number of Nominations Submitted to SAB
Ecological Research	10
Environmental Futures	5
Health Effects Research and Human Health Risk Assessment	10
Integrated Risk Assessment	1
Monitoring and Measurement Methods	3
Other Environmental Research	13
Review Articles	5
Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration	1
Social Sciences	5
Transport and Fate	5
TOTAL	58

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.

The Committee continued discussions to develop recommendations for STAA recognition associated with each nomination in closed session. The Committee's preliminary final rankings for each nomination were recorded. The Committee recessed its discussions at 5:45 pm ET on July 19, 2017.

July 20, 2017

The Committee continued its deliberations in closed session. After the Committee developed preliminary final rankings for all nominations, Dr. Turner 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 then discussed and identified several administrative improvements to certain aspects of the STAA nomination process that would be documented in a separate SAB Report to the EPA Administrator.

Dr. Turner thanked the STAA Committee members for their efforts. With the meeting business concluded, the Designated Federal Officer Ed Hanlon adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/

Mr. Edward Hanlon
Designated Federal Officer

Certified as Accurate:

/s/

Dr. Jay R. Turner, 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. 2016-2018 SAB STAA Committee Roster

Meeting Materials

The STAA Committee meeting materials are available on the SAB website:

<http://www.epa.gov/sab>, at the following SAB STAA Committee July 19-20, 2017 meeting page:

<https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/a84bfee16cc358ad85256ccd006b0b4b/744ee89d96d4cba98525811600656fc5!OpenDocument&Date=2017-07-19>

ATTACHMENT A – ROSTER

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board SAB 2016-2018 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee (STAA)

CHAIR

Dr. Jay R. Turner, Associate Professor of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, and Vice Dean for Education, School of Engineering & Applied Science, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

MEMBERS

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

Dr. William A. Arnold, Joseph T. and Rose S. Ling Professor and Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo- Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Dr. Adriana C. Bejarano, Environmental Toxicologist and Marine Ecologist, Research Planning, Inc., and Adjunct Faculty, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

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

***Dr. Jerry Campbell**, Manager, Ramboll ENVIRON, 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, NV

Dr. Joseph J. DeGeorge, Global Head of Safety Assessment and Laboratory Animal Resources, Merck Research Laboratories, Lansdale, PA

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

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

Dr. G. Frank Gerberick, Research Fellow – Victor Mills Society, The Procter & Gamble Company, Central Product Safety, Mason, OH

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

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

***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. Terrance J. Kavanagh, Professor, Toxicology Program, and Director of the UW Interdisciplinary Center of Exposures, Diseases, Genomics and Environment, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, 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, and Chair, Engineering and Science Education Department, 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, MI

***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, PA

Dr. Krishna R. Pagilla, Professor and Environmental Engineering Program Director, University of Nevada, Reno, NV

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

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

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

Dr. Robert W. Puls, Owner/Principal, Robert Puls Environmental Consulting, LLC, Hilton Head Island, SC

Dr. Alan T. Stone, Professor, Environmental and Aquatic Chemistry, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

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

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD STAFF

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

*Did not participate