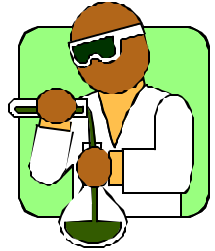


NOGLSTP

Bulletin Fall 1999



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NOGLSTP AT 2000 AAAS AMSIE

The American Association for Advancement of Science will be holding its Annual Meeting and Science Innovation Exposition February 17-22, 2000, in Washington DC, at the Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham hotels. The conference theme this year is "Science in an Uncertain Millennium, and features David Satcher, US Surgeon General, as the keynote address speaker. For more information about the AAAS conference, visit AAAS on the web - <http://www.aaas.org>.



NOGLSTP will be hosting a reception at the conference on Sunday, February 20, 4:30-6:30 pm at the Omni Shoreham Hotel / Senate Room. This reception is open to all meeting attendees and interested NOGLSTP members in the local area. It is a good opportunity to meet and greet fellow travelers, as well as the volunteers who serve NOGLSTP. You do not have to register for the AAAS conference to attend this reception.

There will be a NOGLSTP Board Meeting on Sunday February 20, 10:30-12noon at the Marriott/ Lanai Suite 144. Any NOGLSTP member who is interested in NOGLSTP business, or has opinions or ideas to share is welcome to attend. You do not have to register for the AAAS conference to attend this business meeting.

Alas, NOGLSTP will not be presenting a symposium this year. We were forced to withdraw our proposal, "Scientific, ethical, and legal perspectives on potentially mutagenic/genotoxic therapeutics," when our main presenters withdrew mid-year. The symposium was to have discussed recent research published on animal studies that suggest some chemotherapeutic agents for HIV management and breast cancer incorporate into DNA. The presenters withdrew because they felt the data were too premature to present in a public forum that involved ethical and legal opinions.

A Public Consultation on Oversight of Genetic Tests

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (SACGT) was chartered to advise the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on the medical, scientific, ethical, legal, and social issues raised by the development and use of genetic tests. The Committee is assessing, in consultation with the public, the adequacy of current oversight of genetic tests.

Given the significance of this issue and its potential impact on the American people, public perspectives on oversight must be considered before determining an appropriate course of action. SACGT will consult with the public through several mechanisms, including the Federal Register, a targeted mailing, a Web site consultation, and a Public Meeting, which will be held on January 27, 2000, in Baltimore, MD.

Further information about the consultation process is on SACGT's Web site (www.nih.gov/od/orda/sacgtdocs.htm). SACGT encourages your participation in the January 27, 2000, Public Meeting and welcomes your views on oversight and other issues of genetic testing. Please send your comments by January 31, 2000, to:

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing, National Institutes of Health, Suite 302, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892, Phone: 301-496-9838, Fax: 301-496-9839

QUEER SCIENTISTS OF HISTORICAL NOTE

NOGLSTP debuted its latest version of "Queer Scientists of Historical Note" at the Pasadena Pride Festival this past September. This educational pamphlet features brief biographies of 14 lesbian/gay scientists who made contributions of scientific merit during their lives in the 15th to 20th centuries. A copy of this pamphlet is yours for the asking. Just send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the NOGLSTP office with your request.

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Eleven years ago I met my now ex-wife at The Aerospace Corporation, where I have worked for nearly 20 years. I recall that after we had been married for several years she disclosed to me that a certain individual in our workplace was a lesbian. It seemed a little odd the way she said it, as if it were something to be mildly pitied. I didn't know exactly what to make of this bit of information other than to be very curious.

Years later, something interesting happened to me. I began to reach my limit on my capacity to contain my own "craziness" - a craziness I just assumed everyone had. Mind you, nobody thought I was crazy. In fact, all my employers, landlords, and even the priests I used to help at Sunday Mass thought I was completely normal (whatever that may be). My craziness carried me straight (well, it took a year and a near-mental-meltdown) into the Transsexual community. About six months after I took my first estrogen tablet, I disclosed to my wife that I had always wanted to be a girl: I therefore believed I was a transsexual. After a few weeks of "serious soul searching" she said the tattered remnants of our relationship weren't worth keeping. We are both better off, and I did manage to survive the first year after loosing my stepfamily.

It is interesting that before I found out I was a transsexual, I never had even spoken to an out-of-the-closet gay person. Part of the reason is that my company is highly "closeted" - gays actually fear job discrimination if they disclose their identities. I feel I may have made a small contribution to rectifying this situation because I decided, almost a year after loosing my stepfamily, to become Patti Michelle Sheaffer for the rest of my life.

So, off to Human Resources with my extensive collection of WEB pages of major corporations that have GLBT organizations (especially the "T" - I urge ALL such organizations to adopt the GLBT identifier). I guess I thought I needed to be able to prove to HR that Corporate America (at least part of it) approved of GLBT's. Now, I respect my manager intensely - there is something in his soul or in his eyes... I decided not to "blind side" him about my impending sex change by having HR tell him, so I visited him to tell him myself just before walking over to HR to start it all. He read the two paragraph summary of my impending transition, then this Mormon Child-of-God looked me in they eye and said, "This won't affect your career here at all." That is all he said. Thank you Carl! By way of explanation, my therapist later offered, "Maybe he has Love in his heart."

Well, it is now just over a year later and all has gone as well as can be expected. It is difficult to be yourself in this life, but things are getting better for us, though not fully achieved yet. Now I visit GLBT centers periodically, am a member of NOGLSTP, NOW, The G&L Task Force, HRC, and others. I sincerely hope my "fully out" status helps raise consciousness of the cause of civil rights for all GLBT folk.

Adoption Eased in CA

Adopting children in California has become easier for same-gender and other unmarried couples as Democratic Governor Gray Davis has reversed a policy established by his Republican predecessors whereby the state automatically opposed those adoptions, the "San Francisco Examiner" reported. In response to objections raised by the American Civil Liberties Union and gay and lesbian groups, Attorney General Bill Lockyer determined that this was an "underground" policy -- one which had not been established through proper administrative procedures -- which could lead to lawsuits against the state.

Mobil Gays Lose in Exxon Merge

The newly-merged oil megagiant Exxon Mobil Corp. announced December 6 that it will proceed with Exxon's generic anti-discrimination policy rather than Mobil's gay-explicit one, and that it will end new enrollment for spousal benefits gay and lesbian workers' domestic partners previously enjoyed at Mobil. The merged company employs 121,000 people.



Among other major oil companies offering domestic partner benefits to their gay and lesbian employees are BP-Amoco, Chevron and Shell, as do more than 80 of the Fortune 500. DaimlerChrysler has now added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy as part of its new contract with the United Auto Workers (UAW), with similar moves expected in UAW's final contracts with General Motors and Ford.

Partner Health Benefits

Prudential Insurance Company of America told the Gay Financial Network (gfn.com) on November 18 that it will be allowing its unmarried employees to designate "qualified adults" to receive health benefits, including not only unmarried domestic partners regardless of gender, but also other dependents such as an elderly relative sharing the worker's residence.

The California State University (CSU) system will be extending health insurance benefits to the same-gender partners of its gay and lesbian employees and to those workers in unmarried heterosexual couples where both are at least age 62, possibly as soon as February 1, 2000.

NIH-APA WORKSHOP

The National Institutes of Health and the American Psychological Association cosponsored a workshop on "New Approaches to Research on Sexual Orientation, Mental Health and Substance Abuse" on September 27-28, 1999. The workshop was held in Rockville, Maryland, at the headquarters of the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Sessions were devoted to Adolescent & Adult Development, Family, Prejudice & Stigma, and Mental Disorder & Substance Abuse.

Speakers were Joseph A. Catania (UCSF), Susan D. Cochran (UCLA), Bertram J. Cohler (U Chicago), Carolyn P. Cowan (UC Berkeley), Philip A. Cowan (UC Berkeley), Anthony R. D'Augelli (Penn State), Rafael M. Diaz (UCSF), E. Michael Gorman (San Jose State U), Suzanne G. Haynes (Dept. of Health & Human Services), Gilbert Herdt (San Francisco State U), Gregory M. Herek (UC Davis), Tonda L. Hughes (U Illinois, Chicago), Charlotte J. Patterson (U Virginia), Claire E. Sterk (Emory U), and J. Richard Udry (U North Carolina).

Serving on the workshop planning committee were Delores L. Parron (Dept. of Health & Human Services), Howard S. Kurtzman (NIMH), Timothy P. Condon (NIDA), Jack Stein (NIDA), Allen M. Omoto (U Kansas), and Clinton W. Anderson (APA).

For further information about the workshop or about NIH support for behavioral science research related to sexual orientation, contact Howard S. Kurtzman (kurtzman@nih.gov, 301-443-9400).

ATTENTION LGBT ACADEMICS!

NOGLSTP member Louie Crew has compiled an email directory of lesbian/gay scholars, which the Chronicle of Higher Education describes it as "the best way to find out about new research on issues of sexuality" (CHE 45.23 [April 23, 1999]: A16). This resource list helps lesbian/gay and transgendered scholars connect regarding on-going manuscripts, conferences, and other scholarly projects. The full directory (over over 900 entries) is available to all who agree to be listed, and only to them. Approximately 58% of those listed in the total directory have agreed to be listed publicly, at http://newark.rutgers.edu/~lcrew/lbg_edir.html. Email Professor Crew at lcrew@newark.rutgers.edu if you would like to be part of this directory.

UPCOMING QUEER CONFERENCES

BGLAD 2000: Over the first two weeks in April, we will examine four compass points which will help define the struggle for acceptance in the new millennium: Business, Entertainment, Law and the Internet. We invite any interested NOGLSTP members to check our website at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/BGLAD> for more information as it becomes available.

GAYZ INTO THE MILLENNIUM: The eleventh annual conference of the University of California Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Association will be convening February 11-13, 2000 at the Davis campus. You are invited to join us and make an important contribution to Creating A Shared Vision for the New Millennium! Visit <http://lgbtcenter.ucdavis.edu/LGBT2000/> for more information.



IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 199911-200002, it is time to renew your dues. If it says 199907-199910, or 199912, 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. Please 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 \$5 US 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.

CUT HERE AND RETURN FORM

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:

\$15-25 (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:

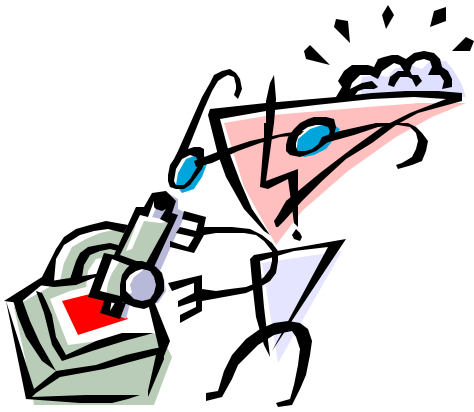
Latest Degree/Subject:

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



Letter from Editor: Hello fellow NOGLSTPers! My name is Charles Harless and I am the new editor of the NOGLSTP Bulletin. I am excited to take on this responsibility for NOGLSTP. I am open to any and all suggestions regarding the newsletter. If you have any articles, ideas, pictures, or anything, please let me know. You can reach me directly via e-mail at charless@ucla.edu OR through snail mail at the NOGLSTP office. Thanks again for this opportunity!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: NOGLSTP is always looking for volunteers for a variety of jobs. If you are interested in helping NOGLSTP grow, check off how you want to help us on your Membership/Renewal Form OR contact our volunteer wrangler Barbara Belmont at [bbelmont@access1.net](mailto:bhelmont@access1.net).

Membership/Renewal Form (continued):

Please list any other professional organizations that you belong to:

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 _____

ABOUT NOGLSTP

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS, INC., is a nation-wide organization of lesbian and gay 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). Membership dues are \$15-25 (sliding scale) annually for non-students. Student dues are \$10 annually. After the first \$10, dues are tax deductible. \$5 extra for memberships outside the US for the extra postage. Please, US dollars only. 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/>

1997-1998 Elected Board Members:

- Rochelle Diamond, Chair, Pasadena CA 626 791-4393
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Newsletter

The **NOGLSTP Bulletin** is published quarterly. Articles are encouraged and gratefully received. Handwritten, typed, and magnetic (3.5" pc-FD) may be sent to the NOGLSTP office. If you have internet access, articles may be e-mailed the NOGLSTP Newsletter Editor, Charles Harless, at charless@cs.ucla.edu.