

## Short List of Candidates for the EPA Human Studies Review Board

On June 14, 2011, the EPA, Office of the Science Advisor (OSA) announced a request for nominations of qualified individuals in the areas of bioethics and human toxicology to serve on the EPA Human Studies Review Board (HSRB) (Federal Register 76 No. 114, 34703). Information on the HSRB, including the nomination process, appears in the above-referenced Federal Register notice and on the HSRB Web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/osa/hsrb/>

**The OSA has reviewed the nominations and identified five possible candidates to serve on the HSRB.** Brief biographical sketches ("biosketches") on these candidates are provided below. OSA invites comments or other documentation from members of the public that the OSA should consider in the selection of HSRB members. Any information furnished by the public in response to this Web site posting will be combined with information already provided by the candidates, and gathered independently by the OSA. Prior to final selection of HSRB members, the combined information will be reviewed and evaluated for any possible financial conflict of interest or a possible appearance of a lack of impartiality. The information will also be used to ensure appropriate balance and breadth of expertise needed to address the charge to the Board. Candidates not selected for membership might be considered in the future as vacancies become available, used as a consultant to the HSRB or as a member or consultant to an HSRB subcommittee. **Please e-mail your comments no later than noon, Eastern Time, July 29, 2011 to [Jim Downing, OSA \(downing.jim@epa.gov\)](mailto:downing.jim@epa.gov).**

### HSRB Nominees:

#### **Michael Leonard Dourson, Ph.D., DABT, ATS**

Dr. Dourson is President of Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment, in Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Dourson has served as Ph.D., University of Cincinnati (1980), Diplomat, American Board of Toxicology (1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010), Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (2007), and Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis (2009).

Dr. Dourson founded Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA), a nonprofit corporation with a mission to protect public health. TERA develops partnerships among government, industry and other interested groups to address risk assessments of high visibility, such as formaldehyde, perchlorate, chloroform, and soluble nickel, and cooperative ventures such as the Voluntary Children's Chemical Exposure Program (VCCEP), the International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (*ITER*) database (available at the National Library of Medicine's ToxNet), and the Alliance for Risk Assessment (*ARA*). Prior to TERA, Dr. Dourson worked 15 years for EPA, holding several leadership roles and winning numerous awards for joint efforts, such as the creation of EPA's Integrated

Risk Information System (IRIS). In 2003, he was selected for the Society of Toxicology's Arnold J. Lehman award for major contributions that improve the scientific basis of risk assessment. In 2007, he was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences. In 2009, he was selected for the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology's International Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions nationally and internationally to the advancement of regulatory science. In 2009, he was also selected as a Fellow for the Society for Risk Analysis for substantial achievement in science relating to risk analysis and service to SRA.

Dr. Dourson has co-published more than 100 papers on risk assessment methods, use of animal and human data in the assessment of risk, or assessments for specific chemicals. He has also co-authored well over 100 government risk assessment documents, made over 100 invited presentations, and chaired over 100 sessions at scientific meetings and independent peer reviews. He has been elected to multiple officer positions in the American Board of Toxicology, the Society of Toxicology (SOT), and the Society for Risk Analysis. In addition to numerous appointments on government panels, he is also a media resource specialist in risk assessment for the SOT, member on the editorial board of several journals, and vice chair of the NSF International Health Advisory Board.

#### **Dr. Jewell Husti Halanych**

Dr. Jewell Halanych is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Preventative Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham. She holds an M.D. from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Dr. Halanych's research program focuses on reducing health care disparities for minority and low-income populations. She is an Associate Scientist at UAB's Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education (COERE), the Minority Health and Research Center (MHRC), and the Diabetes Research and Training Center. She is a 2004 National Center on Minority Health & Health Disparities Scholar. Her current primary research focuses on Perceive Discrimination in medical care, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and NHLBI. Dr. Halanych is also an active investigator in two randomized, controlled trial of Peer Health Educators on diabetes outcomes and on a prospective cohort study examining racial and regional differences in incident stroke and myocardial infarction. Dr. Halanych is Curriculum Director in the UAB Health Services Training Program (COERE T32 fellows and VA Quality Scholars). She mentors and serves on dissertation committees for PhD candidates in the UAB School of Health Professions, and mentors minority undergraduate students in summer programs at UAB. At the UAB Montgomery Internal Medicine Residency Program, she is the Chair of the Residency Evaluation Committee and an active member of the Executive, Curriculum, and Recruitment Committees. She mentors 2-3 internal medicine residents per year.

### ***Professor Leonard Ritter***

Dr. Leonard Ritter is Executive Director of the Canadian Network of Toxicology Centers and Professor of Toxicology in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. In addition, Dr Ritter also served as Coordinator of the Metals in the Human Environment Strategic Network. Dr Ritter has extensive experience in the regulatory toxicology of a broad range of environmental chemicals, domestic, agricultural and industrial use pesticides and the safety of food residues. He serves as an expert advisor to the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives of the World Health Organization and has participated in various boards and expert panels, including those organized by the Royal Society of Canada, Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada, the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the US EPA and the World Trade Organization. Dr. Ritter serves , or has served, as Chair of the Council of Canadian Academies' Expert Panel on the Integrated Toxicity Testing of Pesticides, a member of Health Canada's Health and Environment Experts Group of the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, a member of the HESI Steering Team and Session leader for the Workshop on Proof of Causality in Epidemiologic Studies, a member of the Organizing Committee of the Joint ICCA-LRI and Health Canada Workshop on Advancing Exposure Science to Improve Chemical Safety.

Recently, Dr Ritter has also been appointed to Chair the Ontario Independent Fact Finding Panel on 2,4,5,-T. Dr. Ritter holds a B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc. in biology and biochemistry from Sir George Williams University in Montreal, Canada and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Dr Ritter is a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and, in 2006, was awarded a medal by the UN World Health Organization in recognition of his contributions. Between 1977 and 1993, Dr Ritter served as Chief of the Pesticides Division, Chief of the Product Safety Division and as Director of the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs at Health Canada prior to taking up his current responsibilities at the University of Guelph. He has been involved in research and regulatory toxicology for almost 35 years.

### **Bernard A. Schwetz, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Dr. Bernard Schwetz retired from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in September 2007. Prior to that, he was the Director of the HHS Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) since February 2003. Previous to his tenure at OHRP, Dr. Schwetz served as the Senior Advisor for Science at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and a Distinguished Scientist at the University of Maryland, College Park. He served as the Acting Commissioner of the FDA from January 2001 to February 2002, and before that, the agency's Acting Deputy Commissioner and Senior Advisor for Science. He also chaired the agency's Institutional Review Board. Before holding these posts, Dr. Schwetz was the Director of FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Arkansas, from 1993 to 1999. A retired Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology and Honorary Diplomat of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society, Dr. Schwetz was the Acting Director of the Environmental

Toxicology Program at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in Research Triangle Park, NC, and was the Associate Director of the National Toxicology Program there. Dr. Schwetz is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine. In addition to numerous other awards during his career, Dr. Schwetz received the US Government's Meritorious Executive Presidential Award, the HHS Secretary's Recognition Award, the Surgeon General's Medallion Award, the Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Toxicology and the Merit Award of the Society of Toxicology.

### **Robert L. Williams, Ph.D., JD**

In 1991, Dr. Robert L. Williams graduated from Florida A&M University with a PhD degree in Pharmacology/Toxicology with emphasis in Neurotoxicology. Dr. Williams was trained in a laboratory that specializes in the neurochemical, behavioral, and endocrine effects of prenatal and postnatal drug exposures at the National Center of Toxicological Research (NCTR) in Jefferson, Arkansas. Dr. Williams has published four articles in peer reviewed scientific journals from his Dissertation work. In 2007, Dr. Williams published another article entitled "A Review of Dioxins/Furans and Mercury in Fish from the Penobscot River near Lincoln, Maine" In the Toxicology and Industrial Health Journal Vol. 23, (3), 147-153.

Currently, Dr. Williams works as an Environmental Toxicologist for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in Atlanta, GA, and is a Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. His current duties and responsibilities are: Environmental Toxicologist in the Applied Toxicology Branch of the Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine (DTEM)/ATSDR; provides advice and recommendations to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), other federal, state, and local agencies, regarding potential or actual human exposures to hazardous chemicals that have been spilled or released into the environment; provides advice and recommendations to U.S. EPA regarding remediation or clean-up strategies of hazardous materials at hazardous waste sites, and predict the environmental fate of hazardous chemical releases; serves as chemical manager for the Formaldehyde and other Toxicological Profiles; serves as Project Leader for DTEM's Addenda Workgroup; addenda are substituted documents for chemical Toxicological Profiles that advance and maintain the currency and relevancy of all the pertinent scientific and epidemiological information for the individual profile, thus fulfilling the legislative mandate to "update" the profile, but at a much reduced cost and more efficient manner, thereby conserving and maximizing scarce Agency resources; conducts site visits and represents DTEM at public and agency risk assessment meetings.