

**GSA DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND HEALTH  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005**

On October 18, 2005, the GSA Council approved the establishment of its sixteenth division, Geology and Health.

The focus of the Geology and Health Division is the relationship of geological conditions, whether natural or anthropogenic in origin, with health, disease, pathology, and death in modern and fossil humans, animals and plants. The concerns of the Geology and Health Division are directed to geology and its interdisciplinary relationship to medicine, biology, chemistry and other sciences.

The Geology and Health Division has the following mission:

- bringing together scientists and practitioners interested in the relationship and effects of Geology and Health
- facilitate the presentation and discussion of ideas and problems, implications of their relationship
- stimulate communication with other earth scientists whose disciplines interface with topics in Geology and Health
- cooperate with other divisions and sections of the Society and with other scientific organizations in fostering, aiding, furthering, and promoting research in relevant areas and publication of results of such studies
- encourage and mentor students interested in related issues
- invite participation of educators at all levels in the various activities of this division
- advise and assist the officers and committees of the Society in matters pertaining to the interest of the members of the Geology and Health Division

At the request of the Council, an Initial Program Committee and an Initial Nominating Committee were established as well as an Initial Divisional Officers and Committee Members roster:

**SLATE OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
**GEOLOGY AND HEALTH DIVISION (GEOMED)**

*(rev 10-12-05)*

**Initial Officers and Key Personnel**

**Chair** – Dr. E. Lynn Savage, Brooklyn College - CUNY, Brooklyn, NY  
<savage@brooklyn.cuny.edu> (718) 951-2874

**First Vice-Chair** – Dr. Gerald M. Friedman, Northeastern Science Foundation,  
Troy, NY; <gmfriedman@juno.com> (518) 273-3247

**Second Vice-Chair** – Ms. Monica G. Easton, Ministry of Northern Development &  
Mines, Sudbury, ON; <monica.easton@ndm.gov.on.ca> (705) 523-0948

**Secretary-Treasurer** – Dr. Kevin E. Nick, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA  
<knick@llu.edu> (909) 799-8910

**Newsletter Editor** – Dr. Bruce Wahle, Denver, CO  
<earthgeo@frii.com> (970) 221-1881

**Web Manager** – Dr. Anna Balog, Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke,  
VA <abalog-szabo@vw.vccs.edu> (540) 857-7222

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Chair** – Dr. H. Catherine W. Skinner, Yale University, New Haven, CT  
<catherine.skinner@yale.edu> (203) 777-2830

Dr. E. Scott Bair, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  
<bair.1@osu.edu> (614) 292-6197

Dr. Nehru E. Cherukapalli, Brooklyn College - CUNY, Brooklyn, NY  
<nehru@brooklyn.cuny.edu> (516) 938-8727

Dr. Jeffrey N. Rubin, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Aloha, OR  
<jeff.rubin@tvfr.com> (503) 642-0399

Dr. Alta S. Walker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, McLean, VA  
<awalker@tec.army.mil> (703) 428-7893

Dr. Lynda B. Williams, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
<Lynda.Williams@asu.edu> (480) 965-0829

#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Chair** – Dr. David Mogk, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT  
<mogk@montana.edu> (406) 586-7364

Dr. Gabriel Filippelli, Indiana University/Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN  
<gfilippe@iupui.edu> (317) 274-3795

Ms. Monica Gowan, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN  
<monicagowan@hotmail.com> (507) 289-7777

**Ms. Michalann Harthill, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA**  
<mharthill@usgs.gov> (703) 648-4077

**Dr. Achim Herrmann, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**  
<achim.herrmann@asu.edu> (480) 727-7116

**Mr. John Maclachlan, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON (doctoral student)**  
<maclacjc@mcmaster.ca> (905) 525-0140 x24077

**Dr. Geoffrey Plumlee, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO**  
<gplumlee@usgs.gov> (303) 236-1204

**The Program Committee will organize the Division's first Technical Session which is to presented at the 2006 GSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia scheduled for October 22-25, 2006.**

**The Nominating Committee will seek qualified candidates of the division's first election of officers who will stand for election in Spring/Summer 2006. The elected officers will assume their office at the 2006 GSA Philadelphia meeting .**

**The Nominating Committee chaired by Dr. H. Catherine W. Skinner, with the help of its five members, is to identify Officers who will stand for election, to be approved by the Management Board, before being submitted and ballots prepared and distributed, to members of the Geology and Health Division at the GSA meeting in Philadelphia.**

**A website for the division was established: <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/geology-health>. The Web Manager is Dr. Anna Balog.**

**In 2005, requests for items to include in the Geology and Health Division Newsletter was being requested by its editor, Dr. Bruce Wahl, the first issue expected prior to the Harrisburg Meeting.**

**Short Course Proposals and K-12 Workshop Proposals were postponed until the 2006 Philadelphia meeting.**

**Annual Dues for the division have been established at \$10 for professionals and \$4 for students, all required to be members of the GSA.**

**In December 2005, the opportunity to develop a session for the GSA Northeastern Section meeting in Harrisburg, March 20-22 in geology and health topics, was accepted by several supporters of the Geology and Health Division. Abstracts were submitted under the aegis of Ms. Michalann Harthill and Dr. H. Catherine W. Skinner, Co-conveners of the Harrisburg session which includes seven papers and one poster on diverse topics, a synopsis being: Geophagy; Trace element uptake from serpentinite; Effect of diagenesis on biogenic apatite; Fossilized injuries of dinosaurs; Asbestos from Minnesota taconite iron**

ore; Characteristics of 9/11 dust; Bioavailable geochemical antagonists of nutritional selenium; and, the poster on indoor radon from north Virginia Schist.

Eight proposals have been submitted for theme session for the 2006 GSA Annual meeting in Philadelphia. During late December of 2005, the Program Committee Chaired by Dr. David Mogk met with his constituents and developed a plan for sessions for the Annual Philadelphia Meeting which includes:

A Pardee symposium on Geohazards and Health (Co-conveners, Drs. Geoffrey Plumlee and Gabriel Filippelli)

Geology, Health and Public Policy (Co-conveners Drs. Monica McGowan, and David Mogk)

GIS (Applications (poster session) Co-conveners Mr. John Maclachlan and others)

Arsenic and Fluoride (Occurrence and Toxicity) (International relevance: UNESCO WHO), Convened by Ms. Michalann Harthill).

In addition, four additional sessions on relationship of health to the following, were proposed, to convened by the following:

Earthquakes (Dr. Constantin Cranganu)

History of Study of Environmental Impacts (Dr. Gerald M. Friedman)

Forensic Geology (Dr. Nehru E.Chelukupalli)

Mining (Dr. Larry D.Woodfolk).

There was an Annual Meeting of the GSA held in Salt Lake City from October 16 -20, 2005 at the Salt Lake City Convention Center. Dr. Gerald M. Friedman, First Vice-Chair represented the newly founded Geology and Health Division.

Dr. Gerald M. Friedman, as initial First Vice-Chair will attend the Harrisburg Meeting in Spring of 2006 in place of Dr. E. Lynn Savage, Initial Chair of the Geology and Health division.

In November of 2005, Dr. Friedman also agreed to attend the Division Chair Meeting February 18-19, 2006 in Boulder, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted  
Dr., E. Lynn Savage  
Chair, Geology and Health Division