



When SRA members and risk analysis enthusiasts met in December for the 2016 SRA Annual Meeting in San Diego, they faced a wealth of opportunities to hear from scientists and practitioners who are implementing the science of risk analysis within cybersecurity, environment, energy, food safety, and many other policy sectors. As underscored by this year's meeting theme, *Risk and Resilience: Viva la Revolución!*, and many exciting sessions, a revolution is taking place throughout the risk analysis profession that is strengthening society's resilience amid rising local and global challenges.

Read a complete event recap [here](#).

View photos from the 2016 Annual Meeting [here](#).

2016 Award Winners

The Society handed out six prestigious awards and named five new Fellows during a luncheon at the December Annual Meeting. These awards recognize 14 individuals for their outstanding contributions to the society and to the science of risk analysis. The recipients of the 2016 Best Paper and Best Poster awards were also announced at the event.

View a complete list of 2016 SRA Award winners and Fellows [here](#).

View a complete list of Journal paper and research poster award winners [here](#).



Save the Date! Upcoming Webinars

This year, SRA is planning to host two webinars per month. You will receive a separate email containing registration and additional information.

January 24 at 4pm ET: [*Protecting the Human Superorganism*](#)

February 14 at noon ET: *Methods for National Security Risk Quantification and Optimal Resource Allocation*

If you or your specialty group is interested in hosting a webinar, please contact [Robin Dillon-Merrill](#). All of our past webinars are available [here](#) for members.



SRA is proud to announce the rise of Margaret MacDonnell, Ph.D. as the new President of the 2017 Council. Other newly elected Council members include Terje Aven, Ph.D., Sharon Friedman, Bilal Ayyub, PE, Ph.D., Patricia Nance, Sally Kane, Ph.D., and Shoji Tsuchida.

For a complete list of Council members, [click here](#).



Call for abstracts - The second annual meeting of the SRA-E Benelux Chapter will be held on March 20 in Bilthoven, The Netherlands. This year's theme is *From Vaccine to Anti-microbial Resistance: Exploring Risk-Risk Trade-Offs*. Abstracts for individual presentations and symposia will be accepted until February 15. [Click here](#) to submit an abstract.



[Register today for the 26th SRA-E Annual Conference, June 19-21](#)

Lisbon, Portugal

This year's theme is *New Challenges, New Threats: Resilience and Adaptation in a Risky World*. Abstracts for symposia, oral presentations, and poster presentations can be submitted [here](#) until January 16.

Request for Nominations

We are currently seeking Council nominations for the following positions:

- Councilor
- Treasurer-Elect
- President-Elect

All nominations must be submitted by March 1, 2017 and should be accompanied by a formal nomination letter that describes the candidate's background in risk analysis, prior affiliations with SRA, etc. Nomination letters should be sent to [Pamela Williams](#).

Risk and Resilience: Viva la Revolución!

by Randa Kachef

When SRA members and risk analysis enthusiasts met in December for the 2016 SRA Annual Meeting in San Diego, they faced a wealth of opportunities to hear from scientists and practitioners who are implementing the science of risk analysis within cybersecurity, environment, energy, food safety and many other policy sectors. As underscored by this year's meeting theme and many timely, engaging sessions, a

revolution is taking place throughout the risk analysis profession that is strengthening society's resilience amid rising local and global challenges.

Harnessing Non-Scientists

Guest speakers at Monday's opening plenary session exemplified how ordinary citizens can tackle tough problems by thinking methodically and in terms of practicality.

Heather Fleming was inspired to action by the abysmal conditions of her close relatives living on the Navajo Nation where many of the amenities available were reminiscent of those in rural Africa. After a stint in engineering school, Fleming discovered product design and has used her training to transform the work of engineers into products that are not only intuitive and easy to use but also suitable for low-income populations. Since establishing her global firm, Catapult Design, Fleming and her team have worked with locals and used innovative thought to provide practical aid solutions, such as providing rural Kenya with Soapy Water Handwashing Stations and inspiring entrepreneurship within the Navajo business sector. Fleming noted that one of the biggest engineering challenges facing humanity is poverty and homelessness, which often result from the prioritization of products over people.

Monday's second speaker, Darlene Cavalier, felt a strong pull toward the sciences but is a newcomer to the risk field. A former cheerleader, Cavalier moved on to found SciStarter, a citizen science website that connects researchers with the public. SciStarter recruits, trains, and equips anyone to be a field researcher. Whether it be by tweeting a snowfall total for your location or submitting a weekly survey about your health, anyone across the globe can make a contribution to science. To take part in this form of open source data generation, visit <https://scistarter.com>.

The Monday plenary demonstrated to the appreciative audience that even those without specialized scientific and risk knowledge can make valuable contributions to the field and to solutions.

Post-plenary parallel sessions ensued, including a roundtable on the controversial topic of 'Post-Election Prospects and Challenges for Risk Policy.' Chaired by Lisa Robinson, the session involved thoughtful speakers who contributed their input on the implications of the recent U.S. elections and Donald Trump's presidency for science-based policy making. The expert panel included Jonathan Weiner (Duke University), Richard Williams (George Mason University), James K. Hammit (Harvard University), Charles Haas (Drexel University), Sally Kane (University of New South Wales) and Ragnar Löfstedt (King's College London).

Over lunch, specialty groups convened to discuss plans and goals for 2017. Following an afternoon of excellent panels and presentations, the day ended with a poster session, where attendees could discuss and inquire about the research presented and vote for their favorite posters.

Risks Terrestrial and Celestial

Tuesday morning's plenary session featured discussions about challenges both earthly and beyond. Current Deputy Assistant Secretary for Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Andy Griffith began the session by setting out the case for geologic disposal of high-level, persistent radioactive waste from nuclear reactors. In the DOE's view, the only way to safely contain spent fuel and nuclear waste while it decomposes is to bury it deep underground for long periods of time. Griffith discussed the communication and risk perception challenges the DOE faces when discussing future facility locations with residents in the vicinity.

The plenary's second speaker moved the discussion to the surface of the Earth. Gerlinde Knetsch of the German Environment Agency described her technical responsibilities in documenting and cataloging all chemicals approved for commercial use in the European Union. Within the Chemical Safety Division, Knetsch operates an open data system that cross-references the chemicals deemed harmless. The cross-referencing is done to predict potential mixing in the environment, where the mixture might cause irreparable damage. Knetsch described the three systems used in this process, UCLID6, eChemPortal, and IPChem, and discussed the issues and hurdles in monitoring and evaluating chemical safety.

Finally, author and renowned "first man to tweet from space" Mike Massimino launched the discussion into outer space with stories of success and disaster in high impact scenarios. A captivating storyteller, Massimino recounted the risks and unforeseen challenges he has faced not only in his space missions but also in his journey to become a member of the NASA's elite Astronaut Corps. You can find more about his inspirational story in Massimino's book, *Spaceman: An Astronauts Unlikely Journey to Unlocking the Secrets of the Universe*.

The Annual Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting brought meeting participants together to hear about and applaud the exceptional work of fellow risk practitioners. *Risk Analysis* editor-in-chief Tony Cox shared some exceptional metrics for the 2016 journal and announced the winners for best paper and best reviewer. The people's choice winners from the previous evening's poster sessions were also announced. Participants also welcomed 2017 President Margaret MacDonell and newly selected President-Elect Terje Aven.

After many more invigorating parallel panel sessions, featuring work on wide-ranging topics, including nanomaterials, Norovirus, and climate change, the specialty groups reconvened for an evening of socialization over food and drinks.

Paul Slovic, a founding member of SRA and world-renowned pioneer in research on risk perception, was the headliner of the Wednesday afternoon plenary. Slovic, who also founded Decision Research at University of Oregon and was recently inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, presented *The Arithmetic of Compassion*, his research on what evokes compassion in cross-border interventions in humanitarian crises. Slovic laid out the foundation of his research by recounting a succession of mass atrocities that have caused over 84 million deaths in the past 100 years. Slovic noted that in the wake of an action, we only intervene when it also serves our perceived security interests, and that a global numbing toward mass atrocities often results in a blind eye toward the suffering of foreigners. Research has found that saving one life is far more satisfying than saving multiple lives, and to evoke compassion the names and faces of individuals is required. He noted that fast thinking fails us in the face of humanitarian issues, and that statistics do not motivate action. Learn more at <http://www.arithmeticofcompassion.org>

This year's Annual Meeting proved a truly fitting summation of another year's work and the growth of the Society and its members. Discussions on pressing national, international, and space age risk issues exemplified the scope and diversity of the SRA's expertise. As members left San Diego for the festive holiday season there was much in 2016 to celebrate but also much more to look forward to in 2017.



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