



RISK newsletter

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The Society for Risk Analysis Welcomes New Council Members for 2008-2009



Alison Cullen
President



Rick Reiss
President-elect



Jack Fowle
Treasurer



Daniela Leonte
Councilor

Scott Ferson
Councilor

Donna Vorhees
Councilor

More on the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting on pages 5-10

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2009 SRA Annual Meeting, 6-9 December, Baltimore

President's Message

Alison Cullen

We gathered for an outstanding 2008 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Boston, thanks to the efforts of so many people behind the scenes! I am very grateful to Jonathan Wiener for his sage advice through the year, as well as his excellent sense of humor; to the Program Committee (page 6) for reading through 500+ abstracts and organizing the technical sessions; to Kim Thompson and Adam Finkel for assisting with the plenary sessions and many other things; to Bob Tardiff and the Sapphire Group for a wonderful wine and cheese event; to Pamela Williams and the poster judges; and to the SRA Secretariat. And finally, my hat is off to all the attendees who presented, challenged, debated, and exhibited on the theme *Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art*.



Incoming and outgoing presidents Alison Cullen and Jonathan Wiener celebrate SRA's 2008 transition and inauguration at the annual awards luncheon.

Highlights of the 2008 Annual Meeting *Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art*

- Attendees: In a year when many were challenged by the effects of economic upheaval, frozen travel budgets, and related issues, it was wonderful to welcome so many attendees to the meeting. Of the 769 attendees (record breaking compared with all other SRA meetings outside the DC/Baltimore area) there were over 210 individuals who traveled from outside of the United States to be there! This is close to twice the level of international participation of the previous year's meeting, which was in turn a great jump ahead of the meeting before it. It is gratifying to see the SRA move ever closer to its goals of international collaboration and exchange.
- Abstracts submitted: More than 500 abstracts were submitted via our Web form, including 117 in decision analysis, 101 in risk communication, and over 50 each for both dose response and risk, policy, and law.
- Workshops: 11 continuing education workshops were offered to over 30 enthusiastic attendees.
- Plenary speakers: We welcomed a distinguished slate of plenary speakers including Elisabeth Paté-Cornell, Yossi Sheffi, Kerry Emanuel, Eddie Bernard, Richard Revesz, and John Graham. See highlights on pages 6, 7, and 9.
- Global leaders: We were joined by leaders from around the globe this year (see photo on page 5). And the Regions Committee is working to further increase activity, participation, and representation in the future (page 11).
- Gala Poster Reception: A dedicated panel of judges led by Pamela Williams bestowed the 5 Best Poster Awards, while reception attendees cast votes for an additional "Member's Pick" Best Poster Award (page 7).
- Roundtables attracted vigorous discussion around a range of issues. For example, in "SRA and the Future of Risk Analysis" participants heard a call for the development of an SRA Code of Ethics, a debate about the virtues of developing a set of principles of good analysis, ideas for new specialty groups, inspirations for using technology to bring SRA members around the world together in new ways, and more.

• An innovation this year was the addition of a follow-on session to the Wednesday plenary on "Risk Regulation: Ideas for the Obama Administration." Interest in this session exceeded both the space available in the room and also the time allotted on the schedule! Please watch for future plenary follow-on sessions.

The Year Ahead . . .

Happy 2009 to all SRA members, old and new! It is an honor to serve as president this year, following in the footsteps of so many outstanding individuals, including most recently Jonathan Wiener. Jonathan's focus on growing the SRA globally has met with great success, and I plan to build on his efforts (and those of SRA presidents before him) for outreach and collaboration across international borders and disciplinary lines. I believe that risk analysis at its best brings

together science and art to transcend these divides. This theme was highlighted at our annual meeting *Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art*.

The year 2009 is a time of transition in the United States and around the world, a time when the tools of risk analysis hold great promise for decision making at all levels. The SRA is poised to be an increasingly important source of scientific information, perspective, and wisdom and of illustrations of the art of applying our methods and tools appropriately, thoughtfully, and transparently. The question for SRA is how best to engage opportunities to participate in public dialogue about risks of current concern. The world is grappling with instability, risk, and collapse in financial systems, threats to the delicate balance of our atmosphere and oceans, risks and benefits associated with technology, and many other related issues. This is a time to demonstrate our relevance and our support for sound analysis in effective solutions. In the past, SRA has been active providing a forum for debate, convening experts, sponsoring workshops, and hosting meetings. Please contact me with your ideas regarding how SRA can be active and increase its positive impact as we move forward (alison@u.washington.edu).

Transitions at Risk Analysis

The journal is seeking nominees for area editors in Public Policy (new area) and in Engineering (thank you Yacov Haimas for your service!). See the box on page 4 for details about how to nominate candidates to serve.

Investing in the Future

In 2009 SRA is exploring several investments in new initiatives. These include such efforts as a coordinated look at the risk areas covered by our current specialty groups and contemplation of additional areas we might like to include, a conference on Risk Analysis in Education, the development of a template for collaboration between SRA and external partners, and more. Proposals for new initia-

tives that will strengthen SRA and/or extend its reach or impact will be solicited through the year; please email David Drupa (ddrupa@burkinc.com) with your ideas.

I look forward to working with President-elect Rick Reiss and the entire Council to further SRA's mission. Please

consider becoming involved! Visit www.sra.org to learn about opportunities to help our global community fulfill its potential in new ways and with increased impact.

Happy 2009 to all!

Past President's Message

Jonathan B. Wiener

It has been an honor to serve as your president of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) for the past year and to report on our progress in 2008. From *Risk '007: Agents of Analysis*, to *Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art* in 2008, we have advanced ideas and achieved a great deal.

Membership: The Society's membership grew from 1,728 in 2006, to 1,844 in 2007, to 1,881 in 2008. Overall, the SRA has grown almost tenfold since 1981. Still, our recent growth rate is modest; we could grow much more.

Bylaws: In 2008 the SRA membership voted to approve two technical amendments. These changes, and the amendment proposal procedure, are posted on the SRA Web site.

Finances: The 2008 Treasurer's Report (handed out on 9 December; available at www.sra.org/finance_committee.php) shows that the SRA's net assets continue to grow. Following our Investment & Reserve Policy, the SRA has accumulated substantial assets—thanks to a growing Society, a rising market, and the investment strategies of the SRA treasurers and Secretariat. About half of these assets are held in securities funds, the rest in bank deposits. (The market value of our securities funds declined during the economic downturn of 2008, but less than the decline suffered by the overall market during this period.)

The SRA Council has used some of these assets to fund "New Initiatives" in 2007-2008, and the treasurers will invite further New Initiative proposals in 2009.

In my view, the SRA Council should now (subject to sound allocation, accountability, and transparency) use more of these assets to grow the Society and the field. My judgment is that holding back will stagnate the SRA, let other societies and journals occupy our niche and attract our members, and cause us to miss opportunities to help solve pressing problems through high-quality risk analysis.

Events: During 2008 the SRA held a series of major events, including the 2nd World Congress on Risk in Guadalajara, Mexico (June) (with gratitude to co-chairs Robin Cantor and Javier Urbina-Soria and their organizing committee, and to the National Science Foundation for its generous support); major meetings in Quebec, Canada (May), Valencia, Spain (September), Canberra, Australia (September), and Osaka, Japan (November); the NanoScale Risk Symposium in Washington, DC (September), and the congressional briefings on nanotech (March/April); and the SRA annual meeting in Boston, USA (December)—congratulations to

Alison Cullen and her Annual Meeting Program Committee, and the Conferences and Workshops Committee, for a magnificent conference!

Awards: On 9 December 2008, on behalf of the Awards Committee (chaired by Past President Baruch Fischhoff) and the SRA Council, we conferred the annual Society awards (see pages 7 and 8).

Journal: Under new Editors Michael Greenberg and Karen Lowrie, the journal *Risk Analysis* presented its 2008 awards and will now be publishing monthly—see page 10.

Pantheon: We inducted 35 inaugural honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis (see page 20, and also the SRA Web site for links to bios). New nominees are welcome.

International growth: A top priority of my presidency was the international growth of the SRA and the field. In my view, the world needs the SRA, and the SRA needs the world. The world needs the SRA to deal with the range of risks: chemicals, climate, disease, disasters, energy, environment, food, finance, tsunamis, terrorism... .

Increasing interconnectedness means faster propagation of risks, and also a more dense web of ancillary impacts and trade-offs from any decision. The world needs high-quality risk analysis to help think through these decisions and avoid the sanctimony of supposing that one knows the answer without thinking it through. In my view the current crises we face in climate, credit, and international conflict are in major part due to flawed or neglected risk analyses.

Meanwhile, the SRA needs the world: It must grow worldwide if it is to succeed. Risks, and decisions about how to address risks, are increasingly multipolar and global. The SRA needs to be active wherever risks and decisions are important—that is, everywhere. A broad community of risk analysts fosters learning through exchange and evaluation across countries. And the SRA needs international growth to build its base of members, topics, and geography.

In 2008 we pursued international growth on several paths: We held the 2nd World Congress on Risk in Guadalajara; launched SRA-Latin America, with nearly 100 initial members; and made progress toward launching SRA-China and SRA-India.

The SRA Council approved a strengthened international structure, enhancing the Regions Committee to consist of the presidents of the SRA regions and to advise the Council on SRA's strategy for international growth (see my text and charts in the Third Quarter 2008 *RISK newsletter*, pages



Never wasting a moment, Past President Jonathan Wiener tests the dose-response relation between ingestion of polyphenol flavonoids and high-quality risk analysis.

2-4, www.sra.org/newsletter.php). At the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston in December, more than 200 attendees came from outside the United States. And we began planning for the 3rd World Congress on Risk, which will be held in 2012 (see the Call for Expressions of Interest in hosting on page 10).



Past President Wiener and President Cullen sport the 2008 T-shirts at the Wednesday wine and cheese reception.

Thanks: As I end my term, I want to thank all of you—all the SRA members, officers, councilors, and staff—who continue to make our Society so vibrant and the president's job so enriching. And I congratulate our newly inaugurated president, Alison Cullen, with whom it has already been so rewarding and fun to work.

Joint Thanks from Jonathan and Alison

Together we give special thanks to the outgoing officers: Treasurer Tony Cox (now Past Treasurer); Councilors Elaine Faustman, Garrick Louis, and Rick Reiss; and Past President Kim Thompson. And major thanks to the staffs who keep the SRA running: RISK *newsletter* editors Gen Roessler, Mary Walchuk, and Sharon Hebl; Web site managers Jim Butler and Ruedi Birenheide; and our super Secretariat—Dick Burk, Sue Burk, Brett Burk, David Drupa, Jill Drupa, Lori Strong, Mary Lou Scarbrough, Heide Rohland, Tim Burt, Melissa Nation, and Tiffany Becker. Working with the Burk Band has been for us a true joy.

And together we welcome the newly elected officers: new Councilors Scott Ferson, Daniela Leonte, and Donna Vorhees; new Treasurer Jack Fowle; and new President-elect Rick Reiss.

Congratulations all!

Call for Nominations for Two Area Editors for *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*

The Society for Risk Analysis Publications Committee seeks nominations for two area editor positions for *Risk Analysis*—in Public Policy and in Engineering. Each position is a three-year appointment to serve on the editorial staff.

Public policy: This is a new area editor position. It responds to the crucial role of public policy in our field. The area editor should have published on risk-related public policy topics and be familiar with associated areas of research and of government policy. The area editor should have a background in one or more relevant disciplines, such as anthropology, economics, geography, law, management, political science, psychology, public policy, and sociology.

Engineering: After many years of service, Professor Yacov Haimes plans to step down as the area editor for engineering. He will continue until we have identified his successor. The area editor should have published on risk-related engineering topics and be familiar with the associated areas of quantitative risk assessment and risk management. The area editor should have a background in one or more relevant engineering disciplines, such as biomedical, civil, chemical, electrical, environmental, mechanical, nuclear, and complex systems.

Responsibilities: Each 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 are expected to meet for one half day at the SRA annual meeting (held each December) to discuss their agenda for the coming year. They may also meet at other times during the year. Each area editor position includes a compensation stipend.

Nominations for Area Editor for Public Policy and Area Editor for Engineering 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 SRA Past President Jonathan Wiener, chair of the Publications Committee, Society for Risk Analysis, by email at wieners@law.duke.edu, and to Editor-in-Chief Michael Greenberg by email at mrg@rutgers.edu.

Nominations submitted by 28 February 2009 will receive full consideration. We will continue the search until the positions are filled.

Ongoing Work on SRA Statement/Code of Ethics

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) ad-hoc Ethics Committee will continue to deliberate over the next year to develop and propose a code or statement of ethics for the Society. The objective is to have a final draft ready to post for member comments and discussion by fall 2009. In its initial activities, the committee conducted a review of codes and statements of ethics adopted by other professional organizations. The results of this deliberation were summarized at a roundtable session at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston. We now hope to implement a simple solicitation of the membership, on the SRA Web site, on ethical issues that members have encountered in their professional practice and issues that they believe should be addressed in a code or statement. Finally, the committee will consider procedures for dealing with inquiries and claims regarding the code or statement, if and when it is approved.

If you would like to be a member and contribute to the work of the SRA Ethics Committee, please send an email to David A. Drupa (ddrupa@burkinc.com) with a brief paragraph indicating any specific interests or experience regarding ethics for our profession.

Risk Analysis: The Science and the Art
2008 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Boston
Sunday, 7 December



Welcome Reception with Boston Clam Chowdah



Gathering of Many of the SRA International Leaders

Seated, left to right: 2008 President Jonathan Wiener, 2010 President Rick Reiss, 2009 President Alison Cullen; Standing first row, left to right: Sylvain Loranger (SRA Chapitre Saint-Laurent, Quebec, Canada), Cheryl North, Virna Gutierrez (SRA-Latin America Treasurer), Daniella Leonte (SRA-Australia/New Zealand President), David Drupa (SRA Secretariat); Standing second row, left to right: Olivier Salvi (SRA Regions Committee Chair), Elisabeth Paté-Cornell (SRA Past President, 1995), D. Warner North (SRA Past President, 1992), Javier Urbina-Soria (Mexico, 2nd World Congress on Risk Co-Chair), Ann Enander (SRA-Europe President-elect), Katy Walker (SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee), Brett Burk (SRA Secretariat), Jack Fowle (SRA Treasurer), Tim Burt (SRA Secretariat)

Monday, 8 December



Registration



New Member and Fellows Breakfast

Monday, 8 December
Plenary Session: Risk Management in a Complex World

“Three Models of Games and Risks: Some Challenges in Formulation”

— Elisabeth Paté-Cornell —

Dr. Elisabeth Paté-Cornell, the Burt and Deedee McMurtry Professor in the School of Engineering and chair of the Department of Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University, presented three models explaining how game analysis allows assessment of the risk in a system (a country or a spacecraft) that is in a deteriorated state at a given time. For a given government strategy, the result is the probability that in the end, the country is below a specified level of economic development or political stability. One of the main challenges is the formulation of these models and the underlying assumptions that they imply.



“Game theory has been used in risk analysis for a long time.”

“Managing High Impact Low Probability Disruptions”

— Yossi Sheffi —

Dr. Yossi Sheffi is a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he serves as head of MIT’s Engineering Systems Division and director of the MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics. His talk extended many of the themes first articulated in his best-selling book *The Resilient Enterprise: Overcoming Vulnerability for Competitive Advantage* (MIT Press, 2005) and demonstrated that companies’ fortunes in the face of business shocks depend more on choices made before the disruption than on actions taken in the midst of it.



“There is something in the DNA of resilient companies that makes them resilient.”



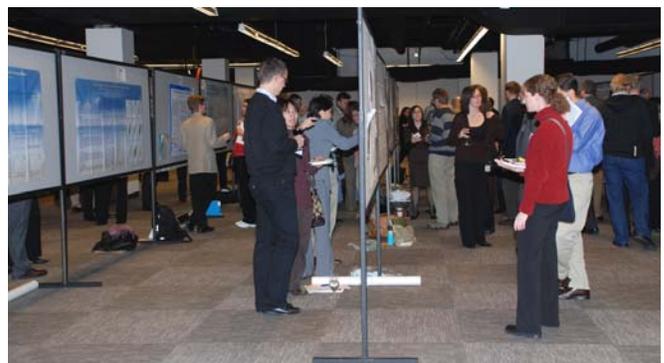
Morning Coffee Break



Box Lunch and Specialty Group Meetings

**2008 SRA Annual Meeting
 Program Committee**

Alison Cullen (chair), Laina Bush, Michael Dellarco, Adam Finkel, Susan Flack, 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, Bob Tardiff, Kim Thompson, and Jonathan Wiener.



Poster Exhibit

Tuesday, 9 December

Plenary Session: Challenges in Climate Science

“Assessing Hurricane Wind Risk in a Changing Climate”

— Kerry Emanuel —



Dr. Kerry Emanuel, a professor of atmospheric science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, described a new method to assess wind risk given only knowledge of the large-scale climate provided by, e.g., reanalysis of data sets or climate models and not depending in any way on historical hurricane data except as a check on the quality of the technique. He said this technique makes it easy to generate hundreds of thousands of physically modeled synthetic storms from which robust risk assessments can be produced, and it is possible to do this for any climate state, including projections made using global climate models.

“History is just plain too short and too poor to serve as a basis for reliable long-term hurricane risk assessment.”

“The Three Things You Should Know about Tsunamis”

— Eddie Bernard —



Dr. Eddie Bernard, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, explained that tsunami science will be expected to develop risk assessment, warning guidance, and community preparedness standards, based on scientifically endorsed procedures, which assure the highest-quality application of this science. Together, the application of standards for risk assessment, warning guidance, and community preparedness will create and maintain a tsunami-resilient coastal community that will survive the next tsunami.

“If you feel a strong shake or see a rapid change in sea level or hear that loud roar, run to high ground—don’t ask any questions.”



Student Breakfast

2008 SRA Awards



Best Poster Award Winners

Left to right: **Michael Dourson** (The Effects of Acute Exposure to Methyl Isothiocyanate [MITC]), **Regis Pouillot** (“mc2d,” an R Package for Two-Dimensional Monte-Carlo Simulations), **Branden Johnson** (Trust and Terrorism: Citizen Responses to Anti-Terrorism History), **Laura Rickard** (Exploring Occupational Risk Communication and Workplace Culture among Green Industry Pesticide Applicators in New York State), **Pamela Williams** (coordinator), **Gina Eosco** (Visual Literacy and Complex Science: Implications for Risk Communication), **Rachel Eager** (Risk Assessment [RA] in Working Equine Welfare), **Mohamed Madany** (Risk Factor Analysis—Body Lesions of Cart-Pulling Equines in Sherbin, Egypt)



Exhibits

2008 SRA Awards



**Joanna Burger and John D. Graham
Distinguished Achievement Award**



**Robin Cantor and Javier Urbina-Soria
Presidential Recognition Award**



**Steve Lewis and Rick Reiss
Outstanding Service Award**



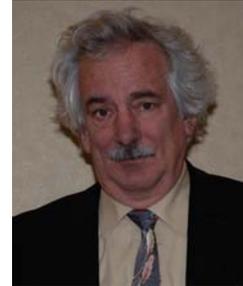
**Katherine McComas
Chauncey Starr
Distinguished Young
Risk Analyst Award**



**Dave Hassenzahl
Distinguished
Educator Award**



**Lauren Zeise
Outstanding
Practitioner Award**



**Roger Cooke
Fellow**



**Suresh Moolgavkar
Fellow**



**Sharon Dunwoody
Fellow**



**Jonathan Wiener
Fellow**



**Specialty Group
Student Merit Award**

Front, left to right: Negar Elmieh (Decision Analysis & Risk), Tade-Ane de Amorim (Emerging Nanoscale Materials), Jade Mitchell Blackwood (Biological Stressors); Back, left to right: Christoph Rheinberger (Economics and Benefits Analysis), Frederic Boudier (Risk Policy & Law), Janet Yang (Risk Communication); Not pictured: B.D. Dickey Oris (Engineering and Infrastructure)



Travel Award Winners

Front row, left to right: Mark H. Weir, Christoph Rheinberger, Seth Baum, John Hannigan, Shaun Lundy, Camilo Rosas, Swaroop Kher, Birnur Ozbas, Negar Elmieh, Sweta Chakraborty; Back row, left to right: John Watt, Zdenko Simic, Lorenzo Allio, Jaroslav Mysiak, Tade-Ane de Amorim; Inset, left to right: Min Li, Delanie Kellon; Not pictured: Kyeongmi Cheon, Gina Eosco, Tao Hong, Reza Kazemi Tabriz, Vikas Khanna, Drew Loney, Laura Rickard, Nicolle Uban, Janet Yang, Chi-Chang Ho, Clara Vittini, Ying Zhang, Wei Zhang, Azad Bayramov, Amina Farag, Dennis Hsieh, Meng-Hung Lin, Iseult Lynch, Victor Mikhailenko, Dan Serbanescu, Zorica Srdjevic, Pradip Swarnakar, Alexander Tkachuk

Wednesday, 10 December

Plenary Session: Risk Regulation Ideas for the New Administration

“Eliminating Anti-Regulatory Biases”

— **Richard L. Revesz** —

Richard L. Revesz is dean and Lawrence King Professor of Law at New York University School of Law. He spoke on the number of challenges the new Administration will face as it implements its policies with respect to the use of cost-benefit analysis in the administrative state. These include how to engage progressive groups in methodological discussions about how benefits and costs should be evaluated and how to eliminate anti-regulatory biases that have emerged over the past decades as a result of the disproportionate impact in methodological debates of anti-regulatory academics and interest groups representing polluters.



“There are lots of things that could be said to the new Administration and it seemed that 10 would be a good number.”

“Enhancing Regulatory Oversight”

— **John D. Graham** —



John D. Graham is the new dean of the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He described ways that White House oversight of the federal regulatory process can be improved, including ensuring the poor are treated fairly by regulators; seeking weights on nonquantified benefit and costs; and seeking ex post validation of risk, benefit, and cost estimates. He explained that with these reforms, future administrations can produce more protective and cost-effective federal regulations than are now being issued.

“I have lots of provocative things to say. ... We must recognize how serious the challenge is that [Obama] has in front of him.”

Follow-On Session Risk Regulation: Ideas for the Obama Administration

Wednesday’s follow-on session included panel members who expanded on the topics presented in the plenary session and then answered questions. Left to right: Jonathan Wiener (Duke University), Richard Revesz (New York University), Rick Melberth (OMB Watch, Director of Federal Regulatory Policy), Chair Adam Finkel, and Stuart Shapiro (Rutgers University).



**Roundtable Discussion:
SRA and the Future of Risk Analysis**
Past President Jonathan Wiener, President Alison Cullen, and President-elect Rick Reiss led the roundtable discussion “SRA and the Future of Risk Analysis” during the box-lunch session on Wednesday.

Meeting photos taken by Mary Walchuk



Ryan Keefe



Maarten Nauta



Joanna Burger



Branden Johnson

Best Paper Awards 2008 (Volume 28)

“The Benefits and Costs of New Fuels and Engines for Light-Duty Vehicles in the United States”—Ryan Keefe, James P. Griffin, John D. Graham

“Food Safety in the Domestic Environment: The Effect of Consumer Risk Information on Human Disease Risks”—Maarten J. Nauta, Arnout R.H. Fischer, Esther D. van Asselt, Aarieke E.I. de Jong, Lynn J. Frewer, Rob de Jonge

“Evaluating Ecological Degradation: Ecological Goods and Services vs. Subsistence and Tribal Values”—Joanna Burger, Michael Gochfeld, Karen Pletnikoff, Ronald Snigaroff, Daniel Snigaroff, Tim Stamm

Best Reviewer Award 2008

Branden Johnson, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Science, Research and Technology



Journal Editors Meeting, front row, left to right: Editor-in-Chief Michael Greenberg, Past Publications Committee Chair Kim Thompson, Managing Editor Karen Lowrie, Area Editor Yacov Haimes; Back row, left to right: Publications Committee Chair Jonathan Wiener, Area Editor Wayne Landis, Area Editor Chuck Haas, Area Editor Tony Cox, Area Editor Ann Bostrom; Not pictured: Area Editor Suresh Moolgavkar, Area Editor Warner North



Journal Editorial Board, front row, left to right: Michael Greenberg, Michael Siegrist, Karen Lowrie; Middle row, left to right: William Huber, Peg Coleman, Katherine von Stackelberg, Henry Willis, Caron Chess, Rae Zimmerman, Paul Slovic; Back row, left to right: Chuck Haas, Branden Johnson, Ortwin Renn, Adam Finkel, Greg Paoli

Changes to the Journal

New Publication Schedule

Risk Analysis is now published every month (12 issues per year), starting in January 2009. Each issue will be shorter, keeping the total number of pages per year the same as in the past.

Call for Nominations for Two Area Editors

The SRA Publications Committee seeks nominations for two area editor positions, in Public Policy and in Engineering. For more information, see the call for nominations on page 4 of this newsletter. 

3rd World Congress on Risk

Call for Expressions of Interest to Host the Congress

After the successful 1st and 2nd World Congresses on Risk in 2003 (Brussels, Belgium) and in 2008 (Guadalajara, Mexico), the SRA Council now invites expressions of interest to host the 3rd World Congress on Risk in 2012.

Proposals for hosting should be sent to Olivier Salvi (olivier.salvi@ineris.fr), co-chair of the SRA Regions Committee, and to Lori Strong (lstrong@burkinc.com) or Sue Burk (sburk@burkinc.com) of the SRA Secretariat by 30 March 2009.

Once the location and date are selected, an organizing committee will be created by the SRA Council. This committee will enlist leaders of the SRA regional organizations, and others, to plan and run the Congress.

For further essential details on what specific elements should be included in your proposal and to whom it should be sent, please go to www.sra.org/events_world_congress_guidelines.php.



Committees

SRA Regions Committee

Olivier Salvi, Chair

Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) regions made progress during the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston. After our meetings this year in Guadalajara (2nd World Congress on Risk, 9 June 2008), in Valencia (SRA-Europe annual meeting, 24 September 2008), and at the International Symposium organized in Osaka (21st Annual Meeting of SRA-Japan, 29-30 November 2008), the leaders of SRA regions met again in Boston and advanced our initiatives to reinforce the internationalization of SRA.

We shared news on our regions. Each region has a different model for operating, for its membership, and for activities at the regional level. Each region runs an annual meeting at different periods of the year, each has its own Web site (with some pages in English), and some have an official regional journal (such as the *Journal of Risk Research* for SRA-Europe and SRA-Japan and *Issues in Risk Analysis* for SRA-Russia). The main difference is regarding membership. For all regions represented at the meeting other than Europe (i.e., Japan, Russia, Australia/New Zealand, Latin America, Taiwan, and Chapitre Saint-Laurent, Canada), only about 10 to 15 percent of the regions' members are also members of SRA (International). (All of the members of SRA-Europe are members of SRA.) The participants provided two primary reasons for the relatively low participation in SRA in these regions: (1) the language barrier and (2) the lack of understanding of the benefits of being a member of SRA (International). The participants discussed proposals to strengthen the common activities and interactions between the SRA and its regions to ensure the global growth of SRA and perhaps attract more region members to join SRA. These suggestions include the following:

• Organize an international symposium at each SRA region's annual meeting, on a topic with a global scope.

• Organize a repository (Web-based) with information on ongoing projects related to global topics, for example:

- Climate change
- Food safety
- Natural hazards
- Nanomaterials
- Environmental risks
- Disaster prevention and mitigation
- Emergency management
- Security

• Present on the Web page of each regional Web site a project addressing global issues, with its title, contact person, and Web link to the project Web site. This action will strengthen the exchange of information across regions and will help reinforce the internationalization of SRA.

• Organize a collection of internship/training/placement opportunities on the Web, with offers coming from the various regions to increase the demand for people from other regions. Similarly to the above suggestion of a project repository, this collection of opportunities for mobility of SRA members should be organized with offers for placements/internship and CVs of possible candidates.

The participants also discussed other ideas, such as the value of translating and posting the titles and abstracts of articles from the journal *Risk Analysis* into various regional

languages, but there was little interest in such an effort. There was more interest in translating the SRA RISK newsletter into regional languages so that members in the regions could stay apprised of what other SRA regions and committees are doing.

Concerning the organization of the 3rd World Congress on Risk, Olivier Salvi and Jonathan Wiener explained the current situation. The 2nd World Congress on Risk was just held in June 2008 in Mexico. It takes at least three years to organize each World Congress. Several formal and informal expressions of interest to host the 3rd World Congress have already been received—from Australia, Russia, and Canada. (The SRA

Council decided on the evening of Tuesday, 9 December 2008, to issue a formal "call for expressions of interest" in hosting the 3rd World Congress. See this Call for Expressions of Interest on page 10 of this newsletter.)

Finally, the regional leaders highlighted their upcoming annual conferences, listed in the box on this page.

Process of Creation of SRA-India Initiated

The previous RISK newsletter described an initiative to create SRA-India or SRA-South Asia (covering the South Asian Regional Cooperation group, including Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). Mr. Shewak Gidwani, the secretary general of the Insurance Institute of India (III), a nonprofit organization in India since 1955, participated in the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston to meet the SRA Council and SRA region leaders and to request support to create a structured risk analysis community in India.

The Regions Committee confirmed its willingness to support this initiative and agreed on an action plan to accom-

Upcoming Regional Meetings

In 2009, SRA regional organizations will hold exciting events including:

- SRA-Russia: 22-25 April 2009, Moscow, Russia
- Asian Symposium on Risk Assessment and Management, 17-19 May 2009, Beijing
- SRA Europe: 2009 Meeting, Karlstad, Sweden, 28 June-1 July 2009
- SRA Australia/New Zealand: 2009 Meeting, Wellington, New Zealand, 27-28 September 2009
- Risk Analysis Council of China: 2nd International Conference on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response, 19-21 October 2009, Beijing, China
- SRA-Latin America: end of 2009 or early 2010
- SRA-Japan: November 2009
- SRA Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, 6-9 December 2009

The list continues to be updated; please watch the SRA Web site for more (<http://www.sra.org/events.php>).

pany the creation of SRA-India or SRA-South Asia. The main steps include first to contact by email individuals in India and nearby countries who are already members of SRA and other individuals nominated by SRA members. SRA members anywhere in the world who have contacts in India and South Asia are invited to send suggestions to Olivier Salvi (olivier.salvi@ineris.fr). Salvi and Gidwani will contact these individuals to identify a core group (ideally in the first half of 2009) that will meet with members of SRA (including some members of the SRA Council) to describe the benefits of joining SRA and international collaboration. This meeting will ideally occur in fall 2009. The purpose of this meeting is to help attract and hear from interested parties in India and nearby countries to determine specific needs and to evaluate the level of interest and next steps for a petition to create SRA-India or SRA-South Asia.

Specialty Group Committee

Kara Morgan, Chair

With the turnover every year of specialty group (SG) leadership, we decided it was important to develop a set of guidelines for SGs to describe the responsibilities and the goals of the SGs for the year. This document was reviewed by the 2008 SG chairs and the SRA Council and is now posted on the SRA Web site under the Specialty Groups Committee Web site. It describes the SG role in the SRA annual meeting, including selection of student merit award winners. It also describes other areas of responsibility of the SG, including technical leadership in the field and communication and outreach to SG members. All SRA members can review this document to get a better understanding of the important role that the specialty groups play in the SRA.

Education Committee

*Luis Abdon Cifuentes (Chair), Garrick Louis (Past Chair),
submitted by Martin Clauberg (Committee Secretary)*

The Education Committee (EduComm) extends an invitation to all SRA members and other risk educators to participate in the first Risk Analysis in Education Conference, being held 14-15 July 2009 at the University of Nevada, Reno. Please see the announcement on page 13 in this newsletter. For more information on the conference, please go to <http://environment.unr.edu/environmental-sciences/events> or contact Brandolyn Thran at brandolyn.thran@us.army.mil or phone: +1-775-835-6835.

SRA's EduComm can look back on a very successful year 2008, which was highlighted at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston during both an education roundtable and a sponsored symposium. The EduComm thanks the presenters and the interested SRA members for making both sessions a success. The major accomplishments of the EduComm are:

- **Member survey of risk education programmes**

In order to study the way that risk analysis is currently taught at the university level and to begin to consider requirements for a core curriculum, a member survey was conducted. A total of 186 SRA members from 29 different countries responded, representing nearly 10 percent of the membership and providing a good sample size for the in-

vestigation. We congratulate David Berube of North Carolina State University for his prize-winning response.

Preliminary results were presented in Boston by John Watt and Leah Corr from Middlesex University in London, United Kingdom, who undertook the survey. While the final report and publication is forthcoming, a few key findings should be noted: the need for a practical component to programmes (e.g., case studies), the need to see risk decision making as a judgment, the importance of teaching risk at a strategic (holistic, integrated) level while recognizing specialization and showing the way that it relates, and the need for teaching probability and statistics and risk communication. In addition to ranking the suggested keyword list, several members identified items missing from our list, e.g., emerging risks. The responses to open questions, and the number of those willing to be contacted further (>140), present a great resource for future discussion. It is also hoped that the dialogue can be extended to include other professional bodies, some of whom are also considering the future of risk education.

- **Sunday training workshops**

The EduComm sponsored two Sunday training workshops—WK10 “Risk Analysis: Fundamental Concepts, Applications and Controversies” and WK13 “Current Topics in Risk Analysis: An Overview of the SRA Specialty Groups”—at the annual meeting in Boston. Both were well attended and generated active discussions during and after the workshops. The EduComm thanks the volunteer instructors and presenters for their successful efforts. It should also be noted that in cooperation with the Conferences and Workshops Committee, both workshops were videotaped and excerpts (extent yet to be determined) will be made available to SRA members.

- **Sponsored symposia and roundtables**

In addition to the EduComm organized roundtable and symposium at the annual meeting in Boston, an education symposium was also organized and held at the 2nd World Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico. Indeed, our current chair was “recruited” at this event.

- **Development of an online risk tutorial collection**

In conjunction with the Risk Analysis in Education Conference, but also as a stand-alone initiative, the EduComm has started an effort to collect online risk tutorials with the goal of developing an annotated, systematic resource collection. Martin Clauberg (Clauberg@utk.edu) is leading this effort and welcomes your involvement. More information regarding this project will be posted at http://www.sra.org/education_committee.php (Members Only).

- **Online project portal for EduComm**

A registration-protected online project and collaboration portal (using the BaseCamp engine) was developed for the EduComm to aid in the management of multiple projects and initiatives. Its success in helping to organize and coordinate interactions among the 20+ EduComm members from over five different nations has prompted the Membership Committee to explore its use as well. The site is operated and maintained by Martin Clauberg.

- **Honors and recognition**

The EduComm would like to congratulate David M. Hassenzahl, the EduComm's previous chair, on being recognized as the Society's Outstanding Educator. Congratu-

lations also to John Watt for winning a travel award to the annual meeting in Boston.

For 2009, the EduComm is actively involved in and looking forward to the first Risk Analysis in Education Conference. Other goals include petitioning the SRA Council to move from an ad hoc committee status to a full committee standing. Additionally, the EduComm is also investigating the feasibility of having a student SRA member sit on SRA committees for a fresh and unique perspective. Other student-related initiatives (e.g., a training workshop proposal for fresh graduates/postdocs to help them find grants and build networks) are being considered. Finally, due to the increasing interest in education, some members of the committee have discussed the possibility of forming an Education Specialty Group. If you are interested in helping to shape this new specialty group, please contact Martin Clauberg (Clauberg@utk.edu).

Conferences and Workshops Committee

James Lambert, Chair

The SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee (C&W) recognizes and supports continuing education events of interest to SRA members throughout the year, at SRA world congresses, and on the Sunday prior to the annual meeting.

We offered a range of workshops at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting on Sunday, 7 December, in Boston. This was a unique opportunity for SRA members and others to learn about emerging risk topics, techniques, and tools and to share insights with their colleagues. We held 11 workshops in full- and half-day formats, spanning such topics as fundamentals and controversies, nanotechnology, chemical mixtures, probabilistic analysis, sensitivity analysis, cost-benefit analysis, using Excel for risk analysis, chemical-specific adjustment factors, current topics in risk analysis, benchmark dose analysis, and risk governance.

Over 130 attendees participated in our Sunday workshops in 2008! Organized or coordinated by SRA members, the annual meeting workshops have long been a valued resource for participants, and we look forward to your new and reprinted workshop proposals for the Baltimore meeting in 2009! Our SRA C&W subcommittee chairs for annual meeting events are Margaret MacDonell and Jacqueline Patterson.

Our recognized-events subcommittee identifies conferences and workshops of interest to SRA members. Upcoming SRA-recognized events around the world are currently listed in the Events section of the SRA Web site and include the conference *Managing the Social Impacts of Change from a Risk Perspective* (<http://www.kent.ac.uk/scarr/events/events.htm>), being held in Beijing, China, 15-17 April 2009.

If you have an event that you would like to list on the Web site and/or in the SRA quarterly newsletter, please follow the instructions at the site and/or contact Katy Walker at kdwalker1206@hotmail.com. Our SRA C&W subcommittee chairs for all events other than the annual meeting are Katy Walker and Jim Wilson.

Our Conferences and Workshops Committee was recently awarded "new initiative" grant funding from the SRA Council for 2008-2009. With the grant, we are producing video content of several C&W workshops at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting, principally for distribution to SRA members and others in the developing world. In addition, the video crew interviewed over 40 workshop participants and SRA leaders on Sunday in Boston. Rick Belzer is leading a C&W task force for our video new initiative. Thanks and congratulations, Rick!

Check the Events link at sra.org for breaking news of SRA continuing education and recognized events. Contact C&W Chair Jim Lambert (lambert@virginia.edu) or any subcommittee chair if you would be willing to join and serve our SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee in 2009. 

Join Us at the Risk Analysis in Education Conference

14-15 July 2009

University of Nevada, Reno

The Risk Analysis in Education Conference intends to serve as a bridge between the concepts and content found in risk analysis and the desire to improve classroom curriculum and instructional delivery at all levels (kindergarten-university).

This conference is designed to attract members of three major educator/audience groups:

1. University professors and subject-matter trainers
2. K-12 educators, principals, and other school administrators
3. Risk analysis professionals and practitioners

Day 1: Break-out sessions will provide insights into the application of the general concepts of risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication in classrooms as well as sessions on environmental health, ecological, and engineering risk assessment.

Day 2: Sessions will be organized by grade level (K-3, 4-6, 7-12, university/adult training) and will focus on the development of new curricula and teaching strategies.

Interested but new to the field? On Monday, 13 July 2009, a half-day "Introduction to Risk Analysis" workshop is available as a primer to the conference.

For more information go to <http://environment.unr.edu/environmental-sciences/events> or contact the Conference Planning Committee: Garrick Louis (gel7f@virginia.edu), Martin Clauberg (clauberg@utk.edu), David Hassenzahl (david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu), Brandolyn Thran (brandolyn.thran@us.army.mil), Carolyn Ross (jcross@cccomm.net).

Call for Nominations for 2009 SRA Awards

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Awards Committee invites nominations for the following 2009 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 2009 award will be for the private 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 2009** to SRA Past President Chris Frey, Awards Chair, email: frey@ncsu.edu, and David Drupa, phone: 703-790-1745, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com.



Member News

Rao Kolluru

Rao Kolluru’s new book, *Begin Anew: Re-Setting Your Mind’s Odometer [00000]*, will be released 12 March 2009 on Amazon.com. The book is about beginning anew—not just on your birthday or the new year, or when you are young, but whenever YOU choose to seize the moment, start fresh, reinvent yourself—and the risks of not doing so.

Igor Linkov

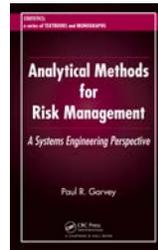
Dr. Igor Linkov is co-editor of two books published by Springer in 2008. *Real Time and Deliberative Decision Making* (with E. Ferguson and V. Magar, <http://www.springer.com/environment/environmental+management/book/978-1-4020-9024-0>) builds a foundation to characterize and assess a broad range of human and ecological stressors, and risk management approaches to address those stressors, using chemical risk assessment methods and multicriteria decision analysis tools. Chapters discuss the current state-of-knowledge with regard to emerging stressors and risk management, focus on the adequacy of available systematic, quantitative tools to guide vulnerability and threat assessments, evaluate the consequences of different events and responses, and support decision making.

Nanomaterials: Risks and Benefits (with Jeff Stevens, <http://www.springer.com/materials/nanotechnology/book/978-1-4020-9490-3>) illustrates that while existing chemical risk assessment and risk management frameworks may provide a starting point, the unique properties of nanomaterials adds a significant level of complexity to this process. The focus of many chapters is on identification of strategies and tools that could currently be implemented to reduce technical uncertainty and prioritize research to address the immediate needs of the regulatory and risk as-

essment communities. Papers in the book illustrate application of advanced risk assessment, comprehensive environmental assessment, risk characterization methods, decision analysis techniques, and other approaches to help focus research and inform policy makers.

Paul R. Garvey

Paul R. Garvey, MITRE, has recently authored the book *Analytical Methods for Risk Management: A Systems Engineering Perspective*, published by Chapman & Hall/CRC Press: Taylor & Francis Group in October 2008.



The book presents processes and practices for identifying, analyzing, measuring, and managing risk in traditional systems, systems-of-systems, and enterprise systems. It offers numerous examples and case discussions to illustrate how technical principles are applied to actual engineering systems across a variety of domains.

After an introduction to engineering risk management, the book covers the fundamental axioms and properties of probability as well as key aspects of risk and decision analysis, such as preference theory and risk/utility functions. These topics are then woven together and show how they apply to very practical problems in addressing the occurrence of unwanted, potential events in engineering today’s advanced systems.

The book includes numerous examples, cases, and end-of-chapter exercises for students in the risk, decision, and engineering systems fields. For more info, visit http://www.crcpress.com/shopping_cart/products/product_detail.asp?sku=C6374&isbn=9781584886372&parent_id=&pc=/.





Specialty Groups

Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

Terry Sullivan, President

The Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) was quite active at the 2008 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting held in Boston, with 117 papers and posters falling into our subject area. The majority of papers in our area dealt with risk, and there was substantial interest in the recent report from the National Research Council on improving risk analysis approaches used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This report should be available soon from the National Academies Press. Decision-analysis tools were discussed in a number of presentations on environmental and homeland security issues. At our business meeting, new officers were introduced and objectives for the group were discussed. Two actions were identified for the Executive Committee: (1) design and prepare a Web page for DARSG and (2) develop a decision-analysis workshop for next year's annual meeting. In addition to DARSG's objectives and officers, the Web page will contain information of general interest to group members. Igor Linkov (ilinkov@yahoo.com) has agreed to act as a collection point for information that you feel should be on this page.

DARSG officers are President Terry Sullivan (TSullivan@bnl.gov), President-elect Tom Seager (Thomas.Seager@rit.edu), Past President Martin Schultz (Martin.Schultz@usace.mil.gov), and Secretary/Treasurer J.B. Kim (Jongbum.Kim@usace.army.mil). Our group has approximately 400 members, and the Executive Board asks that you please contact any one of us with ideas you have for DARSG.

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

*Kurt A. Frantzen, Chair; J.J. Cura, Chair-elect;
Katherine von Stackelberg, Outgoing Chair*

The 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston featured several interesting ecological risk sessions and the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG) annual business meeting (including new faces and visits by members of the Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group and Dose Response Specialty Group). To advance our planned initiatives in 2009, the gathered group decided to implement a tripartite leadership approach for the group, led by the current chair and supported by the chair-elect and the outgoing chair. On a more somber note, the group did not have a student award winner at the recent annual meeting; that said, we eagerly encourage interested students to submit papers for consideration! We also missed the usually well-attended mixer this year, but hope to bring it back at the next meeting.

There were several ecological risk-focused sessions at the Boston meeting. In the session "Issues in Ecological Risk" there were papers on the use of ecological risk assessment (ERA) in evaluating long-term performance of engineered containment systems and how ERA may be the best default tool for environmental evaluation and management. Other ecological risk-related sessions looked at the use of ecological models and their acceptability in terms of the treatment of evidence and inference and a broad-ranging topic of ecosys-

tem risk management, which included a paper on environmental risk indicators of sustainable behavior.

Among the many new initiatives planned for the group in 2008 and beyond is an aggressive campaign to recruit an increasing number of ecologically related submissions to *Risk Analysis*. It provides a great opportunity to publish papers on emerging issues and nonchemical types of stressors. Because the journal bridges the social, engineering, and biological sciences, papers that deal with the interactions of each are particularly welcome. Former ERASG Chair Wayne Landis (wayne.landis@wwu.edu) is the area editor for environmental/ecological risk assessment for *Risk Analysis*. The group also plans an updated specialty group Web site, a membership drive targeting scientists and practitioners with an interest in advancing this area of risk analysis practice, and Webinar teleconferences on one or more advanced topics in 2009.

The ERASG is looking for your ideas for symposia, workshops, session topics, and/or seminars for the upcoming year! The group looks to sponsor one or two workshops dealing with introductory and advanced ecological risk topics at the next annual meeting. Additionally, we look to establish sessions or symposia looking at resolving the interpretation of impact risk complicated by scale, patchiness, and population dynamics within complicated landscapes, the use of ecological risk assessment in evaluating sustainability, and causal analysis across multiple stressors and impacts, particularly with regard to land-use alteration, climate change, and biological threats (for example, viruses, bird flu, invasive species, etc.). We are always expanding the group's active members and email list, so all who are interested in joining should contact Chair Kurt A. Frantzen (kfrantzen@kleinfelder.com), Chair-elect Jerry Cura (jjcura@gmail.com), or Outgoing Chair Katherine von Stackelberg (kvon@hsph.harvard.edu).

Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

Dominic Mancini, Chair

Summary of 2008 Annual Meeting

The Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group focuses on the integration of benefit-cost analysis and risk assessment to inform risk-management decisions. At the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting, many conference papers and posters presented studies on diverse related issues such as the monetary value of averted mortality and morbidity risks to children, the cost-effectiveness of food safety interventions, and modeling the risk, benefits, and costs related to homeland security and environmental regulations. The group also sponsored a successful Sunday workshop, "From Discounting to QALYs to VSLYs and other Cost Benefit Analysis Approaches to Help Inform Decision Making." In addition, both talks in the Wednesday plenary session, "Risk Regulation: Ideas for the Obama Administration," discussed benefit-cost analysis as an important tool for regulating risks.

Once again, both our business meeting held at the conference on Monday and our mixer (co-hosted by the Biological Stressors Specialty Group) held on Tuesday were big successes. We continue to attract a substantial number

of cross-disciplinary scholars and practitioners. At this year's business meeting, the group accomplished two things. First, we announced a new set of officers: Dominic Mancini, an economist in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, took the helm as chair of the group. Lisa Robinson was elected as vice-chair, who also traditionally serves as the chair-elect. Robinson is a consultant specializing in economic analysis of government policies and the valuation of human health risks, with past experience in both government and academia. Jun Zhuang, an assistant professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, took over as secretary-treasurer. Finally, our 2008 chair, Laina Bush in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services, will continue to serve the group as immediate past chair. The officers would especially like to thank outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Amber Jessup and the outgoing immediate Past Chair Clark Nardinelli for their dedicated efforts to preserve and expand our specialty group.

Second, the group briefly discussed several exciting ideas on possible roles and challenges for benefit-cost and risk analysis in the new Administration. We noted a number of new topics that we hope to address, as well as the planned development of a Web site for our group. In addition, members of the Editorial Board indicated their interest in expanding the policy-related content of *Risk Analysis* and including more review articles. We also congratulated our student award winner, Christoph Rheinberger, for his presentation "Discrete Choice Experiments: False Friends for Valuing Mortality Risk."

The new officers of the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group very much look forward to 2009 and welcome your comments and suggestions for activities the group should pursue.

Risk Communication Specialty Group

www.sra.org/rcsg

Cindy Jardine, Chair

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) focuses on the interactive exchange of risk information and is open to all members of the SRA. 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.

Among other activities this year, the RCSG assisted the Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group in setting up the workshop "Advancing the Science for Nanomaterial Risk Management" on 10-11 September 2008 in Washington, DC. Risk communication continued to be strongly represented at the annual meeting in Boston, with 110 abstracts submitted and 15 sessions from the specialty group.

As always, the highlight of the RCSG business meeting was the presentation of the student paper awards. Jeff Lewis presented the ExxonMobil award for first place to Janet (Zheng) Yang of Cornell University for her paper "The Role of Positive Affect in Motivating Risk Information Seeking and Processing—A Study on Communication about Clinical Trial Enrollment" (with co-authors McComas, Gay, Leonard, and Dillon). Thanks to Bob Griffin of Marquette University for his ongoing coordination of the student paper award process and to this year's reviewers: Ann Bostrom from the University of Washington, Cynthia Lou Coleman from Portland State University, Sharon Dunwoody from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, David Sachsman from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Craig Trumbo from Colorado State University. Griffin has specifically requested input from the membership on how we can improve the judging process next year.



RCSG Student Paper Award winner Janet Yang is congratulated by ExxonMobil's Jeff Lewis.

The RCSG welcomes new executive members: Chair-elect Louie Rivers of Michigan State University, Secretary-Treasurer Marina Moses of George Washington University, Councilor Michelle Driedger of the University of Manitoba, and Councilor Joanna Burger of Rutgers University. All were elected by acclamation. Sweta Chakraborty of King's College, London, was elected as the student representative. Ongoing executive members are Councilors Robyn Wilson (Ohio State University) and Joe Arvai (Michigan State University). Thanks to the outgoing RCSG members: Councilors Meredith Gore and Louie Rivers (both of Michigan State University) and Student Representative Janet Yang (Cornell University). Special thanks goes to outgoing Chair Tee Guidotti (George Washington University) for all his work this year, particularly in addressing organizational and management issues, and outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Ann Bostrom (University of Washington) for her invaluable help in all matters related to the group.

Incoming Chair Cindy Jardine (University of Alberta) is hoping to improve communications within the group by instituting regular emails to all members to inform them of activities and solicit opportunities for collaboration (particularly with respect to organizing symposia for next year's annual meeting in Baltimore). Members are encouraged to contact Jardine directly at cindy.jardine@ualberta.ca with any suggestions for improving the value of the specialty group to its members.

Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group

www.sranano.org

Jo Anne Shatkin, Chair

The goals of the Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group (EMNMS), to exchange knowledge, form networks, and build collaborative research opportunities, were all met at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting. Many presenters and participants had never attended an SRA meeting before and expressed their delight over having an interdisciplinary pro-

professional society in which to discuss their work and meet others working in the field.

The number of nanotechnology-related presentations was greatly increased over past years. Eight symposia and sessions as well as several posters created three full days of opportunities for participants to make new contacts, discuss current efforts, and learn about the issues. Two symposia focused on 2008 workshops organized by SRA members on topics of risk analysis. There is interest in follow-on workshops to be organized by EMNMS members. Other sessions addressed life-cycle assessments, issues of perception and communication, disclosure, and regulatory issues. On 7 December the specialty group offered an introductory educational workshop, "Introduction to Environmental and Health Aspects of Nanotechnology," co-taught by Jo Anne Shatkin and Berna Magnuson, that was well attended by new and longtime SRA members.

The membership of EMNMS has grown and now represents researchers and practitioners from 22 countries and includes several students. Ron White, of Johns Hopkins University, was nominated and unani- mously voted in as chair-elect for 2009 and will assume the specialty group chair in 2010. At the business meeting, EMNMS welcomed Tade-Ane de Amorim of Santa Catarina Federal University, Brazil, as our first Student Travel Awardee. She traveled with her professor, Julia Guivant. De Amorim's presentation, "How Safe Is Safe Enough? Nanomedicine and Perceptions of Risk," represents novel work in Brazil and in Latin America to address these issues. The poster platform session where she presented her work included researchers from Denmark, Japan, Azerbaijan, and the United States, a truly international perspective.

Attendees expressed interest in an external workshop to explore issues of life-cycle assessment and risk issues and follow-on workshops from the SRA-organized Nano Risk Workshop held in September in collaboration with other sponsoring partners. Contact Jo Anne Shatkin (jashatkin@clf.org) for more information.



**EMNMS Student
Travel Awardee
Tade-Ane de
Amorim**

Dose Response Specialty Group

www.sra.org/drsg

Sara Henry, Past Chair

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) held its annual business meeting at the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston. Attendance was excellent (approximately 40); a very efficient cleaning crew removed the sign-up list along with the past chair's unopened lunch box! There was a lively discussion about DRSG activities, including ways to increase attendance at the monthly business meetings and teleseminars, the possibility of new DRSG-sponsored awards in 2009, and topics for teleseminars. There was unanimous support for continuance of our mixer at the annual meeting. No student award was given in 2008 due to the inability of the selected students to attend the meeting,

which is a condition for receipt of the DRSG award. The DRSG sponsored the poster platform session "Analysis of Genomic Dose-Response Data for Risk Assessment," chaired by Jeff Gift and Thomas Russell. Detailed meeting minutes were taken by incoming Secretary/Treasurer Julie Fitzpatrick and were presented at our telemeeting on Tuesday, 6 January 2009.

If you would like to be on the DRSG mailing list and are not currently receiving our emails, please send your name and email address to DRSG Chair Paul Feder at feder@battelle.org.

Officers for 2009 are Chair Paul Feder (Battelle), Vice-Chair Patricia Toccalino (U.S. Geological Service), Secretary/Treasurer Julie Fitzpatrick (International Life Sciences Institute), Chair-elect Jeff Gift (Environmental Protection Agency), Past Chair and Trustee Sara Henry (Food and Drug Administration), Trustee Kenny Crump (ICF), and Trustee Nagu Keshava (Environmental Protection Agency).

Our mixer was also a great success; attendance and food were excellent. Please join us for an upcoming excellent year of teleseminars and increased efforts to encourage students, post-docs, and others in the pursuit of excellence in research on dose-response relationships. Encourage your colleagues at your place of work to join us for our telemeetings and seminars; sponsor a phone-in conference over lunch. We have plenty of phone lines available.

Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group

Kenneth Crowther, Chair

The Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group (EISG) has completed an exciting quarter, highlighted by the 2008 SRA Annual Meeting in Boston. More than eight sessions and symposia, a variety of posters, and even half of the plenary speakers presented and led discussions on a variety of engineering and infrastructure topics. Our EISG-run workshop was a success, providing knowledge of advanced simulation using Microsoft Excel to participating experts. During our business meeting, we announced two student merit awards—one to Mark Orsi and one to Brett Dicky, both from the University of Virginia, for their work in regional preparedness. Plans are in the works for reaching out to academics and professionals who practice at the intersection of engineering and risk analysis—including funding outreach to other professional societies, developing aggregate feeds to keep our membership informed of new research in our field, and potentially even funding a student as a live blogger at our next annual meeting.

Many thanks to our outgoing chair, Seth Guikema from Johns Hopkins University, for his excellent leadership and service during the past year. Kenneth Crowther from the University of Virginia was installed as the chair for 2009, and Ariel Pinto from Old Dominion University was elected to fill the vice-chair position. William McGill remains as the secretary for one additional year. We look forward to an innovative year that will reflect growth in the recognition of the importance of risk analysis in engineering and infrastructure work. We encourage the submission of high-quality manuscripts for publication in the flagship journal *Risk Analysis* and hope that any members will email any emerging ideas and suggestions for EISG involvement to Kenneth Crowther at kgcrowther@virginia.edu.





Regional Organizations

SRA-Europe

www.sraeurope.org

Julie Barnett, SRA-E Communication Officer

The SRA Europe Meeting in 2009

In 2009 the SRA-Europe (SRA-E) meeting will be held 28 June-1 July in Karlstad, Sweden. The main sponsor of the conference is the newly created Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, and the conference will be co-hosted by Karlstad University, the Swedish National Defence College, and the County Administrative Board of Värmland.

The conference theme is *From the Everyday to the Extraordinary: Challenges for Risk Analysis and Management*.

There will be four main strands to this theme: Everyday Risks and Prevention of Injuries, Management of Natural Risk and Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management in an International Context, and Future Risks and Technologies for Security and Safety. The conference aims to facilitate exchange of experiences from different disciplines, fields, and application areas.

The conference will start on Sunday evening, 28 June, with an opening reception and will last through lunch Wednesday, 1 July. The conference language is English. The opening reception will be hosted by the county governor at the historic governor's residence in the centre of the city. A conference dinner will provide the delegates with an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful countryside and midsummer light in the county of Värmland. The conference dinner will be held on Tuesday evening. A steam locomotive will take our chartered train through the beautiful Värmland countryside to Rotternerosspark. The park is renowned for its statues and gardens that surround the manor house made famous in the works of the Nobel Prize-winning author Selma Lagerlöf.

Full details of the conference can be found on the SRA-E Web site (<http://www.sraeurope.org/>), and booking for the conference will open 1 April 2009.

1st China-Europe Risk Forum in October 2009 in Beijing

As announced in the Fourth Quarter 2008 RISK *newsletter* (page 10), Professor Chongfu Huang, president of the Chinese Risk Analysis Council, and Dr. Roberto Bubbico, president of SRA-Europe, are organising the 1st China-Europe Risk Forum in October 2009 in Beijing in connection with the 2nd International Conference on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response (see <http://iee.pku.edu.cn/racr2009>).

The objective of the risk forum is to develop partnerships between Chinese and European researchers in the field of risk analysis. This involves exchanging insights around ongoing research programmes and also jointly defining future research programmes and preparing projects and short-term initiatives.

The forum will last two days and be focused on the general theme of emerging risks. Specifically, it will focus on the following topics:

- Emerging Risks Related to New Materials, Technologies, and Products
- Emerging Risks Related to New Production Processes
- Risk in Complex Industrial Systems

- Risks Related to Transport Systems and Networks, focusing on pipeline ("life line" transporting utilities, products, and information)
- Development and Integrations of Improved Approaches and Methods for Risk Assessment and Management
- Emerging Risk Policies, Monitoring, Governance, and Communication
- Emerging Risk Related to Underground and Confined Systems (tunnels, parking, railway stations, shopping malls...)

Each of the above groups will involve 6 to 12 scientists from both regions. If you are interested in participating, please contact Roberto Bubbico (bubbico@ingchim.ing.uniroma1.it) or Olivier Salvi (olivier.salvi@ineris.fr).

2009 SRA-E Executive Committee Elections

The next election for the Executive Committee of SRA-E will be held during February-March 2009. Four positions need to be filled. Announcement of the results and introduction of the new members of the Executive Committee will take place at the Karlstad annual meeting in June 2009.

SRA-Japan

www.sra-japan.jp/english

Akihiro Tokai, President

The 21st Annual Meeting of SRA-Japan, organized by Professor Shoji Tsuchida, was held at Kansai University 29-30 November 2008. One hundred or more papers on risk research were presented and a special symposium titled "Globalization of Risk Research" was discussed. Olivier Salvi and Daniela Leonte were invited to this meeting and gave us interesting and impressive talks on each regional activity of risk research.

This coming 17-19 May 2009, the 4th Asian Symposium on Risk Assessment and Management will open at Beijing Normal University, China, with the collaboration of key risk researchers in China, Korea, and Japan. The details of this conference will soon be available at <http://www.sra-japan.jp/english/>.

SRA-Latin America

Mabel Padlog

In January 2006 in Quito, Ecuador, several academics and researchers heard a proposal to form a Latin American organization for the study of risk. The news spread in the continent and, under the leadership of Esperanza López Vázquez and others, meetings were held to exchange ideas and opinions.

By June 2008 there was a formal project presented to the Society for Risk Analysis in Baltimore. It was analyzed and approved to be one of the major subjects at the 2nd World Congress, which was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, that same year.

Thus began the Latin American regional organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-LA). Its Executive Committee called for elections for the president, secretary, treasurer, and counselor for the 2009-2010 period within the next six months.

The candidates sent their profiles and their proposals for the vacancies in which they wanted to participate. They were all perfectly qualified, with high academic backgrounds, solid work experience in their fields, and a clear intention to achieve their best results as an expert in charge of the management of the new regional organization.

The candidate profiles enhance their commitment with the peoples of the American continent, showing the cultural diversity that distinguishes them one to the other and among others. The candidates promote research and activities that contribute to the development of a high level of expertise in global risk, but also seek an approach to the specific needs and ways to solve them locally, by preventing menaces and organizing the communities for emergency management, supporting the authorities with the best scientific findings to be achieved, and enlarging the possibilities to reduce the threats that could hit the region and its inhabitants.

The electoral process took place between 12 October and 12 November 2008. Twenty-eight of the registered 36 members who signed in during the 2nd World Congress in Guadalajara sent their votes.

The results were as follows: President Esperanza López Vázquez (México), President-elect Marcelo Wolansky (Argentina), Secretary Mónica Jara González (Costa Rica), Treasurer Virna Gutiérrez Gianella (Bolivia), 1st Counselor Felipe Muñoz Giraldo (Colombia), and 2nd Counselor Elizabeth Nunes Alves (Brazil).

With the best augury and great enthusiasm of all its members, the activities of the Latin American Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis has begun.

Australia/New Zealand **www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra**

Jean Chesson, President

The third annual conference of SRA-Australia/New Zealand (Canberra, 30 September-1 October 2008) was a success. More than 100 participants representing academic, government, and other research institutions met in Australia's capital city.

Themed "Facilitating Partnerships: Managing Risks in Complex Systems," the event included 37 platform and eight poster presentations, which discussed current research in climate change and agriculture, nanoparticle risk management, the integration of technical and social science, tools for risk analysis and management, and risk-related policy development and implementation.

Two technical workshops preceded the conference. The first, "Philosophical Reflections on Risk Management and Complex Systems," provided a thought-provoking platform for exchange of ideas between philosophers, quantitative risk analysts, scientists, and policy makers.

The second workshop discussed leading-edge causal analysis methods including Bayesian networks, influence

diagrams, decision trees, and simulation modeling and their applications.

The conference dinner was a welcome opportunity for networking and informal interaction.

Presentations from the 2008 workshops and conference are available on the Web site at <http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/SRA2008/index.html/>.

The 2009 conference will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, 29-30 September with workshops on 28 September.

New England **www.sra-ne.org**

Jonathan Levy, President

The New England Regional Organization (SRA-NE) held its first seminar of the year in November 2008 on the topic of "Nanomaterials, Nanotoxicology and Risk Assessment." Jo Anne Shatkin of CLF Ventures, Christopher Long of Gradient Corporation, and Joe Brain of Harvard School of Public Health gave a series of excellent talks to a packed house, getting the year off to an excellent start.

We have a busy winter scheduled, with multiple recent and upcoming seminars and events. On 27 January 2009 SRA-NE co-sponsored a one-day short course with the North Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) on nanotechnology. On 29 January 2009 we hosted a panel discussion about the recently released National Research Council report on improving risk analysis methods at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment"). The panel consisted of three representatives from the National Research Council committee (Joshua Cohen of Tufts-New England Medical Center, Gary Ginsberg of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and Jonathan Levy of Harvard School of Public Health) and two discussants (Dale Hattis of Clark University and Nick Ashford of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

On 5 March 2009 we will be holding a poster contest to highlight the current research of new investigators in the New England area. This will provide an opportunity for students and post-doctoral researchers to showcase their work, to meet others in the risk analysis field, and to interact with potential employers and other professionals from around New England. Awards will be given to the top posters in both the student and post-doctoral researcher category. The call for abstracts and deadline for submissions, along with details about prior seminars and upcoming events, can be found at www.sra-ne.org.

Metro (NY/NJ/CT)

Rao Kolluru, President

We are looking for topics and speakers for meetings in spring 2009 and beyond—including a possible joint meeting with the Tri-State Chapter of the International Society of Exposure Science (ISES). The emphasis will be on interdisciplinary approach—the intersections of 3E Triad: Environment, Energy, Economics.

Please contact Rao Kolluru (RaoKollur@aol.com) with ideas on topics/speakers and if you'd like to participate in planning the meetings.



Speaking at the third annual conference of SRA-Australia/New Zealand



What Do We Do?

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

Marina Weck

What is your job title?

Weck: Project Manager, HAMK University of Applied Sciences, InnoSteel, International Consulting, in Hameenlinna, Finland

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

Weck: At the moment, I'm involved in a large research project that aims at development of management and leadership models for Finnish-Russian business networks operating in Russia. The research part I'm responsible for concerns identifying risks involved in the interorganisational relationships of business networks as well as the relationship between identified risks and trust.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

Weck: It was not exactly my decision but more likely a concourse of many circumstances as well as coincidence of personal development objectives and my employer's policy.

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

Weck: Considering that research work is my main responsibility at the moment, doing the empirical part of research, especially interviewing people, is the most exciting part of my work.

Despite the many inconveniences of traveling, visiting different organizations and interviewing an interested party



are very rewarding and beneficial in many ways. For instance, information received in a relatively short period of time during an interview consists of a respondent's considerations/reflections acquired from a long life of experience sometimes.

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

Weck: Professional relationships/contacts with experts in the field aroused my interest in risk analysis and inspired me to restructure my PhD dissertation in such a way that risk analysis became a major part of it.

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

Weck: I would certainly recommend joining the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA).

How has membership/involvement in the SRA helped you in your work?

Weck: Although I'm a rather new member of the SRA, the membership has been very beneficial for me from the personal education/development in the field of risk analysis point of view and helpful in establishing new contacts with experts and other researchers in the field. I believe that my current research project and dissertation are going to benefit from this membership.



SRA Inducts Past Pioneers into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis

Jonathan B. Wiener, Past President

The Pantheon of Risk Analysis, launched in early 2008, honors deceased giants in the field on whose shoulders we now stand and showcases how high-quality risk analysis can advance knowledge and the public good.

Any Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) member may nominate a candidate to the past president; the SRA Council selects the inductees.

In our New Initiative proposal to launch the Pantheon in 2008, we hoped to induct at least two candidates to the Pantheon. We received a flood of nominations, names from modern times back to antiquity. They included recent scholars like Chauncey Starr and Mary Douglas and earlier figures who helped invent the field of risk analysis long ago, among them Paracelsus, Pascal, Bayes, and Florence Nightingale. At Past President Kim Thompson's proposal, the Council voted to induct the following 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis:

Aristotle, Francis Bacon, Thomas Bayes, Daniel Bernoulli, Jakob Bernoulli, Gerolamo Cardano, Richard Doll, Mary Douglas, Benjamin Franklin, Galileo Galilei, Francis Galton, Carl Friedrich Gauss, John Graunt, Alice Hamilton, Learned Hand, William Stanley Jevons, Frank Knight, John Maynard Keynes, Marquis Pierre Simon de Laplace, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Joseph Lister, Oskar Morgenstern, Florence Nightingale, Paracelsus, Blaise Pascal, Jules-Henri Poincare, Lambert Adolphe Jacques Quételet, Frank P. Ramsey, Norman Rasmussen, Leonard Jimmie Savage, Ignaz Semmelweis, John Snow, Chauncey Starr, Amos Tversky, and John von Neumann.

The full list is on the SRA Web site, with links to the relevant Wikipedia page on each honoree. For more information about the Pantheon and the honorees, visit www.sra.org/about_pantheon.php. New nominees are welcome. To nominate other legends in the field, please contact Past President Jonathan Wiener (wieners@law.duke.edu).



Photo by John Collings



News and Announcements

Special Issue of *Journal of Industrial Ecology* Nanomaterials May Have Large Environmental Footprint

According to a paper by Hatice Sengül and colleagues at the University of Illinois at Chicago, strict material purity requirements, lower tolerances for defects, and lower yields of manufacturing processes may lead to greater environmental burdens than those associated with conventional manufacturing. In a study of carbon nanofiber production, Vikas Khanna and colleagues at The Ohio State University found, for example, that the life-cycle environmental impacts may be as much as 100 times greater per unit of weight than those of traditional materials, potentially offsetting some of the environmental benefits of the small size of nanomaterials.

Materials engineered at dimensions of 1 to 100 nanometers (1 to 100 billionths of a meter) exhibit novel physical, chemical, and biological characteristics, opening possibilities for stunning innovations in medicine, manufacturing, and a host of other sectors of the economy. Because small quantities of nanomaterials can accomplish the tasks of much larger amounts of conventional materials, the expectation has been that nanomaterials will lower energy and resource use and the pollution that accompanies them. The possibility of constructing miniature devices atom-by-atom has also given rise to expectations that precision in nanomanufacturing will lead to less waste and cleaner processes. Research described in this special issue suggests that these anticipated benefits remain to be realized.

Other topics explored in the special issue include Approaches for identifying and reducing the life-cycle hazards of nanomaterials, Quantified life-cycle energy requirements and environmental impacts from nanomaterials, Trade-offs between nanomanufacturing costs and occupational exposure to nanoparticles, Efficiency of techniques for nanomaterials synthesis, Improvement of the sustainability of bio-based products through nanotechnology, Industrial frameworks for responsible nanotechnology, Industrial and public perception about the risks and benefits of nanomaterials, Governance and regulation of nanotechnology, and Industrial ecology, a field that examines the opportunities for sustainable production and consumption, emphasizing the importance of a systems view of environmental threats and remedies.

Roland Clift, professor of environmental technology in the Centre for Environmental Strategy at the University of Surrey, and Shannon Lloyd, principal research engineer in the Sustainability & Process Engineering Directorate at Concurrent Technologies Corporation, served as guest editors. Support for this special issue was provided by the Educational Foundation of America, in Westport, Connecticut, and the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC.



Advertisements

2009 Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference 27-30 April 2009 Cincinnati Marriott North, West Chester (Cincinnati), Ohio

Please join us for the 2009 Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference. This meeting provides a unique forum for multiple government agencies to come together to discuss Toxicology and Risk Assessment issues of concern to the government as well as a broader audience, including academia and industry. The theme of this year's Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference—"Toxicology and Risk Assessment from the Trenches"—will be explored through scientific sessions and workshops and a poster

session. This is a great opportunity to foster collaborations and communicate with fellow scientists. For further information, go to <http://www.team-psa.com/trac2009>.

The conference is co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, in cooperation with Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment.

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, 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: editormw@hickorytech.net.

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Call for Nominations for 2009-2010 SRA Officers

The Nominating Committee invites nominations for the following Officers and Council Positions in the Society’s fall elections for 2009-2010:

President-elect
Secretary
Treasurer-elect
Three Councilors

Please refer to the SRA Bylaws for descriptions of the terms of office and duties (www.sra.org/about_bylaws.php). Active members may submit in writing to the Nominating Committee the name and proposed office for any qualified nominee. Please submit nominations by **1 March 2009** (preferably by email) to Kimberly Thompson, email: kimt@kidrisk.org, phone: 617-680-2836, AND David Drupa, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com, phone: 703-790-1745. Additionally, as stated in the Bylaws, any active member may submit a petition for inclusion on the next annual Ballot for one of the listed positions. Such petitions must include the written support of at least 5 percent of the current SRA membership (i.e., 90 signatures of other active members) and the completed petition must be received by the Council in time for its June midyear Council meeting for the candidate to be listed on the Ballot.

Specialty Group Contacts

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**The 2009 SRA Annual Meeting will be held 6-9 December in Baltimore, Maryland.
 Look for more information in the next RISK newsletter.**



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 **Second Quarter 2009** SRA RISK *newsletter*, which will be mailed to members early May, to Mary Walchuk, RISK *newsletter* Managing Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; fax: 507-625-1792; email: editormw@hickorytech.net) no later than **20 March 2009**.



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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