



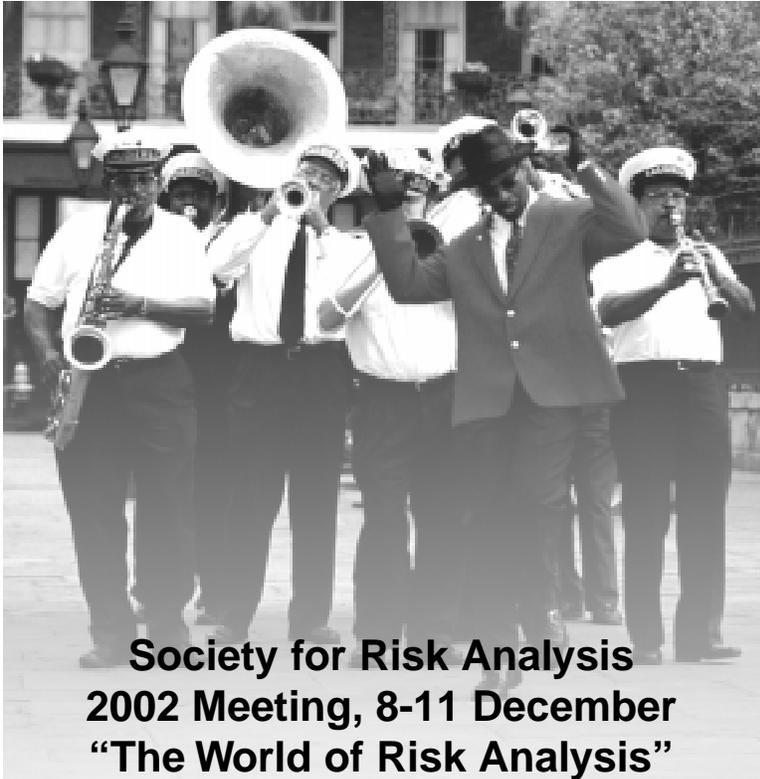
RISK newsletter

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Third Quarter 2002

The SRA Goes to New Orleans



**Society for Risk Analysis
2002 Meeting, 8-11 December
“The World of Risk Analysis”**

New Orleans is alive with food, dancing, music, and parades and overflows with history, interesting people, ghosts, and much more. The Crescent City offers great nightlife, attractions, accommodations, and facilities. The birthplace of jazz, the blues, and the po’boy sandwich, New Orleans is the ideal location for the 2002 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, “The World of Risk Analysis.”

Topics to be highlighted at the meeting include the precautionary principle, the emergence of bioterrorism, computer viruses, risk harmonization, climate variability, contagious diseases, and systemic risks in air transportation, as well as the usual range of topics.

The meeting will be held 8-11 December 2002 at the New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street. The Marriott is centrally located within walking distance of the famous French Quarter and near many affordable restaurants, nightclubs, and shops. In between meeting activities SRA members will be able to sample *Christmas New Orleans Style*, a month-long celebration of the season and the senses set amidst the twinkling lights and garland-draped lacework of French Quarter iron balconies.

(Meeting, continued on page 4)

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9/11 Update

**SRA members are asked to
share their on-the-job
experiences over the past year.
See page 2.**



The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is an interdisciplinary professional society devoted to risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

SRA was founded in 1981 by a group of individuals representing many different disciplines who recognized the need for an interdisciplinary society, with international scope, to address emerging issues in risk analysis, management, and policy. Through its meetings and publications, it fosters a dialogue on health, ecological, and engineering risks and natural hazards, and their socioeconomic dimensions. SRA is committed to research and education in risk-related fields and to the recruitment of students into those fields. It is governed by by-laws and is directed by a 15-member elected Council.

The Society has helped develop the field of risk analysis and has improved its credibility and viability as well.

Members of SRA include professionals from a wide range of institutions, including federal, state, and local governments, small and large industries, private and public academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, law firms, and consulting groups. Those professionals include statisticians, engineers, safety officers, policy analysts, economists, lawyers, environmental and occupational health scientists, natural and physical scientists, environmental scientists, public administrators, and social, behavioral, and decision scientists.

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Society for Risk Analysis
Web Site
www.sra.org

9/11 One Year Later What Has it Meant For You?

After the terrorist attacks on the United States last September, we asked Society for Risk Analysis Past Presidents to comment on what changes they expected in the risk analysis community. We received great responses and printed them in the Fourth Quarter 2001 RISK newsletter. A year later we would like to hear from other SRA members, especially those for whom 9/11 has had a great impact and those involved with Homeland Security. What changes have you seen in your area of work and study over the past year? What do people in the risk analysis community need to be aware of now?

If you would like us to include your comments in the Fourth Quarter 2002 RISK newsletter send them (500 words or less) to Managing Editor Mary Walchuk by 5 October 2002. Please include your name, job title, and area of work or study. We will print as many responses as space permits. First consideration will be given to responses that fit the word limit and time deadline.

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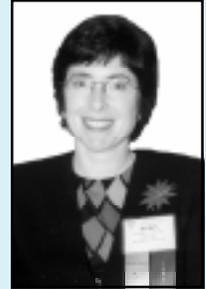
What Else Do You Know?

We are also inviting SRA members to submit articles for future issues of the RISK newsletter. If you would like to share your knowledge of a current topic that you think is of interest to SRA members, contact:

Editor-in-Chief Gen Roessler
phone: 507-362-8958
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gnrsslr@frontiernet.net

President's Message

The Society for Risk Analysis community is continuing its active involvement in addressing a world changed by the anthrax and September 11 events. In this issue, Jack Fowle reports on the fifth Congressional Briefing in a series on Vulnerability and Security. The latest briefing emphasized the potential role of early-warning sensor technology to reduce the risks of terrorist attacks.



In this past quarter, the Council of the SRA held its semiannual meeting. A number of items were addressed that should be of high interest to Society members:

- (1) Bernie Goldstein provided an update on the annual meeting in New Orleans. This issue of the RISK newsletter also provides a summary. Because SRA's finances are so healthy, the Council voted to increase support for student and international participation at the annual meetings;
- (2) John Ahearne led a discussion on a number of improvements for membership access to publications and the journal, *Risk Analysis*. In particular, the Council has authorized the Publications Committee to explore with Betty Anderson and Blackwell electronic options for journal publications and enhanced search capabilities for past articles. These efforts are expected to result in significantly more flexible and efficient services for the membership;
- (3) Robin Cantor presented an update on the World Congress planning. Participating organizations for the First World Congress, to be held in June 2003 in Brussels, currently include SRA-Europe, SRA-Japan, the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, the Society of Toxicology, the International Union of Toxicology, the European Safety and Reliability Association, the American Physical Society, the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Science, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Risk and Governance is the overall focus of the First World Congress. Three "sub-themes" have been developed by the planning committee for purposes of identifying plenary programs and breakout sessions. Each theme will also guide the selection of symposia for the afternoon concurrent sessions.

Day 1: Chemical, biological, radiological, and cyber risks.

Day 2: Global, trans-boundary, and systems risks.

Day 3: Sustainable development with acceptable risks.

The plenary session will be followed by breakout sessions organized to have mixed groups of participants consider the issues/methods raised in the plenary in the context of specific deliberation problems, for example, energy planning, hazardous waste management, GMOs, etc.

An important goal of the First World Congress is to foster the sharing of information and ideas in the risk community. Background materials that describe relevant summaries of the state of knowledge in different areas of risk analysis, including the SRA 2000 Symposium book to be published by Cambridge University Press, will be available to participants before the start of the World Congress.

The afternoon sessions will be reserved for concurrent mini-symposia sessions which will be selected by a program committee. Current arrangements will allow for 10 concurrent mini-symposia to take place in each of two afternoon meeting periods per day for a total of 60 mini-symposia sessions. Strong preference will be given to select proposals for mini-symposia where the included papers cut across different disciplinary, scientific, or regional perspectives; and

- (4) Michael Greenberg led a discussion about membership initiatives. The following appeal to SRA members was developed based on that discussion:

Dear SRA members,

The events of September 11, 2001, the anthrax incidents, and the terroristic threats that have followed have increased interest in risk analysis. As President of SRA, I believe this is a particularly good time to expand our membership to include the growing number of people who would benefit by SRA members' collective expertise in these and related subjects.

Our membership committee is developing a plan for the near and long-term future. While we finalize and implement this plan, you can help the Society by providing us with the names, email addresses, and/or mailing addresses of two to four colleagues who do not belong to SRA, but who you think would benefit by membership. The Secretariat will contact them. Please send this information to Richard Burk at SRA@BurkInc.com.

Thanks for your help,

Robin Cantor
SRA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Cantor". The signature is written in a cursive style.

New Orleans after Your Meetings Fun, Sightseeing, and All That Jazz

Christmas New Orleans Style includes candlelight caroling in Jackson Square, nightly motor-coach excursions through the magnificent illuminated lighting display at Celebration in the Oaks, levee bonfires, children's teas and craft workshops, caroling cruises on the Steamboat Natchez, theatrical and musical performances, special tours of decorated private residences, and daily tours of antebellum homes dressed in 19th century holiday finery. Celtic Christmas customs, Chanukah observances, and various ethnic holiday offerings will also be presented, all representing the cultural diversity that adds spice to the gumbo of New Orleans' ancestral heritage. More than 100 individual activities are planned; many will be repeated often during the month. And, throughout the season, there will always be plenty of opportunities for finding special gifts in hundreds of shops throughout the French Quarter and the downtown area.

Free nightly concerts in the French Quarter's St. Louis Cathedral will feature holiday performances by renowned local gospel and secular artists.

Throughout December, chefs from Broussard's, Gabrielle Restaurant, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse, Louis XVI Restaurant Francais, and other New Orleans dining establishments will offer free cooking demonstrations at 3 p.m. in Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré.

The Reveillon, an adaptation of an old Creole holiday dining custom, will be featured at several of the city's best restaurants, each offering prix fixe menus with a minimum of four courses, generally ranging in price from under \$20 to \$75.

Whether traveling alone or in groups, young or young at heart, *Christmas New Orleans Style* offers every visitor the special gift of an exciting and memorable holiday experience—romance, music, food, nostalgia, and family fun.

In addition to the holiday celebrations, New Orleans has much more to offer SRA members and their families. The Mississippi River is a gathering place, a center of entertainment, a commercial hub, and one of the most beautiful spots in town. The Riverwalk offers unique shopping, great food, and fun for all ages. Spanish Plaza, just outside of The Riverwalk, is the site of great special events and concerts and also one of the best people-watching spots in town. Dinner cruises down the river are offered on the Creole Queen, an authentic paddle-wheel steamboat that leaves just down from Spanish Plaza.

The Aquarium of the Americas has 60-plus exhibits highlighting North and South American aquatic species including everything from sharks, sea turtles, and penguins to stingrays, white alligators, and even a

red-bellied piranha! Adjacent to the Aquarium is the Imax Theatre, featuring a 5 1/2-stories-tall screen and heart-stopping 3-D films. From the Aquarium, the seven-mile-long John James Audubon Eco-Cruise is a scenic way to reach the Audubon Zoo, located in uptown. From the lush landscaping to the re-creation of natural habitats for every species from Bengal tigers to the newly acquired silverback gorilla, the Audubon Zoo is state of the art. Some of the best gumbo in the city can be found at the Cypress Knee Café in the Louisiana Swamp Exhibit.



Just across the street from the Zoo is the rest of the elegant Audubon Park, another of the city's natural wonders, featuring acres of lush greenery, jogging tracks, a new golf course, and the best place to "loiter" in the city. With a stop across the park, the streetcar is convenient enough to get you back downtown, and slow enough to allow you the best view of the city's neighborhoods, local culture, and beautiful architecture.



Jazzland is a theme park located in Eastern New Orleans, just 20 minutes from downtown. Jazzland features the standard Ferris wheel for the faint-hearted, or the Mega-Zeph, the park's signature roller coaster with a 110-foot hill that hurls riders down at 65 miles per hour.

The Rock 'n' Bowl Café, once just a run-of-the-mill bowling alley in mid-city, now features good food, bowling, and some of the best bands in town.



Other sights to see include the Louisiana Superdome, home to the New Orleans Saints; the Musee Conti Wax Museum in the French Quarter; the Hard Rock Café on Decatur Street; historic Jackson Square where you can have your palm read, hear authentic local musicians, view and buy artwork by local artists, and witness some of the best performance art in the world; the Louisiana Children's Museum in the Warehouse District on Julia Street, a whole block of great galleries and local retailers; the National D-Day Museum with hands-on exhibits highlighting World War II; and just around the corner from the D-Day Museum, the Contemporary Arts Center.

For more information on the many exciting offerings of New Orleans visit the following Web sites:

www.neworleansonline.com
www.frenchquarterfestivals.org
www.christmasneworleans.com
www.neworleanscvb.com



New Orleans photos and information were provided by New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, French Quarter Festivals, Inc., and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.

“The World of Risk Analysis”

Plenary Sessions

Monday

“The Precautionary Principle”

Dr. John Graham

An SRA Past President, Dr. Graham is the head of the White House Office of Management and Budget Office of Regulatory Affairs

Tuesday

“International Perspectives on Risk Assessment”

Latin America: Dr. Carlos Santos Burgoa

The senior Mexican official responsible for risk assessment, Dr. Santos Burgoa is an epidemiologist and former faculty member at the University of Michigan.

Asia: Dr. Deoraj Caussy

Dr. Caussy, of the Department of Evidence for Information and Policy, World Health Organization, South East Asia Region, is located in New Delhi.

Europe: Dr. Ragnar Löfstedt

SRA member Dr. Löfstedt is the Director of King's Centre for Risk Management, School of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College, London.

Wednesday

To be announced

Roundtables

Roundtables are being planned for Wednesday at lunchtime and will include, among others, the very popular roundtable on Educational Programs in Risk Assessment.

Regular Program

The regular meeting program will include symposia, oral sessions, poster sessions, poster platform sessions, workshops, and exhibits of risk- and exposure-related products, services, and books.

Symposia Topics

Multimedia Exposure Analysis
 Short-Term Exposure Limits (Part I)
 Risk Analysis for Invasive Species
 Precautionary Principle and Weight of Evidence (Part I)
 Short-Term Exposure Limits (Part II)
 Putting Risks into Context
 Evaluating Children's Exposures and Health Risk
 Precautionary Principle and Weight of Evidence: Contaminated Land Management (Part II)
 Dose-Response Relationships for Endocrine Effects
 Contaminated Sites: Long-Term Stewardship
 Quantitative Approaches for Estimating Historical Exposure (Dose Reconstruction)
 New Risk Analysis Procedures in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
 Mode of Action in Assessing Human Relevance of Animal Tumors
 Ecological Soil Screening Areas (Part I)
 Sanitary and Phytosanitary Risk Analysis and International Trade
 Ecological Soil Screening Areas (Part II)
 Use of Biomonitoring Data in Exposure and Risk Analyses
 Significant Changes in Food Consumption Data Collection Implications for Risk Assessors
 Dose-Response and Health Risk Evaluation for Perchlorate

The Preliminary Program will be mailed to SRA members around Labor Day.



Specialty Groups

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

Igor Linkov, Chairperson, and Bruce Hope

By the time this RISK newsletter reaches you, a preliminary program for this year's annual meeting in New Orleans should be on the SRA Web site, listing a wide variety of workshops and sessions.

So here we would like to call your attention to activities sponsored by the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG).

At this year's annual meeting, ERASG is sponsoring two symposia, two workshops, four platform sessions, and a poster session. We are featuring a 1/2-day symposium on Ecological Soil Screening Levels (Eco-SSLs), organized by Dr. Ron Checkai of the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established ecological soil screening levels for 24 soil contaminants that are frequently of ecological concern at hazardous waste sites. EPA developed these screening levels to conserve resources by eliminating the need for repetitious toxicity evaluations, to increase consistency, and to allow resources to focus on site-specific studies needed for critical decision making. The symposium will consist of presentations and a panel discussion involving six invited speakers (Ells, Hoff, Burris, Checkai, Wentzel, and Russom), each of whom has been actively involved in Eco-SSL development efforts.

The topic of risk analysis for invasive species, which is emerging as one important to domestic ecosystem stability and international trade issues, will be the subject of a symposium organized by Dr. Mark Powell of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This symposium will focus on the application of models and methods from theoretical ecology to risk analysis of invasive species (for example, estimation of minimum viable population size, epidemic simulation modeling, population and community dynamics, dispersal). Invited speakers (Powell, Andersen, With, Maguire) will address issues relating to invasive species that present potential hazards to plant, animal, and human health, with a focus on analytical methodologies rather than policy.

Bayesian statistical methods are enjoying a renaissance and are finding increased opportunities for application to ecological risk assessment. Bayesian techniques will be the subject of two 1/2-day workshops organized by Dr. R. McDowell of the USDA. An introductory-level workshop will present the main features, advantages, and limitations of Bayesian statistics and their application in risk analysis. The fundamental concepts of prior probability, likelihood, and posterior probability will be illustrated using a series of examples of increasing complexity. The advanced-level workshop will focus on applications of Bayesian techniques in several fields of risk analysis. The computational aspect of Bayesian analysis will be discussed with special emphasis on implementing Bayesian calculations in Monte Carlo models. Specific case studies will illustrate use of these methods in ecological and engineering risk assessment. Guest lecturers will include Stan Kaplan of USDA and Igor Linkov of ICF Consulting.

Two platform sessions will address the topics of Ecological Risk Assessment and Management and Modeling at Different Spatial Scales in Risk Assessment. A poster session will be de-

voted to issues of Ecological Risk Assessment. An additional two platform sessions will be held in collaboration with the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group: (1) Chemical Bioavailability from Environmental Media and Uptake by Biota and (2) Probabilistic Modeling. These sessions will cover a broad range of issues of interest to persons concerned with the theory and practice of ecological risk assessment and modeling.

The ERASG business meeting, followed by the Section mixer, will be held the evening of Tuesday, 10 December, immediately following the last ecological session of the day. A key topic at this year's ERASG business meeting will be the formalization of the Group Chair election procedure, as a smooth transition from one Chair to the next is critical to preserving the momentum this specialty group has developed over the last few years. It is proposed that the Group Chair will serve a term of two years, beginning at the end of the annual business meeting that follows the election and continuing through the second annual business meeting that follows the Chair taking office. During the first year of his/her tenure, the Chair will organize group activities in close collaboration with the Past Chair. During the second year, the Chair-elect replaces the Past Chair in working with the Group Chair. We are looking for nominations (including self nominations) for Chair-elect. Please contact Igor Linkov, ICF Consulting, ilinkov@icfconsulting.com.

Exposure Assessment Specialty Group

Pamela Williams, Chair

Results of Exposure Assessment Specialty Group Survey

Earlier this year, the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group conducted a Web-based survey to find out more about how members view this specialty group, in an effort to improve the role of exposure assessment at the Society for Risk Analysis. As of early June, we received responses from over 170 SRA members. The responses are summarized in the table on the next page.

The survey results indicate that the majority of SRA members are aware of this specialty group, but most have never attended a group meeting or mixer. The overwhelming majority of respondents, however, appear to support this specialty group and have an interest in attending future meetings or mixers.

In addition, although many respondents were not personally interested in presenting an exposure-related abstract at future conferences, most SRA members think it is a good idea to host a "best paper" or "travel" award and to publish exposure-related topics in the journal *Risk Analysis*.

As is evident from the survey responses, SRA members are interested in a wide range of exposure-related topics, despite the finding that many have an interest in other (non-exposure-related) topics or are not planning to attend this year's annual conference.

The Exposure Assessment Specialty Group wishes to thank all those who responded to this survey, and we encourage all SRA members to take a more active role in upcoming exposure-related meetings or events. We look forward to seeing you at the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group mixer in New Orleans this December.

Exposure Assessment Specialty Group Survey

Survey Question	Percent (%)
Did you know that SRA had an <i>Exposure Specialty Group</i> ? ^a	64%
Have you ever attended an <i>Exposure Specialty Group</i> meeting or mixer? ^a	16%
Do you think SRA should continue to have an <i>Exposure Specialty Group</i> as one of its "specialty" areas? ^a	97%
If so, would you be interested in attending an <i>Exposure Specialty Group</i> meeting or mixer at this year's annual SRA conference or at future conferences? ^a	77%
Do you think the annual SRA conference would be improved by more emphasis on exposure-related issues compared to previous years? ^a	79%
Would you be interested in submitting/presenting an exposure-related abstract at upcoming annual SRA conferences? ^a	47%
Do you think that participation in the <i>Exposure Specialty Group</i> would increase if the group supported a "Best Paper" or "Travel" award in the future? ^a	66%
Do you think it would be a good idea for the journal <i>Risk Analysis</i> to sponsor a special issue on exposure-related topics, such as those are presented at the annual SRA conferences? ^a	88%
What types of exposure-related topics are you most interested in?	
Aggregate/cumulative exposures	62%
Air toxics/pollutants	49%
Biological monitoring	36%
Children's exposure/health	48%
Chemical exposures	61%
Dermal exposures	33%
Dose reconstruction	26%
Foodborne exposures	25%
Multi-media exposures	52%
Pathogenic/biological exposures	12%
Probabilistic/Monte Carlo modeling	58%
Occupational/workplace exposures	40%
Uncertainty/variability analysis	67%
Waterborne contaminants	24%
Ecosystem receptors	26%
Other ^b	15%
What do you think is the primary reason for the lack of interest by SRA members in the <i>Exposure Specialty Group</i> in recent years?	
General lack of interest in exposure-related topics	14%
Greater interest in other (non-exposure-related) topics	46%
Fewer exposure-related abstracts being submitted	19%
Absence of sessions in recent years focusing specifically on exposure-related topics	25%
Poor organization/self-marketing by the <i>Exposure Specialty Group</i>	39%
Other organizations now meet most needs for those interested in exposure issues	31%
Other ^c	27%
Are you currently planning on attending this year's annual SRA conference? ^a	42%

^aPercent of people who responded to this question who answered "yes."

^bAnswers included: radiological exposures, special populations or community exposures, soil contaminants, ecological-genetic risks, effect of personal/life-style factors, accident situations, exposure-effect relationship (biologic "norm"), bio-hazard exposure, mixtures, natural hazards exposures, total body burden exposure, the role of exposure assessment in risk management

^cAnswers included: didn't know there was lack of interest, other organizations (or specialty groups) fill exposure need, members do not know about the group, misperception that exposure is not as important as dose-response; exposure assessment is an important (under-recognized area)

Risk Science & Law Specialty Group

John Applegate, Chair

The Risk Science & Law Specialty Group is busy planning a full range of activities for the 2002 SRA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, including symposia on risk and genomics and on new developments in the U.S. and international law. A business meeting is planned, perhaps to be combined with an informal mixer for members and friends of the specialty group.

For more information on the Risk Science & Law Specialty Group and/or its annual meeting activities contact Chair John Applegate (812-855-9198, jsapple@indiana.edu).

Risk Communication Specialty Group

Katherine McComas, Chair

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) has been busy preparing for the 2002 SRA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. A wealth of abstracts submitted in risk communication and risk perception for presentation at this year's meeting enabled us to schedule almost two full tracks of sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Session themes for this year's meeting include Tools, Techniques, and Strategies of Risk Communication; Risk Perceptions—Worldviews, Emotions, and Affect; Media Coverage of Risks; Engaging Stakeholders in Risk Communication; Social Aspects of Risk Communication; Information, Attitude, and Risk Judgment; Putting Risks into Context; Credibility of and Confidence in Risk Management; and Risk Perception and Communication Post 9/11. Other activities in the works for the annual meeting include the RCSG business meeting, tentatively scheduled for Monday evening 5:30-6:30, and a breakfast "brown bag" session and syllabus exchange on teaching in risk communication and risk perception. We will also hold elections at the RCSG business meeting for a new Vice-Chair, as well as other executive committee members, and we invite nominations and volunteers for these positions.

We've recently compiled a list of electronic resources in risk communication on the RCSG Web site (<http://www.sra.org/rcsg>). We envision the links page growing as people visit the site and make suggestions, so please let us hear from you about links to other sources. Also, if you're not currently signed up for risk-com, the RCSG listserv, consider joining ("how to" instructions are on the RCSG Web site). You don't have to be a member of the RCSG to join the listserv. In addition to serving as a channel

for RCSG news, the listserv keeps participants informed of the latest calls for papers and proposals, recent research, and professional development opportunities in risk communication. Recent threads have discussed risk comparisons, risk communication course development, and risk and culture.

As always, we invite all SRA members to visit our Web site, sign up for the risk-com listserv, or join the RCSG. Please direct any questions or comments to me at mccomas@wam.umd.edu or to Vice-Chair Robert O'Connor at roconnor@nsf.gov.

Dose Response Specialty Group

Ron Brown, President

Monthly Teleconferences

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) holds teleconference meetings on the first Tuesday of every month (3:30-4:30 p.m. Eastern Time) to discuss and plan symposia, proposed workshops, open forums, and other DRSG-sponsored activities on dose-response issues. All are welcome to participate (DRSG members and nonmembers). In addition, teleforum presentations on topics of interest to the group are held on the first Tuesday of March, June, and September. In June, Dr. Rory Conolly from the CIIT (Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology) presented a talk titled "Computational Modeling of Mechanisms of Nonmonotonic Dose Response: Androgen Receptor Activation and Tumor Incidence." The next teleconference is scheduled for 3 September 2002 and will likely be on a topic related to microbial dose-response assessment. New members and guests are welcome to join our meetings. To join a DRSG teleconference meeting, simply call 202-260-7280. When asked for the 4-digit code number, enter 0577#. The discussions are always provocative and interesting! For notices of upcoming meetings, sign up for the DRSG email list on YahooGroups—see info below under "DRSG Contacts."

DRSG Contacts

For more information on the DRSG or to become a member, please contact Ron Brown (rpb@cdh.fda.gov). You can also sign up to be on our email list by registering on YahooGroups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DRSG>. (If you haven't done so previously, you must register with YahooGroups first and then sign up with the DRSG group. Contact Paul Schlosser [schlosser@ciit.org] if you have difficulties or concerns regarding the list.)

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Deadline for RISK newsletter Submissions

Information to be included in the **Fourth Quarter 2002 SRA RISK newsletter**, to be mailed mid-November, should be sent no later than **5 October** to:

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Regulatory Risk Review

Johannesburg, or Bust!

David Clarke, American Chemistry Council

This 26 August-4 September, thousands of people will descend upon Johannesburg, South Africa, for “Johannesburg 2002,” also known as the World Summit on Sustainable Development or Rio+10. Summit participants will have two basic goals: to review how much progress has been made in implementing the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and to chart a course for future progress toward sustainability. Within those broad goals, representatives from government and nongovernmental organizations will promote dozens of specific goals dealing with water, agriculture, energy, poverty, empowerment, governance, and a host of other issues.

While the Johannesburg agenda clearly will address issues far more stratospheric than tumors, dose-response models, and other technical questions so often the subject of risk assessment discussions, the risk community can nevertheless expect that the rhetoric, ideals, declarations, demands, agreements, and other words flooding out of Johannesburg will wash over the malleable shores of risk policy—guiding, rechanneling, and in other ways reshaping those shorelines.

Recall how Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration helped spur an ongoing debate about the role of science and uncertainty in environmental decision making. The principle states: “In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

Since Rio, the Society for Risk Analysis and dozens of other organizations have held workshops and conferences to discuss the details of “precaution,” “uncertainty,” “the role of science,” and countless other questions arising out of the fundamental concern that we shouldn’t have to wait for absolute proof of problems before taking steps to solve them. But if definitive proof isn’t needed, what level of proof *is* needed, since some level of evidence is necessary if we’re to avoid throwing resources at every “prob-

lem” potentially demanding immediate attention? And what size steps should we take? And at what cost? Big declarations have a way of spawning many small discussions and disputes.

Expect no less from Johannesburg. Already, at a 27 May-7 June preparatory meeting in Bali, Indonesia, negotiations over a *Draft Plan of Implementation* for the Johannesburg summit broke down over what the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* covering the Bali meeting described as an “impasse on trade and finance issues” and a “stalemate on the means of implementation” of a sustainable development agenda. Among other contentious details, references to the precautionary “approach” were left unresolved. The *Bulletin* speculated that it is even conceivable the

Johannesburg summit could become a lesser peak, or even be “derailed” by irreconcilable differences.

Of course, wrangling aside, the fundamental impetus behind Johannesburg 2002 is to “get things done,” in the words of the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. More than one billion people lack safe drinking water; more than two billion people lack clean, affordable, and accessible energy; and more than one billion people breathe unhealthy air, according to Annan, naming some Johannesburg priorities. Degraded land and loss of biodiversity, including fisheries, are other areas where the Secretary-General wants to get things done through the summit.

In looking ahead and trying to understand where the greatest risks lie, and where the greatest risk management opportunities can be found, the risk analysis community—including practitioners in the human health, ecological risk, and other specializations—can expect that even if they don’t go to Johannesburg, Johannesburg will come to them. The needs come surging forward, like a flood, or like starving crowds gathering around a food relief truck. Is it any wonder that in 2003, the Society for Risk Analysis will cosponsor a World Congress on Risk Analysis? Johannesburg is at your doorstep.

Summit participants will have two basic goals: to review how much progress has been made in implementing the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and to chart a course for future progress toward sustainability.



Chapter News

New England Chapter

Susan Matkoski, Newsletter Contact

As we finish the year 2001-2002, we would like to thank our outgoing President, Joseph Regna, for organizing many informative seminars for the New England Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-NE). Not only did he assemble a distinguished list of speakers for the regular monthly talks, he also put together several joint seminars cosponsored by SRA-NE and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Program in Science, Technology, and Society.

The last few seminars of this academic year were held on 8 May, 29 May, and 12 June.

For the 8 May session, we welcomed Jennifer Charles, Esq., Environmental Justice Consultant JD, MSW, and Sheldon Krimsky, PhD, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy, Tufts University. Charles' talk was titled "Communicating Risk Information to Change Behavior in Disadvantaged Communities: The Role and Limitations of Science." She addressed this question: why has risk assessment so often fallen short in the decision-making process about environmental hazards that affect disadvantaged communities? She considered the role and limitations of risk assessment science as it is typically practiced, and also, drawing from her environmental-justice practice, described several interesting case studies illustrating how a community-based approach may both help the community and enhance risk assessment by engaging, assisting, and empowering members from the affected community.

Dr. Krimsky presented the topic "Endocrine Disruptors and Low Doses: The Challenge to Traditional Toxicology." His talk addressed the empirical evidence for nonmonotonic dose responses in the endocrine system and the implications of these results for the risk assessment of endocrine-disrupting chemicals. He discussed two realizations: (1) the guiding doctrine of classical toxicology—that the dose makes the poison—must be reexamined for its relevance to certain mechanisms of chemical action involving hormonal systems and (2) the NOEL, which is widely used in characterizing the toxicological properties of chemicals and in setting safe chemical exposure levels, may not be applicable to endocrine systems.

The 29 May session was presented by Nicholas Ashford, PhD, JD, Professor of Technology and Policy, MIT, and Adjunct Faculty, Harvard University School of Public Health and Boston University School of Public Health. Dr. Ashford's presentation, "Low-Level Chemical Exposures: A Challenge for Research and Public Policy," addressed the body of increasing evidence that chemical exposure levels once believed to be safe for humans—or thought to pose an insignificant risk—are, in fact, harmful.

For the 12 June seminar we welcomed both David Christiani, MD, MPH, MS, Professor of Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Mario Molina, PhD, Institute Professor, MIT, 1995 Recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Dr. Christiani's talk was titled "The Genetic Susceptibility to Lung Cancer." The aim of the presentation was to present current research on genetic modification of cancer risk from environmental exposures, using tobacco-associated lung cancer as the model. Dr. Molina provided a talk titled "A Perspective on Stratospheric Ozone Depletion" in which he dis-

cussed how observations over the past decade of severe ozone depletion in the stratosphere over Antarctica have heightened interest in global environmental change issues. He also discussed how laboratory and field measurements have clearly established that ozone depletion at high latitudes is indeed caused by CFCs and pointed out that the international agreement, the Montreal Protocol, led to the almost-complete phaseout of these compounds in industrialized countries by the end of 1995.

Northern California Chapter

Michele Emerson, Secretary

The Northern California Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (NCCSRA) held officer elections at the beginning of 2002. The new chapter officers for 2002 are President Ravi Arulanantham of Geomatrix, President-elect Greg Brorby of Exponent®, Treasurer Robert Blaisdell of Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Councilors Liz Miesner of ENVIRON and Mark Stelljes and Rosemary Wood of SLR International Corp., and Secretary Michele Emerson of Blasland, Bouck, and Lee.

In May, the NCCSRA and the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology cohosted the seminar "Chemical and Biological Terrorism: The Role of Risk Assessment." In this well-attended seminar, Dr. Ray Neutra, Chief of the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control of the California Department of Health Services and member of the state's bioterrorism task force, discussed the contribution of occupational and environmental health professionals in responding to contaminating terrorist actions. Dr. Dennis Paustenbach, Corporate Vice President of Exponent®, presented an overview of applying risk assessment principals to chemical and biological terrorism, including two case studies. Karen Folks of the Operations and Regulatory division at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory discussed a risk-based decontamination decision framework that can be used following a chemical or biological warfare attack. Dr. Tina Carlsen of the Environmental Restoration Division at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory finished the seminar by discussing a pilot study to lay the groundwork for establishing realistic cleanup and verification criteria that may be required after a release of biological warfare agents to meet both regulatory and stakeholder needs.

To become a member of the NCCSRA, please contact Secretary Michele Emerson at 415-492-2844 or MAmaral@bbl-inc.com. We would like to invite all interested individuals to visit our Web site at <http://www.sra.org/ncc> for announcements of new events.

Contact List Changes

The following information has changed since the Contact Lists were printed in the Second Quarter 2002 RISK newsletter:

Northern California Chapter

President Ravi Arulanantham, phone: 510-663-4100, fax: 510-663-4141, email: rarulanantham@geomatrix.com
Secretary Michele Emerson, phone: 415-492-2844, fax: 415-492-2810, email: MAmaral@bbl-inc.com

**“Chemical and Biological Terrorism: The Role of Risk Assessment”
cohosted by the Northern California Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis
and the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology**



Guest speakers, left to right: Dr. Raymond Neutra, Dr. Dennis Paustenbach, Ms. Karen Folks, and Dr. Tina Carlsen

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

**Emerging Contaminants in the Aquatic Environment:
Risk and Regulatory Perspectives**

A workshop sponsored by
**Society for Risk Analysis, Research Triangle Chapter
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Carolinas Chapter**

With sponsors including
ARCADIS, CIIT, ICF, USEPA, USFDA, and USGS

**3-4 October 2002
Toxicology Building
North Carolina State University, Centennial Campus
Raleigh, North Carolina**

Recently, environmental chemists have reported the occurrence of a variety of previously undetected contaminants in surface waters. These “emerging environmental contaminants” enter the aquatic environment from point and nonpoint sources and include prescription and over-the-counter veterinary and human pharmaceuticals (for example, analgesics, antibiotics, reproductive hormones, steroids) and numerous chemicals found in an array of personal care products and consumer items (for example, antioxidants, detergents, antimicrobials and other disinfectants, fragrances). Little is known about the potential effects of these contaminants on humans and aquatic organisms at environmentally relevant concentrations, either singly or as components of complex mixtures. To date, risk assessment approaches have not been applied to evaluate this potential risk. Regulatory policy that addresses these contaminants will also be complicated by the differing mandates of the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The objective of this workshop is to discuss the emerging environmental contaminants within the context of risk assessment and to explore the policy implications and possible management options. The 1 1/2-day workshop will consist of presentations on research and regulatory perspectives with a 1/2 day devoted to each of the following general topic areas:

- exposure assessment (identification, occurrence, sources, fate)
- effects assessment and risk characterization (human and ecological)
- current legal framework and regulatory approaches to risk management

The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion aimed at identifying key data gaps and developing a set of recommendations for further research. A poster session is also planned.

For additional information, please contact either of the conference cochairs—Woody Setzer (919-541-0128, setzer.woodrow@epamail.epa.gov) or Jane Staveley (919-544-4535, jstaveley@arcadis-us.com)—or visit <http://www.marketingpower.com/content/jppmcall.pdf>.



News and Announcements

NIOSH Issues First Approval Under Program for Certifying Emergency Responder Respirators

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on 31 May 2002 issued its first approval of respirators for occupational use by emergency responders against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents.

NIOSH approved Spiromatic Models 9030, 6630, and 4530, manufactured by Interspiro USA Inc., Branford, Connecticut. The respirators are self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that provide users with air from a pressurized cylinder or tank carried on the back.

The full NIOSH statement can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/interspup.html>.

ASTM International Call for Papers

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) Committee E47 on Biological Effects and Environmental Fate will sponsor the 2 1/2-day symposium "Landscape Ecology and Wildlife Habitat Evaluation: Critical Information for Ecological Risk Assessment, Land-Use Management Activities, and Biodiversity Enhancement Practices," 7-9 April 2003 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Land-use patterns have been described as the most critical aspect affecting wildlife populations and regional biodiversity. Current practices in ecological risk assessment generally do a poor job of considering biological and physical factors as most focus entirely, or nearly so, on chemical effects. This symposium can be an important vehicle to open a dialogue among risk-assessment and wildlife-management experts. Technical exchanges are encouraged to stimulate a critical analysis of contemporary (1) knowledge of theoretical and applied ecology, especially embodied in landscape ecology and population dynamics, (2) approaches to characterizing environmental risks to wildlife, and (3) requirements of environmental managers addressing current situations and predicting consequences of actions.

Publication of the symposium peer-reviewed papers is anticipated by ASTM International as a Special Technical Publication (STP). The STP will be structured as a state-of-the-science/state-of-the-art resource, which captures the essence of these applied fields so important to contemporary environmental management. In addition to being a resource, it will be intended to be a springboard for further development of these fields. This publication should provide risk assessors and resource managers with tools to address critical regulatory and land-use management issues.

Prospective authors/presenters must submit a title and 250-300 word abstract by 30 August 2002. Electronic or paper submissions should be sent to Larry Kapustka, ASTM Symposium Chair; ecological planning and toxicology, inc.; 5010 SW Hout Street; Corvallis, OR USA 97333-9540; phone: 541-752-3707; fax: 541-753-9010; email: Kapustka@ep-and-t.com.

Additional information on the symposium may be obtained from the ASTM E47 Web site (www.ASTM.org—navigate to "Technical Committees" by designation to the E47 link), the ep and t Web site (www.ep-and-t.com—"What's New" page), or symposium cochairs Hector Galbraith (Galbraith Environ-

mental Sciences, HGalbraith2@ATTbi.com), Matthew Luxon (Windward Environmental LLC, mattl@windwardenv.com), or Greg Biddinger (ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Company, gregory.r.biddinger@exxonmobil.com).

Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) Selects Core Panel of Scientific Experts for Peer Consultations

Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) is pleased to announce the selection of a Core Panel of scientific experts who will review chemical risk assessments developed by industry sponsors under the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP). TERA (<http://www.tera.org>) is a nonprofit organization providing peer consultation and review services to meet the needs of public and private sponsors who have developed risk assessment documentation. TERA's mission to protect public health includes building partnerships between industry and government to incorporate the best science in the development of risk assessment values and methods.

After a thorough review, TERA independently selected a group of nine scientists from 50 nominations from stakeholder groups and the public. Core Panel member biographical summaries are available at <http://www.tera.org/peer/vccep/corepanelselectyear1.htm>. Core Panel, Year Number One members include John M. Balbus, MD, MPH, Environmental Defense; Nicole Cardello, MHS in Environmental Health Sciences, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine; George P. Daston, PhD in Developmental Biology and Teratology, The Procter & Gamble Company; Michael L. Dourson, PhD in Toxicology, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (Panel Chair); Elaine A. Hubal, PhD in Chemical Engineering, U.S. EPA, National Exposure Research Laboratory; Sam Kacew, PhD in Pharmacology, University of Ottawa; R. Jeffrey Lewis, PhD in Epidemiology, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc.; Jennifer G. Seed, PhD in Developmental and Cellular Biology, U.S. EPA, Risk Assessment Division; and Kimberly M. Thompson, ScD in Environmental Health, Harvard University.

TERA selected Core Panel members based on their expertise in the various scientific disciplines necessary to review the chemical assessments and apply the information to children, such as risk and exposure assessment, toxicology, toxicity testing methods, epidemiology, clinical medicine, and children's health issues. Many of those selected have published on topics related to children's health. Panel members are affiliated with many different types of organizations which are interested in children's health and chemical assessments, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), animal protection organizations, environmental organizations, industry, and leading universities. The Core Panel members have agreed to serve for one year, providing continuity to the peer-consultation program.

This Core Panel will be supplemented with additional experts to help address the specific scientific issues of each chemical's assessment. Many of the scientists who were nominated, but not chosen, for the Core Panel will be considered for ad hoc membership on individual panels.

The first VCCEP peer consultation meeting will take place

later this year. Further information about the selected panelists, as well as the Core Panel nomination and selection process, can be found on TERA's Web site, <http://www.tera.org/peer/vccep>.

Journal of Public Policy & Marketing **Spring 2004 Call for Papers**

The *Journal of Public Policy & Marketing* invites manuscripts for "Conceptualizing, Assessing, and Managing Risk: Public Policy Perspectives" that examine risk in the context of factors that impact the lives of consumers, either through their own or others' (for example, company, governmental) decisions, and that, therefore, address meaningful public policy issues. Some examples of the issues papers might address: (1) Many marketing decisions carry with them the risk of consumer injury (for example, from product design, testing, and information dissemination) and resulting liability. In other cases, lawsuits arise out of decisions regarding advertising execution, trademark confusion and infringement, and so forth. What factors lead to assessments of such risks as acceptable or unacceptable, and are the available remedies appropriately calibrated? (2) At the societal level, policy makers face both short-term and longer-term risks that stem from the adoption of new technologies and programs having uncertain outcomes (for example, partial privatization of social security), as well as decisions that require, recommend, ban, or fail to address factors that affect consumers' safety (from airport security to bicycle helmets) and health (from new drug approval and monitoring policies to mass vaccinations). How is risk assessed and managed within such programs, and how can such efforts be evaluated? (3) Risk communication and warnings may warrant special attention from a public policy perspective because it is particularly important to convey risk in a responsible manner, taking into account how consumers are likely to interpret that information (which may vary dramatically as a result of recipients' cognitive and motivational factors as well as how the information is presented), and (4) The topic of risk reduction is complex and warrants attention. First, from a substantive perspective, key policy questions involve the best ways to reduce risk in particular domains (from mandated risk reduction policies that may involve bans, recalls, sanctions, and formal approval processes to informational programs). Second, from a psychological perspective, how decision makers manage risk and how various risk-management strategies and heuristics—and the factors that influence them—affect the quality of decisions need to be understood better. Some efforts at risk reduction may actually "boomerang," leading consumers to discount risks rather than take steps to avoid the risk.

Papers will be reviewed in accordance with *Journal of Public Policy & Marketing* guidelines; for further details see www.cba.ufl.edu/jppm or www.marketingpower.com/jppm. Manuscript length is normally 30–40 double-spaced pages, including references, tables, and figures (12-point font); the maximum length is 50 pages.

For detailed submission guidelines, see www.cba.ufl.edu/jppm. One copy and one electronic version (Word or pdf files only) of each manuscript should be mailed by 1 April 2003 to the editor: Joel B. Cohen, PO Box 117155, Warrington College of Business, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7155; phone: 352-392-2397 x 1237; fax: 352-846-0457; email: jppm@notes.cba.ufl.edu.

Risk-Based Decision Making in Water Resources X

"Risk-Based Decision Making in Water Resources X: Strategic Responses to Risks of Terrorism" will be held 3-8 November 2002 in Santa Barbara, California.

The objective of the 10th conference in this important series is to address the risks of terrorism to the homeland's water resources system of systems from multiple perspectives, including institutional, organizational, economic, scientific, technological, public policy, and safety and security.

In particular, the conference will review the governmental activities, starting with the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection (PCCIP), and the risks of terrorism to the homeland, focusing on the specific vulnerabilities of the homeland's water resources system of systems; address the interconnectedness and interdependencies between the water resources system of systems and other infrastructures; address lessons learned from experience dealing with risks of extreme events; evaluate the economic perspective of infrastructure survivability; assess the needs for institutional and organizational restructuring; evaluate the impact of ecoterrorism on the environment and the ecology; and discuss the role of universities in the protection of the homeland's water resources system of systems.

The chair of the conference is Yacov Y. Haimes of the University of Virginia; the cochair is David Moser of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Additional information and a registration form can be found at the conference's Web site (<http://www.engfnd.org/2ao.html>).

SETAC 23rd Annual Meeting in North America

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) will hold its 23rd Annual Meeting 16-20 November 2002 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting theme is "Achieving Global Environmental Quality: Integrating Science and Management." Many of the proposed sessions and special symposia will reflect the theme, and additional technical sessions will address emerging environmental issues, environmental assessment strategies and methods, and other facets of environmental chemistry and toxicology. The technical program is expected to attract 1,800 abstracts for a variety of platform, poster, interactive poster, and debate sessions. The short-course program will include introductory and advanced professional-level courses on topics of current and emerging interest.

For more information see www.setac.org.

EPA-New England Air Toxics Web Site

In New England 1,900 additional cancer cases per year (corresponds to 3% of all new cases) are estimated to be associated with exposure to air toxics. This estimate is based on the National Air Toxics modeling of 1996 air toxic emissions inventory data. EPA-New England, on its new Web site, identified 13 air toxic chemicals of concern and the site provides health fact sheets, exposure and risk maps, and a listing of emission sources.

The new Regional Air Toxics Web site can be accessed through the current EPA question of the month ("What are the hazardous air pollutants or air toxics of greatest concern in NE?") at <http://www.epa.gov/region01> or directly at <http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/airtox/index.html>. <<<



Committees

History Committee

Paul Deisler, Cochair

Thanks to continuing and persistent searches by Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) staff, seven boxes of old records (not all SRA records) were found earlier this year at the warehouse used by the SRA for storage. In mid-March Paul Deisler spent most of two days in McLean going through the materials to extract a small box of excellent nuggets of information about the early history and prehistory of the Society. During the same visit, enough annual meeting programs were turned up to form a complete set of programs. The programs and some of the materials Paul extracted were sent to Dick Schwing for his use. Paul also has received a box of files from each of two former Presidents, Yacov Haimes and Bob Tardiff, for which all three authors thank them. Each box contains more valuable information on several time periods.

With these materials and the others on hand, both Paul

Deisler and Dick Schwing now have enough to complete drafting the main parts of the SRA's history. Dick has completed about two-thirds of his pieces on the history and development of SRA publications and is compiling tabular material on the annual meetings. These two areas are part of his general area, the history of the development of the SRA's ways of communicating with its members and others. Paul is modifying the text and tables he has already drafted in the light of the new materials and will soon be in a position to complete a draft of the chronological development of the Society, itself, as an organization. Jeanne Kaspersen's main task of pulling the disparate pieces from Dick and Paul together and making them into a single, seamless document, correctly referenced and shorter than the sum of the original pieces, cannot begin until this fall.

While the authors now have enough materials to complete their joint task, if anyone reading this has a particular gem of historical information in his or her files, please send it to Paul Deisler for distribution to the other authors, as appropriate, for their use (2001 Mountain View Road, Austin, TX 78703; fax: 512-480-9810; email: sinprisa@earthlink.net).

Public Policy Committee

Jack Fowle, Public Policy Committee Chair

DRAFT Early Warning: Developing Sensors for U.S. National Security

On 20 May 2002 the SRA cosponsored a Congressional Briefing on Developing Pharmaceuticals for the Fight Against Terrorism as part of the Science and the Congress Project. This was the fifth Congressional Briefing in a series on Vulnerability and Security developed after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the subsequent use of anthrax as a terrorist agent in letters to Congress. The focus of this briefing was developing sensors as early-warning indicators to reduce the risks of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Society for Risk Analysis, this seminar was cosponsored by the American Chemistry Council, the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Council for Chemical Research, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA), and the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association.

Dr. Frank Fernandez, Distinguished Research Professor in Systems Engineering and Technology Management at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, introduced the topic. He noted that the detection of harmful chemical and biological agents and diseases is the first and most critical step for rapid response to a terrorist attack. However, significant scientific and technical challenges must be overcome before accurate, real-time, and affordable sensor devices can be developed and deployed. The discussions during this luncheon were designed to inform the participants about

current, cutting-edge sensor technologies and about how university, government, private, and military scientists are working to create even more effective sensors to address the security needs of our nation.

The first speaker was Dr. Dale Swanson, a Senior Research Associate and Associate Professor of Acoustics at Pennsylvania State University's Applied Research Laboratory. His talk was "Automatic Perimeter Intrusion Detection Using Sensor Fences." He noted that the sensor fence concept is a very low-maintenance invention to convert existing chain-link fences into intelligent sensors for intrusion detection and localization. A tensioned wire is added to the existing fence, allowing a single sensor to respond to disturbances over a large area. It involves intelligent acoustic pattern recognition and localization technology, a concept that can be extended to automated responses from vehicles and actions such as deployment of nonlethal weapons.

The second and final speaker was Dr. Al Sylvester, the President and CEO of MCL Technologies, a privately financed start-up company that is commercializing chem/bio sensor technologies developed at Sandia National Laboratory's MicroChemLab. He described the various types of chemical and biological weapons and existing chemical and biological agent detection equipment as well as the future promise for better sensors. In his talk Sylvester described the Department of Defense Chemical and Biological Defense Program and several interactions between government agencies and the private sector. <<>>



Member News

John Graham

Society for Risk Analysis Past President John Graham received recognition for his work as the Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the January 2002 *Policy Matters*, published by the AEI-Brookings Joint Center.

Bush Regulatory Czar Deserves High Marks, by Robert W. Hahn and Patrick M. Dudley, can be found at http://www.aei.brookings.org/publications/policy/policy_02_05.asp.

New Books by SRA Members

The following SRA members have had books published within the last year:

Robert A. Pastorok, Scott Ferson and Steven M. Bartell: *Ecological Modeling in Risk Assessment: Chemical Effects on Populations, Ecosystems, and Landscapes*, October 2001, CRC Press/Lewis Publishers, www.crcpress.com

Scott Ferson: *RAMAS Risk Calc 4.0 Software: Risk Assessment with Uncertain Numbers*, November 2001, CRC Press/Lewis Publishers, www.crcpress.com

Glenn W. Suter II: *Species Sensitivity Distributions in Ecotoxicology*, December 2001, CRC Press/Lewis Publishers, www.crcpress.com

Kurt Frantzen: *Risk-Based Analysis: A Practical Guide for the Corporate Manager*, October 2001, CRC Press/Lewis Publishers, www.crcpress.com, and *Risk-Based Analysis for Environmental Managers*, January 2002, CRC Press/Lewis Publishers, www.crcpress.com

Bilal M. Ayyub: *Probability, Statistics, and Reliability for Engineers and Scientists*, Second Edition, July 2002, CRC Press/Lewis Publishers, www.crcpress.com <>>



Advertisements

AAAS Risk Policy Opportunities in Washington, DC, 2003:04

R Risk assessment is central to decision-making and regulatory concerns in the federal government. The AAAS Risk Policy Fellows in Health, Safety and the Environment Program provides one-year opportunities for scientists and engineers to apply their scientific and technical input to issues relating to human health, environmental, and economic aspects of risk, beginning in September 2003. Qualified Fellows serve in Washington, DC, in the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food and Drug Administration. The stipend is \$58,000.

Sp The AAAS Risk Policy Fellows Program is sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and has been designed to provide each Fellow with a unique public policy learning experience and to bring technical backgrounds and external perspectives to decision-making in the U.S. government. Applicants must have a PhD or an equivalent doctoral-level degree by the application deadline (January 10, 2003). Underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Phone: 202.328.6700
E-mail: science_policy@aaas.org



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www.fellowships.aaas.org

RISK newsletter and SRA Web Site Advertising Policy

Books, software, courses, and events may be advertised in the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) *RISK newsletter* or on the SRA Web site at a cost of \$250 for up to 150 words. There is a charge of \$100 for each additional 50 words.

Ads may be placed both in the *RISK newsletter* and on the Web site for \$375 for 150 words and \$100 for each additional 50 words.

Employment opportunity ads (up to 200 words) are placed free of charge in the *RISK newsletter* and on the SRA Web site. Members of SRA may place, at no charge, an advertisement seeking employment for themselves as a benefit of SRA membership.

Camera-ready ads for the *RISK newsletter* are accepted at a cost of \$250 for a 3.25-inch-wide by 3-inch-high box. The height of a camera-ready ad may be increased beyond 3 inches at a cost of \$100 per inch.

The *RISK newsletter* is published four times a year. Submit advertisements to the Managing Editor, with billing instructions, by 15 January for the First Quarter issue (published mid-February), 15 April for the Second Quarter issue (mid-May), 15 July for the Third Quarter issue (mid-August), and 15 October for the Fourth Quarter issue (mid-November). Send to Mary Walchuk, Managing Editor, *RISK newsletter*, 115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; fax: 507-625-1792; email: mwalchuk@hickorytech.net.

To place an employment ad on the Web site, fill out the online submittal form at www.sra.org/optys.htm. To place other ads on the Web site contact the SRA Webmaster at webmaster@sra.org. Ads placed on the Web site will usually appear several days after receipt. For additional information see the Web site at www.sra.org/policy.htm#events.



RISK newsletter is published by the Society for Risk Analysis

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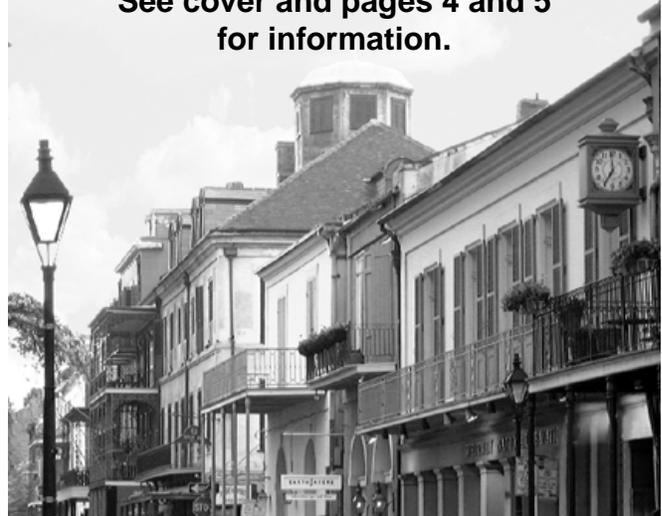
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Address Changes: Send to SRA@BurkInc.com

**Society for Risk Analysis
 2002 Meeting, 8-11 December
 "The World of Risk Analysis"**
 See cover and pages 4 and 5
 for information.



**Deadline for RISK newsletter
 Submissions**

Information to be included in the **Fourth Quarter 2002** SRA RISK newsletter, to be mailed mid-November, should be sent to Mary Walchuk, RISK newsletter Managing Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; fax: 507-625-1792; email: mwalchuk@hickorytech.net) no later than **5 October**.

Society for Risk Analysis Web Site
www.sra.org

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