

Minutes for the SPAN Conference Call  
June 25, 2008

**Attendees:**

Amara Holder (UC-Berkeley), Courtney Kozul (Dartmouth), Katie McCarty (Yale), Justin Crane (NIEHS-MDB), Heather Henry (NIEHS-SBRP), Kathy Ahlmark (NIEHS-SBRP), Jim Sanborn (UC-Davis Training Core), Bob Rice (UC-Davis Training Core).  
Could not attend (Stephen Richardson, UNC-CH; Natalie Johnson, TAMU).

**Meeting Objective:** Ramp up activity for the SBRP Student Postdoc and Alumni Network (SPAN) and discuss future plans.

**Meeting Summary:**

SPAN Objective: Goal of SPAN is to link the various SBRP programs, students, postdocs and alumni.

SPAN Activity to date:

- Spring of '07 survey (results posted on SPAN web pages)
- July of '07, conference call
- December '07, Trainee events at the annual meeting (icebreaker, student-PI lunch, career breakfast, grants info breakfast)

Committee Introductions:

- Amara Holder: just finished and is looking for postdoc position, studies toxicity of ultra-fine particles, mechanical engineering.
- Courtney Kozul: 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD, molecular medicine, arsenic.
- Katie McCarty: alumna from Harvard program, currently assistant professor at Yale, environmental molecular epidemiology.

SBRP Annual Meeting 2008 in Asilomar, CA

- Details
  - Meeting is in planning stages, led by Dr. Kate Scow
  - Expect to have more information in July
  - Dates: December 7-9, 2008
- Comments: the career panel and grants information breakfasts for trainees were popular. There was support for continuing these (or similar topics) for the December meeting
- Justin/Heather will provide Dr. Scow with details of last year's trainee events, including the annual meeting survey results.

Network Construction, Current status (Justin)

- RSS Feed option is available to alert trainees whenever a change on the website (i.e. a new job posting) is added. Justin can provide more information to those who are interested.

- Content Management System: is being investigated to act as a shared workspace for trainees. This would be a multi-functional platform with message-board, document sharing, etc.
- Options discussed were the possibility of using group options on Facebook. Courtney and Justin will look into this. Others who are knowledgeable with facebook group management are asked to get in touch with Justin to aid in this effort.

#### Web Seminars (Heather)

- Based on last year's minutes, there is interest in having an online web seminar for trainees to address topics of general interest:
  - "What is Superfund" best to have just prior to the annual meeting for students to learn about the broad reach of the National superfund Program before attending.
  - Funding opportunities for new investigators
  - Grant writing
  - Virtual Journal Club – best for after the annual meeting, when critical mass of trainees are aware of SPAN
- Others are encouraged to submit ideas of broad topics

#### Networking at National Meetings

- SPAN may try to help connect SBRP trainees going to the same meetings.
- SOT and ACS were mentioned.

#### Other Announcements, Opportunities, Comments, Suggestions

- Katie: travel aid available for meeting in Cluje, Romania. Oct 19-22. Trainees encouraged to attend – Katie highly recommends the meeting as a good networking event. Student Travel stipends will be available. Information: <http://www.ceeche.org/>
- Heather: There is a TCC/TCS meeting being organized by UC-Davis Oct 1 -2. Student participation is encouraged and there will be stipends to cover student/postdoc attendance of the meeting. More information will be posted on the SPAN web pages.

**Next Meeting:** Late Summer. Will aim for late August/September, provided people are available. Feel free to invite anyone else that may be interested in being part of the SPAN Committee.

#### Action Items/ Next Steps:

1) **Justin:** survey results from annual meeting '07.

2) **Courtney/Justin:** coordinate about existing networking programs for use by SPAN members.

**3) Katie:** send Kathy information about student travel \$\$ for the CEECH meeting – for write-up in ePosted newsletter.

**4) All:** introduce yourself on the message board and have a look at the other SPAN committee members: <http://www.bulletinboards.com/view.cfm?comcode=sbrp>.

**5) Heather:** follow up on last year's suggestions for web seminars

- **Denise:** send link from Jackson Lab Tutorial in regards to grant writing and how to find funding.
- **Brooke:** will find the name of the instructor that teaches grant writing skills at NIH.

**6) Heather:** send Kathy Dooley information about student feedback re: annual meeting.