



RISK newsletter

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Risk Analysis: The Evolution of a Science

SRA Annual Meeting, 6-9 December 2009

Early registration at www.sra.org/events_2009_meeting.php

Reduced fees apply until 6 November

Richard Reiss, President-elect

Join us in Baltimore 6-9 December for the 2009 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel.

We are expecting a great turnout for this annual meeting. Like many of you, I have made the trek to the SRA meeting an annual ritual for more than a decade. We have a very full program planned with more platform presentations than any other previous meeting and a great diversity of topics. As always, the meeting provides a great opportunity to network with professionals in the field and to catch up with old friends.

The program starts on Sunday with a series of continuing education workshops (see page 5) followed by an evening Welcome Reception open to all attendees. Hors d'oeuvres will be served (some seafood, no doubt, given the location) and drinks will be available for purchase.

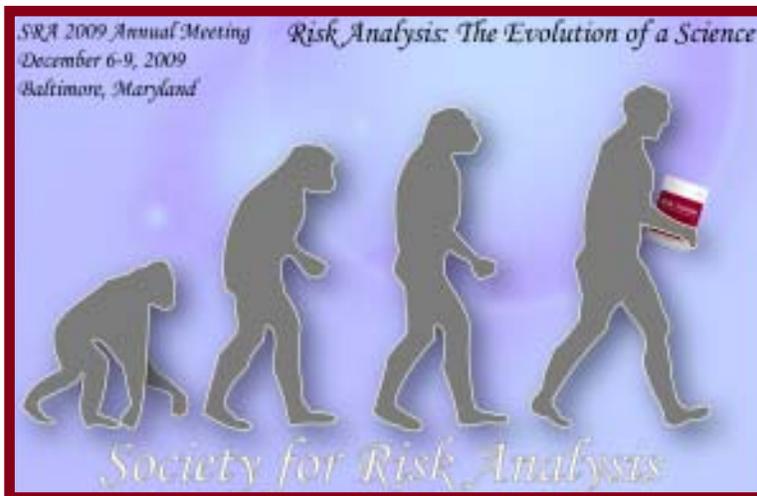
The technical program begins Monday with a plenary session in the morning. The plenary features Major General Donald T. Riley, deputy commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, who will speak about how the Corps is using risk analysis to tackle difficult problems (biographical sketches of each plenary speaker begin on page 3). Dr. Yacov Haimes of the University of Virginia, SRA past president, will also speak about the work he is doing with the

Corps. The plenary will be followed by nine tracks of platform presentations for the remainder of the day. Specialty group meetings will be held over lunch. We will continue the tradition of having the poster session on Monday evening. During the poster session, we will also be setting up a soapbox for interested—and brave—attendees to express their views and spark debate.

Tuesday also will begin with a plenary session. Mr. Philip Howard, partner at Covington & Burling and founder and chairman of Common Good, will speak about his views on the need for legal reform and the extent to which the legal system can be used to mitigate societal risks. Mr. Allan Kanner of Kanner & Whitely, a New Orleans-based law firm, will provide a rejoinder. Kanner is actively

involved in a number of toxic tort cases on behalf of plaintiffs. This plenary will be followed by nine tracks of platform presentations and a track with roundtables. The roundtables will include sessions on the Environmental Protection Agency's recent endangerment finding for climate change, the joint SRA-Resources for the Future conference on risk regulation in the new Administration, and the prospects for wind power. During the lunch hour, we will hold the annual business meeting and awards ceremony.

(Annual Meeting, continued on page 3)



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**SRA-China
Launched!!**

See page 6

President's Message

Alison Cullen

The year 2009 has been full of promise and change and growth, both for the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and for the field of risk analysis. Soon we will gather in Baltimore for the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting, a great chance to share research results, to reflect on the events of the year, and to plan for the future. President-elect Rick Reiss and his Annual Meeting Program Committee have put together a wonderful array of sessions, plenaries, workshops, and roundtables for all to enjoy.



If you have ideas about new initiatives that SRA could undertake for the benefit of all members, please consider writing a proposal for SRA's New Initiatives funding. In the past SRA has used new initiatives funding to strengthen communications and newsletter access in newly launched regional organizations, to spread the word about events serving as outreach to individuals working in areas of the risk field not traditionally well-represented at our meetings and in our journal, and for many other endeavors.

During 2009, SRA has reached out to engage many opportunities. We have welcomed the new SRA-China Regional Organization after years of dedication to its development by leaders in China, at SRA-International, and around the world. This happy milestone prompts us to renew our efforts to partner and form additional regional organizations in regions such as Africa, other countries in Asia, and everywhere interest in SRA membership has been expressed. SRA has also co-sponsored and supported meetings during the past year on current topics of interest in the field from risk regulation to nanotechnology and beyond. We are always looking for ways to stimulate new activities that serve our members. At present a membership survey is under development that will seek input about the prospect of an SRA Code of Ethics, the degree of overlap between our current suite of specialty groups and members' interests, and also the future of the journal *Risk Analysis*. Please look for this survey; we would love to have your input. In fact, a small incentive will be offered by lottery to a member from among all participants.

The third World Congress on Risk, slated for 2012, is already in the planning stages, as you will read on page 9 of this newsletter. Past world congresses have provided wonderful opportunities for SRA outreach around the globe. Stay tuned for an announcement of the location selection at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting and please plan to get involved with planning sessions, workshops, and side events. Let's make it a meeting to remember!

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who have worked to make SRA successful this year. Past President Jonathan Wiener and President-elect Rick Reiss have been terrific partners; the time has simply flown. The SRA Council, specialty group leadership, and many committee members have also been a great source of energy and enthusiasm for SRA initiatives. And finally I would like to thank the folks at Burk & Associates, Inc., for all of their help and support along the way.

See you all in Baltimore in December!



Risk Analysis Journal

Karen Lowrie, Managing Editor

The editors of *Risk Analysis* announce the appointment of Michael Siegrist as an associate area editor for risk perception and communication. Michael is a professor of consumer behavior at the Institute for Environmental Decisions at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. He will assist Area Editor Ann Bostrom in the review of papers in the risk perception and communication areas. This area receives well over 100 submissions per year.

Readers will note that our October issue contains a series of four papers on risks associated with mining, organized by Professor Thierry Verdel from the Nancy School of Mines in France, with an introduction by Area Editor for Engineering Yacov Haimes. We appreciate feedback from readers on this series and ideas for future series or theme issues.

We will be seeking feedback on a variety of issues related to reader use and satisfaction with an online survey to be conducted this fall. Please take a few minutes to complete

the survey so that we can continue to improve the journal and respond to the preferences of our readers. A link to the survey will be provided to all Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) members via email.

The editorial staff continues to seek avenues for promotion of the journal. Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg wrote several keynote talks about the journal and the SRA for presentation in China and Korea in August of this year. Because he, unfortunately, suffered an illness, these talks were presented by Dash Wu of the University of Toronto and Chongqing University. Promotional efforts for the journal will be undertaken by SRA representatives who will begin a new contract this fall that includes writing press releases for selected newsworthy articles and distributing them to national and international newswires. For more information on the public relations contract, see the report from the Communications Committee on page 8 in this newsletter.



(Annual Meeting, continued from page 1)

On Wednesday, the platform sessions will begin first thing in the morning and proceed throughout the day with nine concurrent tracks. At lunch, we will have the honor of being addressed by Dr. Kenneth Arrow of Stanford University, the winner of the 1972 Nobel Prize in economics. Arrow will be given the SRA Distinguished

Achievement Award. We will continue another popular tradition on Wednesday afternoon with a Wine and Cheese Closing Reception sponsored by Bob Tardiff and the Sapphire Group.

Please stay to meet with other members, receive a free SRA T-shirt, and have a chance to win free registration for next year's meeting.

Monday, 7 December

Plenary Session: Risk Analysis in the Army Corps of Engineers

Major General Donald T. Riley

Major General Donald T. Riley became the deputy commanding general and deputy chief of engineers on 1 April 2008. As such, he is second in command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has over 31,000 employees and manages a yearly budget of over \$30 billion.

Riley's previous assignment was as the director of civil works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As director, he managed the Army's Civil Works Program as the nation's primary planner, designer, builder, and operator of flood control, navigation, environmental restoration, and multiple-purposed water resource projects.

Riley came to Corps of Engineers Headquarters following command of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he received a Presidential appointment as president of the Mississippi River Commission. Prior to commanding MVD, Riley was the deputy chief of staff (engineer) of U.S. Army Europe, headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany.

A native of Hayward, California, Riley is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers in 1973. He earned a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a registered professional engineer in California. He is also a gradu-



ate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College and holds a master's of military arts and sciences from the School of Advanced Military Studies.

In his early military career, Riley was a platoon leader, assistant operations officer, company executive officer, and company commander in the 14th Engineer Battalion, Fort Ord, California. His staff assignments included operation officer of the 23rd Engineer Battalion; chief, G3 Plans and Exercises, 3rd Armored Division; and deputy G3, 5th Infantry Division. As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded the 7th Engineer Battalion at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and later the 17th Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. As a colonel, he served as chief, G3 Plans and Exercises, I Corps, and he commanded the 555th Engineer Group, Fort Lewis, Washington; directed the Maneuver Support Battle Lab at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and served as executive officer to the commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Riley is married to the former Roslyn Shelton (retired Army Nurse Corps lieutenant colonel) of Shreveport, Louisiana, and they have four children and two grandchildren: Devin and wife Marie with daughters Addison and Ainsley, Army Captain Darren, Daniel, and Caitlyn.

Yacov Haimes

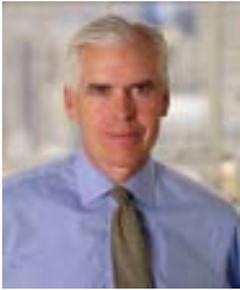
Yacov Y. Haimes is the L.R. Quarles Professor of Systems and Information Engineering and Founding Director (1987) of the Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems at the University of Virginia. He received his MS and PhD (with Distinction) degrees in Systems Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. On the faculty of Case Western Reserve University (1970-1987), he chaired the Systems Engineering Department. As American Association for the Advancement of Science-American Geophysical Union Congressional Science Fellow (1977-1978), Dr. Haimes served in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, and on the Science and Technology Committee, U.S. House of Representatives. He is a Fellow of seven societies, including the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the International Council on Systems Engineering, and the Society for Risk Analysis (where he is a past president). The third edition of his



most recent book, *Risk Modeling, Assessment, and Management*, was published by Wiley & Sons in 2009. Professor Haimes is the recipient of the 2007 Icko Iben Award presented by the American Water Resources Association; the 2001 Norbert Weiner Award presented by the IEEE-Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (SMC); the 2000 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Society for Risk Analysis; the 1997 Warren A. Hall Medal, the highest award presented by Universities Council on Water Resources; the 1995 Georg Cantor Award from the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making; and the 1994 Outstanding Contribution Award from the IEEE-SMC, among others. He is the engineering area editor of *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*. He has authored (and co-authored) six books and 300 technical publications, over 200 of which were published in archival refereed journals. He has served as dissertation/thesis advisor to 35 PhD and 70 MS students.

Tuesday, 8 December
Plenary Session: Life Without Lawyers

Philip K. Howard



Philip K. Howard is a well-known leader of legal reform in America. He is the author of *Life Without Lawyers* (Norton, 2009), as well as the best-seller *The Death of Common Sense* (Random House, 1995) and *The Collapse of the Common Good* (Ballantine, 2002), and he is a periodic contributor to the op-ed pages of *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. He advises leaders of both parties on legal and regulatory reform issues and wrote the introduction to Vice President Al Gore's book *Common Sense Government*. A practicing lawyer, Howard is a partner in the law firm Covington & Burling LLP.

In 2002, Howard founded Common Good (www.commongood.org), a national bipartisan coalition organized to restore common sense to American public life. The Advisory Board of Common Good is composed of leaders from a broad cross section of American political thought including, among others, former Senators Howard Baker, Bill Bradley, George McGovern, and Alan Simpson. With the cooperation of a number of nonprofit organizations, Howard recently founded NewTalk.org, an online forum of thought leaders.

Howard has long been a civic leader in New York. He is chair of the committee that installed the "Tribute in Light" memorial for those who died on September 11th. He is also chair-emeritus of the Municipal Art Society of New York.

Howard grew up in Eastern Kentucky, the son of a minister, and lives in Manhattan with his wife Alexandra. They have four children.

Respondent: Allan Kanner



Allan Kanner (BA, University of Pennsylvania; JD, Harvard Law School) is the founder and senior member at Kanner & Whiteley, LLC. Mr. Kanner has a wealth of experience litigating complex class-action lawsuits and practices in the areas of environmental, toxic tort, commercial litigation, and consumer fraud. In addition to his trial practice, Kanner also has served the legal profession as an adjunct professor at Tulane Law School (1990-2008), as a visiting lecturer in law at the University of California, Berkeley (spring 2004), at Yale Law School (fall 2002), as a visiting senior lecturer at Duke University (fall 2000, spring 2004), and as a visiting professor at the University of Texas Law School (spring 2001). Kanner is a frequent lecturer and speaker on a variety of topics and is the author of *Environmental and Toxic Tort Trials* (Lexis-Nexis, 2nd ed.), as well as over 60 articles in the diverse fields of torts, trial practice, civil discovery, civil RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act), environmental law, toxic torts, class actions, and business and consumer fraud. During 1998 and 1999, Kanner was one of the principal authors of the *Louisiana Judges' Complex Litigation Bench Book*, and he has also been an instructor at the Louisiana Judicial College. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he clerked for the late Judge Robert S. Vance of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. He is a member of the bars of California, District of Columbia, Louisiana, New Jersey, Oklahoma, New York, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico (federal) and has successfully handled novel and complex matters throughout the United States.

Wednesday, 9 December
Luncheon Address to SRA

Kenneth J. Arrow



Kenneth J. Arrow is professor emeritus of economics and of management science and engineering at Stanford University and senior fellow of the Stanford Institute for Policy Research and of the Center for Health Policy there. He has taught at Stanford University, Harvard University, and the University of Chicago and has been a visiting professor or fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Churchill College (Cambridge), All Souls College (Oxford), and the University of Sienna. He has given courses in microeconomic theory, mathematical statistics, econometrics, income distribution, and the history of economic thought.

Dr. Arrow graduated from the College of the City of New York (1940) and received an MA (mathematics, 1941) and PhD (economics, 1951) from Columbia University.

He is the author of 21 books and 265 papers in learned journals. His principal research fields have been social choice, general equilibrium, economics of uncertainty and information, inventory theory, optimal growth with special reference to environmental constraints, health economics, and the economics of innovation.

He has received several honors, including the John Bates Clark Medal (American Economic Association), Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science, National Medal of Science, von Neumann Prize, and Medal of the University of Paris. He has also been president of several professional societies and a member or fellow of several honorary societies. He is especially proud that three students and two close collaborators have won the Nobel Memorial Prize.

Sunday, 6 December

All-Day Workshops

WK1: Scott Ferson
Probabilistic Risk Analysis with Hardly Any Data

WK2: Amir Mokhtari
Get More from Your Models—Use Sensitivity Analysis

WK3: Gregory Parnell
Decision Analysis for Risk Analysts

WK4: Natarajan Krishnamurthy
Risk Management for Movers and Shakers

WK5: Allen Davis
Introduction to the Benchmark Dose Methodology and Interactive Application of EPA's Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS), Version 2.1

WK6: David Hassenzahl
Risk Analysis: Fundamental Concepts, Approaches, Issues, and Applications

WK7: Terry Sullivan
Spatial Decision Support Tools for Managing Multi-Criteria Environmental Contamination Problems

WK8: Clare Narrod
Methods for Identifying Cost-Effective Risk Reduction Technologies for Controlling Animal Disease in Developing Countries

WK9: Richard Belzer
Workshop on Scientific Methods for Evaluating EDSP Screening Data and Estimating Dose-Response for Endocrine Disruption

WK10: Laurie Haines
The Use of Decision Support Tools as an Aid in Making Cleanup Decisions for Sites Contaminated with Unexploded Ordnance (Workshop and Research Project)

Half-Day Workshops

WK11 (a.m.): Linda Teuschler
Cumulative Risk Assessment Part 1: Chemical Mixtures Component-Based Methods

WK12 (a.m.): Cristina McLaughlin
Use of Expert Elicitation to Inform Decisionmaking

WK13 (p.m.): Linda Teuschler
Cumulative Risk Assessment Part 2: Concepts, Methods and Resources

WK14 (p.m.): Jo Anne Shatkin
Introduction to Environmental and Health Aspects of Nanotechnology

WK15 (p.m.): John Lipscomb
Chemical-Specific Adjustment Factors: Avoiding Default Values for Inter- and Intraspecies Extrapolation



Thank You

Thank you to the Program Committee: Chair Richard Reiss, Linda Abbott, Steve Anderson, Rick Belzer, Steve Bennett, Gail Charnley, Kenneth Crowder, David Hassenzahl, Kurt Frantzen, Anthony Fristachi, Julie Fitzpatrick, Sara Henry, Sandy Hoffmann, Cindy Jardine, Sally Kane, Stanley Levinson, Steve Lewis, Dominic Mancini, Margaret MacDonell, Martin Schultz, Terry Sullivan, Bob Tardiff, and Jonathan Wiener.

Thank you also to Lori Strong and Sue Burk of Burk & Associates, Inc., for their excellent work in managing the meeting and logistics.



Regional Organizations

SRA-China

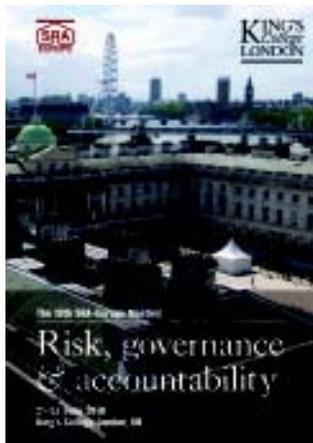
The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Regions Committee is glad to announce that on 28 September 2009, the SRA Council unanimously approved the creation of SRA-China as a new regional organization of the Society. SRA-China, with 300 members and growing, is led by Chongfu Huang, Jinren Ni, and Guofang Zhai.

SRA-China was then formally announced in Beijing, at the conference on Risk Analysis & Crisis Response (RACR 2009), on 19 October, by its leaders and by Jonathan Wiener (SRA past president) and Olivier Salvi (SRA Regions Committee co-chair) representing the Council.

During the last year, risk analysis activity in China has increased significantly. The number of full members of SRA has grown markedly, as have the number of subscribers to the journal *Risk Analysis*. SRA looks forward to working closely with SRA-China to expand the Society and to grow the field of risk analysis worldwide.

SRA-Europe

www.sraeurope.org



Julie Barnett, Secretary

King's College, London, will host the 19th Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) Annual Meeting, which will take place 21-23 June 2010.

The 2010 SRA-E Annual Meeting aims to facilitate interaction among all actors in the field of risk: academics from across the disciplines, policy makers, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and other interest groups.

The special theme of the conference will be "Risk, Governance & Accountability." This theme reflects the increasing centrality of risk analysis to decision making in a wide range of policy and organisational contexts and the increasing demands by the public for decision makers to account for outcomes.

Each conference day will open with a plenary session with keynote presentations, followed by parallel sessions of oral papers, roundtable discussions, and symposia reflecting particular themes of interest.

Presentations are welcomed on topics that span across the range of SRA themes, new fields of risk-related research, as well as the special conference theme of "Risk, Governance & Accountability."

- Receipt of abstracts: 11 January
- Notification to authors: 1 March
- Programme available: 3 May

The conference is sponsored by King's College London, the Environment Agency, the Food Standards Agency, and the Health and Safety Executive. The conference language is English.

Details of abstract submission will be available on the SRA-E Web site (www.sraeurope.org) in due course.

SRA-Latin America

www.srala.org

Felipe Muñoz Giraldo, Councilor

We are happy to announce that next year the very first Latin American congress of the Society for Risk Analysis-Latin America (SRA-LA) will take place in the Universidad Diego Portales of Santiago City, Chile, 11-14 April 2010.

In order to organize this event, SRA-LA President Esperanza López Vázquez (México), Secretary Mónica Jara (Costa Rica), Treasurer Virna Gutierrez (Chile), and Councilor Felipe Muñoz Giraldo (Colombia) met in Chile's Santiago City to define the main themes of the congress and to evaluate the tasks undertaken to date. Our recently created regional group faces many challenges; one of them is to strengthen the communication-participation mechanism among its members. Latin America is certainly a large territory. Virtual spaces and a monthly SRA-LA newsletter have been designed now (www.srala.org) to attenuate this problem. In these spaces, you will be able to learn of the different technical, academic, and scientific activities related to risk analysis throughout Central and South America, and you may share your local activities with the different SRA-LA members all across our region. We encourage you to participate actively on this initiative by sending us your suggestions, i.e., how we could improve the mechanisms



Santiago City, Chile, location of the April 2010 congress of the Society for Risk Analysis-Latin America



Planning the first Latin American congress, left to right, SRA-LA Treasurer Virna Gutierrez (Chile), Councilor Felipe Muñoz Giraldo (Colombia), President Esperanza López Vázquez (México), and Secretary Mónica Jara (Costa Rica)

of communication-participation, before 30 November for our next congress.

Send your local risk-related news or suggestions for the 2010 First Regional Congress to Felipe Muñoz (felipe.munoz@srala.org). For abstracts please contact Mónica Jara (mjaracne@gmail.com), Mabel Padlog (mpadlog@cencar.udg.mx), and Marcelo Wolansky (mjwolansky@gmail.com).

You are also invited to share your comments in order to enrich risk analysis in our beautiful and beloved Latin America.

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

Amy B. Rosenstein, President

The first New England Regional Organization seminar of the year, “Risks and Rationality: Challenges to Sound Decisionmaking,” was held on Thursday, 17 September 2009, in Boston at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Amy Rosenstein, chapter president for 2009-2010, described a number of membership development initiatives for the year and then introduced Lisa Robinson, an independent consultant, who brought together three speakers to discuss the economic questions related to how we decide how much to spend on risk reductions.

James Hammitt, Harvard School of Public Health, presented “Positive and Normative Justifications for Benefit-Cost Analysis.” David Laibson of the Economics Department at Harvard University presented “How Are Preferences Revealed?” Richard Zeckhauser of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government presented “The Five Neglects: Risks Gone Amiss.”

The seminar was attended by more than 50 students, professors, state and federal employees, consultants, and other interested risk professionals and precipitated some lively comments and conversation.

The presentations are available on our Web site (www.sra-ne.org) and were originally part of the “New Ideas for Risk Regulation” conference sponsored by the Society for Risk Analysis and Resources for the Future in June 2009 (http://www.sra.org/events_2009_risk_regulation_conf.php), as described in the Third Quarter 2009 RISK *newsletter*.

Southern California

Kristin Hockett, President

The Southern California (SCSRA) annual meeting was held 15 May 2009 and included a wide variety of information presented in two sessions: “Risk Management Plan Updates” and “Environmental Risks,” as well as an interactive presentation from a keynote speaker, Dr. Mary McDaniel. McDaniel provided a presentation detailing the importance of risk perception and communication when presenting pandemic swine flu information and outlined factual information vs. how information is presented in the media. The “Risk Management Plan Update” session focused on changes to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Risk Management Plan program, California seismic assessment requirements, and lessons learned from chemical facility accidents. In addition, the “Environmental Risks” session provided background research and information for vapor intrusion, as well as an insightful presentation detailing the corporate risks in a climate change cap-and-trade program.

On 17 September 2009 the regional organization stepped away from tradition and held a lunch meeting instead of the usual dinner meeting. The lunch meeting was generously hosted by the city of Vernon and was fairly well attended. Mr. Charlie Conner of Americold Logistics was our guest speaker; he presented his 2007 “ground zero” experience of an accidental explosion, with release of anhydrous ammonia, at one of the company’s cold-storage facilities. Conner’s presentation was both captivating and educational as he vividly described his account of the events leading up to, during, and in the multiagency investigation that followed the unfortunate accident. The presentation attracted a favorable number of potential SCSRA members representing the local Air Quality Management District, City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Orange County Fire Authority, Metropolitan Water District, Vernon Environmental Health, private industry, and consultants.



At the Southern California Society for Risk Analysis lunch meeting, Mr. Charlie Conner of Americold Logistics shares his experiences from the response and investigation of an anhydrous ammonia release.

We have another meeting tentatively scheduled for early November. We are working to secure a guest speaker who could present a talk about the National Fire Code and how it specifically affects the local seismic assessment requirements relative to risk management plans.





Committees

Communications Committee

Sharon Friedman, Chair

News Releases from *Risk Analysis*

The *Risk Analysis* subcommittee members have been quite busy identifying newsworthy articles from journal issues and then commenting on drafts of news releases and media placement ideas. Since February, this activity has included overseeing placement of six *Risk Analysis* articles in the mass media and on Web sites.

To facilitate this placement, we searched during the spring for a new organization to draft and place news releases with the media. In August, based on the full committee's recommendation, the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) signed a contract with the nonprofit organization Noblis, enabling its employees, Steve Gibb and Lisa Pelligren, to carry out these tasks.

Steve, a longtime SRA member, has more than 10 years of award-winning editorial experience, covering risk assessment, including in-depth coverage of SRA annual conferences.

Lisa has more than two decades of public relations experience including conducting public outreach on homeland security topics. As a nonprofit science, technology, and strategy organization with core values of impartiality and objectivity, Noblis provides a unique platform for conducting approaches to media outlets.

Steve and Lisa's initial foray into getting SRA into the news landed discussion of one of the September *Risk Analysis* articles in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, on UPI and Reuters wire services, and on the WebMD and ScienceDaily Web sites, among others. Other media placements throughout the spring have also been successful with more than 500 "hits" reported for two of the news releases and more than 1,000 for another. Two other articles, issued by Wiley's public relations office (the publisher of *Risk Analysis*), also garnered media coverage. In summary, the plan to get SRA and *Risk Analysis* into the media to raise public awareness appears to be working. More news releases will be placed throughout the coming year.

RISK newsletter

At its June meeting, the SRA Council voted to make the RISK newsletter an electronic-only publication. The newsletter will continue to be published four times a year. SRA members will receive an email notice when the most current newsletter is put on the SRA Web site as well as a direct link to it. Look for the First Quarter 2010 electronic issue on the Web site mid-January.

Planning for Future Public Information Activities for SRA

Also at its June meeting, the SRA Council asked the Communications Committee to plan for long-range public information activities for the Society. Specifically, the committee was asked to discuss what the SRA publicity objectives should be, efforts that could be taken to support these objectives, and the budget required for these efforts. Initial planning will occur at SRA's December annual conference in Baltimore. Anyone interested in helping with this planning is invited to come to the Communications Committee meeting. We also hope to hold an open meeting on Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for more detailed discussion of future plans. When we confirm this open meeting, we will email interested SRA members and also post information flyers about it

at the conference. If you are interested in working on these future plans, please contact Sharon Friedman at smf6@lehigh.edu. I encourage you to send me ideas even before the annual conference and especially if you cannot be present in Baltimore.

Communications Committee Members

The hard-working members of the Communications Committee are Chair Sharon Friedman, John Besley, Jim Butler, Steve Lewis, Katherine McComas, Kim Thompson, Mary Walchuk, and Henry Willis.

Conferences and Workshops Committee

Jim Lambert, Chair

Our Conferences and Workshops Committee is coordinating 15 Sunday workshops for the December Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Baltimore. The full details are available at www.sra.org and on page 5 in this newsletter. Thanks particularly goes to the leadership of subcommittee Co-Chairs Margaret MacDonell and Jacqueline Patterson, to the members of their active subcommittee, and to David Drupa of the Secretariat. We are always interested in providing SRA sponsorship (and associated advertisement and use of the SRA logo) to professional and academic events. See our Conferences and Workshops Committee Web page from the "events" link at sra.org for the instructions and form used to propose event co-sponsorship. Subcommittee Co-Chairs Katy Walker or Jim Wilson can help with these proposals. We revised our charter and committee practices in June 2009 to streamline our operations—the revisions are on the SRA Web site. Our SRA new initiative is proceeding to distribute video of some of our workshops to the developing world and elsewhere. Members may contact Rick Belzer to find more or to join the initiative. We welcome any SRA members who might be interested to join our Conferences and Workshops Com-

**Would you like to help plan
SRA's future
public information activities?**

Contact Sharon Friedman, smf6@lehigh.edu, about discussing this issue at SRA's annual conference in Baltimore. Your ideas are invited even if you won't be in Baltimore.

mittee. We meet monthly or more often by teleconference and once in person at the annual meeting. SRA member Barry Ezell joined us this summer. The Conferences and Workshops Committee will welcome your ideas for events of all types both on and off the annual meeting. For more information about any of the above items, please contact Jim Lambert (lambert@virginia.edu).

SRA-Sponsored Events

- 2nd International Conference on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response—Beijing, China; 19-21 October 2009
- Qualitative and Quantitative Methods for Food Safety Risk Assessment—20 October-4 December 2009
- American Association for Aerosol Research (AAAR) 28th Annual Conference—Minneapolis, Minnesota; 26-30 October 2009
- 2009 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish—Portland, Oregon; 2-5 November 2009
- Air Pollution and Health: Bridging the Gap from Sources to Health Outcomes—San Diego, California; 22-26 March 2010

SRA Annual Meeting

- Workshops—Sunday, 6 December 2009, Baltimore, Maryland (see page 5 of this newsletter)
- Continuing education event coordinated with the annual meeting—10-11 December, Anderson and Miliotis, Joint IRAC-SRA-CBER-JIFSAN Symposium on New Tools, Methods, and Approaches for Risk Assessment

**For more workshop information
visit www.sra.org/events.**

Regions Committee

Olivier Salvi and Donna Vorhees, Co-Chairs

SRA World Congress on Risk III in 2012

The process to select the venue of the World Congress in 2012 is on track. The applications from the four cities (Melbourne, Moscow, Sydney, and Québec) that have expressed their interest in hosting the event were examined by the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Regions Committee. They have found Sydney and Moscow equally attractive. The SRA Executive Secretary will examine in more detail the possible venues; the final selection is intended to take place in October and will be announced in December at the annual meeting in Baltimore.

Creation of SRA-China

In September, the Risk Analysis Council of China (RAC) submitted a petition to create from this association the SRA-China Regional Organization. On 28 September 2009, the SRA Council approved this petition along with SRA-China's proposed bylaws. We welcome our colleagues in China to SRA!

Calling All U.S. Regions

A number of U.S. regional organizations are very active, bringing topical events to their membership regarding risk issues of regional, national, and international interest. However, we are aware that some regional organizations have become inactive in recent years. If your regional organization is one of them and you are interested in reviving it, please contact Donna Vorhees (617-459-7987; djvorhees@comcast.net) to discuss how SRA can support you in your efforts.

Also, the Upstate New York, Rocky Mountain, and New England regional organizations have begun work on a New Initiatives Proposal to network with and recruit new members from academic and other institutions to broaden the scope of risk analysis discussions and networking opportunities within each region.

Ideally, regional organizations will build relationships that bring the diversity needed to address risk topics of importance to their membership. In preparing the draft proposal, one region indicated that it would benefit from expanded networking with local academic institutions. Other regions noted that they have good relationships with academia but would benefit from stronger contacts with other research organizations, government agencies, and consulting companies. Therefore, the regions currently involved in preparing this proposal would appreciate the participation of other U.S. regions to ensure that the project is ultimately useful to all of them and SRA as a whole.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Donna Vorhees by 4 December. The annual meeting in December provides an opportunity to meet and discuss this proposal before the January deadline.



Electronic-Only RISK newsletter

Starting with the next issue, the RISK newsletter will be an electronic-only publication. The newsletter will continue to be published four times a year. SRA members will receive an email notice when the most current newsletter is put on the SRA Web site as well as a direct link to it. Look for the First Quarter 2010 electronic issue on the SRA Web site mid-January.



Member News

Branden Johnson

Society for Risk Analysis member Branden Johnson seeks collaborators on risk perception/communication research proposals in such areas as trust, gender, ethnicity and acculturation, risk tolerance, hazard management systems, precaution, identity, uncertainty, risk comparisons, "home," government communications about local threats, risk communication practice, and federal legislation on technological hazards, among others. Other ideas welcome. Contact brandenjohnson59@gmail.com.



Specialty Groups

Risk Policy & Law Specialty Group

Alberto Alemanno, Chair

Following last year's record number of submitted abstracts, the Risk Policy & Law Specialty Group has again received an important number of submissions in view of the upcoming 2009 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Baltimore in December. Our specialty group will host six symposia, a roundtable discussion, and several other sessions, devoted inter alia to the regulation of nanotechnologies and to the precautionary principle, as well as several posters.

The symposium organized by Stuart Shapiro, "Benefit Cost Analysis and the New Obama Executive Order on Regulatory Oversight," will look backward at the impact of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) and forward to the potential role that CBA will and could play under the new Administration.

"Law and Policy of Risk-Based Import Safety Strategies" (chaired by Cary Coglianese) will discuss innovative analytical tools and governance strategies to help reduce the risks of imported products while continuing to reap the benefits of international trade. This symposium will feature four chapters from the volume edited by Cary Coglianese, Adam Finkel, and David Zaring, *Import Safety: Regulatory Governance in the Global Economy*, which is forthcoming with University of Pennsylvania Press.

The symposium "The World Trade Organization as World Risk Regulator?" (chaired by Alberto Alemanno) will discuss the increasing and controversial involvement of the World Trade Organization with national risk regulations around the world. It will gather the authors of the most recent books devoted to the interface between trade and health policies.

The symposium "Moving Past the Rhetoric: Meaningful Dialogue on the Issue of Funding and Scientific Integrity" (organized by Richard Becker) will focus on the current efforts in identifying uniform scientific principles and protocols that could constitute criteria by which all chemical-related testing and research could be evaluated, thus overcoming the public-private dichotomy dominating the research funding debate.

"Risk Assessment for the 21st Century: Role of the Regulator, the Regulated, the Risk Assessor, and the Citizen" (organized by Abdel Kadry and chaired by Peter Preuss) will focus on the approaches taken by various federal and state agencies to involve stakeholders in the risk assessment process, the perspective of the academic and industry stakeholders, and the challenges and uncertainty associated with these involvements.

The symposium "Estimating Risks and Costs with Commensurate Rigor in Regulatory Analysis" (chaired by Adam Finkel) will make a case for devoting the same degree of rigor and oversight to assessments of regulatory costs as is devoted to assessments of risk.

Finally, after having co-sponsored the very successful conference "New Ideas for Risk Regulation" last June in Washington, DC, the Risk Policy & Law Specialty Group and the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group will host, under the guidance of Lisa Robinson, a roundtable discussion among some of the key participants of that conference. The aim of the discussion will be to reflect on the conclusions of the conference and on the implications of succeeding events, including the possible promulgation of a new Executive Order on regulatory analysis and review.

Please join us in discussing opportunities for enhanced connectivity and dialogue in our specialty group lunch-hour meeting on Monday, 7 December, at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Congratulations, on behalf of all members of our specialty group, to Ana Carolina Cassiano, whose paper "Food Risks: A Case Study about the Food Control System in Brasil" has recently been selected as the winner of the Best Student Paper Award in Risk Policy & Law.

Dose Response Specialty Group

www.sra.org/drsg

Paul Feder, Chair

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) Web site (sra.org/drsg) includes executive committee and member contact information, bylaws, meeting minutes, information about and abstracts from past teleseminars, and detailed information about the student research award program and past winners.

DRSG's principal activities this year are:

- Student awards program
- Quarterly teleseminar series
- Organization of sessions and symposia at the annual meeting

Each of these activities has been progressing well.

Student Awards

Vice-Chair Patty Toccalino has provided excellent leadership for the student award program. DRSG was pleased to receive a number of fine award applications among the abstract submissions for the annual meeting. We will announce and present the awards at the DRSG mixer at the annual meeting in December.

Teleseminar Series

Chair-elect Jeff Gift has put together an intellectually rich and stimulating teleseminar series, with major input from Michael Dourson. This year's teleseminars are centered around the recent National Academy of Sciences report (2008) on risk assessment methodology recommendations titled "Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment." The first two teleseminars, held in March and June, were discussed in the previous issue of the *RISK newsletter*. The third teleseminar in the series was held in September. Paul Price presented "Using Empirical Data on Toxicity Pathways in the Prediction of Responses at Low Doses." He illustrated how the presence of multiple precursors jointly leading to an ultimate toxic event can potentially lead to a nonlinear low-dose re-

sponse trend for risk even though each individual precursor exhibits low-dose linear behavior. Richard Sedman led the discussion with prepared remarks. The presentation and the prepared remarks stimulated lots of lively additional discussion. The fourth teleseminar was held 6 October. David Dix presented “High Throughput Screening for Hazard and Risk of Environmental Contaminants.”

We thank all the presenters and discussants for their efforts and intellectual contributions to our teleseminar series this year.

Annual Meeting

DRSG will be an active participant at the 2009 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting with nine oral symposia, three poster-platform sessions, and about 25 individual posters. As traditional, DRSG will sponsor a mixer, this year partnering with the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group.

See you in Baltimore.

Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group

www.sranano.org

Jo Anne Shatkin, Chair

SRA Participates in OECD Workshop on Nanomaterials

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group (EMNMS) recently co-hosted the “Workshop on Risk Assessment of Manufactured Nanomaterials in a Regulatory Context” in Washington, DC, organized by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN) Steering Group (SG) 6—Co-Operation on Risk Assessment and co-hosted by the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC).

International members of SG6, representatives from governments, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and academics, including experts in risk analysis from SRA’s Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group, met for three days in Washington, DC, 16-18 September 2009. The workshop was held without cost in the state-of-the-art conference rooms of McKenna, Long,

and Aldrich, on K St, NW, thanks to the efforts of EMNMS member Rick Canady.

The purpose of the workshop was to obtain expert input into the critical issues specific for the risk assessments of nanomaterials in a regulatory context, to identify possible approaches for risk assessment based on the current state of knowledge, and to identify issues that may be addressed through the WPMN’s nanomaterial Sponsorship Programme.

The workshop was chaired by SG6 Chair Andy Atkinson of Environment Canada and included presentations from SRA about last year’s Nano Risk Workshop, case studies presenting data and risk assessments of specific nanomaterials, and perspectives from OECD, BIAC, and nongovernmental organizations. Plenary and breakout sessions explored the issues raised for risk analysis for manufactured nanomaterials considering each step of the risk assessment process, as well as use of risk assessment in risk management decision making.

The breadth of issues discussed reflected the diverse expertise represented by participants. Occupational, environmental, life-cycle, and uncertainty issues were raised in the context of challenges for risk analysis. In particular, participants discussed the implications for risk assessment of observations that many nanomaterials exhibit properties stemming from their presence as particles in biological and environmental matrices.

Atkinson will present the findings of the workshop at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore as part of an SRA New Initiative to develop partnerships between SRA and other organizations.

Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

www.sra.org/darsg

Terry Sullivan, President

The annual Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) meeting in Baltimore this December promises to have many papers that interest Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) members. Sixteen oral sessions covering advances in the state of the art in methodology and applications of decision analysis tools for environmental and homeland security problems have been arranged. DARSG actively promotes the presentation of training courses to provide fundamental information on topics relevant to decision analysis. Three courses are being offered as part of the annual meeting:

- Decision Analysis for Risk Analysts (G. Parnell)
- Spatial Decision Support Tools for Managing Multi-Criteria Environmental Contamination Problems (T. Sullivan)

Andy Atkinson (left) of OECD WPMN and Environment Canada with SRA EMNMS member and BIAC chair Bill Gulledge of the American Chemistry Council



Below: OECD Workshop group photo



- Decision Support Tools as an Aid in Making Cleanup Decisions for Sites Contaminated with Unexploded Ordnance (L. Haineson)

Please consider taking these courses. Our new Web site is operational and contains information on the objectives of DARSG, lists upcoming events, and lists current officers. It can be reached at www.sra.org/darsg. Please take a look and provide comments to improve the Web site.

Risk Communication Specialty Group

www.sra.org/rcsg

Cindy Jardine, Chair

The growth and influence of the field of risk communication is yet again reflected in the submissions for the 2009 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Baltimore, 6-9 December 2009. A total of 96 abstracts was submitted for review and consideration by the Risk Communication Specialty Group for oral (including symposia) or poster presentations. A diverse array of topics will be explored at the meeting, including wildfire risk, indigenous communities, climate change, and information behaviors. We are looking forward to very stimulating presentations and ensuing discussions!

Coincidentally, I write this contribution to the newsletter having just finished participating in a Canadian workshop on improving risk communication that involved a wide variety of stakeholders. Some interesting ideas arose.

The workshop was based on a discussion of two recent case studies (bisphenol A and urban pesticide use), with the stated objective of improving public understanding of the risk. Through an exploration of the various messages that were conveyed to the public, it quickly became apparent that mixed and often conflicting information from different “credible” sources was the basis of most of the confusion, not the inability of the public to understand and act appropriately on the information. Under these circumstances, the reaction of many people to act in a precautionary manner (e.g., discarding plastic water bottles and promoting a ban on nonessential pesticide use) was a perfectly rational response to an uncertain risk.

This led to a discussion on whether we need to reframe the issue of improving risk communication: rather than continuing to focus solely on more timely, complete, and accurate information, perhaps we would better serve the public by presenting all types of information and perspectives and giving members of the public the tools they need to critically question and evaluate what they are being told. Unfortunately, we have cultured an atmosphere of “trust us and do what we say” whereby many people feel they do not have the need or even the right to ask hard questions about risks and risk decisions.

If we want to truly advance dialogue and informed decision making as the basis for good risk communication, we need to simultaneously promote and encourage the judgment required to deal with emerging and often uncertain risk information.

Just another thought for discussion at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting . . . !

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

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

The Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG) has been busy planning and preparing for the 2009 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in December.

On Monday, the ERASG is sponsoring “Applying Ecological Risk Assessment Methods to the Design and Long-Term Stewardship of Containment Systems in Various Environments (M4-H).” The speakers will consider the importance of ecological processes on containment-system design and effectiveness and whether ecological risk assessment can improve them to protect surrounding natural and built resources. The symposium will focus on monitoring, ecological risk assessment, and the role of ecological processes in contaminated site remediation and redevelopment.

On Tuesday, “Ecological Risk and Stressors (T4-H)” has five papers, including method papers that consider the use of vertebrate population studies and the application of Bayesian network-based risk assessment. Other papers consider the application of ERA to disease and nutrient deficiency in natural populations, as well as invasive pest introductions. A final policy paper considers ecological risk assessment weight-of-evidence guidance in contaminated-sites management.

A special symposium on Wednesday will consider “Ecological Risk Assessment Issues of the Chesapeake Bay (W4-H).” It includes a paper on comparative risks of different stressors and implications for management. Two papers will look at the evaluation of the restoration of oyster populations. Another will discuss a conceptual risk model of sources, loadings, and fate of renewable and traditional fuels and their constituents together with the toxicological implications to estuarine biota. Finally, the topic of dredging and the application of analytical and risk assessment techniques to inform management technology option selection and prospects for expansion of beneficial use applications will be discussed.

Finally, at Monday’s ERASG business luncheon the co-chairs will lead a discussion of future plans; please bring ideas! One idea is a proposed two-day conference provisionally scheduled for May-June 2010. This workshop will address “How Do Ecologists Recognize an Ecological Risk?” Sound familiar? Have you conducted an assessment where the toxicological endpoints exceed toxicity reference values for representative species, but field observations demonstrate suitable habitat, high species diversity, and thriving (i.e., successfully breeding) populations of representative receptors? Is there a disconnect between the ecology and predicted toxicology in ecological risk assessment? Frustrated by regulatory or budget constraints leading to disciplinary insularity about contaminants without addressing other potentially significant stressors? Just what does “population-level risk assessment” really mean? How can it be incorporated? Interested? Come and join us as your input on speakers, topics, and logistics is needed.

 SRA



What Do We Do?

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

Steven Gendel

What is your job title?

Gendel: I am a risk assessment project manager in the Risk Assessment Coordination Team at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Our team is responsible both for conducting major risk assessments and for developing new tools and approaches to support the FDA's public health mission.

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

Gendel: FDA and other food-safety regulatory agencies worldwide are increasingly using risk assessment and risk analysis to support decision making and resource allocation. As a risk assessor, I help to provide the scientific basis for these activities. This includes helping risk managers to understand the public health impacts of the various policy and hazard control options that are available to them. Our group is also working to help implement the "risk-based" decision making and resource allocation concepts outlined by the President's Food Safety Working Group.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

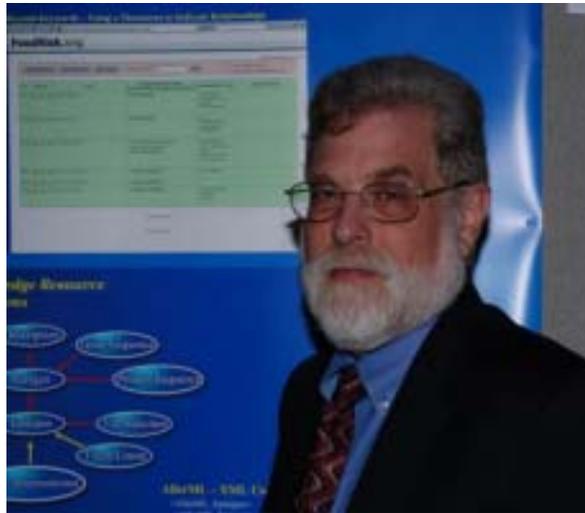
Gendel: I don't think that I ever decided to "pursue" this as a career. It is something that developed as a result of my interest in using informatics and information technology in the fields of food safety and public health.

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

Gendel: There is no particular career path for those interested in food safety risk assessment and risk analysis. In my case, I was able to take advantage of a broad scientific background and help from colleagues and co-workers to find interesting opportunities.

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

Gendel: Food safety risk assessment is a highly integrative process that uses data and expertise from a wide variety of



disciplines. Working with subject-matter experts from different fields to build integrated risk assessment models and to develop new tools and approaches is both challenging and interesting. I have learned a tremendous amount about areas that I never would have studied in school. I also get many chances to talk and write about my work to different audiences.

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

Gendel: People with backgrounds and expertise in almost any field of science can be involved in food-safety risk assessment. What is needed most is a willingness to learn and adapt. This is also definitely a "team sport"; the ability to work and communicate with many different people is important.

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

Gendel: The wide breadth of activities and interests encompassed in SRA provides a unique opportunity to communicate through both meetings and the journal *Risk Analysis* with others who have ideas and approaches that can be applied in new fields.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Gendel: Currently, one of the biggest barriers to improving the utility and efficacy of risk assessment and risk analysis in the public health field is the lack of access to data that have not been published or that are only published in summary form. I would like to see SRA and other scientific societies take the lead in working to correct this situation. One approach might be to require deposit of "raw" data in a central repository as a condition for publication. This approach has proven to be tremendously important in the development of fields such as genomics (through databases such as GenBank), and it would be equally valuable for public health risk assessment.

2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, 6-9 December

Meeting information and online forms:

www.sra.org/events_2009_meeting.php



News and Announcements

Reforming Regulatory Impact Analysis **Now Available**

Reforming Regulatory Impact Analysis—previewed at the June 2009 “New Ideas in Risk Regulation” conference hosted by the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and Resources for the Future (RFF)—is now available from RFF Press.

The report brings together advocates and critics of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) to examine its use in forming environmental and safety regulations. Experts explore three key case studies—the Clean Air Interstate Rule, the Clean Air Mercury Rule, and the Cooling Water Intake Structure Rule (Phase II)—and focus on practical questions about how the use of CBA in regulatory decision making could be improved.

Editors Winston Harrington, Richard D. Morgenstern, and Lisa Heinzerling—two CBA supporters and one CBA critic—conclude the report with 14 concrete recommendations for improving the use of CBA, focusing on five areas: technical quality of the analyses, relevance to the agency decision-making process, transparency of the analyses, treatment of new scientific findings, and balance in both the analyses and associated processes, including the treatment of distributional consequences.

For more information, please visit www.rffpress.org/rria. The full report is also available for download on the RFF Web site.

This book, and its relationship to the recent National Research Council report, “Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment,” is reviewed in the October issue of *Risk Analysis*.

New Electronic Journal

The Social Science Research Network (SSRN), a worldwide collaborative devoted to the rapid dissemination of social science research, has launched a new e-journal specializing in articles that integrate risk assessment and public policy options. *Risk, Regulation & Policy (RR&P)* is edited by Douglas J. Sylvester, professor of law at Arizona State University, and longtime Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) member Adam M. Finkel of the Penn Law School and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and will be available each week beginning with the 15 September issue. The first two issues feature, among others, articles on precautionary impact assessments (Jacopo Torriti), post-market surveillance of GMO food (Katherine Van Tassel), and crisis governance (Eric Posner).

The growing SSRN database contains more than 200,000 scholarly working papers and forthcoming papers, most of which can be downloaded free of charge. Each week, the *RR&P* editors will feature five to eight new papers from those uploaded to SSRN by any user who has set up a (free) User ID at <http://ssrn.com> in an attempt to feature pathbreaking scholarship that advances public and expert understanding of how to use law, regulation, information dissemination, and other policy tools to better manage risks. Finkel notes that when the quarterly journal *RISK: Health,*

Safety & Environment ceased publication in 2002, a focal point for scholarly work on risk regulation was lost, and he hopes that the new e-journal will make a modest contribution to centralizing this body of work and to encouraging more cross-disciplinary research.

SRA members whose institutions do not already have a subscription to SSRN can subscribe to *RR&P* and access hundreds of other e-journals as well, for one annual fee of approximately \$80; subscribers receive the journal contents, with hyperlinks to the downloadable papers, in their in boxes. Alternatively, the complete list of papers from which the *RR&P* authors assemble the weekly issues is available free of charge at <http://www.ssrn.com/link/Risk-Regulation-Policy.html>.

Educational Research and Reviews **Call for Papers**

Educational Research and Reviews (ERR) is currently accepting manuscripts for publication. The journal publishes high-quality solicited and unsolicited articles, in English, in all areas of education including education policies and management. All articles published in *ERR* will be peer-reviewed.

One key request of researchers from across the world is open access to research publications. *Educational Research and Reviews* is fully committed to providing free access to all articles as soon as they are published. We ask you to support this initiative by publishing your papers in this journal.

Please visit our Web site (www.academicjournals.org/err) for more details. Prospective authors should send their manuscript(s) to err.acadjourn@gmail.com.

ERR is also seeking qualified reviewers as members of its editorial board. Please contact Associate Editor Malcolm Vick (err.acadjourn@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving as a reviewer.

Please visit <http://www.academicjournals.org/err/contents/2009content.htm> to view our current issues.

International Journal of Production Economics **Special Issue on Models** **for Compassionate Operations** **Call for Papers**

Guest Editor, Joseph Sarkis, Clark University
(jsarkis@clarku.edu)

Production economists and decision makers need to expand beyond the mindset of profit making and think creatively on how to aid the broader communities in which we live. The issue of compassion and caring is part of broader corporate social responsibility themes that have started to permeate management and engineering disciplines. Compassionate operations does not necessarily mean just being soft and emotional, but that we can use existing and emergent knowledge related to production and operations and management decision making and risk analysis to aid others, and not necessarily for profitability.

Some topics include, but are not limited to:

- Humanitarian and relief logistics.
- Risk, security, and resiliency management of communities.
- Poverty relief operations models.
- Models to aid public policy development for social programs.
- Local and regional management of food and social services.
- The use and application of production and information innovations and technology for social crises.
- Health and safety management of communities.

Submissions: Authors submit manuscripts using the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ijpe/default.asp>.

Please make sure to select the appropriate special issue on the EES site when submitting.

Submission Deadline: 15 September 2010. Contact the special issue editor if you have questions. 

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The Pantheon of Risk Analysis: Nominate Legends in the Field

Jonathan B. Wiener, Past President



Photo by John Collings

The Pantheon of Risk Analysis, launched in 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 then selects the inductees.

In late 2008, the SRA Council voted to induct 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis. They are listed on the SRA Web site, with links to the relevant Wikipedia page on each honoree (www.sra.org/about_panthion.php).

The SRA Council may induct additional honorees in 2009. New nominations are welcome. To nominate other legends in the field, please contact Past President Jonathan Wiener (wiener@law.duke.edu).

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 electronically four times a year. Submit advertisements, with billing instructions, by 30 December for the First Quarter issue (published mid-January), 30 March for the Second Quarter issue (mid-April), 30 June for the Third Quarter issue (mid-July), and 30 September for the Fourth Quarter issue (mid-October). 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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SRA Web Site: www.sra.org

Deadline for RISK *newsletter* Submissions

Send information for the **First Quarter 2010 SRA RISK *newsletter***, which will be on the SRA Web site mid-January, 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 December 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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