



RISK newsletter

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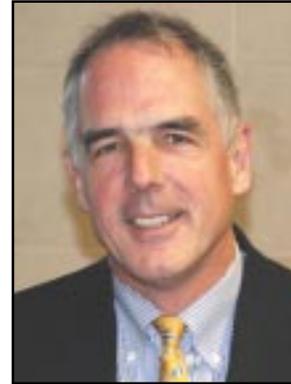
The Society for Risk Analysis Welcomes New Council Members for 2007-2008



Jonathan Wiener
President



Alison Cullen
President-elect



Jack Fowle
Treasurer-elect



Mitchell Small
Secretary



Sharon Friedman
Councilor



David Hassenzahl
Councilor



James Lambert
Councilor



**SRA Welcomes Michael Greenberg as the New
Editor-in-Chief of *Risk Analysis*—see page 10**

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Second World Congress on Risk—June 2008—see page 9

President's Message



Q (Lori Strong) presents agent Jonathan Wiener with his official bulletproof SRA '007 formal wear.

Greetings to all Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) members, old and new, and many thanks to those who attended the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting in San Antonio! I am honored to succeed a long line of illustrious presidents of the SRA, including my immediate predecessor and friend Kim Thompson. At the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting, Kim characterized her presidency as having stressed "Quality Control." Thanks to her assiduous efforts, and to the efforts of the SRA Council and of our prior leaders, the Society is in good health. My own presidency will focus on strategy for the future: growing the SRA globally.

Highlights of the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting

Kudos and special thanks to all those who helped organize the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting: my esteemed co-chairs Gail Charnley and Steve Lewis and the entire Annual Meeting Program Committee; Kim Thompson, for her guidance throughout the year; Jim Butler and Ruedi Birenheide, who ran the Web site; Pamela Williams and her team of judges for the 5 Best Posters; Chris Frey, for his help inviting speakers from China; Bob Tardiff and Sapphire Group for the terrific T-shirts; the SRA Secretariat at Burk and Associates, Inc., including Dick Burk, Sue Burk, Brett Burk, Lori Strong, Jill and David Drupa, Mary Lou Scarbrough, Heide Rohland, Melissa Thornburg, Tiffany Becker, and Stephanie Cross; and Genevieve Roessler, Mary Walchuk, and Sharon Hebl, who publish this fine newsletter.

- Outstanding attendance: Over 750 devotees of risk analysis registered this year, surpassing every prior year except 2006 in Baltimore (801 registrants; SRA always draws peak attendance in DC/Baltimore). Registrants numbered 560 in 2005 (Orlando), 554 in 2004 (Palm Springs), and 602 in 2003 (Baltimore).
- International attendees: More than 130 came from outside the USA, from all reaches of the globe. The longest voyages were made by travelers from China, India, Singapore, Australia, and Nigeria.
- Global leaders: Among the distinguished attendees were Shoji Tsuchida, president of SRA-Japan; Ann Enander, president-elect of SRA-Europe; Sergey Karchenko of SRA-Russia; Chongfu Huang, president of the Risk Analysis Council of China; Esperanza Lopez Vazquez (Mexico) and Luis Cifuentes (Chile), the leaders of the SRA group being organized in Latin America; and Robin Cantor and Javier Urbina-Soria, the co-chairs of the upcoming Second World Congress on Risk.
- Abstracts submitted: More than 450, including more than 120 posters. Of the abstracts submitted, 101 were in decision analysis, 76 in dose response, and 69 in risk communication.

- Workshops: 17 continuing education workshops were held on the Sunday preceding the annual meeting—to our knowledge, the most ever.
- Plenary speakers: Joseph LeDoux, Elke Weber, Chongfu Huang, Esperanza Lopez Vazquez, Javier Urbina-Soria, Cass Sunstein, John Graham, and Alison Cullen. See highlights on pages 5, 6, and 8.

Innovations continued from 2006 included:

- Specialty group business meetings held at lunch on Monday (extended this year to 40 minutes each).
- Gala Poster Reception on Monday evening (with 5 Best Poster awards).

Special features added this year included:

- Requiring each abstract to designate a primary specialty group, and giving the specialty groups a lead role in scheduling sessions.
- Offering an opportunity for presenters to post links to their papers on the SRA Web site in advance of the meeting (toward a routine practice, in order to increase the quality and depth of presentations and discussions).



Global SRA leaders, left to right: Gilberto Velázquez, Esperanza Lopez Vazquez, Javier Urbina-Soria, Kim Thompson, Chongfu Huang, Chris Frey, Jonathan Wiener, Shoji Tsuchida, and Alison Cullen

Transitions at *Risk Analysis*

As announced in San Antonio in December, Michael Greenberg has been named the new editor-in-chief of the SRA journal *Risk Analysis*. He succeeds Betty Anderson, who is stepping down after two terms. The Council felt grateful and challenged to select from a group of superb nominees. We thank Chris Frey for chairing the search committee and congratulate both Michael and Betty and look forward to continued excellence at the journal. (See article on page 10.)

In addition, the journal is now seeking nominees for three area editors in social sciences, including one each for Decision Sciences (succeeding Tim McDaniels), Risk Perceptions and Communication (succeeding Michael Greenberg), and Public Policy (a newly created position). Please nominate a colleague or yourself—see the box on page 10.

“Agents of Analysis”

The theme of the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting was “*Risk '007: Agents of Analysis*.” (Were you sharp-eyed enough to spot all the '007 allusions in the program—and to avoid falling for the decoys? How many of each did you espy?)



Beyond the once-in-a-millennium tagline, the theme conveyed an important message for the present and future: we are, and should all be, agents of risk analysis.

We should be agents in the sense of advocates for better risk analysis in government, industry, personal choices—indeed all walks of life. We should be agents of change, to build the profession and institutions worldwide. But we should also be wise to seek “proportionate analysis,” relative to the importance of the issue at stake, and subject to the costs of making decisions.

Meanwhile, we should incorporate the roles of agents into our analyses, studying how the behavior of actors may influence the occurrence of risks and the consequences of risk management efforts. This means greater attention to strategic actors who try to evade preventive measures, such as terrorists or pathogens; and it also means better understanding of law-abiding strategic actors, such as business managers and government officials, who respond to policy interventions in ways that may shift risks.

Yet we should not be “secret agents”—our work should be open, transparent, and forthright, thereby inviting and educating public discourse.

With best wishes for the coming year,
Jonathan Wiener, wiener@law.duke.edu

SRA Goes Global

The SRA was founded in the United States, but with affiliates in Europe, Japan, Russia, Australia, and elsewhere, the SRA is and should be an international society. The world needs us, and we need the world. The world needs good risk analysis, and an active profession of risk analysts, in order to identify, assess, and manage important problems. And the SRA and our profession need the world in order to cultivate our conversation, our community, and our conceptual approach to problems. As risks transcend borders, risk analysts cannot remain insular. What we learn from our colleagues in other countries will help us solve shared global problems and will also help us solve our own local problems with fresh insights. We should be agents for the diffusion and exchange of ideas throughout the network of risk analysts worldwide, and we should be helping to build that network.

To that end, SRA invites the launch of new Regional Organizations. Petitions are forthcoming to establish SRA-Latin America and SRA-China. Visit the Regions page of www.sra.org and organize your own group.

And we will consider how to improve the SRA structure to nourish this global network. See the discussion of this issue in the *RISK newsletter*, Third Quarter 2007, at <http://www.sra.org/newsletter/RISK.V27.N3.pdf>.

In 2008, SRA will hold exciting events including:

- 8-11 June: Second World Congress on Risk, Guadalajara, Mexico (see page 9).
- 22-25 September: SRA-Europe annual meeting, Valencia, Spain.
- 29-30 November: SRA-Japan annual meeting, Kansai University, Osaka.
- 7-10 December: SRA annual meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Pantheon

In 2008, SRA will also launch new initiatives: to enhance the value of membership (see page 11) and to induct past giants of the field into a new Pantheon of Risk Analysis (see page 11).

A Great 2008

I look forward to working with President-elect Alison Cullen and the entire Council to chart SRA's future. And I welcome your involvement—please visit www.sra.org, contribute your ideas and your time, attend SRA events, and help our global community flourish.

2008 SRA Annual Meeting
7-10 December 2008, Boston, Massachusetts
Westin Boston Waterfront



Photo Courtesy
of MOTT

Past President's Message

Kimberly Thompson

Wow! Thank you all for a fabulous year, which flew by incredibly quickly. We accomplished a great deal for the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) last year and I appreciate everyone's continued commitment to making the SRA great. Although those who attended the Tuesday awards and annual business meeting luncheon at the annual meeting heard some of my reflections on the year, I will share them again here for those who missed the fun.

We started off the lunch with a tribute to SRA members and leaders in the area of risk analysis who passed away during 2007, including Chauncey Starr, Cathy St. Hilaire, John Keller, and Mary Douglas. I hope that you will all share your memories of these special people with others. We paid particular tribute to Chauncey Starr, given his essential role in founding the SRA and his generous commitments, which included endowing the Young Risk Analyst Award given each year in his name.

With respect to accomplishments, the Membership Committee developed membership packets with certificates and cards, which every member should have received. At the meeting, the committee distributed pins to members who had reached the milestones of 10, 15, 20, or 25 years and pins for SRA Fellows. During the lunch, I asked the new members and then the groups reaching each milestone to stand, and it was terrific to see so many members standing each time. Rick Becker, who provided excellent leadership of this important committee during his last two years of service on the Council, received many thanks for his efforts.

Another major accomplishment for the year came from the Communications Committee, which successfully publicized several articles published in *Risk Analysis* during the year that led to mass media attention for the journal and the SRA. Rick Reiss received many thanks for his excellent leadership of the committee and his outstanding service as managing editor of the journal. On behalf of the Publications Committee, I announced that the search for the new editor-in-chief for the journal had led to the selection of Professor Michael Greenberg. We enthusiastically thank Betty Anderson, who received a Presidential Recognition

Award in 2006 recognizing her outstanding service as editor-in-chief, for her incredible commitment, stewardship, and leadership that extended beyond her initial five-year commitment as editor.

The treasurers and other members of the Finance Committee made impressive strides in making SRA's financial information accessible to all members via the SRA Web site. Thanks very much to Pamela Williams and Tony Cox!

The last major accomplishment came in the form of updating our Bylaws and working to improve governance. Secretary Mitch Small distributed and presented the new process that Council expects to implement for annually updating the Bylaws, and he invited members to comment

on the process. Thanks Mitch, who will continue on for two more years as secretary! The Council met via conference call throughout the year, which made us all much more productive, and I thank all of the members of the Council for their energy and commitments.

I was very pleased to announce that the old President's Reception was replaced by the new Monday evening Poster Session/Reception that is open to all, and even more pleased that this announcement received hearty applause. President Jonathan Wiener, meeting Co-Chairs Gail Charnley and Steve Lewis, and the entire Annual Meeting Committee did an outstanding job planning the meeting with a '07 theme. Thanks!

Of course, some unfinished business remains, in spite of best intentions. In particular, efforts to update the glossary did not get very far during the year, and the Council is still discussing the issues related to revisiting SRA's policy on "non policies." Structural issues will also continue to be a major theme.

In closing, I want to again thank the remarkable staff of Burk and Associates, Inc., who support us all and keep everything running: Richard Burk, SRA Executive Secretary, Sue Burk, Brett Burk, Lori Strong, David and Jill Drupa, Heide Rohland, Melissa Thornburg, Mary Lou Scarbrough, Stephanie Cross, Tiffany Becker, and Ruedi Birenheide, and our fabulous Webmaster, Jim Butler, and newsletter staff, Genevieve Roessler, Mary Walchuk, and Sharon Hebl, for keeping everyone informed.



Outgoing President Kim Thompson (in 10-gallon hat) receives a plaque with a gavel from incoming President Jonathan Wiener.

Call for Nominations for 2008-2009 SRA Officers

The Society for Risk Analysis Nominating Committee invites nominations for the following offices in the Society's elections for the 2008-2009 Council:

President-elect

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

Three Councilors

Please submit nominations by **2 April 2008** to Nominations Chair Christopher Frey, phone: 919-515-1155; fax: 919-515-7908; email: frey@ncsu.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.

Risk '007: Agents of Analysis
2007 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, San Antonio
Sunday, 9 December



Welcome Reception

Monday, 10 December



Registration



New Member and Fellows Breakfast



Box Lunches and Specialty Group Meetings



Coffee Break and Exhibits



Monday Plenary: Get Smart

Joseph LeDoux
New York University
Why Do We Feel So Afraid?

Elke Weber
Columbia University
The Risk We Perceive and the Risk We Take



Monday, 10 December

For Your Eyes Only: Gala Poster Reception



Attendees enjoy fine food and drink while visiting with poster presenters and voting for the best posters.

Best Poster Awards

Pascal Haegeli, Simon Fraser University, Canada, and **Ian McCammom**, Snowpit Technologies—*The Evaluator—A New Support Tool for Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain*

Hiroimi Kubota, **M. Kosugi**, **T. Yokoyama**, and **T. Tsuchiya**, Environmental Science Research Laboratory, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry, Japan—*Requirements for Information for the Public on Health Risks from Benzene by Applying the “Mental Models Approach”*

B. Junkins, **Michel Vigneault**, **J.L. Johnston**, Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada—*Simulating the Nutrient Distribution of Dietary Patterns for the Revision of Canada’s Food Guide*

Masashi Gamo, Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan—*Use of Exposure Markers Located Downstream of the Target Organ May Result in a Misleading Quantitative Risk Assessment*

Patrick Gurian, **Gilberto Velázquez**, **H.C. Galada**, **V. Corella-Barud**, **F.G. Pérez**, **S. Flores**, and **T. Montoya**, Drexel University—*Evaluation of a Mental Models Risk Communication Instrument for Carbon Monoxide Intoxication*



Best Poster Award winners, left to right: Michel Vigneault, Hiroimi Kubota, Masashi Gamo, Patrick Gurian, SRA Past Treasurer Pamela Williams, and Gilberto Velázquez

Tuesday, 11 December



Student Breakfast

Tuesday Plenary: Opening New Frontiers for Risk Analysis

Esperanza Lopez Vazquez

Universidad Autónoma
del Estado de Morelos,
Mexico

*Risk Analysis in Latin
America: Challenges
and Prospects*



Chongfu Huang

Beijing Normal
University

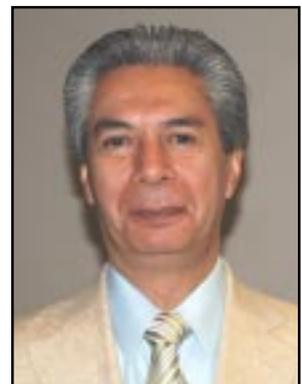
Risk Analysis in China



Javier Urbina-Soria

Universidad Nacional
Autónoma de Mexico

*Expanding Risk
Analysis through
World Congresses*



2007 Society for Risk Analysis Awards



Vicki Bier
Distinguished
Achievement
Award



Left to right: Ann Bostrum–Fellow, Wayne Landis–Fellow, John Evans–Outstanding Educator, Kimberly Thompson–Fellow, Felicia Wu–Chauncey Starr Distinguished Young Risk Analyst, Tony Cox–Outstanding Risk Practitioner, Steve Hrudey–Fellow, Jim Butler–Outstanding Service

Student Travel Awards



Front row, left to right: Changlu Liu, Bhavnita Mistry, Seohyun Park, Ying Li, Qixun Chen, Sharly Rabinovici; Middle row, left to right: Brett Dickey, Mark Orsi, Kyeongmi Cheon, Rachel Hirsch, JiYoung Park; Back row, left to right: Kash Barker, Geoffrey Milz, William McGill, David Durham, Philip Hart, Marc Nascarella; Not pictured: Alexander Bandza, Irina Borodyanska, Amanda Boyd, M. Beatrice Dias, Violeta Hennessey, Nilesh Joshi, Justin Lessman, Alexander Linthicum, Farzad Noubary, Melisa Pollak, Jacob Torres

Call for Nominations for 2008 SRA Awards

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Awards Committee invites nominations for the following 2008 awards:

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

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 2008 award will be for the public sector.

The **Chauncey Starr Distinguished Young Risk Analyst 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 2008** to SRA Past President Baruch Fischhoff, Awards Chair, email: baruch@cmu.edu, and David Drupa, phone: 703-790-1745, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com.

Specialty Group Student Merit Awards



Left to right: Li Ying (Dose Response), Geoff Milz (Decision Analysis and Risk), David Duryham (Ecological Risk Assessment), Jade Mitchell Blackwood (Biological Stressors); Not pictured: Violeta Hennessey (Dose Response), Nilesh Joshi (Engineering and Infrastructure), Alexander Bandza (Risk Policy and Law)

International Travel Awards



Gilberto Velázquez

Left to right: Meng-Hung Lin, Robin Lake, Gulbanu Guvenc, Kyoko Ono; Not pictured: Jose Figueira, Stephen Forsythe, Naoko Koizumi, Prakash Sarangi

Wednesday, 12 December

Wednesday Plenary Luncheon: Nudge Nudge Say No More?



Left to right, Alison Cullen, Jonathan Wiener, John Graham, Cass Sunstein, and Kim Thompson

Speaker

Cass Sunstein
University of Chicago
*Libertarian Paternalism
Is Not an Oxymoron*

Discussants

John Graham
RAND Corporation
Alison Cullen
University of Washington
and ETH Zurich



T-shirt Giveaway, sponsored by Bob Tardiff and Sapphire Group



Wine and Cheese Closing Reception

Second World Congress on Risk 8-11 June 2008, Guadalajara, Mexico

— Register at www.sra.org/events_2008_world_congress.php —

Workshops at the Second World Congress

Katherine Walker

On Sunday, 8 June 2008, preceding the Second World Congress, the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is pleased to offer four excellent professional-development workshops. These have been carefully selected to provide opportunities for those international conference participants who might be new to risk assessment and SRA as well as to those looking for additional in-depth training in risk communication, dose-response assessment, and risk analysis related to regulatory standards.

Below we give brief course descriptions. Detailed material on the courses, their instructors, and how to register will soon be available on the SRA Web site for the World Congress (http://www.sra.org/events_2008_world_congress.php).

1. Risk Analysis: Fundamental Concepts, Applications, and Controversies

Instructor: *David Hassenzahl*, Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA

Half-Day, Course Fee: \$225.00

This half-day workshop will provide a broad introduction to the field of risk analysis. We introduce fundamental risk analysis concepts, terminology, applications, and calculations. Students will also be introduced to the range of topics covered by the SRA (for example, biological stressors, decision analysis and risk, dose response, ecological risk assessment, economics and benefits analysis, emerging nanoscale materials, engineering and infrastructure, exposure assessment, risk communication, and risk policy and law). The workshop is suitable for individuals with limited or no experience in risk analysis. Upon completion of this workshop, students will understand the origins, applications, and controversies surrounding risk analysis. They will be prepared to evaluate risk analysis reports and presentations. Most importantly, they will be prepared to engage comfortably in the range of conversations at the World Congress.

Language of Instruction: English

2. Risk Communication

Instructors: *Ana Rosa Moreno*, MSc, former official of WHO/PAHO and present Coordinator of the Environmental Health Program of the Mexico-United States Foundation for Science, Mexico

Dr. Óscar Tarragó, Coordinator for Training in Risk Communication of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Full-Day, Course Fee: \$300.00

This full-day course was created by the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) Risk Assessment and Management Unit. It offers orientation on the theory and methodology of risk communication. The elements of risk communication are described, as well as strategies and effective procedures for intervention in this area. The aim is to develop participants' skills so that they are able to create communication plans with the target population, construct an interactive information-sharing process, and attain an operational and sustainable vision of risk communication.

Language of Instruction: Spanish

3. Recent Developments in Risk Assessment—International Frameworks for Evaluating Toxicity Data for Human Health Assessment

Instructors: *Lynne Haber*, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA), USA

Bette Meek, Associate Director, Chemical Risk Assessment, University of Ottawa, Canada

Jay Zhao, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Full-day, Course Fee: \$250.00

This full-day workshop is designed for all chemical risk assessors, with the aim of providing familiarity with cutting-edge international (WHO/IPCS) methods for considering weight of evidence of mode of action and chemical-specific adjustment factors. The course will begin with review of basic concepts of risk assessment, including hazard characterization and dose-response analysis, providing a background for all in the basic concepts, and then move on to address how recent developments affect the approaches used. Several case examples will be given.

For more information: http://www.tera.org/education/RA_developments2008.htm

Language of Instruction: English

4. Use of Risk Analysis in the Development of Better Food Safety Standards

Instructors: *Amir Mokhtari*, Research Environmental Scientist, Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International, USA

Steve Beaulieu, Director, Risk Assessment and Environmental Modeling Program, RTI International

Full-Day, Course Fee: \$245.00

This full-day workshop deals with risk assessment and risk management issues in establishing standards, guidelines, and other recommendations for food safety that are intended to ensure consumer protection on both a national and international level and to facilitate international trade. Key objectives of this workshop include (1) to describe the principles and present a framework for using risk analysis to develop microbiological food safety standards, (2) to discuss how this risk analysis framework fits within the context of a more general framework for managing food-borne risks to consumers, (3) to investigate how different types of food safety measures can be derived using the outputs of risk analysis, (4) to provide guidelines on the interactions between risk managers and risk assessors, and (5) to present practical examples showing how risk analy-

sis can be used in the development of food safety measures. This course will be of primary interest to governments; however, other organizations, companies, and interested parties who need to evaluate and/or establish food safety standards will also find it valuable. The audience should have a basic understanding of risk analysis concepts and be familiar with the risk assessment process.

For more information: <http://rtidemo.rti.org/WRC2008>

Language of instruction: English

Travel Stipends

The Second World Congress on Risk encourages attendance by participants from developing countries. A travel stipend may be requested from organizers to help offset the cost of travel, registration, and workshop fees.

The details for support eligibility and the application materials are on the SRA World Congress Web page at www.sra.org/events_2008_world_congress.php (click on Application for Travel Stipend link). 



Risk Analysis Journal

New Editor-in-Chief for *Risk Analysis* Named



The Council and the Publications Committee are very pleased to announce that Michael R. Greenberg, PhD, will serve as the editor-in-chief of *Risk Analysis*. Dr. Greenberg is professor and director of the National Center for Neighborhood and Brownfields Redevelopment of Rutgers University and associate dean of the faculty of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

Greenberg served as *Risk Analysis* area editor for social sciences and received the Society for Risk Analysis Distinguished Achievement Award in 2003.

A highly accomplished scholar, Greenberg studies environmental health and neighborhood redevelopment policies.

His books include *Urbanization and Cancer Mortality* (1983), *Hazardous Waste Sites: The Credibility Gap* (1984), *Public Health and the Environment* (1987), *Environmentally Devastated Risk and the Press* (1987), *Environmentally Devastated Neighborhoods in the United States* (1996), *Restoring*

America's Neighborhoods: What Local People Can Do (1999), and *The Reporter's Environmental Handbook* (2003).

Greenberg has contributed more than 500 publications to more than 100 science, social science, and policy journals. He has been a member of National Research Council committees that focus on waste management, such as the destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile and nuclear weapons. He has received awards for research from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Society for Professional Journalists, the American Public Health Association, the Association of American Geographers, and the Society for Risk Analysis and serves as associate editor for environmental health for the *American Journal of Public Health*.

In preparation for the transition and with Tim McDaniels' recent decision to step down as an area editor, the journal is now searching for three new social science area editors, as described below. Please circulate the announcement to any individuals who you believe might be interested.

***Risk Analysis*—Call for Nominations for Area Editors in Social Sciences**

The Publications Committee seeks nominations for three social science area editors. Each position is a three-year appointment to serve on the editorial staff of *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*.

Decision Sciences—The current area editor, Dr. Timothy McDaniels, is completing his term with distinction and his service to the journal is deeply appreciated. This area editor will cover journal submissions related to decision sciences, including evaluation of preferences and values, characterization of decisions, economics and benefits assessment, and management science.

Risk Perception and Communication—The current area editor, Dr. Michael Greenberg, will become the new editor-in-chief of *Risk Analysis*. The area editor in risk perception and communication will cover journal submissions related to the perception of risk, cognitive heuristics, mental models, and communication of risk.

Public Policy—This is a new position that responds to the critical role of risk analysis in public policy. This is a new area for the journal, intended to cover all aspects of policy and law and other social sciences not covered by the other area editors. Applicants should include in their applications any ideas about what this new area editor might do to stimulate submissions of papers to the journal.

Responsibilities: The area editor oversees the peer-review process for submitted manuscripts in this discipline area and makes recommendations about the suitability of submitted manuscripts for publication in the journal. In addition, the area editor is expected to be a prominent scholar in the field and to seek topics and invite submissions to ensure that the journal is publishing on the most prominent topics in the field. The area editors will meet for one half day at the annual meeting to discuss their agenda for the coming year and will hold periodic phone meetings to refine their agenda throughout the year.

Nominations for area editor should include a brief statement of the nominee's qualifications, relevant experience, plans for the journal, and a CV. The nomination should be submitted to Dr. Kimberly Thompson, chair of the Publications Committee, Society for Risk Analysis, by email at kimt@hsph.harvard.edu.

Nominations submitted by **1 February 2008** will receive full consideration, but the searches for each position will continue until filled.

Risk Analysis Best Paper Awards Presented at 2007 SRA Annual Meeting

Social Science: Vivianne H.M. Visschers, Ree M. Meertens, W.F. Passchier, and Nanne K. deVries, *How Does the General Public Evaluate Risk Information? The Impact of Associations with Other Risks*, Volume 27, Issue 3, June 2007

Health Sciences: Matthew W. Wheeler and A. John Bailer, *Properties of Model-Averaged BMDLs: A Study of Model Averaging in Dichotomous Response Risk Estimation*, Volume 27, Issue 3, June 2007

Decision Science: H. Rosoff and D. von Winterfeldt, *Risk and Economic Analysis of Dirty Bomb Attacks on the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach*, Volume 27, Issue 3, June 2007

Ecological: Janet M. Carey, Ruth Beilin, Anthony Boxshall, Mark A. Burgman, and Louisa Flander, *Risk-Based Approaches to Deal with Uncertainty in a Data-Poor System: Stakeholder Involvement in Hazard Identification for Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in Victoria, Australia*, Volume 27, Issue 1, February 2007

Engineering: Vineet Kumar Jain and Rachel Ann Davidson, *Application of a Regional Hurricane Wind Risk Forecasting Model for Wood-Frame Houses*, Volume 27, Issue 1, February 2007



Committees

Conferences and Workshops Committee

Jim Lambert, Chair

We had a record 17 workshops with over 150 attendees for the Sunday, 9 December, workshops at the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting in San Antonio in December. There were about 15 other events managed by the Conferences and Workshops Committee throughout 2007, including events associated with various SRA specialty groups. Thanks to all this year's attendees and workshop organizers and presenters.

Thanks to Kara Morgan for chairing our SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee through 2007! Kara reformed several essential practices and procedures of the committee, including those involving SRA recognition of outside events.

Our SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee subcommittee chairs are Margaret MacDonell and Jacqueline Patterson (annual meeting events), Katy Walker (SRA-recognized events and World Congress events), and Jim Wilson (SRA-sponsored events). Jim Lambert (lambert@virginia.edu) takes over as Conferences and Workshops Committee chair for 2008. Contact Jim or any subcommittee chair if you might be willing to serve on the SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee.

Check the "Events" link and the SRA Members Only section of the Web site (www.sra.org) for breaking news of SRA conference and workshop events, including four continuing education workshops at the SRA World Congress in Guadalajara in June 2008.

Membership Committee

David Hassenzahl, Chair

First, as incoming chair of the Membership Committee, I thank Rick Becker for his many accomplishments. The past year has been particularly productive: at the 2007 conference, milestone pins were handed out for those who have been members for 10, 15, 20, and 25 years. The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council approved a new initiative to produce SRA logo items, such as mugs and shirts. These should be available for purchase no later than the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting. In 2008 we will continue recruiting at other professional meetings with tables at the Society for Toxicology conference and one or two others. Don't be surprised if you are contacted to help out at a recruitment booth! Finally, please contact new Chair David M. Hassenzahl if you are interested in helping with membership issues: david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu.



SRA Launches the "Pantheon of Risk Analysis" to Honor Past Giants

Photo by John Collings



In December 2007, the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council approved a proposal by Jonathan Wiener, Jim Wilson, Chris Whipple, Robin Cantor, and Elaine Faustman to create a "Pantheon of Risk Analysis"—not actual tombs, but a series of biographical sketches of deceased pioneers of risk analysis, posted on the SRA Web site and on public Web sites.

In addition to honoring past giants in the field, this Pantheon is intended to enhance public understanding of the field and the SRA, to show what risk analysis has done and can do for the public good, and to attract new members to the SRA and new students to the field. The Pantheon will be overseen by the chair of the Publications Committee each year. Members are invited to nominate candidates for induction; in 2008, nominations should be emailed to both Publications Chair Kim Thompson (kimt@hsph.harvard.edu) and President Jonathan Wiener (wiener@law.duke.edu).



Regional Organizations

SRA-Japan

www.sra-japan.jp/english

Shoji Tsuchida, President

SRA-Japan (SRA-J) held its 20th annual conference 17-18 November 2007 at the University of Tokushima. The chief executive organizer was Dr. Jun Sekizawa, who is the former president of SRA-J. The main theme of the conference was "How to Live in the Risk Society of the 21st Century: From Our Daily Lives to Global Issues." We had a plenary speech, three symposiums, 18 oral sessions with a total of 81 presentations, and a poster session with 87 presentations.

The plenary speech—"Risk Society and Public Policy"—was given by Dr. Kenichi Miyamoto, the professor emeritus of Osaka City University. Miyamoto is an economist and published a book titled *Awful KOGAI* (environmental pollution caused by industries) in 1964. It was the first book in which the word KOGAI was used. He stressed the importance of judicature and local governance to conquer KOGAI.

The themes of the symposiums were Disaster Prevention in Local Communities, Food Safety, and Education of Risk Managers.

SRA-J has published the proceedings of every annual conference. A maximum of six pages is assigned to each presentation and the proceedings of the 20th annual conference (proceedings, volume 20) has 476 pages.

On the evening of 17 November we had a reception and enjoyed local foods and AWA dancing. AWA is the old name of Tokushima prefecture. AWA dancing is one of the most famous traditional festival-dancing in Japan.

We will have the 21st annual conference at Kansai University, Osaka, 29-30 November 2008.

In 2009 we are planning to have the 4th East Asian Conference of Risk in Beijing. The executive organizers are Professor Shi of Beijing Normal University, China, Professor Shin of Yonsei University, Korea, and Professor Tsuchida of Kansai University, Japan.

SRA-Europe

www.sraeurope.org

Roberto Bubbico, President

The annual conference of SRA-Europe (SRA-E) will be held at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, 22-25 September 2008. It will be a special event because it will be co-organized by SRA-E and ESRA (European Safety and Reliability Association). This will give members of different associations working in the same fields the opportunity to make contacts and exchange ideas around a broad range of common research areas and applications.

Given the increasing number of people involved with risk analysis and all its connected activities (risk, safety, reliability, management, communication, etc.) the possibility of meeting colleagues and exchanging ideas has become a fundamental issue in order to find common tools, recognized procedures, and even, hopefully, a common vocabulary. At the same time we intend that this joint conference will assist in the creation of new research groups, of more effec-

tive links within existing groups and, overall, in better coordination of research groups working on common topics, thus helping us to avoid a duplication of efforts.

This joint event is intended to become the first of a series of similar events that are more regularly scheduled. As usual, during the conference, the annual business meeting of SRA-E will take place. In recent years, a growing interest around risk issues has occurred all over Europe and the number of participants in the SRA-E annual conferences has correspondingly increased.

Valencia is Spain's third largest city and is located on the East coast close to the Mediterranean Sea. It has a pleasant temperature for most of the year. The city and its surroundings offer a broad variety of cultural, entertainment, and leisure activities.

More information about the conference can be found at <http://www.esrel2008.com/>.

We hope you can join us in Valencia.

Metro (NY-NJ-CT)

Rao Kolluru, President

The Metro (NY-NJ-CT) region conducted a seminar 15 November 2007 on a topic of worldwide interest: "Global Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions—Market Incentives, Risks, and Lessons."

The seminar, sponsored jointly by SRA Metro and Columbia Students for Environmental Action, was held at Columbia University School of Public Health. The program featured eight speakers and panelists from academia (Columbia, New York University), industry, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others. The speakers addressed state, federal, and business initiatives on climate change—as well as individual exposures to increased levels of allergens like poison ivy and ragweed.

For a copy of this program (or the previous on Ecological Restoration), contact RaoKollur@aol.com.

New England

www.sra-ne.org

Sandy Baird, Co-Chair

In January 2008, we held our second event: "How Can Environmental Epidemiology Research Better Support Responsible Risk Management and Public Health Messages?" We were honored to have two excellent speakers: Dr. Roberta White, chair of the Department of Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health, and Dr. Barbara Beck, principal at Gradient Corporation.

Other events planned for this year include:

- Panel discussion of the National Research Council report on Improving Risk Analysis Approaches Used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- Joint meeting with the Licensed Site Professional Association regarding Subsurface Vapor Intrusion. Speakers: Dr. Henry Schuver of USEPA and Dr. Harlee Strauss of H. Strauss & Associates, Inc.
- Kuwaiti Oil Fires: Risk Evaluation in Support of the State of Kuwait's Public Health Claim. Speaker: Dr. John Evans

of the Harvard School of Public Health and the Kuwait Public Health Project.

- Joint meeting with North Atlantic SETAC regarding regional relative risk modeling. Speaker: Dr. Wayne Landis.

For the latest information about our event schedule, please visit www.sra-ne.org.

We are soliciting interest in a planning committee for our chapter to plan new initiatives for 2008. Discussion about

new initiatives began at the chapter's business meeting during the 2007 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. We also seek individuals interested in planning for and hosting events during the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting, which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. If interested, please contact Sandy Baird (Sandra.Baird@State.MA.US) or Donna Vorhees (djvorhees@comcast.net). 



Specialty Groups

Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

Laina Bush, Chair

The Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group serves as a bridge between economics and risk assessment within the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA). In that role, we try to bring economic analysis and risk assessment into a single risk management conversation. Our goal is to see risk analyses where the risk assessment and the cost-benefit analysis fit together seamlessly. We encourage our specialty group members and the wider SRA membership to think about the current disciplinary barriers to achieving this goal and what we can do to break through those barriers.

More than 35 persons attended the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group business meeting in San Antonio. The specialty group hosted a workshop in San Antonio on integrating economics and benefits assessments into risk analysis that was quite successful and resulted in requests for more.

We began this year's business meeting with the election of our officers. Our new vice-chair, who will succeed me as chair next year, is Dominic Mancini. Continuing as secretary/treasurer is Amber Jessup. I would like to extend a special "thank you" to Clark Nardinelli, who did a wonderful job chairing our group. Thanks to Clark's efforts, our contribution to the program in San Antonio was outstanding. Clark will remain on our Executive Committee as immediate past chair. Clark has also volunteered to chair an effort to focus on student involvement/awards.

Much of our meeting was devoted to a discussion of ideas for workshops, symposia, and other activities. Just a few of the items ripe for further examination through workshops or symposia included valuation, discounting, analytical approaches to homeland security regulation, and expert validation of regulatory impact analyses. We also discussed co-sponsoring symposia with other specialty groups.

The new officers of the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group welcome your comments and suggestions for activities for the coming year.

Biological Stressors Specialty Group

www.biostressors.org

Emma Hartnett, Chair

The Biological Stressors Specialty Group (BSSG) focuses upon the risk assessment and analysis of the full range of biostressors present in our environment. The scope includes (but is not limited to) human pathogens transmitted via food, water, air, organs (including blood), and body fluids and excretions; zoonotic pathogens; biologically produced dis-

ease agents; plant and animal pathogens; plant and animal pests; invasive species; and invasive genetic material. Our annual business meeting was held on Monday, 10 December 2007. During this meeting we elected a new vice-chair, Steven Anderson, and we thank Sherri Dennis for all her hard work as chair during 2007.

The main focus of discussion at the business meeting was activities for the coming year. Ideas were raised for workshops and symposia for the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting and other ways for BSSG members to get involved serving on various subcommittees. We also discussed the BSSG Web site (www.biostressors.org), which was developed in 2007. Many ideas were proposed for further developing the content of the Web site, including the addition of BSSG members' presentations from the SRA annual meeting. If the discussions during the annual business meeting are any indication, BSSG can look forward to a busy year.

Congratulations to Jade Mitchell Blackwood, who received the Biological Stressors Student Merit Award for 2007.

If you would like more information please contact the BSSG officers: Chair Emma Hartnett (ehartnett@AnalyzeRisk.com), Vice-Chair Steve Anderson (steven.anderson@fda.hhs.gov), and Secretary-Treasurer Michael McElvaine (Michael.McElvaine@usda.gov)

Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

Martin Schultz, Chair

The annual business meeting of the Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) was held this year with approximately 33 attendees. Igor Linkov opened the meeting and summarized the state of DARSG. The group has now been in existence for two years and, since its inception, has operated under the leadership of Igor Linkov and Greg Kiker. The group presently has approximately 350 members, which makes it the largest specialty group in SRA. A quarter of all abstracts submitted for presentation at the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting were marked for presentation in DARSG symposia, making this specialty group the largest within SRA in terms of both number of abstract submissions and membership. We can interpret this as a signal that the field of decision analysis is perceived as highly relevant within SRA, which is not surprising since it cuts across the many domains of risk analysis. DARSG officers for 2008 are as follows: President/Chair Martin Schultz, Past President Igor Linkov, President-elect Terry Sullivan, and Secretary-Treasurer Greg Kiker.

DARSG has a broad mission, including (1) to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge among practitioners,

researchers, scholars, teachers, and others interested in applications of risk assessment and decision analysis methods and tools, (2) to encourage collaborative research on applied decision analysis and risk assessment, and (3) to provide leadership and play an active role in advancing the use of decision analysis and risk tools in policy and practice. DARSG approaches this mission by organizing symposia at the annual meeting each year, sponsoring a student paper competition, and developing and maintaining ties with other communities with similar interests. DARSG made an excellent showing at the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, this year by sponsoring sessions that addressed decision and risk in military and homeland security, industrial, and environmental arenas. To encourage student participation, the specialty group sponsors a student research award each year. Congratulations to Geoffrey Milz of the University of Cincinnati's School of Planning for receiving the 2007 Student Merit Award for his abstract titled "Beyond Ad-Hoc: An Application of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis in an Agroterror Scenario."

There are a number of objectives for the coming year. Since our specialty group is relatively new and has grown quickly, one of the objectives this year will be to learn more about our membership. To accomplish this, we plan to implement a brief online survey. A link to the survey will be distributed to members by email within the next few months and we are encouraging everyone to please take the time to respond. Responses to the survey will help us understand who we are, how our group compares to others, and how we can serve our membership best. Other objectives this year include setting up a DARSG Web site to promote the activities of the group, improve communications among group members, and provide a portal to other decision analysis groups and resources. DARSG will continue to establish ties with other research and practice communities that focus on decision analysis. For example, we will lead symposia at the Second World Congress on Risk in Guadalajara, Mexico, and at the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Workshop on Nanotechnology (www.risk-trace.com/portugal2008). DARSG will also sponsor a student paper award in 2008. Faculty members should encourage their students to begin preparing their papers now to participate in this competition next year. This award is distinct from the SRA's student travel award, which SRA offers for presenters at the annual meeting who are students.

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

www.neptuneandco.com/sra-erasg

Wayne Landis, Outgoing Chair; Katherine von Stackelberg, Current Chair; Kurt Frantzen, Chair-elect

The annual meeting in San Antonio featured several interesting ecological risk sessions, our annual business meeting (including new faces!), a student award winner, and a well-attended mixer. One session, "Numbers from Screening to Cleanup," tracked different uses of numerical criteria to support decision making, from the effort to develop soil screening levels to back-calculation of preliminary remediation goals. Speakers demonstrated that values developed for screening contaminants are not an appropriate basis for target or clean-up levels. Another session, in keeping with the '007 theme, "Pointing the Goldfinger: Linking Risk

to Cause," featured several interesting talks on tools, methods, and case studies for discerning linkages between stressors and impacts. This is a topic that ecological risk assessment is well suited to address, as discussed in the Fourth Quarter 2007 RISK *newsletter* (page 10) by our outgoing chair.

There is a need to go beyond deterministic comparisons of chemical concentrations in environmental media to various thresholds and criteria, and the ecological risk sessions sought to initiate a dialog around that topic. There are multiple stressors, impacts, and varying temporal and spatial scales at play and a number of emerging tools and methods that can be used to evaluate this more complex, integrated environment. These include estimating environmental benefits associated with implementation of management alternatives, decision analysis tools, relative risk models, and weight-of-evidence approaches. Ecological risk assessment, unlike human health, is less constrained in terms of evaluating potential toxicity (for example, there is no ecological Integrated Risk Information System, although there have been some efforts to standardize toxicity reference value development). Joint probability models and site-specific evaluations are increasingly used and should be used at higher tiers of analysis in lieu of simple comparisons to toxicity reference values.

Congratulations to our student award winner, David Durham, "Should We Worry About Plague in Urban Rats in the U.S.?"

The Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group is looking for your ideas for symposia, workshops, session topics, and/or seminars for the upcoming year! Members discussed potential topics at the annual meeting, focusing particularly on the continuum of ecosystems and the humans who inhabit them, particularly with regard to climate change, invasive species, biological threats (for example, viruses, bird flu, etc.), and causal analysis across multiple stressors and impacts. We have started an email list, and anyone who is interested in joining should contact Chair Katherine von Stackelberg at kvon@hsph.harvard.edu.

Risk Communication Specialty Group

www.sra.org/rcsg

Tea L. Guidotti, Chair

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG), founded in 1990, is open to all SRA members who are interested in the communication of risk. The purpose of the group is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge about risk communication and to advance the field.

Risk communication research made a strong showing at the annual meeting in San Antonio, with the third highest number of abstract submissions of any specialty group (69). The highlight of the RCSG business meeting was the presentation of the student paper awards (winners in photo on page 7). Jeff Lewis presented the ExxonMobil award for first place to Rachel Hirsch, University of Western Ontario, for her paper (with co-author Jamie Baxter), "The Look of the Lawn: Pesticide Policy Preference and Health Risk Perception in Context." On behalf of the RCSG, Chair Lori Severtsen, University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented merit awards to runners-up Philip (Sol) Hart from Cornell and

Justin Lessman from Kansas State for their papers.* Judges were pleased with the high quality of the papers, which bodes well for the future of the field.

Initiated in 1998, the student paper competition benefits tremendously from Bob Griffin's (professor of journalism, Marquette University) able oversight. Thanks to Bob and this year's reviewers: Dominique Brossard, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Kurt Neuwirth, University of Cincinnati; Robert O'Connor, National Science Foundation; Katherine Rowan, George Mason; and Craig Trumbo, Colorado State!

Thanks are also due to outgoing RCSG officers: executive committee members Victoria Friedensen (NASA), Brooke Rogers (Kings College London), and Theresa Garvin (University of Alberta), and especially outgoing Chair Lori Severtsen. Continuing executive committee members Louie Rivers (NSF) and Meredith Gore (Michigan State) were joined by newly elected officers Cindy Jardine (University of Alberta, chair-elect) and executive committee members Janet Yang (Cornell University, student representative), Timothy C. Wolfson (Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir, PC), Joe Arvai (Michigan State University, former RCSG chair), and Robyn Wilson (Ohio State University). Chair Tee L. Guidotti (George Washington University) closed the meeting with a call for new initiatives.

Now is the time to start thinking about risk communication symposia for next year's annual meeting in Boston, including joint symposia with other societies, as well as interdisciplinary or topic-related symposia.

If you have questions about the specialty group or suggestions for RCSG activities, please contact Tee Guidotti, eohtlg@gwu.edu, or RCSG Secretary-Treasurer Ann Bostrom, abostrom@u.washington.edu. To sign up for the RCSG listserv, check the RCSG membership box when you complete your SRA registration. Notes from the business meeting, contact information for officers, and information about the student paper award are available on the RCSG Web site at www.sra.org/rcsg/.

* Philip S. Hart, Erik Nisbet (at Cornell University), and James Shanahan (Fairfield University, Fairfield CT). "The Value of Participation? The Role of Environmental Values and Media Use in Promoting Citizen Engagement in Wildlife Management Decision-Making."

Justin R. Lessman, Mun-Young Chung, and Meijing Fan (all at Kansas State University). "Framing Risk: Differences in Cross-National News Coverage of North Korea's Nuclear Test."

Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group **http://ceprofs.civil.tamu.edu/sguikema/sra_ei/**

Seth Guikema, Chair

The Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group (EISG) is off to a great start in 2008! At its recent business meeting in San Antonio held during the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting, the EISG elected new officers, approved its first-ever set of bylaws (available upon request), and discussed a number of new and exciting initiatives.

The entire EISG expresses its sincere thanks to James Lambert, who served as the EISG chairman for the past several years, and congratulates him on his election as a

councilor of SRA. Filling his shoes is a newly elected EISG leadership team, which includes Chair Seth Guikema (John Hopkins University, sguikema@jhu.edu), Vice Chair Kenneth Crowther (University of Virginia, kgc4e@virginia.edu), and Secretary/Treasurer William McGill (University of Maryland, wmcgill@umd.edu). As stated in the newly approved EISG bylaws, the chair serves a one-year term, after which the vice chair becomes the EISG chair, who then also serves a one-year term. The secretary/treasurer serves a two-year term.

The EISG would like to recognize the 2007 best student paper award and travel award winners. This year the winner of the best student paper award was Niles Joshi from the University of Virginia for his paper titled "Diversification of Engineering Infrastructure Investments with Emergent Programmatic and Technical Risks." The travel award winner was Jacob Torres from Texas A&M University.

Among the many new initiatives planned for the EISG in 2008 and beyond include an aggressive campaign to recruit an increasing number of engineering-related submissions to *Risk Analysis*, an enhanced membership drive targeting engineers with a demonstrated interest in advancing the state of practice in risk analysis, and the organization of several symposia and education workshops for the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting. For example, we anticipate offering two half-day workshops at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting: one on engineering risk analysis and another on using Microsoft Excel for risk analysis. Moreover, the EISG anticipates preparing a quarterly or monthly summary of recent engineering-related articles published in as many academic publications as we can track for distribution to the EISG. We also encourage any members with additional ideas to contact the leadership team of EISG.

We encourage anyone interested in risk issues related to engineering or infrastructure to join the EISG and consider organizing a symposium at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston. Furthermore, regardless of whether you are a member, please send an email to the EISG leadership with any newsworthy items with potential appeal to the risk engineers of SRA. In particular, please contact Seth Guikema (sguikema@jhu.edu) with any news items for the EISG column in the SRA RISK *newsletter*.

Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group **www.sranano.org**

Jo Anne Shatkin, Chair

The Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group (EMNMS) held its first business meeting on 10 December at the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting. EMNMS has 130 members from 14 countries representing governmental, academic, industrial, and nonprofit organizations. The main activities of the first year included outreach and communications to other organizations. At the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting, EMNMS sponsored two educational workshops, three symposia, and a networking mixer, in addition to the business meeting. For 2008, the group plans to co-sponsor a congressional workshop with the American Chemical Society and the Society for Toxicology; organize Web conference calls on specific issues of interest to our members, such as state of the art of occupational exposure assess-

ment for nanoscale materials; and sponsor a workshop, planned for 10-11 September 2008 in Washington, DC, to discuss issues of risk assessment and communication regarding nanoscale materials and nanotechnology. There will

be a student paper award from EMNMS for the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston, so please encourage students to submit papers. For more information, contact Jo Anne Shatkin, +1 617-350-0990, or info@sranano.org. 



What Do We Do?

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

Alan Weinrich

What is your job title?

Weinrich: Biologist/Environmental Health Scientist

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

Weinrich: I work in an Environmental Protection Agency-National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) team, based in Cincinnati, which primarily is involved in deriving chemical toxicity values for the Superfund program.

I also respond to site-specific questions from field risk assessors and others.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

Weinrich: That is a very long story, but in many ways you might say this career chose me.

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

Weinrich: I've spent most of my career working in various aspects of occupational health, including compliance, consulting, research, and education. An opportunity to work with the ACGIH® TLV® (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists Threshold Limit Values) Committees in deriving occupational exposure limits taught me that I was good at seeing patterns in health effects and exposure data—and at interpreting those data.

Opportunities to work in a variety of environments and in several countries have provided a diverse, practical understanding of how toxicity values are used and how important they can be to field risk assessors.

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

Weinrich: Learning, especially when it results in useful,

credible products, often is exciting. (Do I sound like a nerd?) Successfully deriving toxicity values in which we have confidence, for chemicals that have conflicting or minimal datasets, usually results from a team process in which we typically learn from each other and scientific reviewers.

I have learned new things from every assessment in which I have participated.

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

Weinrich:

- Make sure you know how to—and like to—read carefully and write clearly.

- Leave your pride behind and be eager to learn from your colleagues and reviewers.

- Get as much education as you can, understanding that the most important thing you learn probably will be how to learn.

- Be patient.

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

Weinrich: As a new SRA member, I have especially appreciated the opportunities for networking and to present my work to an interested, inquiring audience.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Weinrich: If you would like more information on NCEA's work, please feel free to contact Linda Tuxen (703-347-8609; Tuxen.Linda@EPA.gov), who would be happy to arrange an interview with NCEA Director Peter Preuss or the appropriate other people. 



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.



Member News



Ortwin Renn

Ortwin Renn, director of ZIRN and Dialogik, was awarded an honorary doctorate (Dr. sc. tech. h.c.) from the prestigious Swiss Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. Renn was honored for his outstanding scientific contributions in the field of risk governance and public participation. Professor Wunderli-Allenspach, rector of the Swiss Institute of Technology, emphasized during the ceremony that Renn has been a pioneer in developing new methods for stakeholder involvement in environmental planning and conflict resolution and that he could serve as a role model for the Swiss Institute in his pursuit of integrating scientific analysis and decision support for improving environmental policy making.



Igor Linkov

Dr. Igor Linkov recently joined the Engineer Research and Development Center's Environmental Laboratory. This organization is the problem solver for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the nation in environmental science and engineering research and development. Linkov's responsibilities will include developing risk-based decision support tools and methods for management of contaminated and disturbed sites, emerging challenges in nanotechnology, chemical and biological defense, and strategy development for USACE and other agencies. Linkov will continue serving as the scientific advisor to the Toxic Use Reduction Institute and as an adjunct professor of engineering and public policy at

Carnegie-Mellon University. Linkov has recently published two books: *Managing Critical Infrastructure Risk* (Springer, 2007) and *Environmental Security in Harbors and Coastal Areas* (Springer, 2007). He is currently organizing a workshop on nanotechnology (www.risk-trace.com/portugal2008). Linkov's office is located at the USACE New England District in Concord, Massachusetts, and he can be reached at 617-233-9869, Igor.Linkov@usace.army.mil.



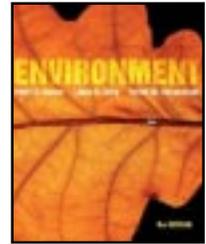
Rao Kolluru

Rao Kolluru, Metro Regional Organization president, recently lectured at Andhra-GITAM University in India, at Nanjing University of Science and Technology in China, and at Rotary International in the United States. He spoke about (1) Risk Assessment and Management—including applications and career opportunities (based on his *Risk Assessment and Management Handbook* published by McGraw-Hill) and (2) China, India, and USA: Changing World Dynamics.

For more information, contact RaoKollur@aol.com.

David M. Hassenzahl

David M. Hassenzahl has joined Peter Raven and Linda Berg as coauthor of the 6th Edition of *Environment*, a widely used introductory environmental science textbook published by Wiley and Sons. His contributions include the policy, health, air, water, energy, and climate change chapters, as well as emphasizing a systems perspective throughout the book.



In Memory: Catherine L. St. Hilaire

Resha Putzrath

Catherine L. St. Hilaire, Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Fellow and Councilor (1988-1991), lost her brief and courageous battle with cancer on 18 October 2007. Dr. St. Hilaire was an internationally recognized lecturer and expert in risk assessment who practiced in many venues. Her positions included senior scientist with Life Sciences Research Office, vice president at Sciences International, director of Scientific Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy Research director of Hershey Foods Corporation, principal of Environ Corporation, and director of the ILSI Risk Sciences Institute. Among her many honors were an award of Special Recognition of Contribution to the National Academies' Report "Risk Assessment in the Federal Government—Managing the Process" (aka the NAS Red Book) and the Hershey Foods Corporation President's Award for Application of Technology. She was also selected to serve as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Congressional Science Fellow and an AAAS Mass Media Fellow.

Cathy brought experience, insight, and a joie de vivre to all her endeavors. She provided leadership in the de-



velopment of regulatory agency risk assessment policies and practices as a contributor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health assessment guidelines in the 1980s, as the architect of a corporate regulatory affairs department, and as a consultant who supervised and conducted complex chemical- and site-specific risk assessments. She served on advisory and peer-review committees for the National Academy of Sciences, as well as various international, federal, and state public health agencies. She was generous with her time and knowledge.

In a fairly recent posting on the RISKANAL (an online risk analysis discussion group of SRA's Columbia-Cascades Chapter and the Pacific Northwest Laboratory), as well as a final discussion with one of our members, Cathy asked us to safeguard the Red Book, reminding us to eschew secondary interpretations and to "Read the Book if you are going to quote it . . ." She will be greatly missed by her colleagues and friends—two domains with a large intersection. She is survived by her daughters, Devon, 25, and Robyn, 22.



2008 SRA Officers and Councilors

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