

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Spring 2002

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NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109, phone/fax: 626 791-7689, <http://www.noglstp.org>

## FDA Considers Tissue Donations

Proposed regulations on tissue donation which include sperm bank donations are under consideration by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Under scrutiny is whether gay or bisexual men should be banned from donating sperm. Currently, most sperm banks screen donated sperm for sexually transmitted diseases including HIV. This restriction has prompted the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association and the Rainbow Flag Health Services and Sperm Bank to publicly voice their opposition to these proposals. The screening however, does not include testing for genetic damage which might result from therapeutic treatment with nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors such as AZT, Zidovudine, DDI. In some cases, these drugs suppress HIV viral loads to undetectable levels. These drugs also may be incorporated into sperm DNA and may cause genetic damage to the resulting offspring. NOGLSTP presented a symposium at the 2002 AAAS annual meeting on this controversial subject, at which this very real possibility was discussed as well as the fact that there is currently no research on this nor is there any funding to study this problem. NOGLSTP recommends that men who have been or are currently being treated with these drugs should refrain from donating sperm until research can elucidate the risk of uncertain outcomes.

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## Symposium Recap

NOGLSTP and AAAS Section X sponsored a successful symposium, "Scientific and Ethical Perspectives on the Risks of HIV/AIDS Therapeutics," at the AAAS AMSIE in Boston this past February. That same weekend, we held a reception for fellow queer technophiles attending the AAAS meeting. Hospitality to our symposium speakers and refreshing reception repast were made possible by a generous donation from Raytheon Company.



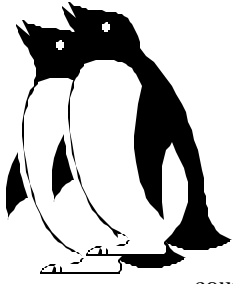
Photo #1: Symposium speakers Vernon Walker (left), Sheila Galloway, and Stephanie Bird (right) discuss ideas before their presentation.



Photo #2: Raytheon Representatives Kirk (left) and John Burke (also a NOGLSTP Board Member) show off their company banner.

Photo #3: NOGLSTP Board Member Mark Tumeo (left) and NOGLSTP member Finley (right) flank reception attendees.





## Aquarium Discovers Two 'Gay' Penguins

Source: 365Gay.com 2/22/02, Beth Shapiro

Officials at the New York Aquarium finally realize that the most dedicated couple in the penguin enclosure is a pair of males, known as Wendell and Cass.

The male penguins, each about 14 years old, can't get enough of each other. The couple has been together for the past eight years, and the two have sex with each other whenever they can, which is often. Presumably penguins can tell the guys from the gals, but aquarium officials apparently can't. For years they thought the pair was one of each. The truth didn't come out until aquarium staff carried out a blood test.

Penguin keeper Stephanie Mitchell added: "I was only seeing one mate with the other, but then one of the other keepers saw it happen the other way round so we did a blood test that proved they were both male.

"Cass tends to be a rather aggressive bird. Wendell is very nervous; always has been. He's on edge all the time. They're currently in a dispute with another couple over their nest. It seems to be one of the most desirable places in the penguin enclosure." Angie Pelekedis, a spokeswoman for the aquarium, said: "They're one of the most dedicated couples in the penguin enclosure."

## Montana Psychology Professor and Family Burned Out of House

Carla Grayson, a University of Montana psychology professor, and her partner joined a class action suit against the University of Montana, brought on behalf of the university by the ACLU seeking health benefits for the domestic partners of its gay and lesbian employees. They appeared at a press conference after which they received death threats and an envelope of white powder in the mail. Shortly thereafter, their home was gutted in a fire investigators believe was arson designed not just to intimidate but to kill. Fortunately they escaped along with their two year old son and are living in an undisclosed location. Meanwhile the Missoula city councilors are considering offering health benefits to the domestic partners of town employees.

## Emerson Rejects Employment Opportunity Policy Amendment

Emerson shareholders rejected a resolution asking the board to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This year, the resolution received 10 percent of the vote, versus 12 percent last year.

"I hope this trend continues," said Charles Knight, chairman of the board. The board opposes adding such language to the company's equal employment opportunity statement, contending that Emerson doesn't allow any type of discrimination in the workplace so the change isn't needed. Knight said company policy is to include only items in the statement that are legally required. Federal laws don't protect private-sector employees from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Still, almost 300 of the Fortune 500 companies have decided to include sexual orientation in their written non-discrimination policies, according to the gay rights organization Human Rights Campaign. The Pride Foundation, which co-sponsored the resolution, hopes to persuade Emerson to change the language despite the outcome of the shareholder vote, said Audrey Haberman, executive director of the foundation. General Electric Corp., for example, opposed a similar measure when it was presented and defeated at the 1999 shareholders meeting. But the company later added the language to its anti-discrimination policy statement. (St. Louis Post Dispatch 2/6/02)

## Aerospace Giant Pressed On Gay Rights

Source: 365Gay.com, 4/2/02, Beth Shapiro

Swarthmore College, founded in Pennsylvania by Quakers, is using its stockholder status to push Lockheed Martin Corporation to adopt a nondiscrimination policy based on sexual orientation. They plan to get the issue on the floor at the next shareholders meeting, scheduled for April 25 in San Diego. Swarthmore has \$950 million (US) in its portfolio. It is not known how much of that is invested in Lockheed Martin.

The college's Committee for Socially Responsible Investing, established four years ago and made up of students, college administrators and other officials, drafted the resolution. This is the first time a college or university has solely initiated a resolution since schools nationwide campaigned against companies who invested in South Africa before apartheid was lifted in 1994.

Lockheed Martin already has a nondiscrimination policy in place but it does not explicitly mention sexual orientation. The company's competitors, including Boeing, Honeywell and Raytheon, already have such policies in place.

## Companion Document on LBGT Health

A collaborative effort of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the National Coalition for LGBT Health, and other LGBT health experts has resulted in the publication of a comprehensive companion document for the recently published federally sponsored "Healthy People 2010" blueprint for the next 10 years of public health. This companion document is written for consumers, researchers, educators, and government agencies. It examines the multicultural aspect of the GLBT community and makes recommendations on the myriad of health issues facing the community. A LGBT Health resource list is included. For more information, point your web browser to <http://www.glma.org/policy/hp2010/index.html>, or contact GLMA at 415-255-4547.



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## IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 200203-200205, it is time to renew your dues. If it says 200112-200202, or trial2, it is past time to renew or join, and this will be your final newsletter unless we hear from you. We need and appreciate your continued support. You may renew online (and pay with a credit card), or fill out the form below (and on the other side of this page), and return it with your check to NOGLSTP, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109. Remember to add \$5US if you are subscribing outside of the US. Thank you. You may also use this form to inform us of any address or area code changes.

## It's Always Time for Pride

Ah Spring!... A time to emerge from our winter wear, prepare for summer, and come out, so to speak, to our annual celebrations of diversity. Back in the olden days, Pride Events were held only in the major cities. There were so few of these events that it was possible for the only slightly ambitious parade purveyor to have no calendar conflicts. We could have gone to them all if we wanted to. Things have changed, and thanks to the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED PRIDE COORDINATORS, you can keep track GLBT Pride Events around the world. Find the most extensive listing anywhere of global events for the coming year by pointing your web browser to <http://www.interpride.org/igc02/igc2002index.htm>. Pride dates for some of the major cities near which the majority of our NOGLSTP members live are listed in our events calendar below.

## Events Calendar

- April 8, 2002: NOGLSTP sponsors a reception for LGBTChemists and Allies at the American Chemical Society national meeting in Orlando FL
- April 20-24, 2002: Experimental Biology (FASEB) convention—New Orleans
- May 18-19: Long Beach CA Pride
- June 14-16: Baltimore MD Pride
- June 22-23: Los Angeles CA Pride
- June 23-30: New York City NY Pride
- June 24-30: Honolulu HI Pride
- June 28-30: Atlanta GA Pride
- June 30: Chicago IL Pride
- July 10-14, 2002: 19th Annual Lesbian Physician Conference, Burlington VT
- July 25-28: San Diego CA Pride
- July 29-30: San Francisco CA Pride
- August 24: Jersey City NJ Pride

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### Membership Form

To renew your NOGLSTP membership or become a member of NOGLSTP, support its activities, and receive a newsletter, complete this form and send it with a check or money order to:

**NOGLSTP  
PO BOX 91803  
Pasadena CA 91109**

Annual Membership Dues are:  
 \$15-35 (sliding scale) (tax deductible after the 1st \$10)  
 \$10 for students and unemployed\*  
\*inquire about our limited free memberships to 'starving students'  
 \$5 extra for memberships outside of the US  
 (for the extra postage) (US Funds only, please!)

Renewal     New     Info change only

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (don't forget your zip code!) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/URL: \_\_\_\_\_

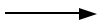
Technointerest or profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Latest Degree/Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your name and phone/email printed on a membership roster to be released to other NOGLSTP members?  
 YES                       NO

Do you want your email/URL to be placed on the NOGLSTP web page?  
 YES                       NO

Don't forget to fill out the other side



## Queer Health Professionals of Historic Note

Bert Hansen, Associate Professor of History at CUNY Baruch College, authored a scholarly article on several pioneering gays and lesbians in medicine and public health. The article, "Public Careers and Private Sexuality: Some Gay and Lesbian Lives in the History of Medicine and Public Health," appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*, 92:1 (January 2002), pp. 36-44.

### Abstract:

This study explores the careers of 5 physicians active in public health and medicine during the first half of the 20th century to illustrate interactions between private and professional life. An examination of these individuals, who might today be variously designated as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer, suggests how historical understanding can

be enriched by a greater willingness to investigate intimacy and sexual life as potentially relevant to career and achievements. Further, the narratives support a plea for all historians to provide readers with a more frank acknowledgment of the possible relevance of personal life to intellectual work, even in the sciences.

Additionally, this historical exploration of ways that careers and achievements may have been affected by a person's homosexuality (even when the person did not publicly embrace a gay identity) opens up a new area of research through biographical sketches based on historical sources combined with generalizations that are intentionally provisional. Included are the stories of Sara Josephine Baker, Harry Stack Sullivan, Ethel Collins Dunham, Martha May Eliot, and Alan L. Hart.

### Membership/Renewal Form (continued):

Please list any other professional organizations that you belong to:

Special Techno-Interests or Expertise:

For New Members: How did you learn of NOGLSTP?

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US WITH? (CHECK ANY THAT INTEREST YOU)

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- HOLD OFFICE
- AAAS
- FUNDRAISING
- NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- EDIT NEWSLETTER
- PRODUCE NEWSLETTER
- NEW PAMPHLET TOPICS
- GRANT WRITING
- G/L/B/T CAUCUS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES (which one?)
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer Opportunity:

*Edit the NOGLSTP newsletter. Involves collecting and creating content, laying out with desktop publishing software, and delivering electronic version to NOGLSTP Office via email on a quarterly basis. One year commitment, minimum. No pay, just glory. Inquire at [editor@noglstp.org](mailto:editor@noglstp.org)*

### ABOUT NOGLSTP

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS, INC., is a nation-wide organization of lesbigay scientists and technical professionals, regional and caucus groups, and others interested in technical matters and the gay and lesbian community. NOGLSTP's goals include dialog with professional organizations, providing information, improving our member's employment and professional environment, opposing homophobia and stereotypes, educating the gay, scientific and general communities, and fostering inter-city contacts among our members. National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc. is a tax-exempt educational organization under IRS section 501(c)3, incorporated in the State of California (TAX ID # 95-4358685). Written correspondence may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109-9813. For more information, see our web page at <http://www.noglstp.org/>

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#### Newsletter

The **NOGLSTP Bulletin** is published quarterly. Articles are encouraged and gratefully received. e-mailed articles to the NOGLSTP office c/o [editor@noglstp.org](mailto:editor@noglstp.org) are preferred. Next publication deadline: July 14, 2002.

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