



# RISK newsletter

Volume 28, Number 2  
Second Quarter 2008

Published by the SOCIETY for RISK ANALYSIS

## 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress on Risk “Risk and Governance”

## 2<sup>do</sup> Congreso Mundial de Riesgos “Riesgos y Gobernabilidad”

8-11 June 2008 - Guadalajara, Mexico

Sponsored by the  
Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)  
and participating organizations

Register at [www.sra.org/  
events\\_2008\\_world\\_congress.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2008_world_congress.php)



Palacio de Gobierno

Held every five years, the Second World Congress on Risk  
is now fast approaching. Don't miss it!

Discounted early-bird registration ends on 1 May and the Hilton Guadalajara  
is offering a special rate of \$140 per night to attendees until 4 May.

### Great Location!

Located on the west side of Mexico near the Pacific Ocean, Guadalajara is the country's third largest city and the birthplace of Mexico's most famous traditions: tequila, charreadas (Mexican-style rodeo), and mariachi music. Guadalajara is blessed with great weather: temperatures in June range in the 80s during the day and in the 60s in the evening (or 16 to 29 degrees Celsius).

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**2008 SRA Annual Meeting—7-10 December—see page 5**

## President's Message

As the days grow warm and the grass smells of spring (and baseball)—at least in North America—the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is buzzing with activity around the world. I invite all Society members to get involved. Opportunities include:



- The Second World Congress on Risk, 8-11 June, at the Hilton Guadalajara. Register now, submit your mini-symposium, and join us for this exciting once-every-five-years event! (See pages 1, 3, and 4 for details, and visit the Web site at [http://www.sra.org/events\\_2008\\_world\\_congress.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2008_world_congress.php).) The SRA's deep gratitude goes to World Congress Co-Chairs Robin Cantor and Javier Urbina-Soria, and their organizing committee, for the enormous undertaking to bring this event to life.

- The 2008 SRA Annual Meeting, 7-10 December, in Boston. The theme will be "Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art." President-elect Alison Cullen and her Annual Meeting Committee are planning a superb conference. Submit your abstracts now—the deadline for submission is 24 May! (See page 5 for details, and visit the Web site at [http://www.sra.org/events\\_2008\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php).)

- Regional meetings: be sure to attend at least one this year, including:

- SRA Chapitre Saint Laurent, 29-30 May, Québec City
- SRA-Europe, 22-25 September, Valencia, Spain
- SRA Australia/New Zealand, 30 September-1 October, Canberra
- SRA-Japan, 29-30 November, Kansai University, Osaka.

(If your regional meeting should be listed here, let us know so we can help you publicize it.)

- Note that SRA has now added easy annual dues check-offs on the SRA membership forms for specialty groups, for most U.S. local groups, and most recently for SRA-Europe. Join one, join several! (Does your regional organization want its dues collected this way? Let us know.)

- Form your own new regional organization! Efforts are now underway to form SRA regional groups in Latin America, China, and elsewhere. Want to form a new group? Contact Regions Committee Co-Chairs Elaine Faustman and Olivier Salvi. This committee is helping the SRA stimulate and cultivate the formation of new regional groups, coordinate across existing regional groups, define different types of regional groups at different scales, and envision a new global structure for the SRA.

- "New Initiatives"—in April the SRA issued a request for additional proposals, due by 30 April or until funds are committed, because considerable funds remain available for New Initiatives in 2008. (Proposals for New Initia-

tives are ordinarily due in October each year.) See the Web site at [http://www.sra.org/finance\\_committee\\_initiatives\\_new.php](http://www.sra.org/finance_committee_initiatives_new.php) (in the Members Only section) for details. Please contact Treasurer Tony Cox if you would like to discuss an idea or seek clarification of the Finance Committee's criteria for New Initiatives proposals.

- Code of Ethics: SRA Secretary Mitchell Small is leading a committee to study whether SRA should adopt a Code of Ethics, as several other scientific societies have done. If you are interested, contact Mitch.

- Submit your nominees now! Nominations are needed for New Officers, the new "Pantheon" of legends in the field, and 2008 Awards. (See box on page 7.)

- Post your point of view on the SRA's Blog at <http://birenheide.com/sra/membersonly/blog.php3>. What are your thoughts on topics like homeland security, toxic substances, food safety, climate change, the subprime mortgage crisis, or how risk is being addressed in the Presidential campaign? Share and critique—the Blog is for SRA members only.

- I am also very pleased to report that the transition at our flagship journal, *Risk Analysis*, is going smoothly. The SRA offers many thanks to outgoing Editor-in-Chief Elizabeth Anderson and outgoing Managing Editor Rick Reiss for their invaluable service to the journal and the Society. New Editor-in-Chief Michael Greenberg (Rutgers University) has taken on the editing tasks and has assembled his team, including new Managing Editor Karen Lowrie. In April the Council changed the term "Area Editors" to "Associate Editors" (the term used at most other journals) in order to foster greater flexibility in review assignments. Through the efforts of Michael Greenberg, Publications Committee Chair Kim Thompson, and their search committee, the journal has also added three new sterling associate editors: Warner North for Decision Science, Ann Bostrom for Risk Perceptions & Communication, and Tony Cox for Mathematical Modeling. An associate editor slot in Public Policy remains open as the editorial staff and the Council continue to refine that position. (See the full story on page 14.)

- What do you want SRA to do? What can you do to help SRA? Let me know.

See you soon—in Guadalajara and beyond!

Jonathan B. Wiener  
President

(Note: email addresses for the officers and councilors mentioned above are shown on page 16.)

(World Congress, continued from page 1)

## Program

In addition to a beautiful and culturally rich setting, we have planned a very exciting program for the Second World Congress. Highlights include:

### Featured Speakers

- Vicki Colvin, Director, Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology, Rice University
- Carlos F. Corvalan, PAHO-Brazil
- Gerry Eijkemans, PAHO Mexico
- Adrián Fernández, President of the National Institute of Ecology, Mexico
- David Franz, Director, National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, Kansas State University
- David Frediani, Marsh & McLennan Companies International
- Chongfu Huang, President, Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention
- Howard Kunreuther, Director, Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center
- Hermann Stamm, Unit Head, Nanotechnology and Molecular Imaging, Institute for Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission



**Plaza Tapatía in Guadalajara**

### Workshops on Sunday

- Risk Analysis: Fundamental Concepts, Applications, and Controversies
- Risk Communication (in Spanish)
- Recent Developments in Risk Assessment—International Frameworks for Evaluating Toxicity Data for Human Health Assessment
- Use of Risk Analysis in the Development of Better Food Safety Standards

### Present Your Work

We are still considering submissions for the afternoon program of mini-symposia and poster sessions. Please visit the Second World Congress Web site (linked at [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org)) to submit a proposal.

If you have questions about a proposal idea or the process, please contact Co-Chairs Robin Cantor ([rcantor@navigantconsulting.com](mailto:rcantor@navigantconsulting.com)) and/or Javier Urbina-Soria ([jaurso@gmail.com](mailto:jaurso@gmail.com)).

### Special Sessions

- Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Food Safety
- Assuring the Use of Good Science in Risk-Based Public Policy
- Emerging Sources of Risk
- Environmental Justice in Latin America
- Global Climate Change
- Information Management for Risk Regulations
- International Disasters and Critical Infrastructure
- Public Health Priorities: Infectious Disease and Safe Drinking Water
- Risks to Biodiversity and Human Health from Invasive Species
- Sustainable Energy

### Low Airfares

Fortunately, you will find that airfares are very competitive to get you to Guadalajara from most places in the United States. Examples of airfares to Guadalajara as of 14 April are:

Washington, DC .....	\$485
Boston .....	\$516
Chicago .....	\$476
Los Angeles .....	\$338

### More information:

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

**Second World Congress link**

### Enjoy Guadalajara

Discover Guadalajara's downtown, which dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and has maintained its Spanish culture and architecture. Interesting churches and buildings to see include the cathedral, the regional museum, the Palacio de Gobierno (Government Bureau), Tolsá Chapel (which exhibits the delightful painting "The Man of Fire" by Jose Clemente Orozco), the University of Guadalajara (with Orozco's impressive murals), and the Ballet Folklórico performances.

You can take nice walks on Plaza Tapatía or visit the Degollado Theatre. Visit the Casa de las Artesanías Jaliscienses, which displays the beautiful and colorful art of the region.

For something different, spend a day at the zoo for a relaxing and interesting experience. Guadalajara and the region of Jalisco offer mouth-watering foods and friendly residents known as Tapatios. You can immerse yourself in the rich heritage of this region in Mexico.



**"The Man of Fire" by Jose Clemente Orozco**

## Explore Mexico

As part of your visit to Guadalajara, take advantage of nearby escapes and day trips to explore in the surrounding area. Here are some interesting places to see:

In **Zapopan** you can visit the Basilica and the Museum of the Huicholes, in which you will find beautiful and varied exhibits. The Museum of Arts has an interesting program as well.

**Tlaquepaque** is well known for its precious handcrafts, its delicious food, and the mariachis' music performances. It is considered the capital of crafts in Mexico. If you are hunting for Mexican folk art, then this is your town to see.

At **Tonalá**, known as the "town of artists," visit the interesting and creative workshops of artisans and the traditional street market on Thursdays and Sundays. It is a 30-minute drive from Guadalajara.

In **Tequila**, a 90-minute drive from Guadalajara, you can visit the colonial town and the distilleries and find out the secret to its famous beverage. A few steps away you can find the Guachimontones archeological site, one of the most mysterious pre-Hispanic settlements, known for its emplacements with round pyramids. Then at Teuchitlan you can enjoy fish and regional food restaurants. For tequila afi-



cionados, there is the Tequila Express train ([www.tequilaexpress.com.mx](http://www.tequilaexpress.com.mx)).

**Chapala** is the largest lake in Mexico, well known for its beauty. Located in the mountains of the Sierra Madre Occidental, it is about a 35- to 45-minute drive from Guadalajara. Take in a beautiful boat ride from the town of Chapala. The lake also has several little towns along its shore:

Ajijic, San Juan Cosala, and Jocotepec.

**Tapalpa** is a mountain place and the magical region of Juan Rulfo, one of the most famous surrealistic writers in Mexico. There you can eat Cabrito al Carbon, local brand cheeses, granada punch, and dulce de cajeta (caramelized milk). You can visit the Nevado de Colima and the Volcan del Fuego and be delighted by the wonderful views or visit the Sayula and Comala towns where the masks for the religious festivals are made.

Along the **Costa Alegre**, many kinds of sea attractions and amusements can be found. Take a scenic drive through the countryside and escape to the exciting beaches in Puerto Vallarta, a four-hour drive from Guadalajara, or relax at one of the small beaches along Bahía de Banderas. The white sand and the warm sun will welcome you.



Tlaquepaque



Puerto Vallarta

**Make your plans to attend the Second World Congress on Risk in Guadalajara, Mexico!**

**Online Registration and Hotel Reservations**

Secure online registration and hotel reservations for the Second World Congress are now available at [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org) (click on the link for the Second World Congress page).

## Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art

**SRA Annual Meeting - 7-10 December 2008 - Boston, Massachusetts**

**Call for Papers—Deadline 24 May 2008**

### Save the Date

The 2008 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting will be held at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, 7-10 December 2008. This year's theme is "Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art." Join nearly 1,000 colleagues dedicated to the science and the art of risk analysis—risk assessors, managers, communicators, and more—in settings ranging from government to academia and from nonprofits to business.

### Present

Be sure to prepare and submit your abstract for an oral presentation or poster no later than Saturday, 24 May 2008, via the online submission form already available at [http://www.sra.org/events\\_2008\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php). The submission deadline is firm; the Web link will be closed after that date.

### Focus

As in past years, there is a limit on presentations by a single person: each individual may submit one abstract for oral presentation, although individuals can also serve as co-authors on abstracts submitted for presentation by others. There is no limit to the number of abstracts that individuals may submit for consideration as posters. Oral presenters should anticipate 15-minute talks, with an additional five minutes allotted for questions and discussion.

### Organize

Symposia on specific topics are encouraged! Consider organizing a symposium with multiple speakers using the online form (Web site address below). Be sure to submit your symposium proposal in advance of the 24 May deadline in order to obtain a symposium number. This identifying number must be referenced by each individual submitting an abstract for inclusion in the symposium. Please note that the overall conference deadline will apply to all abstracts, including those submitted as a part of symposia.

### Specialize

Every specialty group chair should email his or her members to organize a symposium sponsored by the specialty group. These symposia themes can be generated by a single specialty group or can be proposed jointly by multiple groups.



Trinity Church and the John Hancock Tower



The USS Constitution and the Bunker Hill Monument



Crew boats on the Charles River

Photos courtesy of Greater Boston CVB

### Collaborate

Regional organizations of the SRA should consider proposing a symposium, alone or as a joint venture with another chapter or region. For example, regional organizations in two countries could collaborate on a symposium about the comparative approaches to a risk analysis topic in their two locations.

### Teach

Organize a Continuing Education Workshop to be held on the Sunday preceding the annual meeting (7 December). The workshop proposal information is online at the main Web site (see below).

### Win

Apply for a Travel Award (Student or International) or Specialty Group Student Award by checking the relevant box on your online submission form.

### Sponsor/Exhibit

To be a sponsor of the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting, or to sponsor your organization's exhibit booth, or to include your book in the book exhibit, please contact Lori Strong at [lstrong@burkinc.com](mailto:lstrong@burkinc.com) no later than 1 June 2008.

### Respond

To communicate your ideas and suggestions for the meeting, please contact Alison Cullen by email at [alison@u.washington.edu](mailto:alison@u.washington.edu).

### Thank You

Many thanks to the members of the Annual Meeting Program Committee who have generously agreed to serve the Society in this capacity: President-elect Alison Cullen (chair), Laina Bush, Michael Dellarco, Adam Finkel, Tee Guidotti, Seth Guikema, Emma Hartnett, Sara Henry, Jim Lambert, Stanley Levinson, Steve Lewis, Igor Linkov, Margaret

MacDonell, Kara Morgan, Rick Reiss, Martin Schultz, Jo Anne Shatkin, Trina von Stackelberg, Kim Thompson, and Jonathan Wiener.

**See you in Boston!**

**Meeting information and online forms—  
[www.sra.org/events\\_2008\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php)**



## News and Announcements

### *Strategies for Risk Communication: Evolution, Evidence, Experience*

W. Troy Tucker, Scott Ferson, Adam Finkel, and David Slavin—editors

This newest volume in the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* culminates a discussion that began at the May 2006 risk communication symposium in Montauk, Long Island, New York, and was repeated the same year at the Society for Risk Analysis annual meeting in Baltimore. The Montauk symposium was sponsored by the Society for Risk Analysis and grants from Pfizer and the Decision, Risk and Management program of the National Science Foundation.

This volume explores risk communication theory and methods in light of recent breakthrough research in risk perception, neuroscience, and the evolutionary social sciences. A multidisciplinary group of scientists, many new to risk research, outlines fresh perspectives on risk perception and communication. Topics covered include numeracy, visual communication, mental models, heuristics and biases, dual processing, linguistic uncertainty, the evolution of brain and behavior, neuroeconomics, precaution, equity and justice, and ecological rationality.



A hard copy of this volume can be claimed for free with a membership to the New York Academy of Sciences, which costs \$105. Membership ([www.nyas.org](http://www.nyas.org)) entitles one to online access to over 1,100 books in the *Annals* series back to 1879 (most institutional libraries only have online access to the past decade's books), as well as over 475 "eBriefings," which are detailed reports of conferences with access to the presenters' slides and audio, in many cases, and professionally written overviews and summaries, references, and resources in all appropriate media, open questions, etc. Currently, there are more than 20 eBriefings on risk-related subjects, including some on decision making under uncertainty, nanotechnology risks, risk reporting in the media, predictive toxicology, etc.

To order the book without joining the New York Academy of Sciences, please visit [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com) or call 800-434-3422 for Volume 1128, May 2008, ISBN 1-57331-681-4.

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- Linguistic Uncertainty in Qualitative Risk Analysis and How to Minimize It—*Janet M. Carey and Mark A. Burgman, University of Melbourne*
- Transparency in Risk Communication: Graphical and Analog Tools—*Elke Kurz-Milcke<sup>1</sup>, Gerd Gigerenzer<sup>2</sup>, and Laura Martignon<sup>1</sup>*; <sup>1</sup>University of Education Ludwigsburg, <sup>2</sup>Max Planck Institute for Human Development
- Visualizing Seismic Risk and Uncertainty: A Review of Related Research—*Ann Bostrom<sup>1</sup>, Luc Anselin<sup>2</sup>, and Jeremy Farris*; <sup>1</sup>University of Washington, <sup>2</sup>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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- A Frequency/Consequence-Based Technique for Visualizing and Communicating Uncertainty and Perception of Risk—*David Slavin<sup>1</sup>, W.T. Tucker<sup>2</sup>, and S. Ferson<sup>2</sup>*; <sup>1</sup>Pfizer Business Innovation Unit, <sup>2</sup>Applied Biomathematics
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**2008 SRA Annual Meeting**  
**7-10 December 2008, Boston, Massachusetts**  
**Westin Boston Waterfront**  
[www.sra.org/events\\_2008\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php)



Photo Courtesy  
of MOTT

### 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

#### Three Councilors

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.

The Nominating Committee has already begun deliberations, so please submit nominations **as soon as possible** 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 22101; phone: 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672; email: ddrupa@burkinc.com.

### 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 profiles 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).

### 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.

The Awards Committee has already begun deliberations, so please submit nominations and a brief paragraph supporting each **as soon as possible** to SRA Past President Baruch Fischhoff, Awards Chair, email: baruch@cmu.edu, and David Drupa, phone: 703-790-1745, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com.



## Regional Organizations

### SRA-Europe

<http://sraeurope.org>

*Roberto Bubbico, SRA-Europe Executive Committee President*

The annual conference of the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) will be held at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, 22-25 September 2008. This event is being organized by ESREL (European Safety and Reliability Association) with assistance from SRA-E. The event will provide opportunities for researchers to make contacts and exchange ideas around a broad range of common research areas and applications. Over 330 full papers have been submitted for review so far. More information about the conference can be found at [www.esrel2008.com](http://www.esrel2008.com).

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.

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 across Europe and the number of participants in the SRA-E annual conferences has correspondingly increased. At this meeting we will also be providing more details about the SRA-E 2009 conference.

The SRA-E 2009 conference will be held in Karlstad, Sweden, 28 June-1 July, and the event will be co-hosted by the Swedish Rescue Services and Emergency Management agencies, Karlstads University, and the National Defence College.

### SRA-Japan

[www.sra-japan.jp/english](http://www.sra-japan.jp/english)

*Shoji Tsuchida, President*

#### Annual Research Conference

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual research conference of the Society for Risk Analysis-Japan (SRA-J) will be held 29-30 November 2008 at Kansai University, Osaka. SRA-J will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the conference. Researchers from abroad will be welcomed. The official language for the conference will be Japanese, but we are planning to have sessions for English-speaking researchers. The chief executive organizer is Professor Shoji Tsuchida of Kansai University.

#### Annual Symposium

SRA-J will have its 21<sup>st</sup> annual symposium on 20 June 2008 at the University of Tokyo. The theme of the symposium will be "Capacity Building in Risk Research" (tentative), and the chief executive organizer of the symposium is Professor Tokai of Osaka University.

#### Handy Glossary

A handy glossary of risk terms (ISBN: 978-4-621-07849-5), edited by SRA-J (chief editor was Professor Kai of Oita University of Nursing and Health Sciences), was published in January 2008 by Maruzen, Co., Ltd, Tokyo. The 330-page glossary has 52 authors and contains about 1,600 words from 12 research fields.

### Australia/New Zealand

[www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html](http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html)

*Daniela Leonte, President*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of SRA Australia/New Zealand, "Facilitating Partnerships: Managing Risks in Complex Systems," will take place 30 September-1 October 2008 in Canberra.

To be held in the Finkel Lecture Theatre, Australian National University, the conference will address the interdisciplinary nature of risk by focusing on three key aspects of complex system management:

- Tools and methods
- Policy and implementation
- Risk communication and social science

The conference will be preceded by workshops on 29 September.

Event information—including the call for papers, conference and workshop programs, and online registration form—will be posted at <http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/news.html> as it becomes available.

Our annual conferences serve as the focal point of interaction for SRA Australia/New Zealand members and other interested individuals and organizations in the region. This year, we would like to extend a warm invitation to SRA members around the world to attend the conference. We are pleased to offer free registration, so join us in this exciting event and use the opportunity to visit Australia's beautiful capital city!

### Upstate New York

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

*Peg Coleman, Councilor*

Members of the Upstate New York SRA Regional Organization focused on two major initiatives in the past year: (1) organizing a full-day symposium on climate change and risk at a newly constructed "green" building in Syracuse and (2) developing a new risk course at the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). An additional focus of our monthly meetings is expanding our networking activities to increase awareness about risk analysis practices and serve our community's needs for information.

Our 2007 symposium benefitted from support by the SRA Speakers' Bureau for sponsorship of Bernie Goldstein's travel from the University of Pittsburgh to present "Climate Change and Public Health." The day's agenda also included the work of three additional invited speakers: Anwar Huq from the University of Maryland ("Climate Change and Infectious Disease: Cholera as an Example"), Art DeGaetano from Northeast Regional Climate Center ("Climate Change and Predictions in the Northeast"), and Russ Martin of Cornell University ("Uncertainty in Climate Change Predictions"). Nearly 30 scientists and risk practitioners participated in the symposium.

The graduate-level ESF course (Environmental Risk Assessment and Management) was developed and led by Swiat Kaczmar, our president for 2008. Upstate New York SRA



members from ARCADIS, Cornell University, O'Brien and Gere, Syracuse Research Corporation, Syracuse University, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and SUNY ESF provided input and volunteered lectures on diverse topics in risk analysis, including quantitative methods and models, principles of toxicology, physical/chemical properties affecting environmental fate and transport, regulatory approaches to environmental risk management, cost/benefit analysis, and risk perception and communication. The full teaching fee will be used to establish a scholarship/community-outreach fund to promote education in risk analysis in upstate New York.

For more information on our current activities, visit our Web site (<http://esc.syrres.com/sraupstateny>).

### Chicago Regional [www.sra.org/chicago](http://www.sra.org/chicago)

*Jeremy J. (Jerry) Mathers, Secretary*

The Chicago Regional Organization of SRA and the Chicago Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) held a joint seminar on "Risk Assessment Perspectives" 14 January 2008 at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 in Chicago. Topics included Fundamentals of Risk Assessment, Environmental/Regulatory Risk Assessment, Principles of Risk Assessment, ATSDR/Public Health Risk Assessment Process, Occupational/Industrial Risk Assessment, and a Case Study on exposure to diacetyl (popcorn additive). About 55 people attended.

The next event, held in April, covered high production volume chemicals. Two prospective additional events are anticipated.

An officers' annual meeting will be held after 9 June 2008. Open positions include president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and membership.

### New England [www.sra-ne.org](http://www.sra-ne.org)

*Donna Vorhees, Co-Chair*

In February 2008, we held our third event in collaboration with the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis—"Applications of Relative Risk Modeling." Dr. Wayne Landis of the Institute of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University, provided the presentation "Risky Business: Ecological Risk Assessment at Regional Scales for Chemical and Non-Chemical Stressors." Dr. Charles Menzie of Exponent, Inc., provided an example application of relative risk modeling: "Relative Risk Modeling for Oyster Management in Chesapeake."

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 (EPA). This event was scheduled for March but will be rescheduled at a later time when the committee's report becomes publicly available.
- 8 April 2008: Joint meeting with the Licensed Site Professional Association regarding Subsurface Vapor Intrusion. Speakers: Dr. Henry Schuver of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Harlee Strauss of H. Strauss & Associates, Inc.

- 21 May 2008: 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
- For the latest information about our event schedule, please visit [www.sra-ne.org](http://www.sra-ne.org).

We continue to solicit interest in a planning committee for our regional organization to plan new initiatives for 2008-2009. If interested, please contact Sandy Baird ([Sandra.Baird@State.MA.US](mailto:Sandra.Baird@State.MA.US)) or Donna Vorhees ([djvorhees@comcast.net](mailto:djvorhees@comcast.net)).

### Northern California [www.sra.org/ncc](http://www.sra.org/ncc)

*Kay M. Johnson, Past President*

The Northern California Regional Organization of the SRA (NCCSRA) sponsored a symposium this past fall on the function of risk assessments in homeland security and other emerging risk assessment issues. The afternoon symposium, held in a hotel on the Berkeley waterfront, attracted 40 NCCSRA members who enjoyed lively question-and-answer periods as well as the social hour at the end of the symposium.

The three presentations on homeland security included:

- "Use of Poisoning by Terrorist Organizations and the Intelligence Community," Thomas Widner (ChemRisk)
- "Addressing the Risk of Catastrophic Releases in the Chemical Sector," Shelley DuTeaux, PhD, MPH (California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment)
- "The Use of Risk Assessment in Implementing Infrastructure Security for Natural Gas Fired Power Plants in California," Alvin Greenberg, PhD (Risk Science Associates)

The presentations on emerging risk assessment topics included:

- "Emerging Issues in Health Risk Assessment of Nano-Engineered Materials," Fionna Mowat, PhD (Exponent)
- "Local Disclosure Ordinances as Regulatory Catalysts: Early Insights from the Berkeley, California, Nanoscale Materials Ordinance," Sharyl Rabinovici (UC Berkeley)
- "Carbon Sequestration and Power Plants: Future Gen Risk Assessment," Kay M. Johnson, PhD (Tetra Tech)

All of the presentations are currently posted on our Web site (<http://www.sra.org/ncc>) to facilitate other SRA members learning about our west coast activities.



### Second World Congress on Risk: "Risk and Governance" 8-11 June 2008, Guadalajara, Mexico



Attend the Second World Congress on Risk and enjoy many interesting sites, such as this cathedral in Guadalajara. For more information go to [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org).



## Specialty Groups

### Risk Communication Specialty Group

[www.sra.org/rcsg](http://www.sra.org/rcsg)

*Tee L. Guidotti, Chair*

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) Executive Committee met by conference call on 25 February 2008 to approve the year's work plan. There was an extended discussion of preparation for the 2008 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, the theme of which is "Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art." Because risk communication is an art in practice grounded on a science incorporating risk perception, cognitive psychology, and communications theory, this theme suits the RCSG well.

We seek to increase submission of risk communication symposia and papers. The executive committee encourages submissions on the general topic of risk communication, either abstracts or symposia proposals, and invites interested SRA members to send a draft by email to the RCSG Executive Committee for comments and suggestions. Three symposia on risk communication are already in the planning stage for the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting.

In 2008 we will again conduct our student paper award competition. We encourage students to bring their work on risk communication to the SRA annual meeting and offer the chance of recognition.

Other business for the year will be a review of the RCSG bylaws, reconstruction of the history of awards and abstract submissions in risk communication, recruitment of viable candidates for RCSG positions earlier than in the past, and planning for a social event at the SRA annual meeting. We are also accumulating content for an updated and more functional Web site when the system allows.

The chair of the RCSG is Tee Guidotti (eohtlg@gwumc.edu) and the secretary-treasurer is Ann Bostrum (abostrom@u.washington.edu). The RCSG 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 among practitioners, researchers, scholars, teachers, students, and others to encourage collaborative research, provide leadership, build scholarship, and play an active role in advancing the field of risk communication.

The RCSG views risk communication as an art to be practiced skillfully and a science in its own right.

Risk communication "science" is a structured approach to understanding the role of risk in people's lives and then conveying information and ways of thinking that fit their lives and that they see as useful. As an applied discipline drawing on many other disciplines for its content and study methods, at its essence, it requires knowledge of how people evaluate and receive messages, how messages are transmitted, and what content needs to be conveyed. The application of risk communication to populations (as we say in public health) or the community or to publics (as we say in risk-comm jargon) requires approaching a risk problem through a culture, which is both an impediment and a benefit. Culture can be an impediment because of the interference of nonscientific teachings and inconsistent ideas. It can be a benefit because culture provides a group-cognitive framework that, if the risk message is presented in its own terms, facilitates understanding

and attaches values to the terms of the message which the group uses to make judgments about acceptability of the risk, justice, and what it all means for them.

Risk communication at this level is an essential skill that risk science practitioners bring to their professional practice and careers. Another level is the application of risk communication to the individual. Highly individualized risk communication becomes pivotal in helping decision makers do their job.

If we practice risk communication the way we did in the 1970s, we often do not get the same results because our "publics" have themselves moved on to another place. That is why both risk communication and the sister "science" of risk perception are always reinventing themselves in practice.

### Exposure Assessment Specialty Group

*Michael Dellarco, Chair*

Dr. Donna J. Voorhees has been designated the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group liaison with the SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee. Plans are underway to develop a workshop and a training course on exposure science; development of audio seminars for the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group is under consideration. Efforts are underway to establish an Exposure Assessment Specialty Group Web site. For information on the group, contact Chair Michael Dellarco (dellarcom@mail.nih.gov).

### Dose Response Specialty Group

[www.sra.org/drsg](http://www.sra.org/drsg)

*Sara Henry, Chair*

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) will be sponsoring a symposium at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting titled "Analysis of Genomic Dose-Response Data for Risk Assessment: Better Science or Just a Pretty Picture?" Speakers will include Elaine Faustman speaking on toxicogenomics and systems-based approaches for dose and temporal response modeling, Jeff Gift speaking on use of toxicogenomic data in chemical risk assessment, Richard Judson speaking on the Environmental Protection Agency ToxCast Program, Craig Rowlands speaking on comparative benchmark dose estimates for genomic data, Russell Thomas speaking on the use of genomic dose-response data to define mode-of-action and low-dose behavior of chemical toxicants, and Lyle Burgoon speaking on automated quantitative toxicogenomic dose-response modeling.

The DRSG is pleased to offer a merit award to a student conducting graduate research in dose-response assessment. The research may be on any topic broadly related to dose-response assessment, including but not limited to laboratory investigation, methods development, comparative analyses, novel applications, studies on strengthening the role of dose-response assessment in risk assessment, uncertainty analysis, harmonization, dosimetry, genetics, and molecular biology. In addition to the peer recognition of your scientific accomplishment, the award includes a registration fee waiver to the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting, an engraved plaque, and a \$500 honorarium. The DRSG award winner will present his/her results and receive his/her award at the

annual meeting, absent an extraordinary circumstance preventing this. The award is merit based and competitive.

All abstracts must be submitted for presentation at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting, 7-10 December 2008, in Boston, Massachusetts, following normal SRA guidelines for abstract submission ([http://www.sra.org/events\\_2008\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php) for meeting dates, guidelines, and deadlines). Examples of winners' abstracts from previous years can be found on our previous awards page. See [http://www.sra.org/drsg/DRSG\\_Student\\_Award\\_2008.pdf](http://www.sra.org/drsg/DRSG_Student_Award_2008.pdf) for more information and what must be completed by the 24 May 2008 deadline.

Questions concerning the DRSG award procedures should be addressed to Patty Toccalino, PhD, Vice-Chair, DRSG (<http://www.sra.org/drsg/>), U.S. Geological Survey; phone: 916-278-3090; email: [ptocca@usgs.gov](mailto:ptocca@usgs.gov).

### Biological Stressors Specialty Group

[www.biostressors.org](http://www.biostressors.org)

*Emma Hartnett, Chair*

The Biological Stressors Specialty Group (BSSG) focuses on the risk assessment and analysis of the full range of biostressors present in our environment.

We are currently working on further developing the content of the BSSG Web site. The aim is to provide a resource for BSSG members regarding current topics in the field of biological stressors risk analysis. This includes the addition of BSSG members' presentations from the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting. If you would like to have a presentation posted on the Web site (or would like more information about this), please contact BSSG Chair Emma Hartnett. Ideas for other content are also welcome; we look forward to lots of interesting new material!

BSSG is providing a student travel award to the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting to recognize and support the career development of outstanding college and university students in fields of study related to the risk assessment of biological stressors. This is a cash award to be applied to the cost of attending the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting. More information on the BSSG student award will be posted on our Web site: [www.biostressors.org](http://www.biostressors.org).

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

### Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group

[www.sra.org/eisg](http://www.sra.org/eisg)

*Seth Guikema, Chair*

The Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group (EISG) is busy preparing for the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston. We will organize a number of symposia and workshops. Please help by organizing or participating in a symposium or workshop, and contact Seth Guikema ([sguikema@jhu.edu](mailto:sguikema@jhu.edu)) if you would like help.

Potential topics include the needed state versions of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, methods for infrastructure risk analysis, risk and reliability analysis for communications infrastructure, risk analysis for intelligent threats and natural hazards, and resource allocation for

managing risk to infrastructure and other engineered systems, optimization, and the use of desktop analysis tools such as Excel for engineering risk analysis.

The EISG encourages the submission of engineering papers to *Risk Analysis*. Please consider submitting your infrastructure and engineering papers and designating the engineering associate/area editor to make sure your paper is reviewed as an engineering submission.

If you have engineering and infrastructure events that would benefit from co-promotion through SRA, including possible use of the SRA logo, please let Seth or the SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee know as well.

We encourage anyone interested in risk analysis for engineering or infrastructure systems to join our specialty group. We approved revised bylaws and elected a new slate of officers at the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting, and now is a great time to get involved in the specialty group. Joining is free, and all you need to do is contact one of the officers. For more information about the specialty group please visit our Web page at [www.sra.org/eisg](http://www.sra.org/eisg).

### Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group

[www.sranano.org](http://www.sranano.org)

*Jo Anne Shatkin, Chair*

The Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group (EMNMS) is organizing a session at the Second World Congress on Risk in Guadalajara.

We are honored to have Vicki Colvin, director of the Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology at Rice University, as a keynote speaker on Day 2, with a focus on emerging chemical and biological stressors. EMNMS has organized an international session for the World Congress with speakers from Japan, Canada, the European Union, and the United States.

We are delighted to have three non-SRA members joining us. In addition to member Atsuo Kishimoto of Japan's AIST, we are pleased that Andrew Maynard, science advisor to the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, Terry McIntyre of Environment Canada, and Dr. Hermann Stamm of the European Commission will be offering their perspectives on strategies for addressing emerging risks from nanomaterials and nanotechnologies.

In September 2008, EMNMS plans to host the educational and deliberative workshop "Nano Risk Analysis: Advancing the Science" at George Washington University. The workshop will bring experts in risk analysis together with those working on nanotechnology issues to address topics relating to several aspects of assessing risks at the nanoscale and develop a series of white papers on critical issues relating to the science and communication of risk. For more information, see [srananoworkshop.org](http://srananoworkshop.org) or contact Jo Anne Shatkin ([jashatkin@clf.org](mailto:jashatkin@clf.org)).

You are encouraged to submit proposals for symposia for the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting. This year EMNMS is emphasizing sessions that are cross cutting with other specialty groups that could be co-sponsored. Also, EMNMS will be making our first student travel award, so encourage your students to apply—or if you are a student, be sure to apply when you submit an abstract. I look forward to seeing you at one of these meetings!





## What Do We Do?

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

### Richard Forshee

#### What is your job title?

**Forshee:** I am a senior risk assessment expert at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

#### How is risk analysis a part of your job?

**Forshee:** At CBER I'm part of a team of experts that uses risk analysis to improve public health. CBER's mission is "to protect and enhance the public health through the regulation of biological and related products including blood, vaccines, allergenics, tissues, and cellular and gene therapies."

These are complex and dynamic issues that affect the lives of nearly everyone. Risk analysis provides a powerful way to structure and analyze these challenging public health issues, estimate the magnitude of potential risks, examine competing risks, evaluate alternative risk management strategies, and provide useful information to decision makers.

Just as importantly, the lessons from risk communication help us engage in effective dialogues with the wide range of stakeholders who are affected by the products regulated by CBER.

CBER conducts a variety of risk assessments that evaluate potential risks for pathogens such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis, and others as well as new emerging pathogens such as pandemic influenza, malaria, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, and many others.

One recent example was a risk assessment that examined the likelihood that a patient who receives plasma-derived factor VIII (pdFVIII)—a product used to prevent or treat bleeding episodes—could potentially become infected with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). There have not been any reported cases of vCJD following decades of use by patients who received plasma-derived blood products, but animal studies show that if blood carries the vCJD agent, so can the unprocessed plasma. To address this problem, a risk assessment was conducted. While the risk is most likely to be extremely small, there are many major uncertainties in the computer model that FDA used to assess this risk, and a precise estimate of the risk is not currently possible.

The FDA has taken a number of steps to reduce the risk of vCJD in the U.S. blood supply, including donor deferral recommendations and quarantine and withdrawal of products at increased vCJD risk.

In addition, manufacturing steps used in making pdFVIII products have been shown to help remove infectious agents, including agents similar to that causing vCJD. The manufacturing steps may reduce or eliminate most risk even if a vCJD-infected donor contributed plasma.



#### How did you decide to pursue this career?

**Forshee:** I've always been interested in using advanced analytic techniques to solve scientific puzzles and inform decision making on important policy questions. I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to work on some really challenging problems, first in academia and now at CBER. This career has allowed me to combine many of my skills and interests in creative ways.

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

**Forshee:** I earned my PhD in political science at the University of Michigan, and that experience helped me develop strong quantitative, modeling, and problem-solving skills. Most of my career prior to my current position at CBER was spent in academia. I held faculty positions at

Georgetown University, Virginia Tech, and the University of Maryland.

In my last position before joining CBER, I served as the director of the Center for Food, Nutrition and Agriculture Policy (CFNAP) at the University of Maryland. Risk analysis was a key part of everything I did at CFNAP. It provides a very useful way to structure and analyze difficult and controversial problems. My colleagues and I used the tools of risk analysis to study a wide range of topics, such as the risk factors associated with weight gain and obesity and the benefits and risks of fish consumption.

Over the course of my career, several supervisors and mentors gave me opportunities to work on challenging risk analysis projects and take on progressively greater responsibilities. Each project helped me to develop my leadership skills, learn more about risk analysis, expand my skill set, and meet more people working on interesting risk analysis problems.

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

**Forshee:** I really enjoy learning about emerging problems and working with interdisciplinary teams. Building models that help everyone understand the key features of a difficult problem is very satisfying, and it is great to see the results of a project actually help to solve an important problem.

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

**Forshee:** I think it's very important to develop both strong mathematical and modeling skills as well as solid communication skills. Communication is a two-way exchange, so you need to learn how to listen as well as how to clearly explain your work.

Then you need to seek out many different professional opportunities in order to learn how to apply those skills to a diverse set of problems.

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

**Forshee:** SRA provides a wonderful venue in which to share my work and get constructive feedback. The broad range of disciplines also provides a very stimulating environment that encourages creative problem solving.



## Is there anything else you would like SRA members to know?

**Forshee:** More information about the mission of CBER is available at <http://www.fda.gov/Cber/about.htm>. More information about pfdVIII and vCJD can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/cber/blood/vcjdahf.htm>.



## Member News

### Scott Hurd

Iowa State University Associate Professor Scott Hurd was named by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the agency's deputy undersecretary for food safety. Hurd, a senior epidemiologist in the College of Veterinary Medicine who has performed extensive analytical research on food risks and food safety, said his responsibilities will be to advise the undersecretary of agriculture on food safety issues and to deal with risk-based inspection, which is performing inspections when there is likelihood of food-borne illness.



Hurd's appointment will expire on 20 January 2009, when the next U.S. President takes office. Hurd has no plans to continue after that date, saying he likes what he is doing at Iowa State. Among his duties at Iowa State, Hurd is a guest lecturer for a course in science and public policy, and the knowledge he'll gain from a year in Washington will be beneficial to him and his students. "After this experience, I'll just be able to do my job better," he said.

### Michael Greenberg

Michael R. Greenberg has written *Environmental Policy Analysis and Practice*, published by Rutgers University Press in March 2008.

Pressing environmental challenges are frequently surrounded with stakeholders on all sides of the issues. Opinions expressed by government agencies, the private sector, special interests, nonprofit communities, and the media, among others, can quickly cloud the dialogue, leaving one to wonder how policy decisions actually come about.



In *Environmental Policy Analysis and Practice*, Greenberg cuts through the complicated layers of bureaucracy, science, and the public interest to show how all policy considerations can be broken down according to six specific factors: (1) the reaction of elected government officials, (2) the reactions of the public and special interests, (3) knowledge developed by scientists and engineers, (4) economics, (5) ethical imperatives, and (6) time pressure to make a decision.

The book is organized into two parts, with the first part defining and illustrating each one of these criteria. Greenberg draws on examples such as nuclear power, pesticides, brownfield redevelopment, gasoline additives, and environmental cancer, but focuses on how these subjects can be analyzed rather than exclusively on the issues themselves. Part two goes on to describe a set of over 20 tools that are used widely in policy analysis, including risk assessment,

environmental impact analysis, public opinion surveys, cost-benefit analysis, and others. These tools are described and then illustrated with examples from part one.

Weaving together an impressive combination of practical advice and engaging first-person accounts from government officials, administrators, and leaders in the fields of public health and medicine, this clearly written volume is poised to become a leading text in environmental policy.

Greenberg has studied environmental policy for almost 40 years and is a professor and associate dean at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. He is the author and co-author of numerous books, including *The Reporter's Environmental Handbook* (Rutgers University Press).

### H. Felix Kloman

H. Felix Kloman has had his latest book published. *The Fantods of Risk: Essays on Risk Management* contains essays from the pages of *Risk Management Reports*, the publication Kloman edited, wrote, and published from 1974 through March 2007. Kloman's earlier book, *Mumpsimus Revisited*, was published in 2005.

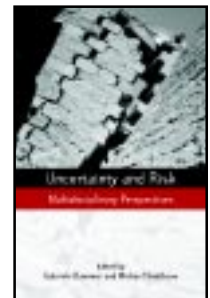


Kloman has been a member of the Society for Risk Analysis since its beginning in 1980.

*The Fantods of Risk* is available from Seawrack Press ([www.seawrackpress.com](http://www.seawrackpress.com)), Xlibris ([www.Xlibris.com](http://www.Xlibris.com)), Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)), and Barnes & Noble ([www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)).

### Roger Kasperson and Nick Pidgeon

Roger Kasperson and Nick Pidgeon are contributing authors to *Uncertainty and Risk: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, in which theoretical perspectives are drawn from art history, complexity science, economics, futures, history, law, philosophy, physics, psychology, statistics and theology; uncertainty is examined in emergency management, intelligence, law enforcement, music, policy and politics; and key problems that are a subject of focus are environmental management, communicable diseases, and illicit drugs. Opening and closing sections provide major conceptual strands in uncertainty thinking and develop an integrated view of the nature of uncertainty, uncertainty as a motivating or de-motivating force, and strategies for coping and managing under uncertainty.



*Uncertainty and Risk* is available at [www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=331](http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=331).





## Committees

### Publications Committee

*Kimberly Thompson, Chair*

I am thrilled to report that the transition to the new editorial team for *Risk Analysis* is in full swing. The Council continues to appreciate the incredible service of Elizabeth Anderson, now Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, and Rick Reiss, now Managing Editor Emeritus, and the smoothness with which they facilitated the transition. For those of you who have similarly appreciated all that they have done for our fabulous journal during the past many years, please take a minute to send them a note to add your thanks!

New Editor-in-Chief Michael Greenberg and new Managing Editor Karen Lowrie have hit the ground running. In addition, they and the Council are pleased to announce that we now have the following associate/area editors:

- Ann Bostrom, Risk Perception and Communication
- Tony Cox, Mathematical Modeling
- Charles Haas, Microbial Risk Assessment
- Yacov Haimes, Engineering
- Wayne Landis, Environmental/Ecological Risk Assessment
- Suresh Moolgavkar, Health Risk Assessment
- Warner North, Decision Analysis

For those who are wondering why there is not an associate/area editor for Public Policy, given the call for nominations in the last newsletter, the search committee, Council, and current editor decided that the position had not been defined well enough and thus opted to keep the position open. I expect that following much more discussion and debate about this position, there will most likely be a call for nominations in the future, so please stay tuned.

The Publications Committee also had a meeting with Blackwell/Wiley recently and I am very pleased to report that the journal continues to thrive and grow. Our impact factor for 2006 increased to 1.938! In addition, the journal continues to bring significant revenues into the SRA.

One change that authors will soon notice is that the journal will now send lead authors a PDF of their paper at the time of publication, instead of sending 25 hard copies of reprints several weeks after publication. Of course authors can still order as many reprints as they like, but this is becoming the standard practice and the editors and Blackwell/Wiley were getting repeated requests for PDFs from authors who wanted to be able to print out copies of their papers at the time of publication. Please remember that the PDFs are for your personal use, NOT for posting on Web sites!

The managing editor and Blackwell/Wiley will also send authors the link to the appropriate page for their article so authors will find it easier to create Web links to their articles online.

I think that you will soon see innovations happening in the journal. However, the priority for the next six months is to make a smooth transition. While the transition is occurring, I would like to ask for everyone's patience and tolerance while the new editors, who are unfamiliar with how the manuscript management system works, learn about it.

The editorial staff will have a retreat to discuss new innovations, opportunities, and any issues with the journal, so if you have anything that you would like to raise for consideration I invite you to email your ideas and suggestions to me: [kimt@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:kimt@hsph.harvard.edu).

Please also note that the Editorial Board will also soon be changing, and if you would like to submit nominations for SRA members you believe should be considered, then this would be the time to do so. We do not plan on formally soliciting nominations, so this is the time to send your informal suggestions.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has submitted a manuscript to our journal and also those who take the time to review manuscripts when asked. The peer-review process is such an important part of our journal's high quality, and while I know everyone is too busy, it's important to take the time to review papers and do your part. Thanks!

### Conferences and Workshops Committee

*Jim Lambert, Chair*

The Conferences and Workshops Committee sponsors topical events and continuing education workshops. We invite proposals for events to be held throughout the year, which can be submitted any time.

We also welcome proposals for continuing education workshops at the 2008 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Boston. Annual meeting workshop proposals are due by 24 May. There were nearly 20 successful workshops with 200 attendees at the 2007 SRA Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

SRA members—your own events, conferences, workshops, meetings, etc., could benefit from SRA promotion or could be of interest to other SRA members. Filling out a brief form available at [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org) ("SRA-recognized events") will enable advertising of these events at the SRA Web site and through the quarterly newsletter. You will be invited to use the SRA logo in your event promotions.

The Conferences and Workshops Committee is available to support prospective event organizers, beginning with their event proposals. A forum for prospective organizers was held on the Wednesday of the San Antonio meeting.

There are four workshops kicking off the Second World Congress in Guadalajara in June 2008, addressing (1) concepts, applications, and controversies, (2) risk communication, (3) data analyses for human health toxicity, and (4) data analyses for human health toxicity.

SRA is sponsoring an upcoming workshop on the risk analysis of nanomaterials in Washington, DC, in September 2008. Contact Jo Anne Shatkin through the SRA Nanomaterials Specialty Group for additional information.

Contact any of us: Conferences and Workshops Committee Chair Jim Lambert ([lambert@virginia.edu](mailto:lambert@virginia.edu)), Annual Meeting Subcommittee Chairs Margaret MacDonell ([macdonell@anl.gov](mailto:macdonell@anl.gov)) or Jacqueline Patterson ([patterson@tera.org](mailto:patterson@tera.org)), Non-Annual-Meeting Events Subcommittee Chairs Katy Walker ([kdwalker1206@hotmail.com](mailto:kdwalker1206@hotmail.com)) or Jim Wilson ([wilson.jimjudy@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wilson.jimjudy@worldnet.att.net)), or David Drupa ([ddrupa@burkinc.com](mailto:ddrupa@burkinc.com)) of the Secretariat.





## Advertisements

### Postdoctoral Associate—Social Scientist

#### Human Components of Risk Behavior for West Nile Virus

Rutgers University seeks a social scientist to work with an interdisciplinary team to understand the connections between biodiversity and risk of exposure to West Nile Virus (WNV). The project focuses on human responses to biodiversity in urban wetlands in northeastern New Jersey as it affects behavior and exposure to WNV vectors. The project involves an interdisciplinary team including a social scientist; experts on plant, bird, and mosquito diversity; and an expert on environmental communication. The candidate should have strong interviewing and survey skills, and experience with mental models interviews is highly desirable. Experience with landscape photo questionnaires or Q analysis also may be useful. The position will start 1 July 2008 and is available for a three-year period subject to satisfactory performance.

Please submit electronically a curriculum vitae, contact information for three references (name, address, phone number, email address), and a statement of background and professional interest to Dr. Joan Ehrenfeld, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, 14 College Farm Road, SEBS, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; email: ehrenfel@rci.rutgers.edu. For more information, contact Dr. Ehrenfeld at the email address above or 732-932-1081. Rutgers University is an equal opportunity employer.

#### Molecular Toxicologist

Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) has a growth position for a candidate recently completing a PhD or postdoctoral program in toxicology or a related field. Knowledge of risk assessment methods, experience in computational biology and/or PBPK modeling is a plus. Seeking energetic scientists who enjoy scientific challenges and technical details and are excellent writers. Successful candidate will be actively involved in diverse tasks using knowledge of toxicology and molecular biology. Exceptional work environment where career growth and development are strongly supported.

- Location: Cincinnati, Ohio
- Salary: negotiable
- Electronic résumés to Poehlmann@tera.org
- Questions to Maier@tera.org
- Complete details at <http://www.tera.org/news/employment.htm>

### ChemRisk

ChemRisk® is seeking applicants with graduate degrees (MS, PhD, MD) and training in toxicology, epidemiology, the environmental sciences, risk assessment, biomedical engineering, industrial hygiene, medicine, or health physics. Key job duties will include:

- Assisting in studies concerning human health and risk assessment for the protection of public health and workers.
- Analyzing environmental or workplace data to synthesize expert opinions on chemical toxicity or human health effects.
- Becoming a noted health scientist by performing defensible work that is presented in peer-reviewed journals and conferences.
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#### 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](mailto:mwalchuk@hickorytech.net).



RISK *newsletter* is published by the Society for Risk Analysis

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*SRA Web site:* www.sra.org

### Deadline for RISK *newsletter* Submissions

Send information for the **Third Quarter 2008** SRA RISK *newsletter*, to be mailed early August, 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 **15 June 2008**. Please note that the deadline for this issue is earlier than usual.



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

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

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

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

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