

From the Program Director

By Robert Tukey, Ph.D.

Welcome to our first newsletter for the Superfund Basic Research Program. We are hoping to make this a regular communication for the program, highlighting program events, outlining research achievements and welcoming guest columns from the faculty. It has been a busy summer, with a number of program faculty and staff being active in these early months to help get our program off the ground. One event indicative of this early program activity took place last summer. Dr. Sam Wilson, deputy director of the National Institutes of Environmental Sciences and Dr. William Suk, program director of the NIEHS Superfund Basic Research Program, approached UCSD and our Superfund program to organize a binational conference directed at attracting scientists and dignitaries from the U.S. and Mexico to highlight the environmental problems that are shared by the border states and Mexico. Dr. Keith Pezzoli, co-director of the Superfund Outreach Core, stepped up to the plate to organize and run this important meeting. I have asked Keith to give us an overview of the meeting, since his efforts and those of his colleagues may be used by the NIEHS to draft the guidelines needed to develop future Binational Centers.

(Continued on pg. 2, see Welcome)

Superfund Outreach and the June 2000 Binational Conference on Environmental Research and Policy

By Keith Pezzoli, Ph.D.

The Outreach Core of UCSD's Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP) connects research on Superfund toxics to the needs of community-based partners in education and industry. The education partnership, headed by Dr. Hyam Leffert, involves environmental science curriculum development and teacher training in several of San Diego's disadvantaged high schools, with a focus on waterborne agents, and direct experimental guidance in the Outreach science laboratory. The Industry partnership, headed by Dr. Keith Pezzoli, promotes the use of scientific knowledge (about basic biological, chemical, and physical aspects of Superfund toxicants) in efforts to improve corporate environmental management systems, government regulations, and community-based decision-making processes. Dr. Pezzoli is teaming up with Dr. Ilya Zaslavsky (San Diego Supercomputer Center) to build a federated Geographic Information System (GIS) useful for linking Superfund-related basic science to water quality and public health issues in the larger San Diego-Tijuana binational border region.

Concern about the status of environmental health along the U.S.-Mexico border has captured the interest of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). On June 12-13, 2000, a Binational Conference was held at UCSD to provide the NIEHS leadership with a strategic agenda and criteria for supporting future research on U.S.-Mexico related environmental problems. The

NIEHS is strongly backing the idea of establishing a small number of Binational Centers. The June 2000 Conference was organized by Drs. Keith Pezzoli, John Helly, Palmer Taylor and Robert Tukey. Most of the 150 individuals who participated in the two-day event are research

scientists, including 26 university colleagues from throughout Mexico. But a significant number of representatives from government, industry, and community-based organizations also took part. The Final Report for the June 2000 Binational Conference is now available on-line at www.sdsc.edu/niehsconference/report.html. The 80-page Report examines opportunities for and benefits of applying research results in biomedicine, information technology, environmental

*The Final Report
for the June
2000 Binational
Conference is
now available
online at
[www.sdsc.edu/
niehsconference/
report.html](http://www.sdsc.edu/niehsconference/report.html)*

science, communications and social science to environmental health and management problems at the US-Mexico border.

A key objective of the Binational Conference was to show how a strategic coalition of academicians, scientists, industry leaders, community-based organizations, and policy-makers in federal and local agencies with binational and border interests could be organized to pursue common problems. This is a high priority. As the National Research Council's Board on Sustainable Development argues, we need "significant advances in basic knowledge, in the social capacity and technological capabilities to utilize it, and in the political will to turn this knowledge and know-how into action" (NRC 1999:7). Along these lines, UCSD's Superfund Outreach Core will be working to collaboratively build binational capacity for environmental research, education and training using state-of-the-art information technology and communication systems. The plan is to establish more efficient, interactive, and equitable methods for integrating university-based environmental science with the fast-changing needs of industry, government, and community-based organizations.

Reference: National Research Council (1999) *Our Common Journey: A transition toward sustainability*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Welcome, continued from pg. 1

A number of events have been scheduled this fall that are aimed at attracting the participation of the principal investigators as well as other laboratory investigators involved in the Superfund programs. The first regularly scheduled event is the journal club, to be held at noon twice a month, every other Tuesday. While the topics for presentation

are open, we will attempt to focus these discussions on the molecular and cellular mechanisms of environmental toxicants. This is an excellent opportunity for students and staff to learn about cutting edge science that relates to environmental issues. The second event will be the monthly program meetings. Dr. Chris Glass will give an overview of his research program at the first meeting October 12. The dates and order of participation can be found on the web site.

Special thanks go out to Ben Tolo for setting up the Superfund web site and to Laurie Cartlidge, the new program administrator, for getting the budgets on line. Laurie is also the editor of this newsletter. Keep in mind that the Superfund program is administered and organized as an independent research program, requiring that all program business and laboratory ordering go through Laurie's office. If you need to contact her, or any other members of the program, check out the web site under Contacts for phone numbers and mailing addresses.

For More Information

For more information about the Superfund Basic Research Program at UCSD, please visit our website at <http://superfund.ucsd.edu/>.

The Superfund Basic Research Program is a federally funded program administered by the Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), an institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). For more

information, visit the SBRP national website at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/sbrp/home.htm>.



Program Meetings

Monthly Program Meetings through the end of 2000 are as follows (MTF 168, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.):

October 12, 2000 – the Glass laboratory will be making the presentation.

November 9, 2000 – the Outreach Core will give the presentation.

December 7, 2000 – the Karin laboratory will be presenting.

Journal Club

The Journal Club meets every other Tuesday from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. The following are the Journal Club meetings scheduled through the end of 2000.

October 10 – MTF 175

October 24 – Dean's Conf. Rm.

November 7 – Dean's Conf. Rm.

November 21 – Dean's Conf. Rm.

December 5 – location TBA

December 19 – location TBA

For a complete calendar listing, please visit the UCSD SBRP website at:

<http://superfund.ucsd.edu/>

UCSD Superfund Basic Research Program
Robert Tukey, Ph.D., Principal Investigator
Departments of Pharmacology,
Chemistry & Biochemistry
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0636

Program Manager – Laurie C. Cartlidge

Send your comments, questions, or ideas to lcartlidge@ucsd.edu

<http://superfund.ucsd.edu>