

SBRP Student and Postdoc Network Survey
December 2006 – April 2007

The following are the results from the SBRP Student / Postdoc / Alumni Network (SPAN) Survey. Over the period of December 2006 to April 2007, current SBRP student and postdoc trainees were given the opportunity to provide feedback about the utility of tools proposed for enhancing networking among current and past SBRP trainees. There were 74 total responses with at least 2 representatives from each of the currently-funded SBRP programs (and 7 responses from previously-funded programs).

Degree Status:

• MS	8%
• PhD	75%
• Postdoc	16%

Tool #1 - Listserv

Listserv: email list to enable communication primarily among current SBRP student and postdoc trainees.

Potential Features:

- moderated by NIEHS personnel (SPAM free)
- all students/postdocs would have permission to post
- students can choose to receive emails daily or as a digest (e.g. weekly listing)

How would you use it?	
• to send announcements to other students?	44%
• to find other students going to the same conferences?	48%
• to announce jobs or post-doc positions?	48%
• to establish research collaborations?	66%
Other (please specify)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of post-doc position availability. • Find jobs and post doc positions. • Funding Opportunities/Post Doc. • Job posting bulletin for postdoc and faculty positions. Also career advice. • I wouldn't send out much but would be interested in reading the announcements other students send out. • Use lab equipment and borrow supplies. • Useful on a core-specific basis (e.g. outreach to outreach). 	

Overall, how useful would a LISTSERV be?	
• very	24%
• moderately	66%
• not useful	7%
• an inconvenience	3%

Tool #2 – Message Board

Message Board (or Discussion Board): web tool that allows communication among students/postdocs on topics of relevance to your research and to the SBRP Program.

Potential Features:

- accessible on SBRP website
- accommodates multiple 'strings' or conversations
- option for email notification when someone responds to your post

How would you use it?	
• to explore the Emerging Issues/Hot Topics within the SBRP?	49%
• to explore the most Promising Technologies?	49%
• to find out how Interdisciplinary Research works?	44%
• to communicate with distant collaborators?	44%
• to continue discussions from meeting?	44%
Other (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arsenic bearing solid residuals stabilization and immobilization technologies.• Cancer development technical help section for methods, etc.• Groundwater and Bio-remediation.• Announcements for post-docs or other available opportunities!• I probably wouldn't use it - email is easier. This can take too much time to follow a conversation.• Find out about other conferences.• Trouble Shooting (Q/A).	

Overall, how useful would a MESSAGE BOARD be?	
• very	23%
• moderately	59%
• not useful	14%
• an inconvenience	4%

Tool #3 – Student/Alumni Website

Student/Alumni Website: web pages featuring news about or of interest to SBRP students, postdocs, and alumni. Accessed via the SBRP site, it would be powered by a newly constructed database.

Potential Features:

- Student/Alumni Announcements
- Message Board Link
- Opportunities Link (job opportunities)
- Search Feature (to find colleagues)

How would you use it?	
• to post announcements of upcoming publications?	27%
• to post announcements of upcoming talks/poster presentations?	34%
• to post announcements of outreach activities?	24%
• to post your own research interests?	43%
• to post your own contact information?	54%
• to find SBRP colleagues' contact information	76%
• to find SBRP colleagues by region or subject area?	76%
• to contact potential collaborators?	64%
• to explore options after graduate school?	60%
Other (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job openings	

You may be contacted by other SBRP students, postdocs, and alumni seeking connections. Is this okay?	
• yes	90%
• yes, with restrictions	4%
• no	6%

Overall, how useful would a WEBSITE be?	
• very	54%
• moderately	43%
• not useful	3%
• an inconvenience	0%

Opportunity #1 – Online Seminars

Online Seminars: Online web seminars facilitate communication of scientific results among other SBRP colleagues from the comfort of your own desktop. PowerPoint slides are made available to the audience to follow along while the speaker gives their talk via conference phone line. This may be a great opportunity for students and postdocs, provided there is sufficient interest.

Would you want to present your work in an online seminar?	
• yes	40%
• no	60%

Would you want the seminar to be open to the public?	
• yes	50%
• no	50%

Realistically, would you sit in on another students' online seminar?	
• yes	13%
• no	18%
• depends on the topic	69%

What topics would interest you?

- Air quality and health, Inhalation toxicology
Climate Change
- Application of new analytical techniques, Molecular simulation, PAHs, dioxins and PCBs related topics.
- Applications of Plasmon Resonance and SERS sensing.
- Arsenic Epigenetics nutrition
- arsenic in plants, x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy
- Arsenic Toxicity Gene Expression Endocrine disrupting chemicals
- Arsenic Waste
- biodegradation of toxic pollutants Microbial ecology
- Biomarkers Complex mixtures Epidemiology
- community outreach, public understanding of science issues, health research
- Dioxins and related compounds B Cell Toxicity Diabetes Career
- DNA repair Metals
- endocrine disruption
- Environmental remediation, microbiology, and some molecular techniques
- Free Radicals Oxidative Stress Skin Cancer Photo activation
- gene-environment, new technologies,
- heavy metals, oxidative stress, neurotoxicants
- in situ bioremediation Groundwater remediation...of organics.
- Inorganic Chemistry Catalysis
- Keywords: surface modifications; carbon nanoparticles; hydrophilicity / hydrophobicity; biocompatibility; cytotoxicity; targeted delivery.
- metabolomics
- Microbial ecology, groundwater fate and transport
- microbially mediated degradation processes
- Outreach to community-based organizations; environmental justice; risk assessment and communication.
- PAH's Non-transformed cell Culture exposure studies DNA damage New Models/Techniques
- PAHs, PCBs, biomarkers, complex mixtures, ecotoxicology, risk assessment, sediment
- Policy PAHs Aquatic system
- Related research project with mine
- Remediation/Engineering
- Risk Assessment Cardiovascular Toxicology
- Site remediation technologies Biodegradation studies
- toxicology and cancer research related to nuclear receptors and signal transduction
- Toxicology, prevention of toxicological effects of environmental contaminants by nutrition, exposure levels for various contaminants
- trace metal geochemistry; groundwater flow
- Xenobiotic metabolism in humans GC/MS LC/MS/MS Metabolomics
- Xenobiotics Maternal transferred toxins Public health perspective on pesticide exposure

Opportunity #2: Network and Database Committee Representative

Network and Database Committee Representative: In 2007, SBRP will begin building the database to carry out the features you want out of the Student/Alumni Network. This survey will help determine how it is built. We also need a few people to serve on a committee to represent the interests of current students and postdocs, exploring questions such as:

- What features make the best 'Message Boards'?
- How to make the editing process easy?
- How best to protect privacy?

Would you be willing to serve on the Network Database Committee?	
• yes	28%
• no	72%

Opportunity #3: Student Representative for SBRP Annual Meeting

Student Representative for SBRP Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is an opportune time for students and postdocs to meet.

Would you attend an informal 'icebreaker' for students and postdocs?	
• yes	88%
• no	12%

Because the Annual Meeting is hosted by a different grantee university each year, logistically speaking, a student or postdoc from the Host University is well-positioned to coordinate such an event.

Which do you suggest?	
• One representative from the HOST university?	64%
• One representative from EACH university?	36%

Would you volunteer to represent your school?	
• yes	60%
• no	40%