



the official quarterly newsletter of the American College of Medical Technology

American College of Medical Toxicology

Editor Leslie R. Dye, MD, FACMT 513-281-3400 ldye@proscan.com

Spring 2003

# President's Report

## ACMT Announces the Selection of a New Association Management Team

Michael J. Kosnett, MD, MPH, FACMT



ACMT is pleased to announce that it has a new administrative staff and a new office address. As shown in the bold border box below, ACMT's new administrative headquarters are located in Fairfax, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC. In establishing this new office, ACMT welcomes Mr. Jerry Galler as the new ACMT Executive Director. Jerry's services and those of a larger support staff are the results of a new ACMT contract with STAT Marketing, Inc., an association management company nationally accredited by the American Society of Association Executives.

Jerry Galler's administrative leadership and ACMT's new headquarters near the nation's capital are major elements of the College's strategic goal to increase the national visibility of medical toxicology as a vibrant medical subspecialty and to promote expanded involvement of medical toxicologists in national public health committees and federal grants and contracts. As discussed in my column in the prior ACMT newsletter, ACMT and medical toxicologists need to be on the national radar screen in the formulation of public health policy and the implementation of federal programs involving toxicology related issues. This applies to a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from chemical terrorism preparedness, pharmaceutical safety, drug abuse management, environmental hazard assessment, and consumer product safety. An increasing role for medical toxicologists in federal projects will enhance the profile of our specialty among the public and the health care community, a development that should yield direct and indirect benefits to the practice of medical toxicology on all levels.

ACMT's partnership with management professionals who possess this "inside-the-Beltway" experience marks a new and promising step for the College and our medical specialty.

Jerry Galler and the new ACMT administrative staff are well positioned to address this challenge. Jerry, whose background is in mathematics and computer science, has been working as an association management professional for the past seven years. In addition to organizational management, he has extensive experience as a sales and marketing consultant to large federal government contractors. George Bishop, a specialist in helping organizations expand their involvement in federal, state, and local government markets, will join Jerry in his efforts. ACMT's partnership with management professionals who possess this "inside-the-Beltway" experience marks a new and promising step for the College and our medical specialty. Other members of ACMT's new administrative team offer extensive experience in the full complement of membership and organizational services, such as meeting planning, bookkeeping and financial management, webmaster services, and print communications.

continued on page 10

Please use the new email address, phone number, and mailing address for future contact regarding ACMT activities and membership services. American College of Medical Toxicology • 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 200 • Fairfax, Virginia 22030 Phone: 703/934-1223 • Fax: 703/359-7562 • E-mail: info@acmt.net Our new ACMT Executive Director is Mr. Jerry Galler (jerry@acmt.net) Our new ACMT Administrative Assistant is Mr. Moayad Zahraiddin (moayad@acmt.net)

# ACMT/ATSDR Research Grants for Fellows-In-Training: Preparedness for Chemical Terrorism or Mass Chemical Exposure Incidents

The American College of Medical Toxicology, in collaboration with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), is pleased to announce the availability of 2 research grants for medical toxicology fellows-in-training.

## GOAL

The purpose of this award is to support research for medical toxicology fellows-in-training in the area of preparedness for chemical terrorism or mass chemical exposure incidents.

## AMOUNT

\$7,500 per each award is available for support of 2 suitable research projects

## REQUIREMENTS

- The principle investigator must be a fellow-in-training in an accredited medical toxicology fellowship program.
- The principle investigator must be an Associate Member of the ACMT.
- The research project must address topics on response capacity and preparedness for chemical terrorism or mass chemical exposure incidents. For example, research projects may test methods to rapidly decontaminate or neutralize chemical agents on patients' skin or clothing, or examine the potential effectiveness of cutaneous application of providone-iodine in the emergency prophylaxis of exposure to radioiodine. *The research cannot directly involve human subjects.*

## SUBMISSION PROCESS/REQUIREMENTS

- Applications must include 4 blinded copies (no identifying features, names, or institutions) and 1 unblinded complete copy of the following:
- A detailed description of the project including:
  - Title
  - Principle Investigator and Collaborators
  - Background and Rationale or Significance
  - Specific Aims/ Outcome Measures / Benchmarks
  - Methods
  - Budget and its justification
- Descriptions of the qualifications of the researchers, including the fellow's primary research mentor for the project

- A proposed timetable for the study and discussion of the researchers' abilities to conduct and complete the project in a 12-18 month time period
- Budget: Note that ACMT will not accept overhead for this award. Travel expenses to a national scientific meeting for presentation of results may be included in the budget.
- A written letter demonstrating the project has been submitted for consideration at the IRB or IACUC if applicable. The award will not be released until a final letter of approval is received.
- Applications will be reviewed and scored by the review committee in seven areas:
  - Originality
  - Importance to the field of chemical terrorism preparedness or mass chemical exposure incidents
  - Presence of Specific Aims and Outcome Measures
  - Methodology/Experimental Design
  - Composition of Proposal
  - Ability to carry out project with budgeted funds
  - Ability to carry out project in allotted time
- Proposals may be NO LONGER than 5 single spaced pages (excluding references)
- Proposals not adhering to these guidelines or requirements will be disqualified.

## STIPULATIONS

The winners of the ACMT/ATSDR Research Award will be expected to present their results at a national meeting. The winner will be expected to submit their manuscript to the IJMT for publication.

If you have any questions, please email them to:  
ELiebelt@peds.uab.edu

Completed applications should be sent to:  
Erica Liebelt MD  
Chair, Research Committee; ACMT  
1600 7th Avenue South, Midtown Center  
Suite 205  
Birmingham, AL 35233

# ACMT – ATSDR Consultation Network

Paul M. Wax, MD, FACMT  
National Program Director

As previously announced, ACMT has recently created a nationwide consultative network between Medical Toxicology Fellowships and the regional offices of the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR). During the last several months the infrastructure for this network has been developed. ATSDR's Office of Regional Operations provides environmental health expertise at the regional level throughout the country. An ATSDR regional office is located in each of the 10 EPA regions. To coordinate communications between each of the ATSDR regional offices and nearby Medical Toxicology fellowships an ACMT member has been chosen to serve as the ACMT regional director for each of the 10 ATSDR regional offices. I am pleased to announce the ACMT members in the box below will be participating as regional directors

Each regional director will coordinate with the

medical toxicology fellowships in their region a response to ATSDR inquires. The ATSDR requests for consultation to ACMT include focused questions on health issues relating to acute and chronic toxic exposures as well as requests for involvement in ATSDR educational training programs and public information sessions. During the last several months, meetings have been held between the ACMT regional directors and the Senior ATSDR Regional Representative from each of the 10 regions. Further detail regarding these activities will be forthcoming in ACMT newsletters.

Although the initial impetus for developing this network included ACMT's desire to augment environmental toxicology training at medical toxicology fellowships, ACMT seeks to broaden opportunities for non-Fellowship based medical toxicologists to become involved in this program. If you have a desire to be included as an ACMT consultant for your region, please contact your ACMT regional director and convey your interest. ■

## New Regional Directors

**Region 1 – New England** Edward Boyer, MD, Worcester MA

**Region 2 – New York / New Jersey** Lewis Nelson, MD, New York, NY

**Region 3 – Mid Atlantic** Mark Kirk, MD, Charlottesville, VA

**Region 4 – South East** Erica Liebelt, MD, Mobile, AL

**Region 5 – Great Lakes** Curtis Snook, MD, Cincinnati, OH

**Region 6 – South Central** D. Chris Keyes, MD, Dallas, TX

**Region 7 – Mid Central** Edward Cetaruk, MD, Denver, CO

**Region 8 – Rocky Mountain** Edward Cetaruk, MD, Denver, CO

**Region 9 – Southwest** Paul Wax, MD, Phoenix, AZ

**Region 10 – Northwest** Tom Martin, MD, Seattle, WA

## Board of Directors

### President

Michael J. Kosnett, MD, MPH,  
FACMT

### Vice President

Keith K. Burkhardt, MD, FACEP

### Secretary-Treasurer

Paul M. Wax, MD, FACMT

### Past-President

Robert S. Hoffman, MD,  
FACMT

Cynthia Aaron, MD, FACMT

Erica Liebelt, MD, FACMT

Thomas G. Martin, MD, MPH

Lewis S. Nelson, MD, FACMT

Curtis P. Snook, MD, FACMT

Leslie R. Dye, MD, FACMT

### ACMT Office:

The American College of  
Medical Toxicology  
11240 Waples Mill Road  
Suite 200

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Phone: (703) 934-1223

Fax: (703) 359-7562

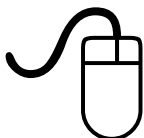
E-mail: [info@acmt.net](mailto:info@acmt.net)

[www.acmt.net](http://www.acmt.net)

## Survey of Member Interest in Grants and Contracts

You will be receiving by mail and email a brief survey about your interest in working on grants and contracts obtained by ACMT. The rationale behind this survey is to explore the possibility of other cooperative agreements similar to the one ACMT has with The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The goals of this initiative are to provide educational opportunities to ACMT members and to increase our involvement and our profile in toxicological matters of national importance. Any funding obtained will help keep membership dues as low as possible and will provide funded work to members in medical toxicology. The survey will explore your areas of interest and the your time availability to work on such projects.

## NEWS NOTES



DO WE HAVE YOUR LATEST EMAIL ADDRESS? IF NOT PLEASE SEND IT TO [info@acmt.net](mailto:info@acmt.net)

### EDITOR'S NOTE:



If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the newsletter or other ACMT activities, please contact ACMT at [info@acmt.net](mailto:info@acmt.net) or call the national office at (703) 934-1223

### **CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ACMT BUSINESS MEETING IN CHICAGO**

**Please plan to attend the ACMT business meeting at the NAACT meeting in Chicago on September 6 at 12:45-1:45pm.**

### **NEW ACMT CONTACT INFO:**

11240 Waples Mill Road  
Suite 200  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Phone: (703) 934-1223  
Fax: (703) 359-7562  
E-mail: [info@acmt.net](mailto:info@acmt.net)  
[www.acmt.net](http://www.acmt.net)

# Medical Toxicologists to Assist in Acute Exposure Guideline Level Development

**A**CMT members will soon have the opportunity to serve as expert consultants to the National Advisory Committee for the development of Acute Exposure Guideline Levels. The National Advisory Committee, convened under the auspices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is a federal government advisory committee charged with developing a series of nonregulatory exposure guideline values for a wide range of toxic substances. The values correspond to duration dependent concentrations of the substance associated with a gradient of acute health risks, from minor discomfort to death.

Although not regulations, the Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGs) provide guidance to federal, state, and local governments and agencies, as well as private organizations in the design and implementation of emergency response plans. Different AEGs are developed for five exposure periods: 10 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, 4 hours, and 8 hours. For each interval, three levels of risk are distinguished. In general, AEG-1 correspond to an airborne concentration, (expressed as ppm or mg/m<sup>3</sup>) above which it is predicted the general population, including susceptible individuals, could experience notable discomfort, irritation, or certain asymptomatic effects, but in a nondisabling, transient, and reversible manner. AEG-2 correspond to airborne levels predicted to result in serious irreversible or disabling effects, and AEG-3 are levels predicted to pose a risk of life threatening health effects or death.

“As physicians with expertise in the recognition and management of acute poisonings by industrial toxins, medical toxicologists are highly qualified to offer the National Advisory Committee a clinician’s perspective on the potential health impacts of short term, high dose exposures”, noted ACMT President Michael Kosnett, MD, MPH. As part of this new initiative, ACMT members with expertise in managing exposures to compounds of interest, or those who have extensively reviewed the existing human and animal database, will be invited to attend AEG meetings to take part in discussions and offer a medical toxicology viewpoint. Travel funding will be provided.

Toxic substances set to be considered by the AEG in the next round of meetings include the following chemicals: benzene, bromine pentafluoride, bromine trifluoride, chlorine pentafluoride, formaldehyde, hydrogen iodide, hydrogen selenide, methyl thiocyanate, nickel car-

---

“As physicians with expertise in the recognition and management of acute poisonings by industrial toxins, medical toxicologists are highly qualified to offer the National Advisory Committee a clinician’s perspective on the potential health impacts of short term, high dose exposures”

bonyl and nitric acid. The process of developing AEGs begins with compilation of key human and animal studies and related information by Oak Ridge National Laboratories, along with preparation of reviews by AEG committee members or consultants. Following deliberation at AEG meetings, consensus values are developed as Proposed AEGs, and are published in the Federal Register for public comment. After additional discussion, the AEG committee publishes Interim AEGs, which are finally submitted for review, final arbitration of issues, and publication by a subcommittee of the National Academy of Sciences. Examples of final AEGs can be found on the internet at <http://search.nap.edu/books/0309072948/html/>.

ACMT has recently established a AEG Task Force to assist the National Advisory Committee. Task Force members will assist the AEG process, either by serving as consultants, or by locating additional medical toxicology experts. Jeff Nemhauser will serve as chair of the newly organized Task Force. Task Force members include John Benitez, Robert Cox, Alan Hall, Michael Holland, Steven Marcus, William Meggs, Daniel Sudakin, and Janet Weiss. ■

# Highlights from the Chemical Agents



*ACMT President Michael Kosnett provided background on ACMT.*



*Lewis Nelson spoke on clinical neurotoxicology of chemical terrorism*



*Paul Wax offered a historical perspective on nonconventional toxic warfare*



*Steve Curry lectured on "the truth about cyanide"*

## of Opportunity Course at the CDC



*Curtis Snook addressed delayed toxic syndromes.*



*Dr. Kosnett recognized Dr. Erik Auf der Heide of ATSDR for promoting environmental toxicology education.*



*A variety of head wear was in evidence in the CDC exhibit hall.*

*These pictures were taken at ACMT's one day course on Chemical Agents of Opportunity presented on January 23, 2003 in the main auditorium at the CDC in Atlanta.*

*The program was attended by over 300 state and federal officials. To find out more about this course, please see the article on page 8.*

## ACMT's Chemical Agents of Opportunity Course at the Centers for Disease Control

**O**n January 23, 2003 ACMT presented an intensive one-day course on Chemical Agents of Opportunity in the main auditorium at the CDC in Atlanta. Approximately 300 people were in attendance, including personnel from ATSDR, CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, other CDC branches, and nearby state health departments. Approximately 50 FBI agents were also in attendance, including directors of the FBI toxicology labo-

ratories. Highlights included Steven Curry's brilliant discussion on cyanide and Mark Kirk's innovative approach to the psychological ramifications of chemical agents as terrorist weapons. Other ACMT lecturers who played key roles in developing this course include: Lewis Nelson, Edward Cetaruk, Erica Liebelt, Curtis Snook, Michael Kosnett, and Paul Wax. Feedback was quite positive. During these times when issues pertaining to chemical terrorism have assumed such a

prominent role in our everyday affairs (from duct tape to ricin scares), ACMT was honored to have this important platform.

ACMT has been invited to give this one-day course at the European Society of Academic Emergency Medicine meeting in Barcelona, Spain in September 2003. In addition, the FBI has invited ACMT to provide a ½ day course on Chemical Agents of Opportunity to an International Forensic Conference that the FBI is hosting in Washington, DC in August 2004.

Funding has also been requested to support providing this course on a regional basis in the U.S. ACMT encourages further ACMT member involvement as faculty and content experts in this course.

Please contact Paul Wax at [paul.wax@bannerhealth.com](mailto:paul.wax@bannerhealth.com) if you have an interest in working on this course. ■

### Coming Soon: NEW ACMT Membership Directory

**T**he ACMT plans to have a new (hardcopy) membership directory to all members in time for the NAACT meeting in September. As part of this effort, the new ACMT management team will be contacting you by phone soon as a means of introduction as well as to update your information and ensure its accuracy for the new directory. In order to maximize utility and accessibility, the directory will also be available on the members-only section of the ACMT website in the future. The new management team will demonstrate the online version at the membership meeting at NACCT 2003. Please be prepared to give input to enhance the document. Some current ideas include: a searchable index of member abstracts/articles NOT available on MEDLINE, and online access by members to update information in a secure fashion. ■

## Highlights from the 2nd Annual Medical Toxicology Spring Course in Atlanta, Georgia



*Kosnett introduced the program.*



*Lewis Nelson surrounded by fellows and fans.*

*The Second Annual Medical Toxicology Spring Course was successfully convened in Atlanta, Georgia at the Sheraton Buckhead from April 3 - 5, 2003. The course was attended by 92 individuals, including 33 of the 40 medical toxicology fellows in training enrolled in postgraduate training programs nationwide, 19 practicing medical toxicologists, and 40 additional public health professionals. The program was supported by major funding from the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).*



*Dr. Henry Falk (R), the head of ATSDR, offered a keynote address.*

## Presidents Report, *continued from page 1*

Over the weeks and months ahead, ACMT members may hear from members of the ACMT Board of Directors, Jerry, and the new management team regarding expanded opportunities to participate in a variety of new public health programs, grants, and contracts. To guide these efforts, members will soon be asked to complete a short survey inquiring about their particular areas of interest and their personal availability. ACMT Board member Curtis Snook, MD, and ACMT Practice Committee Chair Chuck McKay, MD are directing the survey project and a new membership database project, both of which are discussed further on pages 4 and 8 of the newsletter. ACMT Education Committee Chairman Lewis Nelson, MD and his committee members are working with the new management team to explore presentation of new continuing medical education programs, featuring College members as faculty, that will expose the broader health care community to the expertise offered by medical toxicology specialists. ACMT Board member Tom Martin MD, MPH will be working with a new ACMT Webmaster to upgrade and enhance the ACMT website ([www.acmt.net](http://www.acmt.net)).

In addition to working on these new initiatives, ACMT and its new administrative team will continue to manage and promote established ACMT programs, including the ACMT-ATSDR National Consultation and Education Network directed by Paul Wax, MD (see story on page 3); ACMT's Research award program, chaired by Erica Liebelt, MD; the Internet Journal of Medical Toxicology edited by Keith Burkhart, MD, our internet list server and discussion group, ACMTnet, moderated by Cynthia Aaron, MD, and future editions of the ACMT newsletter, edited by Leslie Dye, MD.

ACMT's decision to contract with a new association management team and relocate its headquarters to the Washington, DC area is the culmination of a process that was set in motion in the fall of 2002. Since 1992, ACMT had received administrative services through a contract with the association management division of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PMS), located in Harrisburg, PA. In August 2002, ACMT's former Executive Director, Anne Shambaugh, departed from PMS, leaving ACMT with the choice of beginning work with a new Executive Director to be recruited by PMS from the central Pennsylvania area or the option of broadening its search for association management to a national level. Given the College's strategic goal of increasing national recognition of medical toxicology as a medical

subspecialty, the ACMT Board of Directors opted to solicit bids from nationally active association management companies. From the 13 companies that responded in writing to ACMT's nationally circulated request for proposals, 4 finalists were interviewed in person in February 2003 by the ACMT Board. After receiving additional input from an independent management consultant and experienced legal counsel, the ACMT Board voted in April 2003 to enter into a new association management contract with STAT Marketing, Inc. In addition to serving as ACMT's new Executive Director, Jerry Galler is STAT's CFO and VP of Operations. STAT is one of 38 chartered association management companies to be accredited by the American Society of Association Executives.

Please join us in welcoming our new, experienced management team. They invite contact and feedback from ACMT members and hope to meet many of you in person at the NAACT meeting in Chicago. We look forward to working with them to advance the field of medical toxicology. ■

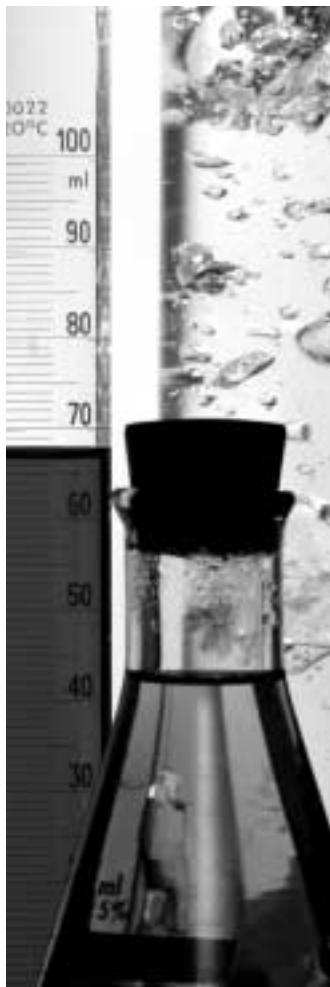
ORPHAN  
MEDICAL

*A proud sponsor  
of the*

**ACMT  
Newsletter**

ANTIZOL<sup>®</sup>  
(fomepizole) Injection

## Toxicologists in the News



**Erica Liebelt, MD, FACMT** recently became the Director of Medical Toxicology Services at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama.

**John Benitez, MD, MPH** was recently named a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

**Chuck McKay, MD, FACMT** Chuck McKay, MD, FACMT recently participated in a Connecticut Department of Public Health multidisciplinary group to develop education and distribution plans for KI in populations located near nuclear power plants. The group included elected officials, Department of Public Health and Office of Emergency

Management staff, military representatives, nuclear engineers, school officials, local health department officials, pharmacists, and physicians. The results from the group's findings included:

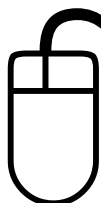
- Detailed instructions and information regarding a total response (including shelter and evacuation plans) to any nuclear accident, terrorist attack, or otherwise were sent to every household and special populations (schools, correctional facilities, hospitals, etc.).
- A list of pharmacies was developed that carry KI, and plans were made for the mailing of two 130mg tablets of KI to every household.
- "KI days" were developed for local health departments.

**Edward ("Ted") Cetaruk, MD**, of Denver, recently received a grant from the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) to develop a teaching module on bioterrorism preparedness for industrial workers and first responders. Ted also serves as an instructor in courses organized by the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command.

---

Let us know about your accomplishments, job changes, or life changes. Send information for submission to the editor, Dr. Leslie Dye, at [ldye@proscan.com](mailto:ldye@proscan.com)

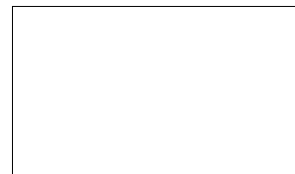
## Stay Up-To-Date with [www.acmt.net](http://www.acmt.net)



For the latest news for medical toxicologists or updates on ACMT conferences and events, visit ACMT at [www.acmt.net](http://www.acmt.net)



The American College of  
Medical Toxicology  
11240 Waples Mill Road  
Suite 200  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
[www.acmt.net](http://www.acmt.net)



## Announcement of Risk Assessment and Decision-Making Workshop for ACMT Members, June 2003

**A** CMT is pleased to offer a workshop on Risk Assessment and Decision Making on Thursday and Friday June 12 and 13, 2003 at the Chicago EPA Region 5 Office

### Course Description:

The Risk Assessment and Decision Making workshop will be conducted in collaboration with Arnold Den, senior advisor to the EPA, who has conducted hundreds of these workshops all over the world and received national and international recognition for his work. The workshop is 2 days and includes interactive case studies and facilitated discussions on using principles of quantitative risk assessment in making and communicating decisions. Funding for this project has been made possible by a collaborative agreement grant award with the ATSDR for health education in environmental toxicology. This workshop has applicability for all those involved in a variety of toxicology settings—poison specialists, pharmacists, and physicians.

### Course Fee:

The course will be free of charge for all AACT and ACMT members, and enrollment is limited to 20 people. Because this course is limited to 20 attendees, when you sign up and are confirmed, you are expected to attend. A full course syllabus will be mailed to all participants before the meeting. Please contact Erica Liebelt, MD at [ELiebelt@peds.uab.edu](mailto:ELiebelt@peds.uab.edu) for registration.

### Location of meeting:

US EPA Office, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 312-353-2000  
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/>

### Accommodations:

There are numerous hotels in the area within walking distance of the meeting facilities at various prices. Course attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Please visit the EPA Region 5 website for a comprehensive listing:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/visitor/hotels.htm>

Palmer House Hilton 0.2 miles from EPA (312-726-7500)  
Hyatt on Printer's Row 0.2 miles (312-986-1234)  
Sheraton Chicago 312-464-1000

*For further information, please contact Erica Liebelt MD (email: [ELiebelt@peds.uab.edu](mailto:ELiebelt@peds.uab.edu))*