

**Committee and Liaison Reports**  
**AAPSE Board of Directors Meeting, St. Louis, MO**  
**June 6, 2004**

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**Committee:** Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws  
**Report by:** Roger Flashinski, Chair

There has been no action conducted by the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee since the August 2003 National C&T meeting.

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**Committee:** Auditing  
**Report by:** George Hamilton, Co-Chair

At the National Meeting in August of 2003 in Honolulu, HA, the auditing committee reviewed the AAPSE's financial affairs and found all accounts to be in good order.

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**Committee:** Committee on Committees  
**Report by:** Wayne Buhler, Chair.

**Committee's Purpose:** Liaison between AAPSE President and AAPSE committee chairs and liaisons to relay requests for annual reports and other business.

**Summary of activities:** Compiled and emailed annual reports from committee chairs and liaisons to AAPSE Executive Board members before the Board of Director's Meeting in St. Louis.

**Issue for Consideration:** A new chairperson will need to be appointed for this committee by the AAPSE President

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**Committee:** E-Services Committee  
**Report by:** Larry Schulze, Chair

1. E-Services Advisory Committee Membership

- a. Chair: Larry Schulze
- b. Members: Bob Bellinger, Gary Fish, Cindy Folck, Rich Pope, Carol Ramsay, Mike Weaver

2. Committee Charge

- a. To serve as a sounding board and an advisory body to the Executive Committee of the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) on matters relating to the web site, ListServ, potential on-line training, and other AAPSE-sponsored electronic initiatives.

i. Objectives:

- (1) Develop recommendations and guidelines for procedures

associated with postings to the web site, use of the ListServ, and tracking the status of articles submitted to the *Journal of Pesticide Safety Educators*,

- (2) Serve in an advisory capacity in support of the AAPSE webmaster on routine organization, maintenance and operation of the web site,
- (3) Respond to specific issues identified on an occasional basis by the AAPSE Executive Committee.

b. This Committee is initially organized as an ad hoc committee for a period of two years from the time of establishment (July 12, 2002) unless otherwise extended by the Executive Committee by subsequent action.

### 3. Summary of Activities

a. Two E-Services policies are approved and now online

- i. ListServ Policy
- ii. Internet Link Policy

b. A good test of the Listserv Policy occurred in December 2003. Several emails appeared that promoted a specific brand of insect control on the AAPSE listserv. The approved listserv policy provided the support to stop the commercial promotion of the product and to correctly guide the participants in their usage of the listserv.

c. The AAPSE membership database was moved to a new management computer system in December 2003.

d. Arrangements are being made to move the AAPSE Internet files to a new server that is more efficient and file access is faster. Anticipate delivery of the server in June 2004.

e. The AAPSE membership database is now easily updated by our Treasurer. Future plans include member access to update respective personal profiles and committee access to place committee reports online.

### 4. Issues for consideration by the AAPSE Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors

a. This committee was originally established as “ad hoc” for two years. Does AAPSE desire that this committee continue? I encourage continuation of the committee.

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**Committee:** Membership/Public Relations

**Report by:** Carol Ramsay, Co-Chair

Carol Ramsay, Washington State University, Co-Chair

Randy Rivera, Texas Dept. of Agriculture, Co-Chair

Colleen Hudak-Wise, North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture

C. Bruce Williams, Agronomy and Horticulture Services, LLC

Mark Shour, Iowa State University

Mark Ferrell, University of Wyoming

Dean Herzfeld (AAPSE Treasurer), University of Minnesota

Membership Status as of May 6, 2004

2004 paid members -> 127, of which 10 are supporting members

2003 paid members -> 180, of which 10 are supporting members

Carol Ramsay sent out a listserv request in the Spring of 2004 asking for volunteers to serve on the committee; four people volunteered. The committee has one associate member, 4 extension personnel, and 2 state lead agency personnel. The committee has representation as noted in the committee's charge document, except for the NE region and federal program.

Liz Braxton, former committee person, is working with AAPSE logo shirt vendor to update ability to purchase AAPSE logo-wear.

The committee has finalized a revision to the membership brochure and requests approval by the Board prior to posting it on the web site and circulating it at appropriate venues. (see attached PDF)

Secondly, the committee plans to assess the characteristics of the membership prior to developing a targeted membership drive in late 2004 for the 2005 calendar year.

To foster communication, the membership committee is framing out a mechanism to solicit and showcase member successes that can periodically be used as press releases to the membership. We ask whether the Board approves moving forward on this effort.

Lastly, looking at member service, the committee will be investigating the idea of "in-office" professional improvement via Powerpoint® presentations and conference call instruction, and potentially archiving these offerings via videostreaming on the AAPSE web site. We would anticipate that the Membership Committee would frame out this idea and then turn it over to the IT committee. We ask whether the Board approves moving forward on this effort.

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**Committee:** Nominations and Elections  
**Report by:** Carrie Foss, Chair

**Committee Members:** Janet Fults (Western), Andrew Thostenson (North Central), Ron Gardner (Northeast), Colleen Hudak (Southern)

**Statement of Purpose:** This committee seeks and nominates candidates for the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. At least two candidates will be nominated for each office. A slate of candidates must be presented to the AAPSE Secretary at least 45 days prior to the election.

**Summary of activities since August 2003:**

*There has been no committee activity since the AAPSE election results were announced during 2003.*

**Issues for Consideration by the AAPSE Board:** There are no issues for consideration.

However, suggestions and changes for future N&E Committees are listed below and were included in the 2003 N&E Committee report.

Suggestions and changes for future N&E Committees:

1. The guidance document states that one month prior to the election, the N&E Committee should “Prepare the official e-ballot, which must include voting instructions and eligibility requirements as well as biographical sketches/candidate statements.” It would be more efficient for the committee if they can follow these instructions and run the election from a committee member’s website versus the AAPSE secretary’s website as was done in this election. The rest of the procedures related to the election process could be followed by the N&E Committee according to the guidance document, such as “Obtain election results from designated e-vote recipients and counters.”
2. In the guidance document, the timeline shows that approximately two weeks prior to the election, the N&E Committee chair should “Remind AAPSE members about voting procedures (when, how) via the AAPSE listserv. Announcements regarding the slate, listing of bios/cs, etc. should alert the membership to the upcoming election...” This task was not completed for the 2003 election. As a result there was inadequate time for members to discuss the slate or ask questions of the candidates.
3. It may be useful to change the guidance document to allow for 3 weeks for the election. This would provide more time for voting, particularly during a period when members may be traveling and out of the office.

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**Committee:** Non-English Language Materials for Pesticide Safety Education  
**Report by:** Jennifer Weber, Chair

**Active 2004 Committee members:** Peyam Barghassa, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Gerald Kinro, Hawaii Department of Agriculture; Bruce E. Paulsrud, University of Illinois; Myron Shenk, Oregon State University; Suzanne M. Snedeker, Cornell University; Hugh Smith, Hawaii Agricultural Research Center; Sabina F. Swift, University of Hawaii at Manoa; and Wade Trevathan, Oregon State University.

**Statement of the Committee's purpose:** The AAPSE Committee on Non-English Language Materials for Pesticide Safety Education is working on several projects to assess and meet the linguistic needs of people who handle pesticides or work in areas where pesticides have been applied.

**Summary of activities since August 2003:** The committee submitted an article containing the results from the AAPSE committee's 2003 language survey to the editors of the Journal of Pesticide Safety Education (JPSE). The committee is currently revising the article at the recommendation of the JPSE review team and hope that a final version will be included in the 2004 edition of the electronic journal.

**Issues for consideration by the AAPSE Board.** None at this time.

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**Committee:** URBAN IPM EDUCATION AND OUTREACH  
**Report by:** Ed Crow, Chair

Committee: Jim Criswell (Oklahoma State University), Gary Fish (Maine Board of Pesticides Control), Carrie Foss (Washington State University Puyallup), Carl Martin (Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission), Clyde Ogg (University of Nebraska)

Purpose: The committee has been charged with both a fact finding and recommendation function regarding IPM in schools.

The committee does not have anything to report at this time. There has been no activity since the National meeting in August 2003.

The committee would like to request further guidance from the Board on what the purpose and function of the committee should be.

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### **Certification and Training Advisory Group (CTAG)**

**AAPSE Liaison:** Carol Ramsay, Washington State University

### **Changes to the CTAG Board**

#### **Carol Ramsay (Washington State University) and Kevin Keaney (EPA) are the CTAG Co-Chairs**

Carl Martin (Arizona Structural Pest Control Board) is CTAG Vice-Chair

Gina Davis (Michigan Department of Agriculture) is Past Co-Chair

New Board Members

Kathy Dictor (Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services)

Andrew Thostenson (North Dakota State University)

Lori McKinnon (Yurok Tribe)

Extension representative vacancy to be filled immediately; nomination call sent April 2004

2005 nominations for Federal Program and Extension will be sent prior to August 2004

### **National Pesticide Applicator Core Manual and Exam**

The exam is currently being used by a couple of Canadian provinces. EPA will be working with states in the future for implementation. Jeanne Heying (EPA) is the contact. The writing and major editing of the core manual is complete. EPA has hired a graphic designer and production team to produce the final product. Win Hock, project leader, is hopeful for a fall 2004 release of both an electronic version and hard copies.

### **Exam Administration and Security Procedures Manual**

Guidance manual is near completion (release summer 2004). CTAG developed this manual to provide advice and guidance to each state, tribe or territory with responsibility for exam administration; it includes a series of questions to consider and offers some recommendations in several areas. CTAG believes it is a worthwhile exercise for each responsible agency to perform a self examination of existing procedures for exam administration and security.

### **State Plan Template**

The CTAG State Plan Workgroup has developed a web-based template system that will allow States/Tribes to generate their State/Tribal Certification & Training plans in a uniform format. This template integrates the requirements of 40 CFR part 171.7 (Submission and approval of State Plans for certification of commercial and private applicators of restricted use pesticides) and Form 5700 33H (annual C&T reporting) Programming is essentially completed. Beta-tested by several states. Template is currently hosted on a WSU server. EPA is assessing timeline to transfer onto EPA server and for EPA management. Included in the draft FY 2005-2007 Pesticide Cooperative Agreement guidance.

### **Tiered Classification**

The workgroup was charged with developing a concept for a tiered classification system for pesticides that relates the hazard of the pesticide to training. Short and long term proposals were identified. The overall concept was framed and is being reviewed by EPA at this time to assess whether the concept is feasible. If feasible, much more work will be required to actually develop the framework for changes to regulations and obtaining support from partners and outside stakeholders.

### **PSEP Long-Term Funding**

In August 2004, CTAG was tasked to form a workgroup to assess different mechanisms for distributing funds to Cooperative Extension programs, i.e., the continuance of the IAG with USDA, passing dollars through SLAs, or direct grants to Extension PSEP. Since EPA and USDA are working hard to ensure accountability and timeliness with the current IAG, this CTAG workgroup has not been formed to evaluate alternatives. However, CTAG recognizes that both CES and SLA funding is an issue, and once a clear charge has been developed regarding funding, CTAG will entertain supporting a workgroup in this area. EPA and USDA will be conducting a formal program review in 2004 and it is assumed that future efforts regarding funding may come from the review.

## **Issue Papers**

Process Document – a draft document has been placed on the web site. It details how CTAG selects an issue and how the issue moves through CTAG seeking comments from its partners. *CTAG formally requests the AAPSE Board review the document and make comments prior to August 1. Send comments to Al Muench, CTAG Secretary.*

Tracking Document - a draft document has been placed on the web site which tracks all of the past and ongoing CTAG efforts. *CTAG formally requests the AAPSE Board review the document and make comments prior to August 1. Send comments to Al Muench, CTAG Secretary.*

50/50 Match – Proposes a change in FIFRA to replace the 50/50 C&T match requirement with the traditional 85/15 match used in other FIFRA programs. This issue paper has gained

acceptance from SLA partners, awaiting review by EPA and opportunity to make FIFRA changes.

Requiring Monitored, Written, Closed-book Exams – Seeks to improve the professionalism of all certified applicators by requiring states to use monitored, written, closed-book exams for certification of both private and commercial applicators. Closed-book has been defined to prohibit materials brought in by examinees, but that SLAs can provide items as part of the exam such as specimens, labels, resource books, etc.

Minimum Age Requirement for Certification – Recommends that EPA implement a minimum age requirement for certification as a requirement for approval of state plans. Originally submitted and accepted by POM and SFIREG (April 2002 and June 2002), as 18 for commercial applicators, 16 for private applicators. Because of concerns raised relative to taking enforcement actions against minors the issue paper was redrafted in 2003 recommending 18 years of age for both commercial and private. CTAG is currently redrafting the document to state: 18 years for commercial and 17 years for private applicators unless the state can document a 16-year old is not handling Toxicity Category I materials. If the state can differentiate between minors handling Toxicity Category 1 versus other products, CTAG would suggest that 17 would be appropriate; otherwise, CTAG recommends 16. This issue paper will again be sent out for comments from SLA, tribe, Extension and EPA partners.

Positive Identification for RUP Purchase - Recommends that EPA develop guidelines and implement requirements for positive identification of all private and commercial applicators making face to face purchases of restricted use pesticides. This issue paper does not address telephone and Internet sales of pesticides.

### **Current Workgroup Efforts**

WPS integration – Concept proposes to integrate the pesticide handler training requirements of the Worker Protection Standard into the C&T program. Workgroup still developing this issue.

Positive Identification for Exams and Training purposes – Guidance for verifying applicator identity during exam and training sessions.

Improve the Skills of Trainers/Educators – Workgroup is still assessing different areas on which to focus. Seeking input on idea of trainer certification.

Remote testing – Exploring the advantages and disadvantages of remote testing.

National Consistency – Exploring the obstacles for achieving national consistency.

### **New Efforts under Consideration**

Phosphine Security Plan Template

National aerial applicator validated exam/manual

National rights of way validated exam/manual

### **Inputs for Consideration by the CTAG Board**

CTAG openly invites any person or entity to bring forward an issue for consideration. Any issue brought before the board must be sufficiently developed to address the significance of the issue and describe the problem to be avoided or solved.

### **CTAG Information and Communications**

<http://pep.wsu.edu/ctag>

Carol Ramsay, AAPSE Liaison to CTAG, [ramsay@wsu.edu](mailto:ramsay@wsu.edu), 509-335-9222

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### **Endangered Species**

**AAPSE Liaison:** Catherine Daniels, Washington State University

Statement of Purpose:

AAPSE membership wishes to have opportunity for input during EPA Endangered Species Program stakeholder meetings.

Activity since August 2003:

EPA's ESA Program has not contacted me to advise of any stakeholder meetings nor requested any input from the AAPSE membership.

Issues for consideration:

At the rate events are moving and the fact that the ESA Program is directed in large part by lawsuits, the AAPSE membership might consider whether the current committee structure is necessary. EPA has little ability to solicit and use input in this climate. AAPSE can not affect the legal system to assist or direct EPA in any way. My recommendation is for the board to consider whether they wish general information on ESA issues to be collected by a committee and then made available to the membership, or, whether the committee should be placed on inactive status until such a time as EPA is able to solicit and use input from stakeholders. I have no problem continuing in the current position, however as I am new to this committee, and the previous incumbent stated that during her tenure EPA never contacted her either, I feel it is important for the board to reconsider the usefulness of this committee in it's present form. Thank you for your consideration.

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### **International Harmonization and Classification of Pesticides**

**AAPSE Liaison:** Candace Bartholomew, University of Connecticut

**Activity since July 2003**

**Background:** The U.S. and other countries and stakeholders have worked to develop the Globally Harmonized System of Classification of Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), since 1992 when the UN Conference on Environment and Development endorsed the concept as a major activity. The GHS was completed in December 2002 and was adopted by the UN Economics and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) in July 2003. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), of which the U.S. is a member, set a goal of implementation by 2006 to the extent possible. The GHS implementation for pesticides is also included in the NAFTA Technical Working Group five year strategy.

The GHS is based on harmonization of major existing systems for chemicals in transport, in the workplace, pesticides, and consumer products, without lowering the level of protection afforded by those existing systems. Its scope includes all chemicals; however, it does not cover pharmaceuticals, food additives or pesticide residues in food, or cosmetics in the consumer use setting. These types of chemicals are covered in transport and in the workplace, consistent with current U.S. regulatory framework.

**Statement of Purpose:** An internal EPA, OPPTS working group was formed in the summer of 2003 and began meeting to analyze and compare the GHS to current policies and to develop initial implementation recommendations. The working group is comprised of representatives of all OPP divisions, other key EPA offices, and state regulators and educators, it meets bi-weekly.

**Summary of Activities:** A good portion of the year was spent developing and comparing GHS with current OPP classification and labeling policies. Several internal papers were prepared identifying differences between the two documents. A presentation identifying the GHS criteria and the differences in classification and labeling between GHS and OPP was presented at the Spring AAPCO in 2003.

In May, 2003 an internal paper, "Chemical Hazard Classification and Labeling: Comparison of OPP Requirements and the GHS", was presented to the working group. In November 2003 another paper, "OPPTS GHS Implementation Planning WG Summary of Recommendations", was sent to EPS OPP Division Directors as a briefing for a presentation planned in December 2003. In January 2004 the first draft of a white paper was circulated internally at EPA for comment. Numerous meetings have been held and changes made to the white paper. It is due to be released some time in Mid May for external comment. The chair of the working group is Mary Frances Lowe has been invited to make a presentation for AAPSE.

(See: <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/harmonization.html>)

**Issues for Consideration by the AAPSE Board:** Implementation of GHS will mean substantial changes in pesticide labels. Toxicity endpoints and toxicity categories will change in some cases, signal words will change as will the accompanying symbols. There will be new symbols for physical hazards. All training materials will need to be revised to accommodate these changes. Substantial re-training of all applicators will necessarily have to occur. These changes will have a significant impact on pesticide safety education programs particularly in light of recent budget cutbacks.

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## National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (NPSA)

**AAPSE Liaison:** Pat Hipkins, Virginia Tech.

The purpose of this liaison is to represent AAPSE's interests to—and channel input from—NPSA. NPSA is an organization of federal, state and local governmental agencies, educational and research institutions, public organizations, private corporations, and individuals that are actively involved in different aspects of pesticide stewardship. It serves as a forum to facilitate cooperation among all interested individuals, organizations, agencies, and companies to increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and longevity of various pesticide stewardship efforts.

Summary of activities since August 2003:

- held a 4th annual conference in Tucson, AZ (October 19-22); planning a 5th conference in Orlando, November 7-10. (Several AAPSE members, including Norm Nesheim-FL, are involved in planning the 2004 conference.)
- continuing to promote/support container recycling and pesticide product disposal efforts in the states.
- obtained CropLife funding for a phase I of a pilot project to create and test a new public/private partnership for pesticide disposal programs. (A very important and related sub goal is to help states and/or pilot areas in which active disposal programming has ceased to reinstate their programs.)

*Overview of phase I:* collect essential background information, analyze state disposal program performance data, and otherwise produce essential documents and materials needed to assure a successful pilot project.

*Specific tasks for phase I:*

- 1: Determine the Status of State Disposal Programs
  - 2: Identify the Political Context and Working Protocols of Successful, Long-Term Pesticide Collection Programs
  - 3: Identify Potential Funding Sources for State Pesticide Disposal Programs
  - 4: Identify Current Use of State Pesticide Registration Fees
- continuing to update the NPSA website (<http://npsalliance.org/>) to add reports, projects, position papers, membership information, etc.
  - working through the SFIREG Water Quality and Pesticide Disposal Working Committee to recommend changes to Chapter 13 of EPA's Label Review Manual, to improve label language statements regarding container management and product disposal.
  - working with Earth-911 and three states (NC, PA, WA) to develop and pilot posting agricultural product container recycling and unusable pesticide collection information on the Earth-911 website, which is searchable by zip code (<http://earth911.org/>). Eventually, NPSA intends to work with Earth 911 and pesticide safety educators to provide links to pesticide stewardship and safety education information.
  - preparing to write letters of support to USDA and EPA on behalf of continued support and increased funding for PSEP programs again this year.\*

Issues for consideration by the AAPSE Board:

- NPSA would like to continue to develop a working relationship with AAPSE, and to involve active/interested contributors in leadership roles.
- At present, an AAPSE member serves as an AAPSE- appointed liaison to NPSA and as a member of NPSA's Advisory Council. Mary Grodner, who is an active AAPSE member, serves on – and chairs – the NPSA BOD. In addition, several other AAPSE members are also active NPSA members. NPSA hopes that more AAPSE members will join NPSA. To that end, NPSA membership and annual meeting information will be circulated at regional PSEP meetings in 2004.
- The NPSA Pilot Project (create and test a new public/private partnership for pesticide disposal programs) will involve pesticide safety educators and regulators, many of whom are AAPSE members. This is also true for other NPSA projects, including the effort to improve label language statements regarding container management and product disposal, and pesticide management / education for the retail sector.
  - If/when the AAPSE BOD has programs or efforts that involve the common interests of the two organizations, NPSA requests that AAPSE bring them to NPSA. NPSA hopes that interaction and partnership with AAPSE will continue to advance the goals of both organizations.

\*Comments from NPSA members (BOD members, officers, and project leaders who reviewed this report):

- EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO STEWARDSHIP. Without education, there is only regulation and "after the fact" problem solving. There has been a national movement for at least a decade to reduce the "regulatory burden" on farms and businesses. ...the only way to "reduce the burden" without creating problems is through education.
- NPSA continues to believe in the power and importance of PESP.
- ...the current funding amount (federal \$\$ support for PSEP) is a national embarrassment...

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## **Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers**

**AAPSE Liaison:** Amy Brown, University of Maryland

### Purpose

This project is a national initiative to improve the capability of primary health care providers to integrate pesticides into primary health care education and practice, with the goal of improved recognition and treatment of pesticide-related illnesses. The project was developed through a collaborative effort of EPA, USDA, the US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Labor, and the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF). AAPSE has been represented through its liaison, and

through the service of additional AAPSE representatives on committees and review teams (see 2002 report for details on representation).

### Summary of activities since August 2003

1. In the February 2004, NEETF distributed a statement for adoption by various organizations. The Health Professionals and Environmental Health Education Position Statement was developed in response to recommendations at the National Forum, held in June 2003. The statement was prepared with the help of many stakeholders, and is the result of much compromise. The statement summarizes the need for environmental health education and lists the specific actions necessary to successfully incorporate environmental health information into the education of health professionals.
2. NEETF is developing a pesticide inventory resource site, referred to as the Gateway Project, for health care providers. Most of the references are directly related to pesticides and should provide good background and/or specialized resources. The Gateway Project is directed by Dr. Mark Robson of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, NJ. AAPSE member George Hamilton served on the first-level review committee for the references, and Amy Brown was on the second-level review team. The materials were reviewed for currency, helpfulness, and bias. Some useful references from either industry or environmental organizations were kept on the list, but were identified as having a potential bias.
3. Amy Brown has been appointed a member of the Agricultural Health Study (AHS) National Advisory Panel (NAP). A meeting of the NAP took place February 26-27, 2004 in Bethesda, MD. Brown attended the meeting, as did Richard Pope, Suzanne Snedeker, and Julia Storm, all members of AAPSE. The AHS NAP recommended that a risk communication strategy be developed as follows:
  1. Develop a new fact sheet and summary letter:
    - a. Produce a yearly summary of findings
    - b. Produce a cumulative summary of major findings
    - c. Emphasize positive health outcomes
  2. Broaden the dissemination of study findings (i.e., to PSEP Coordinators in other states in addition to North Carolina and Iowa)
    - a. Develop a coordinated risk communication component
    - b. Develop a comprehensive communication plan for the NAP to consider
    - c. Bring health care providers into the loop

Brown has developed a first draft for the risk communication plan, and is in the process of incorporating comment from Storm and Snedeker. These individuals will serve on an informal committee for AHS and will work to ensure that AAPSE plays a major role in distribution of the AHS results to applicators, farmworkers, and health care providers, as appropriate. AAPSE's endorsement of the plan will be sought before submitting the final draft to the AHS NAP.

### Issues for consideration by the AAPSE Board of Directors

1. The AAPSE Executive Committee voted to pass the question of endorsement of the NEETF Position Statement on to the Board for its consideration. The statement is attached to this document in preparation for discussion and a vote during the June 2004 Board of Directors Meeting.

### **Position Statement Health Professionals and Environmental Health Education**

With the widespread presence of environmental health hazards in our communities and in our world, health professionals must be prepared to diagnose, treat and prevent health conditions related to environmental exposures in their patients and communities. The public expects their health care providers to be prepared to deal with health problems related to environmental health hazards, but all too often providers are not equipped to respond effectively.

Environmental health is defined as "freedom from illness or injury related to exposure to toxic agents and other environmental conditions that are potentially detrimental to human health."<sup>1</sup> Poor environmental quality is estimated to be directly responsible for approximately 25% of all preventable ill health in the world.<sup>2</sup> In 1998 and 1999, 80% of crop farms and 74% of households used pesticides.<sup>3</sup> In 2001 nearly 40% of American children lived in counties that exceeded the eight-hour ozone standard at least one day.<sup>4</sup> In the U.S., the rates of asthma increased 73.9% during 1980-1996.<sup>5</sup> The total annual costs of environmentally-attributable diseases in American children are estimated at \$54.9 billion annually.<sup>6</sup> To address the broad range of environmental health issues, such as outdoor and indoor air quality, water quality, hazardous waste and toxics, Healthy People 2010 includes several environmental health objectives and highlights the critical role of health care providers in health education and health promotion.<sup>7</sup>

The need for improvements in health professionals' environmental health knowledge has been expressed by leading health institutions. The Institute of Medicine recommends the integration of environmental health concepts into all levels of medical and nursing education.<sup>8</sup> The American Medical Association encourages physician educators in medical schools, residency programs, and continuing medical education sessions to devote more attention to environmental health issues and encourages physicians to educate themselves about pesticide-related illnesses.<sup>9, 10</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages pediatricians to become informed about air pollution problems in the community and published a book on the identification, prevention, and treatment of childhood environmental health problems.<sup>11, 12</sup> The American College of Preventive Medicine has urged funding and support for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in their efforts to educate health care providers on toxic substances and how to prevent exposure to these substances.<sup>13</sup> The Ambulatory Pediatric Association has established the National Fellowship Program in Pediatric Environmental Health and proposed competencies for pediatric environmental health specialists.<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Division of Nursing has included the ability to recognize environmental health problems affecting patients and provide health protection interventions as one of the essential primary care nurse practitioner

competencies.<sup>15</sup> Finally, the American Nurses Association has resolved to broaden its work in occupational and environmental health and apply the precautionary approach when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment.<sup>16</sup>

A survey of environmental medicine content in U.S. medical schools found that 75% of medical schools require about seven hours of study in environmental medicine over four years, and a survey of Migrant Clinician Network clinicians found that approximately half had not had any training or courses related to environmental and/or occupational health.<sup>17, 18</sup> A survey of chief residents of U.S. pediatric residency programs found that fewer than half of pediatric programs routinely include pediatric environmental health issues in their curriculum, other than lead poisoning and environmental exacerbation of asthma.<sup>19</sup> A majority of nurse practitioner program directors stated there should be greater emphasis on environmental health in their programs; and a majority of medical school deans and family practice residency directors believed moderate emphasis on environmental health in their programs would be ideal.<sup>20-22</sup> Finally, after physicians attended an interactive asthma seminar, children seen by these physicians experienced fewer hospitalizations and fewer subsequent emergency department visits.<sup>23</sup>

Health professionals and other stakeholders participating in the National Forum for the *National Strategies for Health Care Providers: Pesticides Initiative*, organized by The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, agreed that addressing environmental health conditions should be part of routine primary care and recommended the creation of a position statement on the need for environmental education for health care providers, especially for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, nurse midwives, and community health workers, who work at the frontline of the health care system.<sup>24</sup>

Therefore, The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation recommends that professional associations, decision-making bodies, academic institutions, and practice settings of health care providers endorse the need to address health conditions associated with environmental exposures, and:

- adopt environmental health education and practice skills standards so that health care providers learn and integrate information about environmental exposures in clinical, educational, and preventive health care activities
- incorporate clearly defined environmental exposure educational competencies and practice skills, including the ability to elicit an environmental exposure history, into health care provider education and practice
- use validated tools and resources available through an array of mechanisms, such as professional journals, newsletters, central internet sites, and professional meetings to recognize, manage, and prevent health effects from environmental exposures
- appoint an environmental health “faculty champion” at each medical and nursing school to ensure long-term integration of environmental health content into medical and nursing school curricula

- update requirements to include the recognition, management, and prevention of health effects related to environmental exposures in medical, nursing, and other health care provider education
- promote incentives for faculty to teach core competencies, including financial incentives in the form of grants, faculty development, curriculum development, and research, instructional teaching and training aids, expert consultants, clinical access, release time for faculty development, curricula development, and establishing appropriate clinical sites and teaching venues
- facilitate access to environmental health continuing education programs

January 13, 2004

**The following organizations endorse The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation's Position Statement, Health Professionals and Environmental Health Education:**

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## **States FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG)**

**AAPSE Liaison:** Mary L. Grodner, Louisiana State University

Full SFIREG is intended to represent a broad range of state views, to act as a states' decision body for issues being forwarded to EPA, and to receive and provide to all State Lead Agencies reports on EPA activities and programs. It was created by a cooperative agreement between EPA and AAPCO.

Several issues were discussed at the last full SFIREG meeting in December 2003. Issues discussed, *inter alia*, US DOT Haz Mat Transportation Security Requirements, Electronic labeling, Strategies for eCommerce, Pesticide containers & Product label disposal, FIFRA 2ee, EPA OW & OPP Interim Statement Guidance/NPDES/public Comment update, Wood preservatives update, Endangered Species update and the issues papers arising from the Regions.

The AAPSE liaison is a non-voting member of SFIREG, but a very important member. This liaison brings AAPSE's concerns to the table and the members of SFIREG are very interested in them. I urge all members to take an active role in the pre-SFIREG meeting in their EPA Region. The minutes of the meeting and all supporting documents are posted on AAPCO's webpage and I urge all members to read them.

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**SFIREG POLICY, OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**AAPSE Liaison:** Jim T Criswell, Oklahoma State University

Purpose: Represent AASPE at the SFIREG-POM committee meetings

Summary: I was able to attend the October 2003 and April 2004 POM meetings. I forwarded one issue to the AAPSE Board for consideration and that was the Multiple Restricted-Entry Intervals. The AASPE Board responded that this was not an issue they wished to consider. I relayed that information to the SFIREG-POM committee in October 2003.

I forwarded several items of information to the AAPSE Board including but not limited to the Environmental Safety Claims on labels, Multiple Restricted-Entry Intervals, and E-labeling issue.

Complete minutes of the SFIREG-POM are posted at the AAPCO web site  
<http://aapco.ceris.purdue.edu/>.

Issues for consideration by the AAPSE Board: This is not per se directly from the SFIREG-POM but an observation of an issue I perceive is occurring.

Through the reregistration and FQPA review processes, EPA is making various label changes. These changes include many types that may impact AAPSE programming but the primary one is the requirement for the applicator to obtain education through the registrant prior to purchase and/or use of the product. Examples include methyl bromide, Sentricon, phosphine, ProFume, Grazon, etc.

How do C&T programs handle these required education programs outside of their normal C&T programming?

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