



RISK newsletter

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The Society for Risk Analysis Welcomes New Council Members for 2006-2007



Kimberly Thompson
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Jonathan Wiener
President-elect



Louis Anthony Cox, Jr.
Treasurer



Luis Abdon Cifuentes
Councilor



Kara Morgan
Councilor



Olivier Salvi
Councilor

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President's Message

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2006 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting and made it an enormous success. I would particularly like to thank the members of the Annual Meeting Committee who did a terrific job on the program, David Hassenzahl who helped with the poster judging, the fabulous plenary speakers, the session chairs, and Lori Strong and the entire Burk & Associates team who made everything come together and run on schedule. We tried a number of experiments this year, including the Monday evening dedicated poster session and reception, the new formats for the lunches, and the closing wine and cheese reception, and I particularly appreciated the enthusiastic response to all of these changes. While I enjoyed the experience of planning the meeting, I am very excited to have our president-elect, Jonathan Wiener, planning the annual meeting for next year! Please watch your email for news about the Call for Abstracts for the 2007 meeting in San Antonio and start planning ahead.

As I write this, I am recognizing that this will be an exciting and action-packed year for the SRA. Here are some of the things to expect this year:

1. Proposed changes to the Bylaws—The Council has worked to update the Bylaws to reflect the current membership categories, committees, and awards and to create more flexibility for the SRA as we engage in discussions related to our structure (particularly the structure of what we currently call chapters and sections). Changes to the Bylaws require approval from the members, so please watch for an email message asking you to vote electronically for the proposed amendments to the Bylaws. These are very important because in recent years the Society has begun using membership categories that are not consistent with our current Bylaws, and we would like to fix the Bylaws to conform to our current practice. Thank you in advance for your support on this.

2. Refinement of the nonpolicy policy—In keeping with past decisions by the SRA Council, the SRA leadership has continued to refrain from making statements that take positions on policy issues. The SRA Council is now interested in exploring whether this “nonpolicy” policy should be revised to allow the SRA to take positions in support of the profession and excellence of risk analysis, as distinct from positions on particular policy issues. Because there are currently no specific issues forcing consideration of this question, I am committed to exploring this general question now when we can discuss it dispassionately. This effort is beginning with the question of how to characterize the kind or category of statements that the SRA could reasonably undertake, so if you have any suggestions please let me know.

3. An update of the glossary—As Chris Frey noted in his final President's Message, the question of terminology has come up for the SRA—again. Given the SRA's history with



H. Christopher Frey (left) and Kimberly Thompson

terminology that led to the current glossary on our Web site (which has not been updated for many years), I have committed to an effort to update the glossary. If you are interested in getting involved in this effort, please send me an email message to let me know and I will add your name to the group.

4. Structural issues—SRA's growth internationally continues to be exciting, and as we head into the Second World Congress on Risk in June 2008 the SRA is again considering different potential organizational structures. During this year, discussions will continue as we

assess our existing regional organizations (our chapters and sections) and explore ways to strengthen SRA's support of its members around the world and in specific regions (that is, locally to globally). I have committed to picking up this effort where Chris left off and to ensuring a smooth transition to Jonathan since this will inevitably be an issue that he will inherit when he becomes SRA president next year. I am very excited that two of the new councilors, Luis Cifuentes and Olivier Salvi, are playing a key role in these discussions and I look forward to engaging any and all other members who are interested in participating in the discussions.

5. Member benefits and SRA growth—I am very committed to helping SRA recognize its full potential and in making sure that we are attracting and retaining our members. We are working on creating an expert database that members can opt in to, which will serve as a new resource for people outside of the SRA looking for risk analysis experts. The Membership Committee will also soon be sending you a membership card and certificate and we are working on pins for members who have reached “milestone” years. The Communications Committee is also working to increase the visibility of articles published in *Risk Analysis* with press releases and on getting the media more interested in the SRA.

I hope that you agree that this is an exciting time to be an SRA member and that you will make 2007 a year to get more involved. Please send your suggestions and ideas, submit your papers to the journal, and attend the upcoming SRA events!

Kimberly Thompson

See information about the newest SRA award—the Distinguished Educator Award—on page 8.

Past President's Message

Internationalization of SRA

H. Christopher Frey

At the 2006 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting, a session was held on "Internationalization of SRA" on 6 December. During that session, I gave a talk on "International Structure of SRA: Strategic Planning," followed by discussion. Although SRA works well in many ways, there is some asymmetry in the hierarchy of sections and chapters. There is a need for better linkages among sections, chapters, and other parts of SRA, such as specialty groups. Although SRA was founded as a US-based organization, it is increasingly international, which presents opportunities for networking and development of collaborative projects. During my talk, I discussed the needs of SRA members, the status quo of the SRA organization and its implications, a brief history of discussions on the question of SRA's structure, a suggested methodology for redesigning the structure of SRA based on design principles, an alternative structure, a request for feedback, and a suggestion for a plan of action.

Robin Cantor spoke briefly about the 2008 World Congress on Risk. Sergey Kharchenko spoke about the need for training and certification in risk.

I asked members of the audience to fill out an "informal survey" that had three trigger questions: (1) What are three things you like most about the Society for Risk Analysis? (2) What are three unmet needs, problems, or challenges that should be addressed by SRA? and (3) What are three changes or improvements you would make in SRA? Here, I summarize the feedback from the 26 members who turned in the informal survey.

What you like most about SRA

The most well-liked aspects of SRA include, among others, people, diversity, networking, openness, significance, journal, access to expertise, and international perspectives. SRA has "exciting people" and "great colleagues." SRA is highly interdisciplinary, including representation of many disciplinary backgrounds; emphasis on links between natural and social science; members with a diversity of expertise, skills, and knowledge of risk; and diverse specialty areas that allow for exchange of methods and information across disciplines.

The ability to network within SRA was cited by many respondents. SRA fosters a cooperative approach to interdisciplinary work, in which broad perspectives are not just tolerated but accepted and welcomed. SRA allows for "freedom of belief." SRA is open to discussion of incomplete and emerging ideas and is a resource for collaboration and sharing of ideas. SRA provides an opportunity to "talk about interesting things"; to address contemporary and daily issues of risk at all levels (for example, local, regional, global); for members to get involved and make a difference, to deal with cutting-edge as well as cross-cutting issues; and to quickly get answers or discuss doubts.

The journal was cited as "a superb publication" that has "relevant" and "state-of-the-art" articles. The annual meeting was

lauded as an opportunity to gain access to expertise and for networking and discussions. Another benefit of SRA is international participation and international perspectives, including opportunities to network with persons from particular regions of the world (for example, Latin America).

Challenges that should be addressed by SRA

Many of the cited unmet needs or challenges were in the spirit of doing more, rather than changing things that are done successfully now.

With respect to SRA's international presence, the responding members identified needs for SRA to gain more exposure and acceptance of risk as a disciplinary area in the world view; promote more international participation and representation; engage in outreach to regions where urgent resolution of life threats is awaiting professional involvement; engage in outreach to developing countries; support groups who do not have access to risk analytical information; move beyond the US base of SRA to get more members and perspectives; and become more integrated in terms of geographic and other types of diversity.

With respect to growth of SRA, key challenges include promotion of SRA at universities, government agencies, and the private sector in different countries; actively recruiting and retaining members; more international diversity; more disciplinary diversity; more racial and ethnic diversity; and more institutional diversity (for example, avoid too much reliance on a small number of agencies in any one country).

Furthermore, SRA could meet growing needs with respect to education and training, such as more student scholarships; fostering useful risk analysis educational programs; developing programs for certification and qualification; establishing standard best practices; and promoting more balance of theoretical and practical perspectives.

With respect to professional leadership, SRA could do more to develop and promote a holistic perspective of risk analysis, such as a glossary and regarding best practice and guidelines, and to promote SRA as a resource for excellence in risk analysis and evaluation. Several members urged that SRA should keep issues high priority and real (for example, avoid focusing on small risks while ignoring major life-threatening risks in various parts of the world) and work hard to continue the relevance of what we do as risk practitioners.

Recommendations for improvements in SRA

Specific recommendations suggested by the responding members were in areas such as education and training, membership, structure of SRA, and outreach.

Recommendations regarding education and training include provide risk education materials online; recognize best undergraduate and graduate-student presentations; create technical committee(s) or spin-off organization(s) to certify members in specialty areas; and produce consensus documents about concepts and techniques in various specialty areas.



Chris Frey



Robin Cantor



Sergey Kharchenko

Recommendations regarding membership include increase membership of students and junior practitioners and researchers; add incentives for joining or maintaining membership, such as a CD of training materials; recognize long-term membership; create a formal process for members to input ideas; and create a process for identifying members interested in creating a specialty group in emerging areas.

Recommendations regarding the structure of SRA include reorganize the structure of SRA (for example, a global network or regional units, topical specialty groups, and a unifying umbrella body); publish key works in multiple languages; bridge across disciplines and countries; increase the visibility and activity of the Society; and revitalize chapters.

Recommendations regarding outreach include further develop the Web site to be “wider and deeper” with respect to information; more local programming; more international programming; more active outreach and communication between the central SRA and sections/chapters; and publish more articles on real-world issues.

Who should implement these recommendations?

You—the members, chapters, sections, specialty groups, committees, and the SRA Council. However, since SRA is a volunteer-based organization, implementation of these will require resources of time and effort of our members. If you agree strongly with any of the challenges and improvements, please let me know or contact any member of the SRA Council to get involved.

OMB’s Proposed Risk Assessment Bulletin

Richard Belzer

On 9 January 2006, the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued proposed guidance (a “bulletin”) on the conduct of health, safety, and environmental risk assessment. This guidance elaborated upon previously issued government-wide guidance implementing new federal information quality requirements. OMB asked the National Research Council (NRC) to perform a scientific review of the proposal, and NRC empanelled an ad hoc committee chaired by Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Past President John Ahearne. SRA sponsored a two-day public forum on the draft guidance in May 2006 and hosted a special lunch session to discuss it at the 2006 SRA Annual Meeting.

At the lunch session, Richard Belzer presented background information on OMB’s 2002 Information Quality Guidelines (IQG), which require influential information disseminated by the federal government to satisfy, *inter alia*, standards for both presentational and substantive objectivity. Belzer said the proposed risk assessment guidance elaborated but did not materially expand upon requirements explicitly or implicitly contained in the IQG.

Don Elliott followed with a tour of the guidance’s legal landscape, including the question of how (or whether) federal agencies would actually comply. Forum Cochairman Greg Paoli delved into textual matters resulting from OMB’s definitions, which differ across risk assessment fields and areas of application, and then discussed some international complications. Tony Cox covered the major technical challenges presented by the proposed guidance and exhorted SRA members to use this opportunity to encourage the adoption of established technical improvements in quality and improved transparency.

The NRC ad hoc committee chaired by Ahearne was charged with reviewing the scientific content of the proposed guidance. In part because the committee’s review was still ongoing at the time of the SRA annual meeting, Steve Lewis recounted the history of similar blue-ribbon panels going back to at least 1983, each of which has recommended numerous procedural and substantive improvements in federal risk assessment practice that have not been actually adopted.

Forum Cochairman Jim Wilson concluded by noting that many of the substantive provisions in OMB’s proposed guidance were based on recommendations made by one or more of these blue-ribbon panels.



Richard Belzer

An extensive question-and-answer session followed these short presentations, enabling the more than 100 attendees to share their own insights about the proposed guidance and its potential effects on risk assessment in their fields of specialization.

The NRC committee issued its report on 11 January 2007, just a month after the lunch discussion at the SRA meeting. The charge to the NRC committee was to conduct “a scientific and technical review of the proposed bulletin and to determine whether it meets OMB’s objective to ‘enhance the technical quality and objectivity of risk assessments prepared by federal agencies.’” The terms “quality” and “objectivity” originate in the federal Information Quality Act, an amendment to the Paperwork Reduction Act, and implementing guidelines OMB issued in 2002. These guidelines apply to all executive branch agencies and virtually all independent commissions and boards. Congress is exempt.



Left to right, Jim Wilson, Tony Cox, Steve Lewis, Don Elliott, and Greg Paoli

The recently released report said “the OMB bulletin is fundamentally flawed and recommends that it be withdrawn,” concluding that it would not facilitate OMB’s goal of “increasing the quality and objectivity of risk assessment in the federal government.” The proposed guidance included both overarching principles and a range of specific technical requirements. The committee generally accepted OMB’s overarching principles but disliked many of its technical requirements.

The committee recommended that “a different type of risk assessment bulletin be issued by OMB” that “outline[ed] goals and general principles of risk assessment designed to enhance the quality, efficiency, and consistency of risk assessment in the federal government.” Further, the committee said OMB “should direct the agencies to develop technical guidance that would implement the general principles, be consistent with the individual agencies’ legislative mandates and missions, and draw on the expertise that exists in federal agencies and other organizations.”

2006 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Baltimore Sunday, 3 December



Registration and Welcome Reception (reception sponsored by Exponent)

Monday, 4 December



New Member and Fellows Breakfast



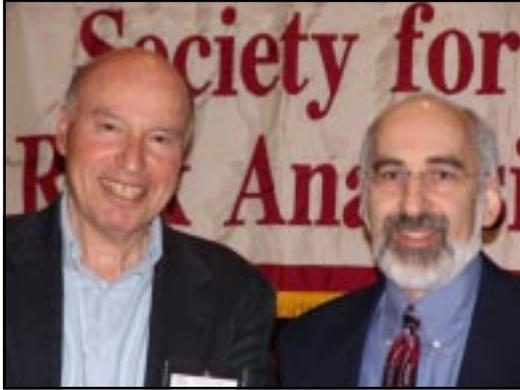
Comfort Breaks and Box Lunches, new this year, allowed members time to eat, socialize, and network. On Monday members grabbed box lunches on their way to specialty group meetings.



New in 2006 was the Dedicated Poster Session and Reception, sponsored by Harvard Center for Risk Analysis with support from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and King's College London.



Exhibits were open during the Dedicated Poster Session and Reception.



Monday Plenary Speakers

Paul Slovic

*If I Look at the Mass I Will Never Act:
Psychic Numbing and Genocide*

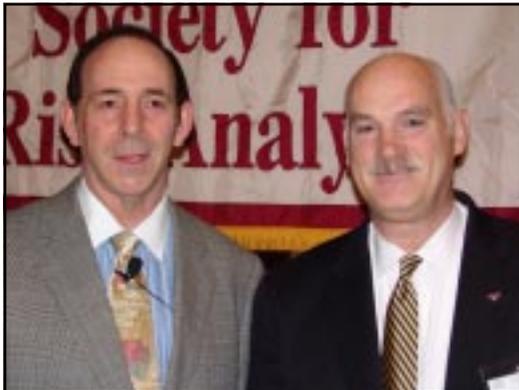
John Sterman

*Seeing Time:
Exploring Mental Models of
Complex Dynamic Systems*

Tuesday, 5 December



SRA Treasurer Tony Cox (center) heads a table at the Tuesday morning Student Breakfast.



Tuesday Plenary Speakers

Charles Bosler

*Project Risk Management:
Seeing the Process as the Product*

William Readdy

*Spaceflight, Exploration and Risk—
“The ‘Hard’ Stuff”—
One Astronaut’s Opinion*

Memorandum of Understanding between SRA and SRA-Europe Announced at Tuesday Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting



Working to pull together the SRA/SRA-E MOU were (left to right) Olivier Salvi, Andrea Thalmann, Pamela Williams, and Chris Frey.

At the December 2006 SRA Annual Meeting, the SRA Council approved a finalized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for its European Section (SRA-E). The approved version updates the provisions of earlier drafts to reflect the current goals of SRA and of SRA-E.

The MOU, which can be found on the SRA Web site, provides guidance and policies related to SRA-E’s representation on the SRA Council, annual budget and finances, and Secretariat.

Some of the most notable revisions to the MOU include (1) SRA-E will institute annual membership dues for SRA-E members starting in 2007 and (2) SRA will provide up to a specified amount of funds to support SRA-E Web site activities from 2006 to 2009.

Approval of the MOU marks the successful conclusion of a joint SRA-E/SRA effort to define a mutually beneficial relationship and the start of a closer partnership in enhancing SRA’s and SRA-E’s values to their members.

2006 Society for Risk Analysis Awards



Roger Kasperson
Distinguished
Achievement Award



Annie Jarabek
Outstanding Risk
Practitioner Award



Ragnar Löfstedt
Outstanding
Service Award



Elizabeth Anderson
Presidential
Recognition Award



Joseph Arvai
Chauncey Starr Award



Adam Finkel
Fellow



Thomas Burke
Fellow



John Vandenberg
Fellow

Five Best Poster Award Winners

W.T. Hartwell, D.S. Shafer, G. McCurdy, J. Tappen, *Stakeholder Involvement in Radiological Monitoring and Risk Communication: The Community Environmental Monitoring Program*

M.H. Lin, W.C. Ho, G.M. Shiao, W. Hartley, R.S. Lin, *Exposure Assessment of Air Pollution in Residential Area and School Environments Using GIS Related to Lung Function Among School Children*

Y. Maeda, *Risk Path Finder: A Tool for Supporting Discovery of Risk Scenarios*

R.G. Ross, *Collaborative Public-Private Risk Assessment in Vessel Traffic Safety: Two Case Studies*

C.R. Wilkes, J.C. Lipscomb, G.L. Kedderis, *Exposures to Trihalomethanes in Humans Resulting from Drinking Water Use*

International Travel Awards



Front row, left to right: Aki Nakayama, Janneke de Jonge, Vincent James Cogliano, Stacey Gibson, Alberto Alemanno; Back row, left to right: Jacopo Torriti, Ellen Townsend, Scott Campbell, Carlos Borrero, Ian Hall, Klaus-Juergen Jeske; Not pictured: Virna Gutierrez, Alyssa Joyce, Clive Lipchin, Holly Longstaff, Experanza Lopez-Vazquez, Brooke Rogers, Potharaju Venkato Sai Prabhakara Murty

Student Travel Awards



Front row, left to right: Alexander Tkachuk, Julia Soulakova, Joshua Harrill, Jeremy Coffelt, Shridhar Yamijala; Back row, left to right: Zhenu Yan, Felipe Munoz Giraldo, Seung-Ryong Han; Not pictured: Anne Baird, Hwei-An Chu, Meghan Keaney Lynch, Nasreen Khan, Javier Ordonez, Damian Tomic, Rama Mohana Turaga, Merry Turtiak, Evgeny Volobuev, Robyn Wilson, Zheng Yang



Wei Qin

Specialty Group Student Merit Awards



Front row, left to right: Rebecca Clewell, Joshua Harrill, Shridhar Yamijala, Abani Pradhan; Back row, left to right: Thomas Biksey, William McGill; Not pictured: Adam Kamradt-Scott, Yashika Forrester, Louie Rivers

Society Creates New Annual Award to Honor Educators

Adam M. Finkel, SRA Councilor

The SRA Council voted at the 2006 SRA Annual Meeting to establish a new annual award, beginning in 2007, to recognize an outstanding educator in risk analysis. The “Distinguished Educator Award” will be given to “that teacher, author, or mentor who has contributed substantially to the training of new experts in risk analysis.”

SRA members are encouraged to contact Caron Chess, chair of the Awards Committee for 2007, with any nominations for the new award, via email to chess_c@aesop.rutgers.edu. In particular, the Council was influenced by the wording of a similar award given by a related professional society, which states that “the recipients [of this award] are known by the accomplishments of their students.” It would therefore be helpful if members could include with their nomination the names of other students who were influenced by the nominee.

Call for Nominations for 2007 SRA Awards

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Awards Committee invites nominations for the following 2007 awards:

The **Distinguished Achievement Award** honors any person for extraordinary achievement in science or public policy relating to risk analysis.

The **Distinguished Educator Award** (see above) will be given to “that teacher, author, or mentor who has contributed substantially to the training of new experts in risk analysis.”

The **Outstanding Service Award** honors SRA members for extraordinary service to the Society.

The **Outstanding Risk Practitioner Award** honors individuals who have made substantial contributions to the field of risk analysis through work in the public or private sectors. The 2007 award will be for the private sector.

The **Chauncey Starr Award** honors individuals age 40 and under who have made exceptional contributions to the field of risk analysis.

The **Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis Award** recognizes and honors up to one percent of the Society’s membership whose professional records are marked by significant contributions to any disciplines served by the Society and may be evidenced by one or more of the following: (1) Recognized, original research, application, or invention, (2) Technical, scientific, or policy analysis leadership in an enterprise of significant scope that involves risk analysis in a substantial way, (3) Superior teaching or contributions to improve education and to promote the use of risk analysis that are widely recognized by peers and students, or (4) Service to or constructive activity within the Society of such a quality, nature, or duration as to be a visible contributor to the advancement of the Society. Nominees for Fellow must have been SRA members for at least five years and must now be members in good standing.

Please submit nominations and a brief paragraph supporting each by **2 April 2007** to SRA Past President Caron Chess, phone: 732-932-9153, email: chess_c@aesop.rutgers.edu, and David Drupa, phone: 703-790-1745, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com.

Wednesday, 6 December



Wednesday Plenary Speakers

Sharon Dunwoody
*Public Perceptions of Uncertainty, the Media,
and Risk Decision-Making*

Stephen Schneider
*Planetary Climate Change and
Personal Cancer Treatments:
Very Different Scales, but Very
Similar Decision Analyses*

On Wednesday, meeting attendees picked up box lunches and headed to a discussion on either Internationalization or OMB. Summaries of the lunch discussions are on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.



The 2006 SRA Annual Meeting ended on a fun note with the well-attended Wine and Cheese Reception and T-shirt giveaway, sponsored by Sapphire Group.



**See more photos from the 2006 SRA Annual Meeting
on the Society Web site (www.sra.org).**



Specialty Groups

Risk Communication Specialty Group

www.sra.org/rcsg

Lori Severtson, Chair

We had an excellent turnout for the Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) business meeting with over 60 attendees. Felicia Wu (University of Pittsburgh) chaired the meeting. New officers were elected: Chair-elect Tee L. Guidotti (George Washington University), Secretary/Treasurer Ann Bostrom (Georgia Technical Institute), and Board Members Louie Rivers (NSF) and Meredith Gore (Michigan State University). Chris Clarke (Cornell University) was elected to continue in his role as the student representative.

There were two student paper awards this year. Louie Rivers III (now at the National Science Foundation [NSF]) won the Exxon-Mobil Best Student Paper award for his paper “Win Some, Lose Some: Chronic

Loss and Its Implications for Risk Communication and Management.” Jeff Lewis from Exxon-Mobil presented the award that has been a long-standing tradition in the RCSG. Joe Arvai (Michigan State University) was River’s advisor. Susanna Hornig Priest, Branden Johnson,



Risk Communication Specialty Group Student Paper Award Winners Louie Rivers (left) and Robyn Wilson

Bob O’Connor, and Craig Trumbo were the judges for the student competition. Robyn Wilson (now a postdoc at Ohio State) won the first-offered Pfizer award for Best Student Risk Communication Paper published in the *Journal of Risk Research* in 2006 (Vol. 9). Her paper was titled “When Less Is More: How Affect Influences Preferences When Comparing Low and High-Risk Options.” Arvai was Wilson’s advisor as well. David Slavin from Pfizer presented the award and Ragnar Löfstedt, editor of the *Journal of Risk Research*, organized the award process.

Bob Griffin announced available NSF grants that included dissertation grants, Human and Social Dynamics grants, and the Decision, Risk and Management Sciences program (DRMS)—he would like to see more risk grants submitted to DRMS. See the NSF Web site (www.nsf.gov) for more information.

Upcoming conferences of interest include a 2-4 May 2007 workshop in Italy on EMFs organized by the European Community with the World Health Organization (WHO) and SRA (contact Bert Hakkinen at phakkinen@gradientcorp.com with questions) and a joint conference in Risk Assessment and Policy Assessment next June (contact Branden Johnson at Branden.Johnson@dep.state.nj.us or Dave Hassenzahl at david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu for more information). Journals that are soliciting manuscripts on risk communication include (1) *Decision Analysis*—a new journal that has a focus on research to aid decision making—Robin Keller is the new editor-in-chief, (2) *Environmental Communication*—another new journal with

Catherine McComas on the editorial board, and (3) *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*—contact Ann Bostrom with ideas for special issues at abostrom@gatech.edu. *Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health* is planning a special issue on risk science—Tee L. Guidotti is editor-in-chief. Kara Morgan (Food and Drug Administration) asked for liaisons from each of the specialty groups to join the Conferences and Workshops Committee. She also requested that DC-area liaisons from each of the specialty groups join the National Capital Area Chapter and become more involved.

The RCSG had the largest group of symposia in the conference this year with a broad array of topics. Wu encouraged RCSG members to start thinking about interesting symposia for next year, including joint symposia with other sections. Minutes from the RCSG meeting are posted on the Web site.

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

Wayne Landis, Chair

At the Baltimore Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group meeting I was honored to have the chairmanship passed to me from Todd Bridges, with Randy Ryti officiating the group meeting. One of the first items of business for the incoming chair is to find a successor, and Katherine von Stackelberg agreed to become chair for 2008. Thanks Katherine and congratulations.

The specialty group meeting next addressed means of promoting ecological risk assessment within the Society and as a field of study. One of the items to be addressed is the holding of workshops as part of the SRA national meeting. They could be held on a number of topics, including regional risk assessment, invasive species, statistical methods, or the integration of human and ecological risk assessment. These workshops would address two important issues. First, the workshops would provide a means of advancing the state of the art of ecological risk assessment to current and future practitioners. Second, the workshops would provide revenue for funding student travel and awards. If you have suggestions please contact me and do not be surprised to hear from me asking for volunteers.

Another item was accounting for the revenue from past workshops and the current specialty group budget. Igor Linkov has already emailed me and we are working with the administration of SRA for an accounting.

Another note is that I am also becoming the Area Editor for Environmental/Ecological Risk Assessment for *Risk Analysis*. First I would like to thank the outgoing editor, Bruce Hope, for the job he has done over the years. Bruce is one of the reasons that I have become more active in SRA and I greatly appreciate having him as a colleague. Second, send me your papers! *Risk Analysis* provides a great opportunity to publish papers on emerging issues and nonchemical types of stressors. Because *Risk Analysis* is a journal that bridges the social, engineering, and biological sciences, papers that deal with the interactions of each are especially welcome. Imagine the possibilities of looking at the ecological risks from levee construction in Louisiana and the interactions between the fishing industry, residents of New Orleans, and government agencies.

Please feel free to email me with any comments, questions, or the like at wayne.landis@wwu.edu.

Risk Policy & Law Specialty Group

Sandy Hoffmann, Chair

In December 2006, the SRA Council approved our request to change the specialty group name from “Risk Science & Law” to “Risk Policy & Law.” The Risk Policy & Law Specialty Group was formed to provide a forum to foster research and discussion on the interface between law, policy, and risk analysis and management.

We had a very well-attended specialty group meeting in Baltimore at the 2006 SRA Annual Meeting. There were more than 25 people in attendance. The main topics of discussion were new officers and plans for next year’s meeting. We would like to have at least two symposia at the annual meeting next year. Some of the ideas for symposia raised at the meeting included REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals), NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), and transboundary risks (for example, between the United States and Mexico or Canada and the United States), counterterrorism, cyberrisks, surveillance and privacy, chemical risks, and right-to-know (for example, the US debate over the Clean Air Action § 112(r)). There was also discussion about jointly sponsoring symposia with other specialty groups such as on law and risk science (with the Dose Response Specialty Group) and on benefit-cost analysis in regulatory review (with the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group).

Significant interest was expressed in holding a one-day training workshop on risk and law on the Sunday preceding the 2007 annual meeting. The target audience would be nonlawyers coming to the annual meeting who want a better understanding of regulatory risk law in US, European, and other jurisdictions. Anyone interested in working on this should contact Sandy Hoffmann.

One clarifying note from the Council meeting. Each specialty group is given \$500 on a “use it or lose it” basis to be used to promote the specialty group’s activities. Other specialty groups have used this money to fund mixers and fee waivers for outside speakers. We have not decided yet how to use this money for the coming year. Again, suggestions are very welcome. One possibility might be to use the money to pay for travel for outside speakers at the workshop. We are also given \$500 per year to fund student merit awards. We need people to head this effort as well. This is a great way to help build the specialty group.

We thank Gary Marchant for his service as chair of the specialty group. At the December 2006 meeting he was succeeded by Sandy Hoffmann (of Resources for the Future).

Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group

Jo Anne Shatkin, Chair

I am pleased to announce the successful formation of the Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty (EMNMS) Group, approved by the SRA Council during its 5 December 2006 business meeting. Over 70 SRA members have expressed interest in EMNMS. Emerging nanoscale materials are agents recently identified or created that confer unique properties due to small size.

The overarching goals of the group are:

- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge among practitioners, researchers, scholars, teachers, and others interested in risk analysis and emerging nanoscale materials.
- To encourage collaborative research on risk analysis and emerging nanoscale materials.

- To provide leadership and play an active role in advancing issues related to risk analysis and emerging nanoscale materials.

EMNMS is actively developing collaborative efforts with other groups within and outside of SRA. Some ideas discussed during the 4 December 2006 organizational meeting of EMNMS (at the SRA annual meeting) include:

- Organize an SRA-sponsored conference.
- Organize a focus area during the SRA World Congress linking policy, science, and perception.
- Coordinate with the Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee on regulatory agency responses.
- Work with other SRA specialty groups to develop joint symposia for the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting. (The Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group discussed collaborating with us during its annual specialty group meeting.)
- Create a forum for exchange of ideas.
- Develop life-cycle/risk initiatives.
- Address regulatory aspects of emerging nanoscale materials (NMs).
- Develop/discuss risk and benefits frameworks—tools and methods.
- Address technological aspects of NMs that might attract the engineering community.
- Create formal liaisons with other professional societies.
- Coordinate and plan meetings with other organizations such as the proposed Society for Toxicology—Nanotoxicology Specialty Group.
- Link to other professional societies.

For more information, or to join the EMNMS Specialty Group, please contact Jo Anne Shatkin (jshatkin@cadmusgroup.com or 617-673-7161).

Dose Response Specialty Group

www.sra.org/drsg

Dale Hattis, Chair

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) focuses on the relationships between underlying causal mechanisms for toxic effects, population dose response relationships (including interindividual variability), and implications for regulatory choices. We are interested in probabilistic methods for projecting responses to assist in analyzing the benefits of measures that are expected to alter population exposures to chemical, physical, and microbial hazards, analyses, and integrated use of mechanistic, animal, and epidemiologic data to estimate risks at lower doses than can be directly assessed in animal toxicology or human studies. We provide fora for vigorous interdisciplinary exchange in our sponsored symposia and three teleseminars per year led by invited speakers. The teleseminars are held in March, June, and September in place of our regular monthly teleconferences at 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on the first Tuesday of the month. To join the electronic mail notification list on YahooGroups.com, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DRSG/> and hit the “Join this Group!” button. All are welcome to participate in the teleseminars and our monthly discussions of annual meeting symposia, student awards, and other business. The officers this year are Chair Dale Hattis of Clark University (dhattis@aol.com), Chair-elect Sarah Henry of the US Food and Drug Administration (in charge of the teleseminars this year), Vice-Chair Paul Feder of Battelle/Columbus (in charge

of student awards), Secretary-Treasurer Linda Teuschler of US EPA, Past Chair Paul Teeguarden of Battelle/PNNC, and Trustees at Large Gary Foureman (US EPA) and Patty Toccalino (USGS).

The first teleseminar for the DRSG this year will be "Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic Model for Acrylamide and Its Metabolites in Mice, Rats, and Humans" by Drs. John F. Young and Daniel R. Doerge of the US Food and Drug Administration. The teleseminar will be held on 6 March 2007 between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. To participate, call 513-569-7897 and enter the conference code 2970 plus the # sign.

Biological Stressors Specialty Group

http://www.sra.org/about_specialty_groups.php

Sherri Dennis, Chair

As incoming chair and on behalf of the Biological Stressors Specialty Group (BSSG) Executive Committee, I would like to thank Felicia Wu for her service as chair and Michael McElvaine for serving as secretary-treasurer. During our annual business meeting we selected a new vice-chair, Emma Hartnett. We also wish to recognize and congratulate Thomas Biksey, who received the Biological Stressors Student Merit Award.

Last year, the name of the group was redefined from the Food and Water Safety Specialty Group to the current name, Biological Stressors, to more fully capture the broader fields of interest and issues related to food, animal, and plant risk assessment. Biological stressors are a distinct category of hazards and include human pathogens transmitted via food, water, air, organs (including blood), and body fluids and excretions; zoonotic pathogens; biologically produced disease agents (such as allergens and mycotoxins); plant and animal pathogens; plant and animal pests; invasive species; and invasive genetic material. These hazards share many common features: they grow, reproduce, and die; they dis-

perse both actively and passively; they interact with other biological populations in the ecosystem; and they evolve.

We look forward to an active year. One of the first things we plan to do is improve our communication among the group members. We will be updating our Web site, currently available at http://www.sra.org/about_specialty_groups.php/, and discussed other means of staying in touch throughout the year, possibly with regular teleconference calls. If you want more information please contact BSSG officers: Chair Sherri Dennis (Sherri.Dennis@fda.hhs.gov), Vice-Chair Emma Hartnett (ehartnett@AnalyzeRisk.com), and Secretary-Treasurer Michael McElvaine (Michael.McElvaine@usda.gov).

Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group

James Lambert, Chair

The Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group convened at a Monday lunch session of the December 2006 SRA Annual Meeting. We had over 15 members attending, including our group's student paper award winner, Shridhar Yamijala of Texas A&M University. We were visited by incoming Society President Kim Thompson. Seth Guikema reported progress on our group's Web site, which is due to go live and be linked from the sra.org page in about a month. Stanley Levinson and Jim Lambert reported an increase in engineering papers relative to previous annual meetings. Seth Guikema was nominated to represent us to the Publications Committee. William McGill was nominated to represent us to the Membership Committee. Jim Lambert will continue to serve as our group chair and represent us to the Conferences and Workshops Committee. Olivier Salvi said we should seek additional liaison and joint activities with ESRA, the European Safety and Reliability Association. Seth Guikema volunteered to represent the engineering and infrastructure interests for the Society's new Nomenclature Committee. Kash Barker kindly prepared the notes of the meeting.




Journal Notes

Risk Analysis Names Landis Area Editor for Ecological Risk Assessment

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Wayne Landis has been approved by the SRA Council to replace Dr. Bruce Hope as the *Risk Analysis* Area Editor for Ecological Risk Assessment effective in January 2007.

Dr. Hope is finishing his three-year term as area editor and we would like to thank him for his distinguished service to the journal and the Society. One of the highlights of Bruce's tenure was the special issue on risk assessment for invasive species that appeared in August 2004. This issue has been very well

received and frequently quoted in the ecological risk assessment community.

Dr. Landis is a professor at the Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University. At the university, he is also the director of the Institute of Environmental Toxicology and chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences. He is a highly respected ecological risk assessor and the journal editorial staff is extremely pleased that he has agreed to work with us to greater expand the journal's offerings in ecological risk assessment.

Risk Analysis Awards Presented at 2006 SRA Annual Meeting

Best Reviewers for Risk Analysis

Decision Sciences: Tony Cox

Engineering: Rachel Davidson

Environmental/Ecological: Mark Andersen

Social Sciences: Tim Earle

Best Papers for Risk Analysis

Decision Sciences: Kenneth T. Bogen and Edwin D. Jones, *Risks of Mortality and Morbidity from Worldwide Terrorism: 1968-2004*, Volume 26, Issue 1, February 2006

Engineering: Uche Okpara and Vicki Bier, *Securing Passenger Aircraft from Man-Portable Air*

Environmental/Ecological: Thomas J. Stohlgren and John L. Schnase, *Risk Analysis for Biological Hazards: What We Need to Know about Invasive Species*, Volume 26, Issue 1, February 2006

Social Sciences: Paul Slovic, Melissa L. Finucane, Ellen Peters, Donald G. MacGregor, *Risk as Analysis and Risk as Feelings: Some Thoughts about Affect, Reason, Risk, and Rationality*, Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2004



Risk 007: Agents of Analysis 2007 SRA Annual Meeting

9-12 December 2007



Riverwalk SACVB Photo/Al Rendon

**San Antonio
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Alamo SACVB Photo/SACVB

**Go to www.sra.org to see the
Call for Abstracts and start planning now!**



Chapter News

Upstate New York Chapter

<http://esc.syrres.com/sraupstateny>

Heather Clark, Secretary

The Upstate New York Chapter of SRA was very active in the fall quarter of its second year. The chapter sponsored a one-day risk symposium in Albany, New York, in October, elected new officers and councilors for 2007, and participated in the 2006 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

The chapter's fall symposium was held at the Wadsworth Center's Center for Medical Science in Albany, New York, with the theme of "Current Challenges in Risk Assessment, Communication and Management." Victoria Derbyshire, director of the Wadsworth Center, and Peg Coleman, then-president of the Upstate New York Chapter, kicked off the event. Invited speakers included Charles Haas, Drexel University and the Center for Advancing Microbial Risk Assessment Methodology; Peg Coleman, Syracuse Research Corporation, Microbial Risk Assessment Center of Excellence; Glen Johnson, New York State Department of Health and SUNY Albany, School of Public Health; Benjamin Lucio-Martinez, Avian Diagnostic Laboratory, Cornell University; and Swiatoslaw Kaczmar, Syracuse University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and O'Brien and Gere Engineers, Inc.

Haas and Coleman each presented a different perspective on the existence and role of thresholds in microbial risk assessment. Johnson discussed issues and challenges in geospatial analysis of disease risk. Lucio-Martinez provided an informative overview and discussion of the avian flu situation and associated risks, and Kaczmar provided a lively inquiry into risk and environmental ethics in the context of post-modern

environmentalism and environmental management. Thanks again to Faith Schottenfeld and the many others who worked hard to make this symposium a success!

The chapter elected its officers and councilors for 2007. The incoming slate includes President Tim Negley, President-elect Swiatoslaw Kaczmar, Treasurer Bill Thayer, and Secretary Heather Clark. Tom Kniesner, Peg Coleman, and Jim Gillett will serve as chapter councilors in the coming year.

For more information on the Upstate New York Chapter and events, visit our Web site (<http://esc.syrres.com/sraupstateny>) or email Tim Negley, chapter president (negley@syrres.com), or Heather Clark, chapter secretary (hac4@cornell.edu).

Rocky Mountain Chapter

Susan Flack, Chapter Contact

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of SRA is planning a meeting in late February or early March at the new Region 8 EPA building located at 1595 Wynkoop in Downtown Denver. Please contact Susan Flack by email (sflack@chemrisk.com) or phone (303-417-1046, ext. 1013) if you would like to be added to the chapter mailing list and notified regarding future chapter activities.

Northern California Chapter

Raymond Richard Neutra, Past President

The Northern California Chapter experimented with a Web-based and phone-bridge methodology to hold a noontime seminar 13 October 2006 on deterministic and stochastic air dispersion models presented by Dr. Ken Bogen of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We plan more of these in the year to come in hopes that more members can participate.





SRA-Europe

<http://www.sraeurope.org>

Julie Barnett, Communication Officer

The 2007 SRA-Europe meeting will be held 17-19 June in The Hague, the Netherlands. The conference theme is "Building Bridges: Issues for Future Risk Research." The conference aims to facilitate interaction among all players in the risk field. The progress made in two decades of SRA-Europe meetings will be evaluated and focal points for research in the coming years will be identified. For more information, the Call for Papers, and important dates go to www.sraeurope2007.eu. The deadline for early registration is 15 April and the full programme will be published in May. We look forward to welcoming you to The Hague!

SRA-Europe is also working with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the WHO International EMF Project in planning the Second Workshop in EMF Risk Communication: "Effective Risk Communication in the Context of Uncertainty." This will be held 2-4 May 2007 in Stresa at Lago Maggiore, Italy. Further information and registration details can be found at <http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eis-emf/>.

Other News

SRA-Europe President Olivier Salvi met with Professor Chongfu Huang on 2 October 2006 to discuss cooperation with

the Chinese Risk Analysis Council and sponsorship of its conference in 2007.



SRA-E President Olivier Salvi (left) with Professor Chongfu Huang

Following the 2006 SRA-Europe conference (Ljubljana, 11-13 September 2006) an initiative was launched to harmonize the terminology used in the different fields of risk analysis (industrial, environmental, perception, communication, etc.). To this end, a working group has been established, composed of both individuals and institutions from different fields of research. The goal of the group is to develop agreement around definitions and thus to derive a general glossary. The presidents of SRA-International and of SRA-Japan are working with SRA-Europe to enable this work to be carried out on an international scale. See the SRA Web site (<http://www.sraeurope.org/>) for more information.

After the successful transatlantic symposium on risk regulation and regulatory reforms held in Baltimore, several European and American scholars have decided to gather again to discuss the ongoing developments on both sides of the Atlantic around risk regulation and the reform of the regulatory environments they are involved with. For further details please contact Alberto Alemanno (Alberto.Alemanno@curia.europa.eu). 



SRA-Japan

<http://www.sra-japan.jp/english>

Shoji Tsuchida, President

19th Annual Conference

On 11 and 12 November 2006 SRA-Japan held its 19th annual conference at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Tsukuba city. The chief executive organizer was Dr. Akihiko Tokai of AIST. We had two plenary lectures, a symposium, and a total of 103 presentations (87 in oral and 11 in poster) in 19 sessions: Risk Assessments (three sessions), Risk Communication (five sessions), Risk Management, Risk Governance, Risk Education, Risk and Media, Economic Analysis of Risks, Food Risks, Assessing Benefits of Health Risks Reduction, Risk Assessment and Decision Making on Environmental Policy, Water-Related Risks, Disaster Risk Governance, and a poster session.

SRA-Japan Awards

Dr. Norio Okada (professor, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University) won the 2006 SRA-Japan award. Dr. Sumire Hirota (associate professor, Faculty of Environmental and Information Studies, Musashi Institute of Technology) won the 2006 SRA-Japan award for younger researchers.

20th Annual Symposium and Annual Assembly 2007

The 20th annual symposium and the annual assembly 2007 will be held on 22 June at the University of Tokyo. Dr. Norio Okada will organize the symposium and its theme will be "Community-Based Disaster Prevention and Its Assessment" (tentative). 

Call for Nominations for 2007-2008 SRA Officers

The Society for Risk Analysis Nominating Committee invites nominations for the following offices in the Society's elections for the 2007-2008 Council:

President-elect Secretary Treasurer-elect Three Councilors

Active members may submit in writing to the Nominating Committee the name and proposed office for any qualified nominee. Additionally, any active member may submit a petition for nomination for inclusion on the next annual Ballot. Such petitions must include the written support of at least 25 other active members for the nominee to be listed on the Ballot.

Please submit nominations by **2 April 2007** to Baruch Fischhoff, phone: 412-268-3246; fax: 412-268-6938; email: baruch@cmu.edu, and David Drupa, Secretariat, Society for Risk Analysis, 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402, McLean, VA 22102; phone: 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672; email: ddrupa@burkinc.com.



What Do We Do?

— a quarterly look at the incredibly diverse field of risk analysis —

Vernon Guthrie

What is your job title?

Guthrie: I am a senior risk/reliability engineer at ABS Consulting, a company focused on providing services, training, and software that support risk solutions for public, energy, and commercial clients. ABS Consulting has a long history in the risk analysis field, and many readers may recognize us as either PLG, EQE International, or JBF Associates, companies that were assimilated into ABS Consulting.

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

Guthrie: Almost everything I have done during my 30-year career has involved performing qualitative and/or quantitative risk analyses. People come to me in need of effective and efficient risk solutions. Providing these solutions involves understanding the challenges they are facing and the decisions they are making. Based on this understanding, I then seek to determine the risk-related information that will support their decision making. Knowing the required information, I can then identify the risk analysis tools that will most efficiently provide that information.

This approach to risk analysis means that I do not focus on the methods and tools at hand, but rather on the information needed to support the risk solutions. Thus, much of my career has involved modifying or developing risk analysis methods and tools for agencies such as the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security and for companies in the petrochemical and nuclear industries. Modifying or developing risk analysis methods and tools requires starting with a very detailed understanding of the most accurate approach for modeling the situation being addressed. Necessary assumptions are then made to simplify the model into a practical application tool while not violating the precision and certainty requirements for the results.

Providing the needed information efficiently also involves substantial communication with decision makers and other stakeholders. This communication is vital to my understanding of the context in which the risk analysis information will be used and in helping them understand the meaning and context of the risk information I am providing. In addition, this communication often highlights the need for other nonrisk-related information to support the decision process.

Other aspects of my job include (1) reviewing risk analysis projects being performed by other risk analysts, as well as mentoring less-experienced risk analysts, and (2) teaching qualitative and quantitative risk analysis methods through short courses offered by ABS Consulting.

I also perform incident investigations and root cause analyses to identify the failures or errors that caused an undesired event and the management system weaknesses that contributed to the event.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

Guthrie: My undergraduate degree was in nuclear engineering at Mississippi State University. I then pursued a master's de-

gree in nuclear engineering at the University of Tennessee, where I had the opportunity to focus my course work and thesis on probabilistic risk assessment under Dr. Jerry B. Fussell (who founded JBF Associates). The methods development work I performed as part of my thesis sparked an interest that has continued throughout my career.

What got you to where you are in the field of risk analysis today?

Guthrie: I began my career working at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge, Tennessee, facilities as a risk analyst, and after about five years I joined JBF Associates/ABS Consulting as a risk consultant. These roles have allowed me to perform risk analyses that support a diverse set of challenging risk-related decisions, with most assessments requiring at least some modification to existing analysis methods or

tools. I have also had the opportunity to work with talented risk analysis experts, many of whom were fellow graduate students at the University of Tennessee and who were not shy in calling out any deficiencies in my work.

What is the most interesting/exciting part of your job?

Guthrie: Developing new methods to address some of the most challenging risk-related issues, while working with highly experienced and gifted risk analysis experts. I also enjoy teaching and mentoring.

What would you recommend to those entering the field of risk analysis interested in a job like yours?

Guthrie: Look for a situation where you can (1) obtain extensive training in the fundamentals of risk analysis and (2) be mentored for several years in the application of these skills. Several universities offer relevant course work, including the University of Tennessee where I recently assisted in teaching a graduate risk and reliability course. You also want to obtain diverse practical experience supporting real, risk-informed decisions that must be made in a timely manner.

How has membership/involvement in the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) helped you in your work?

Guthrie: Sharing challenges and solutions with other risk analysis experts in many fields has been both extremely beneficial and enjoyable. Having a booth at the SRA conference allowed me to meet a large number of SRA members from varied backgrounds, and participating in the workshops prior to the annual conferences has provided in-depth information on topics of interest and opportunities to meet others who have similar interests. I find that while the undesired events being assessed are often quite different, the fundamental modeling challenges and solutions are often very similar.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Guthrie: While there have been a few years when I was not an SRA member, I initially joined the SRA as a charter member. 





Committees

Second World Congress Committee

Robin Cantor and Javier Urbina-Soria, Chairs

Planning continued for the Second World Congress (SWC) at the 2006 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Javier Urbina-Soria agreed to cochair the Congress with Robin Cantor. In addition, there were many discussions about the program structure, overall theme, morning breakout sessions, subcommittees' responsibilities, and chairs. This report provides a summary of those issues and a timeline for planning tasks.

General Program Structure

The SWC will be held 8-11 June 2008 at the Hilton Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico. The general program structure developed for the first Congress will be applied again. This format allows for a plenary session to be followed by a limited number of breakout sessions in the morning. A larger number of concurrent sessions in each of two afternoon time periods will be selected from a general call for symposium proposals. The First World Congress (FWC) was organized around risk topics relevant to risk and governance and this will continue to be the general theme for the SWC. In addition, the SWC will focus on "take-away" messages from large international meetings or efforts relevant to (a) the science and practice of risk analysis, (b) broadening the risk analysis community, or both. The publications subcommittee will reinforce this aspect of the SWC by developing a risk glossary and background bibliography on risk analysis to be ready in advance of the June 2008 meeting.

One of the near-term tasks for the programming subcommittee will be to integrate the morning programs. During the planning meetings in Baltimore, we discussed topics from the FWC and new topics (in italics). Once selected, every breakout session will have a "champion" who will be responsible for selecting and securing the commitment of speakers. These sessions, however, will be designed to encourage the exchange of ideas and audience participation.

Overall Theme

Risk and Governance

Day 1 Plenary

Chemical, Biological, and Natural Hazards

Possible Breakout Sessions: Novel sources of biodiversity; Radiological risks and long-term waste management; Early warning systems for chemical risks; Terrorism and extreme events; *Natural disasters; and Emerging sources of risk (for example, nanoscale materials).*

Day 2 Plenary

Global and Transboundary Risks

Possible Breakout Sessions: GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and international trade; Global climate change; Risk analy-

sis and the precautionary principle; Systemic risks and interdependencies; *Infrastructure of risk practitioners (education and certification); Risk harmonization; and Risk communication and language in the international context.*

Day 3 Plenary Sustainable Development with Acceptable Risks

Possible Breakout Sessions: Public health priorities; Globalization and cultural integrity; Sustainable resources; Protecting biodiversity; *Infectious diseases; and Safe drinking water.*

Subcommittees

Five subcommittees have been formed to handle the critical functions for the SWC. At this time, here is our proposed structure for the chairs of the subcommittees:

- Programming: Robin Cantor, Gail Charnley, Bert Hakkinen, and Javier Urbina-Soria
- Marketing and Outreach: Olivier Salvi, Jo Anne Shatkin, and Kuen-Yuh Wu

- Fund Raising and Finance: Sabine Bonneck, Michael Dourson, and Henry Willis
- Publication: Elizabeth Anderson
- Local Organizing: Javier Urbina-Soria (temporary)

Getting Involved: Participating Organizations

SRA cosponsored the first Congress with SRA-Europe (SRA-E), SRA-Japan (SRA-J), and the American Chemistry Council (ACC), American Physical Society (APS), German Commission on Harmonizing Risk Standards (GCHRS), German Foundation for Environment and Risk Management, International Association for Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Management (IAPSAM), International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE), International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX), National Science Foundation (NSF), Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), Society of Toxicology (SOT), UK Safety and Reliability Society (SARS), US Department of Energy (US DOE), US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (US NIEHS), and World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

SRA members who have contacts with participating organizations in the first Congress or can suggest new contacts and

Timeline

In order to complete all the tasks and actions necessary to make the SWC successful, the following timeline was discussed and approved:

Month	Action
December '06 ...	Select subcommittee chairs
February '07	Select overall theme, subthemes, breakout sessions
March '07	Finalize program announcement and poster
April '07	Send out organization and sponsor letters Secure plenary speakers' commitments
June '07	Secure breakout speakers' commitments
October '07	Poster and symposium submission deadline Travel stipend request deadline
January '08	Select posters and symposia
February '08	Publish preliminary program
March '08	Draft publication/dissemination plans
June '08	Conference
September '08 ...	Finalize publication/dissemination plans

organizations for the SWC are strongly encouraged to contact the Marketing and Outreach subcommittee chairs.

Getting Involved: Funding

SRA will be seeking funding for junior and/or developing country participants to attend the SWC who show a financial need. We will be requesting funds from foundations and national agencies to support as many qualified candidates as possible (more than 40 were supported in the first Congress). To increase the number of these participants, we have decided to reach out to private and nongovernment sponsors who will be asked to make a modest donation which will be acknowledged, for example, by signage at individual tables during the main luncheon event. SRA members who are affiliated with or can suggest such private and nongovernmental sponsors are strongly encouraged to contact the Fund Raising and Finance chairs.

Questions?

Contact Robin Cantor (rcantor@navigantconsulting.com), Javier Urbina-Soria (jaurso@gmail.com), or one of the subcommittee chairs!

Conferences and Workshops Committee

Kara Morgan, Chair

The charter for the Conferences and Workshops Committee was approved by the SRA Council and is available on the SRA Web site. The committee reviews mainly two types of proposals: workshops at the annual meeting and SRA-sponsored symposia at another time during the year.

We also can consider recognizing meetings that are being planned by other organizations that may be of interest to SRA

members. More information will be available soon on the members-only portion of the Web site about the criteria that are used to review the proposals for these three different types of events.

The committee is seeking new members so let Kara Morgan (kara.morgan@fda.hhs.gov) know if you are interested in serving on this committee. Any SRA member is eligible to serve on the committee. We solicit and review proposals throughout the year.

We had a wonderful slate of workshops at the annual meeting in Baltimore. It's not too early to be thinking about workshops for next year in San Antonio. Workshop proposals will be due in the spring (date to be determined), but you can contact us now if you are interested in proposing something and would like additional guidance.

Education Committee

David Hassenzahl, Chair

The Education Committee is soliciting proposals to sponsor a part-time graduate student to research risk education programs and collect teaching materials. Proposals, due 15 March 2007, will be welcomed from all SRA members who are able to sponsor graduate students. The winning proposal will be selected by a subcommittee of three members of the Education Committee. Work should be completed during the 2007 calendar year and presented at the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting. Preference will be given to proposals designed to meet the program goals and for which there is a strong commitment by the faculty advisor to work with the student. Proposals that include matching funds will also be given preference. Further information is available at the SRA Web site; for questions, contact Committee Chair David M. Hassenzahl (david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu).




News and Announcements

Call for Papers on Risk Science

The *Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health* plans to publish a special issue on risk science, examining how the field is coming together into a unitary field from the integration of disparate disciplines. This issue will be cosponsored by the National Capital Area Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis. For more information see www.heldref.org/aeoh.php.

All submissions should be made online. To submit a manuscript, visit <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/heldref/aeoh>. Please enter the heading "Special Issue on Risk Science" above the title on the front page of the manuscript, so that contributions intended for the special issue can be recognized.

PRIMA Conference Scholarships Available

The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI), a nonprofit risk management training and educational organization, will give as many as 40 representatives of small local governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations an opportunity to attend the 2007 Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) Conference and Expo, which will be held in Boston in June 2007.

The application deadline for the 2007 PERI Small Entity Scholarship program is 1 March 2007.

Complete eligibility details and the application form are available on PERI's Web site at www.riskinstitute.org.



RISK newsletter Advertising Policy

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

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

Camera-ready ads (greyscale) 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 30 December for the First Quarter issue (published early February), 30 March for the Second Quarter issue (early May), 30 June for the Third Quarter issue (early August), and 30 September for the Fourth Quarter issue (early 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.

2007 SRA Officers and Councilors

President: **Kimberly Thompson**, phone: 617-253-3886, fax: 617-258-7579, email: kimt@hsph.harvard.edu
President-elect: **Jonathan Wiener**, phone: 919-613-7054, fax: 919-613-7231, email: wiener@law.duke.edu
Secretary: **Mitchell Small**, phone: 412-268-8782, fax: 412-268-7813, email: ms35@andrew.cmu.edu
Treasurer: **Louis Anthony (Tony) Cox, Jr.**, phone: 303-388-1778, fax: 303-388-0609, email: tony@cox-associates.com
Past Treasurer: **Pamela R.D. Williams**, phone: 303-417-1046, ext. 1010, fax: 303-417-1066, email: pwilliams@chemrisk.com
Past President: **H. Christopher Frey**, phone: 919-515-1155, fax: 919-515-7908, email: frey@ncsu.edu
Executive Secretary: **Richard J. Burk, Jr.**, phone: 703-790-1745, fax: 703-790-2672, email: RBurk@BurkInc.com
Councilor, 2007: **Richard A. Becker**, phone: 703-741-5210, fax: 703-741-6056, email: rick_becker@americanchemistry.com
Councilor, 2009: **Luis Abdon Cifuentes**, phone: 56-2-354-4272, fax: 56-2-552-1608, email: lac@ing.puc.cl
Councilor, 2008: **Elaine M. Faustman**, phone: 206-685-2269, fax: 206-685-4696, email: faustman@u.washington.edu
Councilor, 2007: **Adam M. Finkel**, phone: 609-258-4828, fax: 609-258-6082, email: afinkel@princeton.edu
Councilor, 2007: **Pertti "Bert" J. Hakkinen**, phone: 617-395-5000, fax: 617-395-5001, email: phakkinen@gradientcorp.com
Councilor, 2008: **Garrick Louis**, phone: 804-982-2742, fax: 804-982-2972, email: louis@virginia.edu
Councilor, 2009: **Kara Morgan**, phone: 301-827-5208, fax: 301-827-5225, email: kara.morgan@fda.hhs.gov
Councilor, 2008: **Richard Reiss**, phone: 571-227-7228, email: rreiss@exponent.com
Councilor, 2009: **Olivier Salvi**, phone: 33-3-44-55-61-01, fax: 33-3-44-55-62-95, email: olivier.salvi@ineris.fr

2007 Committee Chairs

Standing Committees

Annual Meeting: Jonathan Wiener, phone: 919-613-7054, fax: 919-613-7231, email: wiener@law.duke.edu
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Deadline for RISK *newsletter* Submissions

Information to be included in the **Second Quarter 2007** SRA RISK *newsletter*, to be mailed early May, 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 **20 March 2007**.



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