

SPAN Minutes (February 18, 2009)

Present:

Courtney Kozul (note taker)

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Reflection on the Annual Meeting

Asilomar Trainee Events:

-Trainee Breakout session, Icebreaker, Poster session:

- Overall the breakout session was a success. Having trainees run the breakout session again in the future is good idea

-Icebreaker and poster session were also successful.

Ideas for next year's meeting (location TBD):

-Potential for a fieldtrip at the SF meeting next year (not necessarily exclusive to students)

-Facilitating collaborations between different research groups

- How could we do this?

-It could be beneficial to solicit SF groups for ideas for talks that feature a "technique" developed by a SF group that may also be a beneficial tool for other SF groups

- This could also be done by webinar
- Jason Moore (Darmouth) was suggested for bioinformatics techniques

"Past Present and Future of EPA Superfund Program" presentation is available for download (even to iPod)

- 17 phonelines were used for this presentation; 10 survey responses
- most people thought it was useful

-Are there any ideas for other webinars?

-What topics would be more interesting for this seminar series?

- Some ideas include
 - Topics of Broad interest
 - High impact researchers
 - SBRP alumni (their perspectives, their research)

Some specific ideas may be:

-How does SBRP research play a role in risk assessment/regulation? Xabier is at EPA's IRIS now where primary research data is used for risk assessment and he may be able to speak on this topic.

-Specific views on SF sites (ie. Toxicology, chemistry, remediation)

Updates on Trainee database

- NIH goal is to track during research years and beyond for 10 years
- beneficial to have career connections and research interests

Leadership opportunities within SPAN

- Challenges with keeping students in the loop
- There is a lot of turnover with current trainees – some coming on or off the training program and only having a maximum of 2 or 3 years in the program.
- Is anyone interested in taking on a leadership role within SPAN

Plans for future meetings

- SOT in Baltimore March 15-19th
 - Courtney can plan to contact SOT for the potential for making a SPAN poster at the student/post doc mixer
 - Are any SPANers interested in meeting up (Courtney can use the FC group and linked in group to connect with people)