

RISK *newsletter*

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“Risk and Governance” The First World Congress on Risk 22-25 June 2003 Belgium

The First World Congress on Risk, cosponsored by the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and other scientific and professional organizations interested in risk, will be held 22-25 June 2003 at the Sheraton Brussels in Belgium.

“Risk and Governance” is the theme of this International Conference, reflecting the worldwide trend toward making better use of risk-oriented concepts, tools, and processes (derived from both research and practice) in public decision making and risk management. This is the first of a series of World Congresses on Risk that will be important, logical steps to further develop the field of risk analysis and its applications.

The First World Congress will consist of meetings over a three-day period. Each of the three days will begin with a plenary session to launch a set of issues or methodological “views.” Speakers for the plenary sessions have been selected by the planning committee to provide broad participation by, and representation of, the physical, environmental, and social science communities and to reflect different international perspectives.

Each plenary session will be followed by break-out sessions that will combine groups of participants to consider the issues and methods raised in the plenary in the context of specific deliberation problems, such as energy planning, hazardous waste management, and genetically modified organisms. Planning these break-out sessions will be an important activity for SRA and the partner organizations, involving both a leadership and coordination role, especially in ensuring that groups truly cut across the perspective of participants. Participants, or their designated rapporteurs, will reconvene after the break-out sessions to share and document insights across groups about risk and governance.

Specific objectives of the Congress are to (1) stimulate dialogue on emerging risk issues of worldwide interest, (2) share insights about analytic methods and decision processes used in different regions of the world, (3) demonstrate and disseminate recent advances in risk assessment, management, and communication, and (4) build an organized, international community of individuals dedicated to advancing the state of the art and promoting appropriate use of risk-related tools, concepts, and procedures. Three “sub-themes” have been developed by the planning committee for purposes of identifying plenary programs and break-out sessions: Chemical, biologi-

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Check out our new and improved Web site at
www.sra.org.

We have recently added a members’ only online Membership Directory. You can also renew your membership or join SRA online.



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.

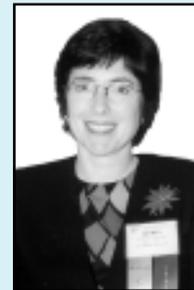
Members of SRA include professionals from a wide range of institutions, including federal, state, and local governments, small and large industries, private and public academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, law firms, and consulting groups. Those professionals include statisticians, engineers, 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

President's Message

This issue of the RISK *newsletter* contains important updates on key Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) events, including information about our upcoming annual meetings in New Orleans and the First World Congress on Risk. Both of these major events offer our membership opportunities to participate in a rich interdisciplinary exchange of ideas about risk. Providing these opportunities for the membership is what I believe distinguishes SRA from other professional societies in the risk field.



New Orleans is a great location to hold the annual meetings. A stimulating program of presentations, great music, great food, and a warm and friendly local population practically guarantees that we will have a memorable conference. I want to congratulate Bernie Goldstein and the 2002 Program Committee for a job very well done!

Looking forward to next June in Brussels, I can report that about 10 other organizations interested in risk analysis and risk management have agreed to participate in the First World Congress on Risk. Levels of participation in the planning vary among the cooperating organizations, but each group has endorsed both the general concept and the basic objectives as important next steps to furthering the science and practice of risk analysis. The planning process has taught me that the scope of interest in risk analysis is broad, and the First World Congress, at a minimum, will provide a unique learning experience for all participants.

The membership should also be aware that to ensure broad participation by various critical communities and decision makers interested in risk analysis at the First World Congress, SRA will provide limited funding for conference support and travel stipends to participants selected from two key categories:

- Scientists, analysts, practitioners, and decision makers from developing countries and Central and Eastern European countries; and
- Junior faculty or researchers.

SRA is seeking funding for this participant support from several sources and the number of stipends offered will depend upon the funds raised. Successful candidates for support will be selected by the World Congress Program Committee through a competitive process. Information on the World Congress on the SRA Web site provides details on the application process and criteria for eligibility. Applications must be submitted to the SRA Web site (www.sra.org) by 22 November 2002.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the membership, the Secretariat, and the RISK *newsletter* staff for the encouragement and support that I have enjoyed this past year. I know that as the next President, Bernie Goldstein will appreciate and benefit greatly, as I have, from your continued enthusiasm and active participation in the Society.

Rob Carbo

(World Congress, continued from page 1)

cal, radiological, and cyber risk; Global and transboundary risks; and Sustainable development with acceptable risks. Each subtheme will also guide the selection of symposia for the afternoon concurrent sessions.

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 will be available to participants before the start of the World Congress.

Afternoon sessions will be concurrent mini-symposia sessions selected by the 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 proposals for mini-symposia where the presentations cut across different disciplinary, scientific, or regional perspectives. Proposals for mini-symposia are due 22 November 2002.

The planning committee is also encouraging participants to organize a limited number of poster sessions. These sessions will be selected by using criteria consistent with those used in judging the mini-symposia. Poster sessions will be grouped by subject and presented in larger groups. Author attendance during meeting breaks, or in smaller groups as poster-platform sessions, is required. The latter include three-minute descriptions by authors at the start of each session facilitated by a session chair assigned by the Program Committee.

SRA is continuing to seek, and strongly welcomes, partner organizations to assist with activities in support of the World Congress. SRA is also seeking funding from sponsors to create travel stipends for junior faculty/researchers and participants from financially disadvantaged countries.

For more information on the World Congress on Risk, including information on partner organization support, travel stipends, submission information for the symposia and poster sessions, and registration forms and hotel information, visit the World Congress section of the SRA Web site (www.sra.org/worldcongress3.pdf).

World Congress on Risk

Web Site

[www.sra.org/
worldcongress3.pdf](http://www.sra.org/worldcongress3.pdf)

Conference Organization and Sponsors

Sponsors: Organizations participating with SRA for the First World Congress on Risk include SRA-Europe (SRA-E), SRA-Japan (SRA-J), the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), the Society of Toxicology (SOT), the International Union of Toxicology (IUT), the European Safety and Reliability Association (ESREL), the American Physical Society (APS), the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Conference Organizers: Robin Cantor and Rae Zimmerman

Planning Committee:

SRA—John Ahearne, Richard Belzer, Gail Charnley, Bernard Goldstein, Yacov Haimes, Igor Linkov, Timothy McDaniels, Mitchell Small

SRA-E—Roger Kasperson, Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer, Ragnar Löfstedt, Ortwin Renn, Joyce Tait

SRA-J—Saburo Ikeda, Michinori Kabuto

SETAC—Anne Fairbrother

SOT—Michael Dourson

ESREL—Tim Bedford

NIEHS—Chris Schonwalder

Conference Coordinator: Society for Risk Analysis, 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402, McLean, VA 22101; phone: 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672; email: SRA@BurkInc.com

Distinctive Features of the First World Congress on Risk

- Assessment of the state of the art in various subfields of risk analysis made available to each participant as background papers
- Presentation of disciplinary advances in risk analysis that are relevant to scholars and decision makers interested in integrated, multidisciplinary approaches to problem solving
- Demonstration of how solutions to risk problems can be sensitive to the differing needs and cultures in the developed and developing world
- Specialized treatment of major risk problems such as national and corporate security, food safety, energy production, chemical regulation, natural hazard control, environmental protection, and infrastructure, including transport, safety and security, and radiation protection
- Comparative information on how different countries and regions of the world are addressing the same risk, including the success and limitations of any efforts at international harmonization and the roles of international organizations
- Information on the growing number of scientific and professional journals dedicated to risk-related tools and issues as well as the growing number of educational opportunities

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

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

“Environmental Terrorism: Role for Risk Analysis”

Session Chair Peter R. Jutro

PhD, Counselor to the Administrator for Environment and Security, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Col. Randy Larsen (USAF, Ret.), Director of ANSER Institute for Homeland Security

Barry J. Erlick, PhD, Chief Scientist, Special Programs, Battelle

William Jeffrey, PhD, Deputy Assistant Director for Research, Office of Homeland Security, the White House

Dorothy A. Canter, PhD, Science Advisor, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA

Symposia Topics

- The New Age of Risk Assessment: Impact of the Genomic Revolution—Government Perspectives, Parts 1 & 2
- Risk Analysis for Invasive Species: Contributions from Theoretical Ecology
- Multimedia Exposure Analysis
- Exposure Factors Based on Activity Patterns
- Evaluating Children's Exposures and Health Risk
- Ecological Soil Screening Areas, Parts 1 & 2
- Contaminated Sites: Long-Term Stewardship
- Quantitative Approaches for Estimating Historical Exposures (Dose Reconstruction)
- Use of Biomonitoring Data in Exposure and Risk Analyses
- Significant Changes in Food Consumption Data Collection Implications for Risk Assessors
- New Risk Analysis Procedures in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Risk Analysis and International Trade
- Precautionary Principle and Weight of Evidence: Lessons Learned from Research on Contaminated Land Management, Parts 1 & 2
- Dose-Response and Health Risk Evaluation for Perchlorate
- Perchlorate: Policy Implications
- Short-Term Exposure Limits, Parts 1 & 2
- Dose-Response Relationships for Endocrine Effects
- Putting Risks into Context
- Mode of Action in Assessing Human Relevance of Animal Tumors

Roundtables

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

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.

2002 Program Committee

Chair Bernard Goldstein

Elizabeth Anderson, Joseph Arvai, Ronald Brown, Robin Cantor, Bob Fares, Sue Ferenc, Sally Kane, John Keller, Katie Kunzer, Stanley Levinson, Igor Linkov, Yvette Lowney, Eileen Mahoney, Kathleen McComas, Cristina McLaughlin, Steve Olin, Resha Putzrath, Zubair Saleem, Robert Scharff

www.sra.org/events.htm



Regulatory Risk Review

But What Does It Mean?

David Clarke, American Chemistry Council

In 1970, the United States reached a consensus that signs of degradation—a burning river, sooty skies, dying lakes—meant action was needed to halt and reverse the environmental decline. Today, as we've often been reminded, subtler, more complex signs confront anxious Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) semiologists, creating a rising demand for the Agency to forge common understanding about how to interpret information (thus, EPA has enhanced its peer-review and public-involvement policies) and to become a deliberately more information-driven organization (thus, the Agency has established a high-level Office of Environmental Information).

In this fourth decade since EPA's creation, an especially compelling and complicated new information category is genomic data. "We need to have a consensus as to what that means," said Dr. Paul Gilman, briefing news reporters on EPA's new Interim Policy on Genomics, released 26 July. The *that* Gilman referred to was patterns of genes on a microarray chip lighting up red or green to indicate whether a gene is turned on or off. Do the lit-up genes indicate a mere interaction resulting from exposure, or the foreshadowing of an adverse event? The genomic Rosetta stone has yet to be found, but with the Agency's announcement of its new policy, it should now be clear that—yes—we do need a consensus that will enable biologists and risk assessors to decipher the signals arrayed before them.

Appropriately, EPA's interim policy makes only modest claims for genomic tools, at least for the time being. Although EPA expects that genomic data and analyses "will significantly impact many areas of scientific research and human and ecological health assessments," providing valuable insights into how organisms respond to environmental stressors, for now "the relationships between changes in gene expression and adverse effects are unclear" and "may likely be difficult to elucidate," according to EPA's policy. The policy suggests that gene expression changes may be informative using a weight-of-evidence approach in assessments, especially when such information is used to explore a "possible link between exposure, mechanism(s) of action, and adverse effects." The information may also be useful "in setting priorities, in ranking chemicals for further testing, and in sup-

porting possible regulatory actions." But given the current state of the science, before EPA can accept and use genomic information, the Agency will need to review it to determine whether the data possess adequate "quality, representativeness, and reproducibility."

The issues of "quality" and "reproducibility" are central to another information-related development that will affect EPA's use of genomic and other information. The Data Quality Act's 1 October deadline has passed for federal agencies to issue guidelines aimed at "ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity" of the information they "disseminate." As previously reported in this column, the National Academies hosted a day-long symposium to discuss what this potentially far-reaching new law might mean for agencies (RISK newsletter, Second Quarter 2002). Now, as agency information launches into uncharted Data Quality Act

... an especially compelling and complicated new information category is genomic data.

waters, we'll know whether they've launched flimsy skiffs or sturdy, seagoing vessels able to withstand anticipated legal waves, and the law's meaning will become clearer.

Lastly, with the crisp autumn air portending winter's approach, EPA has begun officially to unveil its Environmental Indicators Initiative, a significant endeavor that will aggregate data about the environment (such as they might be) and interpret their meaning for the public using "environmental indicators." EPA's first *State of the Environment* report, touted as a signature undertaking of EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, will be the primary product of the initiative. Using indicators, when possible EPA will assess whether air, water, waste, and other environmental conditions are getting better or worse, in the hopes that this system will enable the Agency to better handle environmental policy "levers" to promote good trends and slow or reverse bad ones. Measurable performance is the Agency's goal.

Clearly, as Gilman indicated about genomics, good information and consensus on what it means is essential, otherwise, what the poet Edna St. Vincent Millay said about life—"It's not true that life is one damn thing after another. It's one damn thing over and over."—will be true of environmental policy, impeding not only measurable progress but also the ability to measure anything clearly as the wheels of controversy spin. <<>>



Committees

Historians' Report

Cohistorians Dick Schwing and Paul Deisler deeply regret the recent, sad loss of cohistorian Jeanne Kasperson, a colleague and friend. Her multiple talents are very much missed and their loss will seriously impact the quality of the history now in preparation. <<>>



Member News

Jeanne X. Kasperson

In recognition of her seminal role in establishing the Marsh Library at Clark University, the University has dedicated the library to Professor Jeanne X. Kasperson, who died on 27 August 2002 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Jeanne was an important contributing member of the Society for Risk Analysis since its founding and was the wife of SRA Past President Roger Kasperson. She was well-known and well-loved by members of the risk analysis community for her personal and professional attributes and achievements.

Jeanne earned a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago in 1962 and a master's degree in library science from Simmons College in 1967. After working in academic libraries at the University of Chicago, the University of Connecticut, and Michigan State University, she joined Clark in 1977 as a research librarian for the Hazard Assessment Group. She served as director of Clark's Marsh Library since 1991. In 2000 she became the coeditor with Roger of the Nature-Society section of the *Annals* of the Association of American Geographers.

Throughout her career, Jeanne was an active researcher, pursuing scholarly interests in the general area of global environ-

mental risk assessment. In 1993, she was promoted to research associate professor in Clark's George Perkins Marsh Institute. She was the author of more than 80 articles, books, and technical reports, editor of several journals, and recipient of many research grants. She is also recognized by her colleagues as a key contributor to much of the research undertaken by the George Perkins Marsh Institute. For the last two years, Jeanne was on leave from Clark with Roger, conducting research at the Stockholm Environment Institute in Sweden.

The Jeanne X. Kasperson Research Library offers one of the most extensive research collections in North America on environmental risk and hazards and human dimensions of global environmental change. The library has holdings on the subjects of international development, technology, water, and energy policy. In 1991, a review by the Federal Emergency Management Agency judged the Jeanne X. Kasperson Research Library one of the four outstanding research libraries on risks and disasters in the United States.

A fund has been established in Jeanne's memory to support the library. Donations may be sent to University Advancement, Clark University, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610-1477. Checks should be made payable to Clark University.

A Message from Roger

Jeanne and I were married for 43 glorious years during which we wrote books and articles together, worked on projects, and traveled to meetings together. And I almost never had a business lunch because she was the person I really wanted to have lunch with. We have two children who, when Jeanne became ill with a brain tumor this year, put aside their lives to come to Stockholm to take care of Jeanne (and me) for four months.

The library that Jeanne created was her first love professionally and she never stopped thinking about it or hunting for new books and journals that should be in the collection. Many people think it is the best risk library in the world: it is certainly one of the best. We are now working to endow the library so that the library will continue to develop and maintain its excellence as a rather special resource for the risk community. A fund has been established for this purpose to which members of SRA could contribute if they so wished. Jeanne began this library in a small faculty office at Clark in 1977. At first it was the joint collection of three or four faculty members' personal collections. But the library soon was given its own budget and we generally included support in our research grants to build the library. Indeed, we made an early decision as a research group in the 1970s that the library would be the valuable resource that would support our long-term research. Over the years the library was in three locations, to the current facility which is a magnificent old Queen Anne building which is on the historical registry. The library now has about 20,000 catalogued titles, receives about 400 journals and newsletters, and has a number of specialized risk collections in it. There is also an uncatalogued collection about as large as the catalogued items. It can be accessed electronically and by direct usage. Many risk scholars have visited the library and it has been the intellectual home for two generations of graduate students who have written their PhDs and MAs on risk topics. And Jeanne herself was a vast resource on the risk literature with a seemingly unerring ability to come up with exactly the references needed for someone trying to find elusive information or historical writings on risk.

Jeanne also ran the book exhibit at the SRA meetings for a number of years and was currently working on the history project with Paul Deisler and Dick Schwing.

I am Jeanne's biggest admirer.

We remember Jeanne:

As the shy, soft-spoken student's wife at the University of Chicago. She was the youngest and I perhaps the oldest, and so began our lifelong friendship.

As the colleague, coauthor, fellow research scientist whose green pen made our grammar passable and somehow tolerated our split infinitives.

As the daughter, mother, sibling, wife who loved and worried over, fretted, and cared for more people than any of us could imagine.

As the beautiful mature woman, elegant in her earrings and red gown, with her handsome husband in the State Department reception rooms at one of life's great moments.

We remember Jeanne:

Because she remembered everything and was our walking library, oral history, and Greek chorus.

Because she made us believe that if she could put all the books, papers, and scraps of paper on an important subject such as nuclear waste or hunger together in one room we would understand enough to know what needs to be done.

And somehow it was even better if we didn't have to pay for the books, papers, and scraps of paper.

We remember Jeanne:

Because a meal with her was never a meal but a work of art, a celebration, a reaffirmation of family and friendship.

Because she never overwhelmed me with all she knew but always knew what I would want to know.

Because of the books she loved and always shared and the great authors we would have never known without her.

Because she listened carefully to what was being said, we know that for her, responses, though sparing in words, were always appropriate and therefore validating.

We remember Jeanne:

Because of her quiet in a collective and her intimate candor in person.

Because she was the best person to invite to a potluck dinner.

Because she both suffered with dignity and fought with tenacity the many slights of recognition or misrecognition that late bloomers, professional women, and great partners experience in their careers.

We remember Jeanne with BJ, Joy, LuAnne, Mary, Mimi, and all who are here and everywhere that she advised, befriended, mentored, taught her skills, and shared what she knew.

Not for her long life but for her rich life, for the richness she shared with her children, her brother and sisters, her life partner, and with us.

*Ellie and Bob Kates, friends and colleague
4 September 2002 Southbridge, Massachusetts*

Mitchell J. Small

Mitchell J. Small, a senior member of the Engineering and Public Policy (EPP) faculty at Carnegie Mellon University, has been awarded the H. John Heinz III Professorship of Environmental Engineering. The Heinz Professorship is funded by the Vira I. Heinz Endowment and honors the memory of Senator John Heinz, who was an innovative force for action and practical design of important environmental initiatives, including the Clean Air Act, groundwater protection, and legislation aimed at protecting the world's rain forests. The endowment provides fellowship funds for graduate students and seed salary, supply, and travel funds for Professor Small's research. This research involves mathematical modeling and statistical evaluation of environmental quality, exposure, and risk with application to air, soil, surface-water, and groundwater pollution problems. Small's recent work has evolved to consider the impact of human risk perception and behavior in exposure assessment and has included collaboration with statisticians, toxicologists, economists, and behavioral and decision scientists.

Small, who serves as Associate Head for Graduate Education in EPP, is currently authoring another book with two former students on integrated modeling of pollutant transport, fate, and exposure. Much of his work has involved the application of advanced Bayesian statistical methods to problems in environmental science and policy.

For the Society for Risk Analysis, Small has served as a Councilor since 1999 and is currently editing, with Tim McDaniels of the University of British Columbia, a set of white papers for the Society's upcoming World Congress on Risk, planned for June 2003 in Brussels, Belgium.

Dale Hattis

Dale Hattis, a research professor with Clark University's Center for Technology, Environment, and Development at the George Perkins Marsh Institute, has been appointed to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board. Hattis will serve on the Environmental Health Committee, which reviews risk analyses, programs, and priorities for the reduction of environmental health hazards for the EPA.

Ortwin Renn and Eugene A. Rosa

Risk, Uncertainty, and Rational Action, written by SRA members Ortwin Renn and Eugene Rosa (with Carlo Jaeger and Thomas Webler), has won the 2000-2002 outstanding publication award of the Section on Environment and Technology of the American Sociological Association.

George Gray

SRA member George Gray, along with David Ropeik, has written *Risk: A Practical Guide for Deciding What's Really Safe and What's Really Dangerous in the World Around You*. Described as an indispensable and timely guide, *Risk* is the authority for assessing threats to health and safety. This family reference is designed to help readers understand worrisome risks so they can decide how to stay safe and how to keep risks in perspective. The book includes information on 50 top hazards, your likelihood of exposure, the consequences, and ways to reduce your risk and covers topics such as cancer, biological weapons, indoor air pollution, pesticides, and radiation.

Risk is available through Mariner Books, ISBN 0618143726 (<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog>). <>>



Specialty Groups

Risk Communication Specialty Group

Katherine McComas, Chair

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) has a terrific schedule of activities during the 2002 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The business meeting will take place on Monday evening, 9 December, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join us for a “happy hour” and learn how to become more involved with the RCSG. This year, we will elect a new Vice-Chair and three new members (including a new student representative) to the executive committee. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome. Please direct nominations or inquiries to me at mccomas@wam.umd.edu, Robert O’Connor at roconnor@nsf.gov, or any other member of the executive committee. We will also announce this year’s winner of the RCSG’s annual student paper competition at the meeting.

On Tuesday morning, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., we will hold a syllabus exchange and roundtable discussion related to teaching courses in risk communication and risk perception. Whether you have taught or taken a course in these or related areas, or simply have an interest in learning more about this topic, please plan to attend this informal, friendly discussion on teaching. Those of you who would like to share a syllabus are most encouraged to do so! We hope to post syllabi on the RCSG Web site in the near future to serve the needs of the greater community in risk communication.

In addition to these activities, you can look forward to more than five dozen papers and posters at the annual meeting that represent cutting-edge research in risk communication and risk perception.

As always, we invite all SRA members to visit our Web site (<http://www.sra.org/rcsg>), sign up for the risk-com listserv (visit the Web site for instructions to join), and join our specialty group. See you in the Crescent City!

Risk Science and Law Specialty Group

John Applegate, Chair

The Risk Science and Law Specialty Group (RSLSG) is looking forward to sponsoring two two-part symposia at this year’s annual meeting in New Orleans: the impact of the genomic revolution on risk assessment (9 December at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) and recent developments in risk and the law (10 December at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.).

Our annual business meeting will follow immediately after the developments symposium, and business will be followed by a mixer. We hope that all SRA members who are interested in joining the RSLSG—or just want to know more about what we do—will attend these events.

The specialty group is also organizing a luncheon program at the World Congress on Risk in Brussels, Belgium. The program takes place on 25 June 2003 and the topic is “Risk, Sustainable Development, and International Law.” Specialty group members Michael Rogers and Jonathan Wiener are leading this effort.

For further information about the Risk Science and Law Specialty Group, contact Chair John Applegate at jsapple@indiana.edu.

Food/Water Safety Risk Specialty Group

Cristina McLaughlin, Acting Chair

Greetings fellow SRA members.

The Food/Water Safety Risk Specialty Group (FWSRSG) is organized to focus on the particular risk analysis issues and challenges posed by hazards in the food and water consumed and used by humans and animals. Of primary concern are biological, chemical, and physical hazards that are naturally occurring or result from substances intentionally or unintentionally added during production or processing (such as pesticides, food additives, and drinking-water disinfectants).

The FWSRSG has had a busy year planning events for the upcoming SRA meetings in New Orleans. One of the objectives of the FWSRSG is to foster and promote multidisciplinary interaction and collaboration among our colleagues for food and water safety drinking issues. Thus, for the upcoming annual meeting the FWSRSG is cosponsoring two full-day workshops:

SRA Workshop Number 5: “Mechanistic Dose Response Modeling for Microbial Risk Assessment,” cosponsored with the Dose Response Specialty Group. The objective of the workshop is to discuss ways to improve microbial dose-response modeling and to generate a list of the key issues to be addressed when developing mechanistic models for microbial risk assessment. Mechanistic dose-response models allow consideration of the factors that affect the likelihood that an ingested organism will cause disease and help predict the severity of the outcome. Development of mechanistic models requires an understanding of the virulence capacity of the pathogen, including genetic/gene expression factors, the mode of action of the pathogen, including human physiological and immune responses, and food matrix factors that may modulate the pathogen’s ability to cause infection. Speakers will discuss their research in this area and will address the gastrointestinal infectious disease process, gastric survival of microorganisms, the role of the immune system, and the use of animal models and tissue culture data in the context of developing mechanistic dose-response models for microbial risk assessment.

SRA Workshop Number 6: “From Quantitative Risk Assessment to Cost-Benefit Analysis: Tools, Methods, and Techniques,” cosponsored with the newly formed Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group. Designed for both economists and risk assessors, this workshop will use one or more case studies, which will illustrate the advantages of integrating risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis. In the afternoon, the workshop participants will break out into small groups in which they will have the opportunity, in the context of the case study (acrylamide in food), to formulate their own recommendations for integrating risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis. The goal of the workshop will be to encourage participants to produce a new kind of “risk analysis” that will help generate new and better answers to risk policy questions.

Both workshops will feature world-leading researchers and modelers, including Arie Havelaar (RIVM, The Netherlands), Bob Buchanan and Darcy Hanes (FDA CFSAN), Mark Sobsey, (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), H. Kirk Ziegler, (Emory University School of Medicine), and Phil Tarr, (University of Washington School of Medicine) for Workshop 5 and Randall Lutter (AEI-Brookings), Richard Williams, Richard Canady and

Dom Mancini (FDA-CFSAN), Charles Griffith (EPA), Sue Ferenc (SAF-Risk), and Scott Farrow (GAO) for Workshop 6.

In addition to sponsoring the workshops, the FWSRSG worked with the Conference Program Committee to ensure that food/water-related symposia and presentations have as little scheduling and subject matter conflict as possible.

The FWSRSG is also cohosting a mixer with the Dose Response Specialty Group on Tuesday, 10 December, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dr. Arie Havelaar will address both groups with a presentation of common interest.

For more information about the FWSRSG-sponsored events visit the FWSRSG Web site at <http://members.tripod.com/Cristina704/Foodrisk/> or go to <http://www.sra.org> and follow the links. You can also contact Cristina McLaughlin at 301-436-1978 or Cristina.McLaughlin@cfsan.fda.gov or Don Schaffner at 732-932-9611 x 214 or Schaffner@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Exposure Assessment Specialty Group

Pamela Williams, Chair

The Exposure Assessment Specialty Group (EASG) is pleased to announce that several diverse exposure-related symposia will be hosted at the 2002 SRA Annual Meeting. EASG extends a special thanks to all symposium organizers, as well

as all persons who have agreed to chair and participate in these sessions. Topics include Multi-Media Exposure Analysis, Evaluating Children's Exposures and Health Risk, Use of Biomonitoring Data in Exposure and Risk Analyses, Quantitative Approaches for Estimating Historical Exposures (Dose Reconstruction), and Significant Changes in Food Consumption Data Collection: Implications for Risk Assessors.

For those presenters who are interested in preparing a paper for peer-review, *Risk Analysis: An International Journal* will be sponsoring a "special issue" on the exposure assessment symposium topics. For more details, please contact Rick Reiss, Managing Editor, at 703-684-0123.

As a reminder, EASG will be hosting a "game show" theme mixer on Monday (10 December) from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., complete with food, drinks, and prizes. Please join us for this special event. The EASG business meeting will be held directly following the mixer (7:00-7:30 p.m.). All SRA members and participants are welcome to attend this meeting—we will discuss potential upcoming activities and long-range objectives for the exposure specialty group.

Contact information for Pamela Williams: Exponent, 4940 Pearl East Circle, Ste. 300, Boulder, CO 80301; phone: 720-406-8115; fax: 303-444-7528; email: pwilliams@exponent.com. <>>



SRA-Europe

"Integrated Risk Management: Strategic, Technical, and Organisational Perspectives" Report from the 12th Annual Conference of the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe

Andrea T. Thalmann, Information Officer



This year's annual Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) conference was held 21-24 July 2002 at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Peter M. Wiedemann, the new President of SRA-E, and Dr. Martin Clauberg from the Research Centre Juelich, Germany. The conference was located in the historical area of former East Berlin. The impressive building of the Humboldt University, founded in 1810, contributed to the stimulating atmosphere, enabling interesting presentations and in-depth discussions.

Integrated Risk Management

The conference was structured around the statements that management of the future must evolve to become integrative. Risks abound from all directions: some small and frequent, some large but rare. Managing diverse risks of different nature, intents, and flavors requires a coming together of strategic, technical, and organisational perspectives. More than 140 presentations (in addition to the poster session) were given on the three days. The various and varied contributions had been organised under the five umbrella topics: (a) holes in holistic risk management, (b) early recognition of risks and rare events, (c) opening the process: integrating stakeholders and stake-seekers, (d) integrating precautionary principle in risk-based decision making, and (e) risk management of intangible assets.

Conference Opening

The first plenary session was opened by the three SRA-E presidents talking on "Integrated Risk Management: Past, Present, and Future." Looking back on the development of the discipline, Professor Dr. Joyce Tait, who is the Past President of SRA-E, appreciated the current state of risk analysis as a discipline. Compared to its beginning, she addressed important milestones in its development and linked them to her professional career.

Dr. Jose Palma-Oliveira, who was the current and outgoing President of SRA-E until the end of the conference, specified risk analysis as a "vertical" science. In his view, risk analysis can be characterised as a cross-sectional scientific discipline which draws upon many other basic scientific disciplines—which he called "horizontal" sciences—such as physics, nuclear science, EMF research, biotechnology, disaster research, etc.

The incoming President of SRA-E, Dr. Peter M. Wiedemann, emphasised the need for integrative decision making in the risk analysis of the future. In his speech he outlined three crucial issues that will have to be taken into consideration: (a) integration of environmental risk, (b) comparative risk management, and (c) integration of quality of life in risk assessment. Concerning integrative risk management, Wiedemann mentioned four

issues that will be of further and future interest: trust, participation, public understanding, and precaution.

New President of SRA-E

Peter Wiedemann, DPhil, is the Director of the Programme Group MUT (Humans, Environment, Technology) at the Research Centre Juelich, Germany. Dr. Wiedemann has held academic teaching appointments at the Technical University Berlin, Department of Psychology, and is currently teaching at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Educated at the Humboldt University and the Technical University in Berlin (psychology), he has been with the Research Centre Juelich, Germany, since 1988. Wiedemann is an internationally recognized expert in the field of risk communication and served as an elected member of the group "Radiation Risk" of the National Radiation Protection Commission in Germany. He also served as a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) task force on risk communication, the Scientific Expert Group of the National Action Program "Environment and Health," and the EMF Communication Group at the WHO EMF Project. Wiedemann is head of the working group "Risk Communication" of the German Association of Engineers (VDI) and contributed to the "OECD Issue Team on Risk Communication."



Wiedemann is a member of the editorial board of *Risk Research* and *Risk, Decision, and Policy*, a Councilor for the international Society for Risk Analysis, and now President of the SRA-Europe.

Presentations and Participants

The following three days of the conference included 34 sessions with 140 presentations and 17 posters of an overall remarkable high standard. Around 200 delegates from various professional fields attended the conference. Delegates came from almost all European countries. Besides good representation from the academic community, many people from governmental, nongovernmental organization, private, and industrial sectors attended.

The session topics included Application of Risk Communi-

cation; Electromagnetic Fields; Precautionary Principle; Risk Perception of Disasters, of Nuclear Context, and of Biotechnology; Risk Management of Catastrophes; Decision Making Under Uncertainty; Integrative Risk Management; Early Recognition of Early Signals; Risk Governance and Failures; Operational and Finance Risk Management; International Risk Management; Holistic Frames of Risk Management; Probabilistic Exposure and Risk Assessment; Integrated Coastal Protection; Media Influence on Risk; and Information Technologies.

For more details about the presentations please take a look at SRA-E's new Web URL address www.sraeurope.org.

Student Award

The winner of the Best Student/Junior Researcher presentation-award was Philipp van Notten (Maastricht University, The Netherlands) for his presentation "We Didn't See it Coming: The Subjective Nature of Signal Detection." The award was sponsored by the "Stiftung Umwelt und Schadensvorsorge" (see <http://www.stiftung-schadenvorsorge.de>).

Evaluation

The conference evaluation forms showed a very positive picture of this year's SRA-E conference. In general, Berlin as a city to hold the conference was highly appreciated by the participants. The preparation of the conference and conference arrangements had been highly rated and appreciated.

The scientific program was rated slightly above average. The daily morning plenary session had been evaluated as very good. Among other sessions, four sessions had been highlighted by the participants: "Risk Communication and EMF" (on Monday), "Exposure and Risk" and "Empirical Research in Risk Perception" (both on Tuesday), and "Early Recognition of Early Signals" (on Wednesday). For detailed information see www.sraeurope.org.

Outlook

Next year's SRA-Europe Conference will be integrated in the next year's World Congress in Brussels, Belgium. SRA-Europe looks forward to this important event and being an active partner. <<>>

Risk Analysis: An International Journal **An Official Publication of the Society for Risk Analysis**

Risk Analysis provides a focal point for new developments in risk analysis for scientists from a wide range of disciplines. The analysis of risks is being increasingly viewed as a field in itself, and the demand for a more orderly and formal treatment of risks is great. *Risk Analysis* is designed to meet these needs of organization, integration, and communication. The journal covers topics of great interest to regulators, researchers, and scientific administrators. It deals with health risks, engineering, mathematical, and theoretical aspects of risks, and social and psychological aspects of risk such as risk perception, acceptability, economics, and ethics. All scientific articles in *Risk Analysis* are fully peer reviewed.

Editor-in-Chief: Elizabeth L. Anderson (elanderson@sciences.com)

Editors Emeriti: Robert Cumming and Curtis Travis

Managing Editor: Richard Reiss (rreiss@sciences.com)

Area Editor for Ecological and Environmental Risk Assessment: Bruce Hope (hope.bruce@deq.state.or.us)

Area Editor for Engineering: Ali Mosleh (mosleh@eng.umd.edu)

Area Editor for Health Risk Assessment: Suresh Moolgavkar (smoolgav@fhrc.org)

Area Editor for Social and Decision Sciences: Jeryl L. Mumpower (mumpower@albany.edu)

Subscription and submission information can be found on the SRA Web site (<http://www.sra.org/journal.htm>).



Chapter News

Greater Pittsburgh Chapter News

Paul Scott, President

The 8 October 2002 meeting of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter included a talk by Dr. Bernard Goldstein titled "The Precautionary Principle and Risk Assessment in Regulatory Actions and in World Trade." Goldstein is the Dean of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and President-elect of the Society for Risk Analysis.

The chapter will finish the year with a special workshop for students who are presenting at various professional, academic, and technical conferences. This workshop will allow the students to give a five-minute summary of the poster presentations that they plan on presenting at the various conferences and receive feedback from local risk professionals. A prize will be given for the best presentation.

More information on the future chapter meetings can be found on the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter Web site at <http://sra.elet.com>.

Southern California

Mohan Balagopalan, President

The Southern California Chapter (SCSRA) held its 15th Annual Workshop on 23 May 2002 at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). The theme for the Workshop was Human Health Risk, Infrastructure Protection, and Vulnerability Assessment.

The session on Human Health Risk included presentations on Indoor Air Risk from Molds, Assessment of Carcinogen Impacts on Early Life Exposures, and the Health and Risk Issues Associated with Electric Generation Facilities.

The session on Infrastructure Protection and Vulnerability Assessment included topics of current interest such as Chemical Threats to Water Supply in Southern California, Crisis/Risk Communication, and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology for Chemical Facilities. The Annual Workshop was another success for the Southern California Chapter and well received by all attendees.

For those SRA members interested in the presentations given at the SCSRA 2002 Annual Workshop, a limited number of free CDs is available. If interested, please email mbalagopalan@aqmd.gov.

At the May 2002 annual business meeting, held at the Annual Workshop, outgoing President Don Greenlee of BioTox Services passed on the "gavel" to the new officers. The officers for 2002/2003 are President Mohan Balagopalan of South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), President-elect Anna Olekszyk of Los Angeles City Fire Department, Treasurer Linda Basilio of AQMD, Secretary Paul Beswick of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Ali Ghasemi of AQMD as a new Councilor.

SCSRA activities planned for 2002/2003 include several dinner meetings, a special one-day seminar on 9 December 2002 on Security and Vulnerability Assessment in the Water and Chemical Industries (interested parties should email Krishna_nand@parsons.com), and the 16th Annual Workshop on 15 May 2003 at UCLA.

The chapter will continue publishing *RISK Resources*, a quarterly newsletter serving as a resource for risk assessment and

risk management information in Southern California, which is free to its members.

For further information on SCSRA activities, please visit www.sra.org/scc.

New England Chapter

Susan Matkoski, Newsletter Coordinator

New Officers

We congratulate the newly elected officers of the New England Chapter of SRA (SRA-NE): President Marion Harnois, co-Presidents-elect, Jennifer Charles and Rob Goble, and our reelected Secretary and Treasurer Karen Vetrano and Arlene Levin, respectively. Paul Locke and Susan Matkoski continue in their respective roles of Webmaster and Newsletter Coordinator. Much appreciation is owed to outgoing President Joseph Regna, who now fulfills the role of Past President. Joseph's efforts in the past year produced informative seminars on subjects such as the risk assessment of workplace and physical hazards, scientific knowledge and policy disputes, and alternatives to risk assessment.

On 25 July SRA-NE cosponsored a special summer session on Ecological Risk Assessment with ICF Consulting (formerly Arthur D. Little). Lawrence A. Kapustka, PhD, President and Senior Ecotoxicologist, of Ecological Planning and Toxicology, Inc., Corvallis, Oregon, presented a talk titled "Ecological Risk Assessments in Terrestrial Systems: Discussion of Habitat Characterization and Food Webs" and Igor Linkov, PhD, Senior Risk Assessor, ICF Consulting, Inc., Lexington, Massachusetts, presented a talk titled "Spatially Explicit Risk-Based Approaches for Assessing Environmental Value and Reuse Options at Contaminated Sites."

2002-2003 Seminar Series

On 18 September we welcomed both Mark E. Hahn, PhD, Associate Scientist in the Biology Department at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and Dale Hattis, PhD, Research Professor with the Center for Technology, Environment, and Development (CENTED) of the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University.

Dr. Hahn's talk was titled "Susceptibility Genes and Dioxin Resistance in Fish Inhabiting a Superfund Site." He described the variability in genotype of fish populations, which are relatively resistant to, but bioaccumulate, toxic environmental chemicals.

Dr. Hattis presented the topic "Should We Adjust our Current Cancer Potency Factors to Account for Likely Differences in Sensitivity Between Children and Adults?" He described a joint effort by him and Gary Ginsberg on the analysis of toxicity data from young and adult groups to see if there is a difference in susceptibility to cancer.

On 9 October we welcomed Dr. David Smith of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), who presented "The USGS National Geochemical Database (NGDB) and Its Use in Determining 'Background' Concentrations of Trace Elements in Surficial Materials," and Dr. Niel Wald, who presented "A New Database for Potential Use in Radiation Risk Assessment."

Smith provided a short summary of the evolution of the NGDB, discussion of regional- and national-scale data sets within the NGDB, examples from New England of how the

database has been used to determine and map geochemical baselines, and a summary of current efforts to collect new samples and generate new data to improve the usefulness of the NGDB. It is notable that the NGDB contains inorganic chemical analyses for approximately two million samples of geologic material collected since the late 1960s. The primary sample media represented in the database are unconsolidated sediments (from streams and lakes), rocks, and soils. Also represented in the database are analyses of plants, water, and organic fuels (primarily coal).

Wald discussed how detailed longitudinal data on human occupational (internal and external) exposures to ionizing radiation (defense-related activities in the Russian Federation have resulted in significant occupational radiation exposures to tens of thousands of nuclear workers) and their resulting clinical outcomes represent an important addition to the currently available data that can be used for research and regulatory purposes.

The upcoming 2002-2003 seminar dates are 13 November, 17 November, 8 January, 12 February, 3 March (special session), 9 April, 14 May, and 11 June. In addition, a possible joint session with the local chapter of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) may be scheduled in April or May.

The 13 November seminar will feature V.J. Cogliano, PhD, of EPA, who will present on the topic of EPA Cancer Guidelines.

SRA-NE Membership

To become a member of the SRA-NE Chapter, contact Secretary Karen Vetrano (860-298-6351, kvetrano@trcsolutions.com) or Treasurer Arlene Levin (781-674-7369, Arlene.Levin@erg.com).

Also, you may keep in touch with SRA-NE news and events by visiting our Web site: www.sra-ne.org.

Research Triangle Chapter News

Paul M. Schlosser, President

On 3-4 October, the Research Triangle Chapter (RTC-SRA), in collaboration with the Carolinas Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (CSETAC), held a workshop titled "Emerging Contaminants in the Aquatic Environment: Risk and Regulatory Perspectives."

The workshop addressed recent findings by environmental chemists of personal- and animal-care products that have previously not been a focus of attention, including prescription and over-the-counter human and veterinary pharmaceuticals (for example, analgesics, antibiotics, reproductive hormones, steroids), chemicals found in an array of personal-care products and consumer items (for example, antimicrobials and other disinfectants, fragrances), as well as antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Christian Daughton of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Dana Kolpin of the U.S. Geological Survey provided keynote talks covering the initial observations of these compounds. A number of other speakers focused on observations, measurements, and concerns raised primarily in North Carolina waters but also in the Gulf of Mexico.

Then speakers in the second half of the workshop focused on risk assessments for these materials—both what has been traditionally done in registering pharmaceuticals and personal-care products and analyses focused on the recent findings.

The workshop closed with a discussion of research needs and remaining questions. While most pharmaceutical compounds appear to be present at levels well below concern in

surveyed surface waters, a few with particularly high activity warrant further attention. Also of considerable concern is the finding of multiple antibiotic-resistant bacteria in waters below large-scale animal production facilities. A significant unanswered question is the extent to which the cumulative exposure to a variety of these compounds may be significant, or significantly additive to the effects of other pollutants such as pesticides and industrial compounds which might have a similar mode of action, even when they are individually below levels of concern.

For a full list of speakers and titles, see <http://www.rtc-sra.org/SpeakersNTitles.pdf>. Abstracts and slides from some speakers will be available via our Web site: <http://www.rtc-sra.org/>. RTC-SRA and CSETAC gratefully acknowledge the support of the Toxicology Program at North Carolina State University for use of its building and conference room for the meeting, and ARCADIS, G&M, Inc., and the CIIT Centers for Health Research for logistical support.

Northern California Chapter

Liz Miesner, Councilor/Past President NCCSRA

The Northern California Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (NCCSRA) held its fall meeting on Tuesday, 29 October 2002, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Elihu M. Harris State Building in downtown Oakland. This afternoon seminar, titled "Challenges of Emerging Chemicals," focused on chemicals that are potential regulatory, public health, and environmental challenges for the coming years.

Speakers included John Gregson from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission discussing "Consumer Chemicals as Indicators of Wastewater Contamination"; Thomas Mohr from the Santa Clara Valley Water District discussing "1,4-Dioxane and Other Stabilizer Compounds in the Environment"; Renae Magaw from the ChevronTexaco Energy Research and Technology Company discussing "Naphthalene, Ethylbenzene—Times They Are A-Changin'. Now What?"; and Thomas McDonald from the California Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Health Hazard discussing "Acrylamide in Foods."

If you would like to become a member of the NCCSRA and join us for future events, please contact Secretary Michele Emerson Amaral at 415-492-2805 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.

New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metro Chapter

Rao Kolluru, President

In a meeting held in New York in November 2002, Philip O'Neill, President of Quantitative Decision Support, spoke on Assessing the Risks Induced by Dependency Relationships. The focus was on concerns about terrorism and deliberate sabotage of infrastructure. His RiskOutlook model identifies the most significant impact drivers and the most critical vulnerabilities that they face, including potential cascading effects in terms of cumulative degree of impact and probability of occurrence.

If you would like a copy of the presentation, email Dr. Rao Kolluru (raokollur@aol.com) or Dr. Philip O'Neill (mjoneill0658@rogers.com).

Chapitre Saint-Laurent, SRA-SETAC

Louis Martel, Director

Anne-Marie Lafortune, President

On 6 and 7 June 2002, the Chapitre Saint-Laurent SRA-SETAC held its sixth annual symposium at the "Hotel Palace Royal" in Québec city. This year's theme was "Materialize sustainable development: Research and achievements." The symposium was a great success, with over 140 participants from academia, government, industry, and private consultants.

A new activity was offered this year: a one-day course was held 5 June on the theme "Understanding environmental analysis results." It was organized jointly by the Chapitre Saint-Laurent and the Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec. This première for the Chapitre Saint-Laurent was a real success, with over 40 participants.

The first day of the symposium started with a plenary session with our guest speaker, Mr. Robert Lemieux, Head of the Industrial sector, Climatic changes, and Sustainable development Directorate of the ministère de l'Environnement du Québec, who discussed the importance of environmental sciences in implementing sustainable development. Lemieux was followed by three keynote speakers.

Mr. Pierre Beaulieu, Head of Environment, Health, and Security at the Alcan complex in Alma (Québec), discussed the importance of an integrated environment-economy-society approach to implement sustainable development in industries; Mr. Claude Villeneuve, professor at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, presented an interesting critique of the relation between science and the precautionary principle; and Dr. Mark Servos, Immediate Past President of SETAC and Project Chief for Priority Substances Exposure at the National Water Research Institute of Environment Canada, presented his view on how each of us can contribute to a sustainable global environment.

This plenary session was followed by a dynamic poster session with 21 presentations. In the afternoon of this first day of the symposium and in the morning of the second day, a total of 39 platform communications was presented in three parallel sessions.

This first day ended with a cocktail during which attendees had the opportunity to taste specialties of Québec's "terroir." This very popular activity was also an occasion for students to network with professional members of Chapitre Saint-Laurent.

Many presence prizes were attributed, including 10 books from SETAC Press.

The corporate meeting of the Chapitre Saint-Laurent was held at the very beginning of the second day. During this meeting, the 2002-2003 Board of Directors was selected: President Anne-Marie Lafortune, Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec; Vice President Caroline Olsen, COREM; Treasurer Paul Benoît, Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec; Secretary Alexandra Lacroix, Centre TOXEN, Université du Québec à Montréal; Past President Sylvain Loranger, QSAR Risk Assessment Service Inc.; and Directors David Berryman, ministère de l'Environnement du Québec; Christian Gagnon, St. Lawrence Centre, Environment Canada; and Louis Martel, Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec.

We wish to thank the members of the past Board of Directors for their work and welcome the new ones.

In the afternoon of the second day, a debate was held on the theme "From words to actions in sustainable development: are environmental sciences playing their part?" Five speakers

were invited to shortly address this topic: Dr. Louise Deschênes, Polytechnic School of the Université de Montréal; Mr. Michel Cloghesy, Québec Business Centre on the Environment; Ms. Isabelle Guay, ministère de l'Environnement du Québec; Mr. Jean Laperrière, Norsk Hydro; and Mr. Harvey Mead, Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature (UQCN). Many questions were raised by the audience and an interesting debate followed, with Mr. André Delisle of Transfert Environnement acting as moderator.

The symposium ended with the Student Awards presentation and the two \$2,000 grants offered by the Chapitre Saint-Laurent to MS and PhD students. The laureates of the grants were Ms. Anne Gosselin, of the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, INRS-ETE, for her MSc research project "Trace metals exposure and toxicity in two aquatic insects larvae: role of behavior" and Ms. Véronique Séguin, of the Université de Montréal, for her

PhD research project "Solid phase fractionation of metals in forest soils rhizosphere as affected by organic matter."

The laureates of the best student platform presentations awards were Mr. José Sarica, of the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, INRS-ETE (first prize *ex equo*: \$200 from CIRTOX), for his oral presentation "Impacts of the fish car-



The poster session is a major activity of the Chapitre Saint-Laurent Annual Symposium.



Panel of the debate held on Friday, 6 June, "From words to actions in sustainable development: are environmental sciences playing their part?" (from left to right): Mr. Jean Laperrière, Norsk Hydro; Mr. Harvey Mead, UQCN; Mr. André Delisle, Transfert Environnement; Mr. Michel Cloghesy, Québec Business Centre on the Environment; Dr. Louise Deschênes, Polytechnic School of the Université de Montréal; Ms. Isabelle Guay, ministère de l'Environnement du Québec.

cases on the mercury cycle in the aquatic systems,” and Mr. Martin Lacroix, of the Centre TOXEN of the Université du Québec à Montréal (first prize *ex equo*: \$200 from SETAC, SRA, and Chapitre Saint-Laurent), for his oral presentation “Disturbance of the signal pathway leading to the cortisol synthesis in the interrenales cells of the rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): In vitro acute exposure effects of the o,p'-DDD.”

The laureates of the best student poster presentations awards were Ms. Élyse Ménard, of the Université de Sherbrooke (first prize: \$200 from CIRTOX), for her poster presentation

“Guidelines development for the elaboration of bioccentration factors for plants and soil invertebrates,” and Mr. Gérald Côté, of the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, INRS-ETE (second prize: \$50 from SETAC and \$50 from SRA), for his poster presentation “Study of the interactions between aluminium and green alga *Chlorella pyrenoidosa* in systems containing fluorides (bioaccumulation and toxicity).”

We would like to thank all the members of the organizing committee and the volunteers who helped us to make this Symposium a success. We also thank the speakers and participants for their essential contribution. The Chapitre Saint-Laurent is also grateful to the sponsors for their generous financial support: Hydro-Québec, Cambior, Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec, Alcan, Bureau de la Capitale Nationale du Québec, INRS-ETE, Université du Québec, QSAR Risk Assessment Service Inc., PerkinElmer Instru-



First prize (*ex equo*) for best student platform (from left to right): Ms. Anne-Marie Lafortune, President of Chapitre Saint-Laurent; Mr. Martin Lacroix, Centre TOXEN of the Université du Québec à Montréal, receiving his award; Mr. Serge Vézina from Cambior, Chairman of 6th Annual Symposium; Mr. José Sarica, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, INRS-ETE, receiving his award; Dr. Lise Parent, Télé-Université, Coordinator of the best student presentations awards.

ments, CIRAIG, Université de Montréal, Centre TOXEN, Université du Québec à Montréal, SETAC, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Biotechnology Research Institute, Claisse Corporation, Centre d'excellence de Montréal en réhabilitation de sites (CEMRS), Roche Ltd, Shell, Norampac, Division Québec, COREM, Centre de recherche en environnement UQAM Sorel-Tracy, Transfert Environnement, Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec, and CIRTOX, Centre de recherche interuniversitaire en toxicologie.

Our next annual symposium will be held in Montréal in May 2003. Anyone interested in taking part in the organisation of this event is invited to contact a member of the Board of Directors.

All through the year, the Board of Directors, which met six



2002 grants of the Chapitre Saint-Laurent (from left to right): Ms. Anne-Marie Lafortune, President of Chapitre Saint-Laurent; Mr. Serge Vézina from Cambior, Chairman of 6th Annual Symposium; Ms. Véronique Séguin, Université de Montréal, receiving her \$2,000 PhD grant; Dr. Raynald Chassé, Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec, Coordinator of the grants board; Ms. Anne Gosselin, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, INRS-ETE, receiving her \$2,000 MSc grant.

times, has worked hard to promote the Chapitre through its activities and committees. We welcome those interested in taking part in the activities of the Chapitre Saint-Laurent to contact us. Apart from the annual symposium, the Chapitre Saint-Laurent also organized seminars in Montréal (jointly with the Centre TOXEN) and Québec (jointly with the Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale du Québec). More details on the Chapitre Saint-Laurent, including its grant program

for MSc and PhD students, can be found at <http://chapitre-saint-laurent.qc.ca>.

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Want to Exhibit or Display a Book at the 2002 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting?

The SRA Annual Meeting takes place this year 8-11 December 2002 in New Orleans, Louisiana. With over 400 abstracts submitted, we are expecting a record attendance. What better place for you to promote your books and journals on risk analysis, decision making, technology assessment, occupational health and safety, natural and technological hazards and disasters, and environmental issues?

Don't miss this opportunity to exhibit at this meeting, held at the Marriott New Orleans, which affords you the opportunity to meet the decision makers in the field. The speakers at this meeting represent the most recognized names in the industry and will attract a broad spectrum of attendees.

Complete information is available at www.sra.org or call to have information faxed to you (703-790-1745). If you would like to exhibit or display a book, contact Lori Strong at 703-790-1745.



Advertisements

Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) Position Announcement

Position: Food Safety Risk Analysis Clearinghouse Director for the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN)

Type: Faculty, Contingent II (Contractual) Full Time

Location: University of Maryland, JIFSAN College Park, MD

Applications: Will be accepted until 4 January 2003

Salary: Commensurate with experience

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will serve as the Director of the Food Safety Risk Analysis Clearinghouse. The aim of the Clearinghouse is to assist those professionals involved with any of the many aspects of risk analysis as it pertains to the safety of our food. The Clearinghouse provides data, tutorials, tools, and links to numerous sources of information. In addition to providing resources for the food safety risk analysis professional, the Clearinghouse provides consumer-oriented links. The successful candidate will have opportunities to work with a broad range of disciplines and the opportunity to contribute to a better understanding of food safety issues from multiple perspectives.

Qualifications: Applicants must have an MS or PhD degree, with a professional background in science, economics, or other discipline relevant to food safety risk analysis. Strong leadership skills are required. Familiarity with the language and concepts of risk analysis is critical. A strong background in information structure management is preferred. Academic training or practical experience demonstrating an ability to analyze the relevance and quality of food safety risk analysis information is desired. Academic training or practical experience in evaluating and analyzing risk analysis needs as they pertain to governmental regulatory and/or information policy (for example, collection and use of information, survey design) is desired.

In addition to a strong background in risk analysis, the successful applicant must have strong interpersonal and communication skills. Demonstrated ability to present ideas, reports, and recommendations clearly, both orally and in writing, is required. The successful applicant must have the ability to work independently and to organize work—sometimes in a high-pressure environment—so that diverse and conflicting work demands are met.

To apply: Applicants should submit a letter of application, current résumé, and the names, addresses, and contact information of three references to Search Committee: Clearinghouse Director, c/o Ms. Mary Grimley, Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), 0220 Symons Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Materials may also be submitted by email in MSWord or PDF format to mg49@umail.umd.edu.

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

Ri 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: 202.326.6700

E-mail: science_policy@aaas.org



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Advertisements

Social Science Research Training Fellowship for Junior Faculty

Applications are being solicited from junior faculty for a unique research training program aimed at fostering the next generation of social scientists addressing societal considerations of natural hazards and extreme events. This program, "Enabling the Next Generation of Hazard Researchers," is funded by the National Science Foundation and is being undertaken by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in collaboration with faculty from seven other universities. The program will consist of a two-year series of workshops, tutorials, and discussions focusing on practical advice about research initiation and research proposal development for social science research addressing hazards and extreme events. This is a unique opportunity for junior faculty who are early in their research careers. Participants will receive an honorarium and travel expenses to workshops and meetings with senior faculty mentors.

Deadline for applications: 1 March 2003.

For more details, please visit our Web site at <http://www.unc.edu/depts/curs/enabling/index.html>.

Please contact Leanna Hush (hush@email.unc.edu) or Dr. Raymond Burby (burby@email.unc.edu) for more information.

Society for Risk Analysis Web Site
www.sra.org

Deadline for RISK newsletter Submissions

Information to be included in the **First Quarter 2003** SRA RISK newsletter, to be mailed mid-February, should be sent to Mary Walchuk, RISK newsletter Managing Editor, no later than **5 January** (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; fax: 507-625-1792; email: mwalchuk@hickorytech.net).

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