



# RISK newsletter

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## Risk Analysis in Action SRA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 5-8 December 2010 Salt Lake City, Utah

*Rachel Davidson  
President-elect*

*Photo by Mary Walchuk*

We are excited about the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis in Salt Lake City. There are many fantastic opportunities planned—some new and some that we enjoy every year.

In the first annual *Professional Development Roundtable for Students and Young Professionals*, a panel of leaders in the field will offer pearls of wisdom about how to launch and sustain a successful career in risk analysis, followed by lots of time for questions and answers. The Monday afternoon panel includes representatives from a range of disciplines and from academics, government, the private sector, and consulting: **Elizabeth Anderson** (Group Vice President for Health Sciences and Principal Scientist, Exponent), **Ann Bostrom** (Associate Dean of Research & Professor, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington), **Jack Fowle** (Deputy Director, Health Ef-

fects Division Office of Pesticide Programs U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), and **R. Jeffrey Lewis** (Senior Scientific Associate, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc., Epidemiology & Health Surveillance Section).

Other new activities offered this year for students and young professionals include a Monday evening mixer for students and young professionals and a Tuesday afternoon career fair (see page 3).

We are also delighted to announce that the Society will be offering additional student support for the workshops occurring at the annual meeting. **Students may register for any workshop for only \$50** and the Society will pay the balance of the fee up to a total of \$12,000 for the year. Students will be supported on a first come, first served basis, with a limit of five students per workshop.

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## President's Message

*Rick Reiss*

SRA never sleeps. While my friends and colleagues in North America and Europe were slumbering, I was attending the Society for Risk Analysis-Australia/New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) annual meeting in Sydney, Australia, on 28-29 September 2010. The meeting was held at the University of Sydney and included about 50 attendees from Australia and New Zealand. The focus of the presentations was on biosecurity, and I presented one of the keynote addresses on my work on the development of the soil fumigant iodomethane. The other keynote address was given by Tom Kampos of the Crawford School of Economics and Government of the Australian National University. The talk was titled "Economics for Biosecurity Decisions." There were many other excellent talks at the two-day conference, in particular from the folks from the University of Sydney School of Veterinary Sciences, which graciously hosted us, and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (ACERA), which has been a great supporter of SRA-ANZ over the years. I congratulate Janet Gough for her excellent leadership of SRA-ANZ this year and wish Simon Barry the best as he takes over next year.

One of my principal missions while in Sydney was to scout potential venues for SRA's World Congress in 2012. We obtained bids from a variety of potential venues and will be working to select the best location over the next month. Ideally, before the annual meeting in December, we hope to have the dates finalized



(mid-July to mid-August of 2012 is the range we are working with) and the venue selected. As you know, the previous World Congress events were held in Brussels, Belgium (2003) and Guadalajara, Mexico (2008). Since that time, the number of SRA regional organizations and the size of many of the regional organizations have grown. Did you know the SRA has a presence in Europe, Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand,

Russia, Ukraine, and Latin America? The World Congress provides the best opportunity to get members from all of these organizations together and exchange experience and knowledge. Sydney provides a stunning location for a conference. I encourage everyone to make your 2012 vacation plans (summer, in the northern hemisphere) around the conference.

This is a good opportunity to remind those in the United States that there are also many regional organizations in various cities across the country. Check the SRA website ([www.sra.org/about Regional\\_organizations.php](http://www.sra.org/about Regional_organizations.php)) for details. In early September, I had the pleasure of attending an excellent lunchtime symposium on risk and regulation sponsored by the National Capital Area Regional Organization. The symposium featured a discussion by two former Office of Management and Budget (OMB) senior economists.

I hope everyone is getting ready for the annual meeting in Salt Lake City in December. See you there.

## Pantheon of Risk Analysis

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 selects the inductees.

In 2008, the SRA inducted 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis. In 2009, the SRA added seven new inductees nominated by SRA members: Peter Bernstein, Nils Bohlin, Ward Edwards, Ronald A. Fisher, William Sealy Gosset (Student), Gilbert F. White, and Aaron Wildavsky.

The full list is on the SRA website, at [www.sra.org/about Pantheon.php](http://www.sra.org/about Pantheon.php), with links to the relevant Wikipedia page on each honoree.

New nominees are welcome. To nominate other legends in the field, please contact Past President Alison Cullen ([alison@u.washington.edu](mailto:alison@u.washington.edu)).



*Photo by John Collings*

(Continued from page 1)

## Plenary Sessions

### Monday Morning Panel Session

#### Strategies for Reducing Catastrophe Risks in the Face of Climate Change

- Scott Belden (Senior Vice President of Reinsurance, Travelers Insurance)
- William H. Hooke (Policy Program Director, American Meteorological Society)
- Granger Morgan (Lord Chair Professor in Engineering and Director of the Climate Decision Making Center at Carnegie Mellon University)
- Robert Muir-Wood (Chief Research Officer at Risk Management Solutions, RMS),
- Howard Kunreuther, moderator (Cecilia Yen Koo Professor of Decision Sciences and Public Policy, and Co-Director Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania)

### Tuesday Morning Plenary Session

#### Analysis and Management of Financial Risk: What Happened and Where Do We Go from Here?

- Richard Zeckhauser (Frank P. Ramsey Professor of Political Economy, Kennedy School, Harvard University)
- Michael Mauboussin (Chief Investment Strategist at Legg Mason Capital Management and Adjunct Professor at Columbia Business School)
- Jonathan Wiener, moderator (William R. and Thomas L. Perkins Professor of Law, Duke University)

### Wednesday Lunchtime Plenary Session

Dr. Geoff Tabin (Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Director of the Division of International Ophthalmology, University of Utah, and the fourth person in the world to reach the tallest peak on each of the seven continents) will talk about his personal risk taking as a mountain climber and his work on cataract and other eye diseases in the developing world.

## Program Committee

Gary Bangs, Steve Bennett, Gail Charnley, Julie Fitzpatrick, Kurt Frantzen, Stanley Levinson, Steve Lewis, Igor Linkov, Margaret MacDonell, David Oryang, Cesar Pinto, Louie Rivers, Lisa Robinson, Paul Schlosser, Thomas Seager, Stuart Shapiro, and Ron White

### See You in Salt Lake City

We received 450 abstracts this year for sessions and symposia, in addition to plans for 16 workshops. Please contact Lori Strong ([lstrong@burkinc.com](mailto:lstrong@burkinc.com)) if you are interested in representing your company at the career fair. Look for updates on the website ([http://www.sra.org/events\\_2010\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2010_meeting.php)), including information about how to take advantage of skiing opportunities while at the meeting! Thank you to Lori Strong and Erin Johnson of the Secretariat for their invaluable work managing meeting logistics.

## Society for Risk Analysis Career Fair New at the SRA 2010 Annual Meeting

**Imagine hiring the professional who is the perfect fit for your team.**

**Register for a table at the first-ever SRA Annual Meeting Career Fair to find that perfect fit.**

**Finding the right job. Finding the right candidate. Continuing education. Workforce training. Career advice. It's a giant puzzle, but the career fair at this year's SRA annual meeting can help you put all the pieces together. Register to represent your company or organization at the SRA Career Fair on Tuesday, 7 December, 5:00-6:30 p.m. There is no cost to you! You just need to be there to answer questions about your organization and interact with prospective job applicants.**

**If you want to provide Career Fair sponsorship, you will receive the following additional benefits.**

- ◊ Prime location at Career Fair (booths situated at lobby entrance, with the highest visibility to all student traffic)
- ◊ Inclusion of company logo in all press material related to the SRA Career Fair
- ◊ Invitation to networking events with students

**Click here ([http://www.sra.org/events\\_2010\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2010_meeting.php)) to register for your table at the SRA Career Fair.**

**Today's brightest job candidates need your help and the dream jobs you offer.**



## Committees

### Conferences and Workshops Committee

*Jim Lambert, Chair*

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Conferences and Workshops Committee is coordinating 18 continuing-education workshops for the December 2010 SRA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. The SRA Council approved \$10,000 new this year to support attendance of student members at the workshops—until capacity is reached students can register for any workshop at a reduced registration rate of \$50. The full details are available at [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org) and on page 1 of this newsletter. We are grateful to the leadership of subcommittee Co-Chairs Jacqueline Patterson and Margaret MacDonell, to the members of their active subcommittee, and to David Drupa of the Secretariat.

Away from the annual meeting, we are able to approve SRA sponsorship, with advertisement at the SRA website and newsletter and use of the SRA logo, to professional and academic continuing education events around the calendar. See our Conferences and Workshops Committee web page from the “events” link at [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org) for the instructions and proposal form for event sponsorship. We are grateful to the leadership of subcommittee Co-Chairs Amber Jessup and Jim Wilson, who coordinate SRA sponsorship of non-annual-meeting events.

We welcome any SRA members who might be interested to join our Conferences and Workshops Committee. 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 Conferences and Workshops Committee Chair Jim Lambert ([lambert@virginia.edu](mailto:lambert@virginia.edu)).

#### Upcoming SRA-Sponsored Events

- Dose-Response Boot Camp, 18-22 October 2010, in Washington, DC
- ICVRAM 2011: First International Conference on Vulnerability and Risk Analysis and Management and ISUMA 2011: Fifth International Symposium on Uncertainty Modeling and Analysis, 11-13 April 2011, both at the University of Maryland-College Park, Maryland
- International Symposium and Workshop on Cultural Property Risk Analysis, 14-16 September 2011, in Lisbon, Portugal

#### Continuing Education Workshops at the SRA 2010 Annual Meeting

**Sunday, 5 December (all) and Thursday, 9 December (one)**

- WK 1: New Risk Management Ideas from Nature. Organizer: Tony Cox, Cox Associates
- WK 2: Benchmark Dose Modeling and Its Use in Risk Assessment – EPA’s BMDS Version 2.1.2. Organizer: J. Allen Davis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- WK 3: Probabilistic Risk Analysis with Hardly Any Information (offered on Sunday, 5 December, as WK 3 and as WK 18 on Thursday, 9 December!). Organizer: Scott Ferson, Applied Biomath
- WK 4: Get More from Your Models – Use Sensitivity Analysis. Organizer: Amir Mokhtari, RTI International
- WK 5: Decision Analysis for Risk Analysts. Organizer: Gregory Parnell, United States Military Academy
- WK 6: Improving Risk Governance: Stakeholder Involvement and Participation. Organizers: Ortwin Renn, University of Stuttgart; Marie-Valentin Floring, International Risk Governance Council
- WK 7: Ecological Risk Assessment Methods for Arid Environments. Organizer: Randall Rytí, Neptune and Company, Inc.
- WK 8: Cumulative Risk Assessment Concepts, Methods and Resources. Organizer: Linda Teuschler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- WK 9: OFF-SITE FIELD TRIP: Living with the White Death – Managing Risk in Avalanche Country. Organizer: Jon Nepstad, Fehr and Peers Associates
- WK 10: Use of Expert Elicitation to Inform Decision Making. Organizers: Aylin Sertkaya, ERG; Cristina McLaughlin, FDA
- WK 11: Multi-Pathway Risk Assessment. Organizer: Stephen Zemba, Cambridge Environmental Inc.
- WK 12: Managing Enterprise and Project Risks from a Systems Perspective. Organizer: C. Ariel Pinto, Old Dominion University
- WK 13: Practice and Approaches in Occupational Risk Assessment. Organizer: Andrew Maier, TERA
- WK 14: Risk Analysis: Fundamental Concepts, Applications and Controversies. Organizer: Darrell Donahue, University of Maine
- WK 15: Introduction to Behavioral Economics. Organizer: Lisa Robinson
- WK 16: Introduction to Environmental and Health Aspects of Nanotechnology. Organizer: Jo Anne Shatkin, CLF Ventures, Inc.
- WK 17: The Evolution of Risk Communication. Organizer: Louie Rivers, Michigan State University
- WK 18: Probabilistic Risk Analysis with Hardly Any Information (offered both Sunday and Thursday!). Organizer: Scott Ferson, Applied Biomathematics



## Regional Organizations

### SRA-China

*Guofang Zhai and Sijian Zhao, SRA-China*

#### The 4<sup>th</sup> National Risk Annual Meeting

The 4<sup>th</sup> National Risk Annual Meeting of the Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention (RAC) was held 16-17 August 2010 at Northeast Normal University in Changchun, China. “A Chinese Perspective of Risk Analysis and Crisis Response” was the special theme of the conference, reflecting how Chinese scholars understand the concept of “risk” and pay attention to applying risk analysis in crisis reactions. The conference received more than 150 submissions, and 126 papers passed after the final review by domestic and overseas experts. During the conference, seven famous Chinese experts were invited to make keynote speeches, and around 120 delegates from the different parts of China attended the 24 parallel sessions. It was a successful meeting that provided an excellent platform to learn, communicate, and share their studies for all risk-interested Chinese scholars.



#### The 1<sup>st</sup> Western Risk Annual Meeting

The 1<sup>st</sup> Western Risk Annual Meeting of RAC was held on 26-27 June 2010 in Guizhou College of Finance and Economics, Guiyang, China. The theme of conference was “Financial Risk Analysis” and it focused on the risk problems in the financial field. During the conference, Professor Huang Chongfu, Professor Shi Yong, and Professor Zhou Zhongfang were invited to make keynote speeches, and three sessions—“Finance and Insurance,” “Risk Prevention,” and “Risk Management”—were arranged to attract more than 50 participations from the western section of China.



#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response organized by SRA-China and sponsored by SRA, SRA-Europe, SRA-Japan, and the Korean Society of Environmental Toxicology (Koset) will be held 22-25 May 2011 in Laredo, Texas, U.S.A. For more information, please see <http://www.tamu.edu/dip/RACR2011>.

**SRA-Europe**  
**www.sraeurope.org**

Julie Barnett, Secretary

**20<sup>th</sup> SRA-Europe Meeting**  
*Multi-Risk Analysis in a Global World*  
**6-8 June 2011, Stuttgart, Germany**

The Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the 20<sup>th</sup> SRA-Europe Meeting, “Multi-Risk Analysis in a Global World,” will be held 6-8 June 2011 in Stuttgart, the capital of the Baden-Württemberg region of Germany.

The conference aims to provide a forum for traditional SRA themes such as risk identification, quantification and mitigation, risk perception and communication, and policy making and legislation, as well as opening up for new risk-related topics. The conference aims to facilitate interaction among all players in the risk field: risk experts from all disciplines and risk stakeholders as policy makers, the private sector, NGOs, and other interest groups.

The SRA-E conference will start on Sunday evening, 5 June, with preregistration and a welcome drink. The opening ceremony of the SRA-E conference will be on Monday morning, 6 June, with a plenary session with keynote presentations and discussions. Then, SRA-E delegates will split to attend parallel sessions including oral papers, roundtable discussions, and symposia reflecting particular themes of interest. The SRA-E conference will last through lunch on Wednesday, 8 June.

The conference dinner will take place on Tuesday evening, 7 June, providing the delegates with an opportunity to enjoy the special taste of Swabia cuisine and wine and to mix with delegates with the iNTeg-Risk conference. The two conferences will be run in parallel, with common plenary meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. In addition, delegates from SRA-E will have the opportunity to attend iNTeg-Risk sessions and vice-versa.



The conference venue is the famous Haus der Wirtschaft ([www.hausderwirtschaft.de](http://www.hausderwirtschaft.de)), located in the city center, easy accessible from the airport (25 minutes by metro) and the main train station (10 minutes walking distance).

The conference will be co-organized with EU-VRi, the European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management, acting as SRA-E operating agent since 2009.



Full details of the conference can be found on the SRA-E website: <http://www.sraeurope.org/>.

**Chapitre Saint-Laurent**  
**SETAC-SRA**  
**www.chapitre-saint-laurent.qc.ca**

Gaëlle Triffault-Bouchet, Présidente, David Berryman, Vice President

The SETAC-SRA Chapitre Saint-Laurent held its 14<sup>th</sup> annual symposium with the theme “Protecting Air, Soil, Life and People: Are We Consistent?” The symposium, chaired by Stéphane Gauthier (Environmental Manager, Rio Tinto Alcan) took place at the Palace Royal Hotel in Québec City, 27-28 May 2010.

The scientific program included 57 platform presentations and 14 posters, with special sessions on chemical analysis methods, soil and sediment risk assessment, air quality, and nanoparticles in the environment. Guest speakers Yves Couillard (Environment Canada) and Louise Vandelac (UQÀM), respectively, gave the talks “Canadian Chemical Management Plan” and “Health, Environment, Technoscience and Democracy: New Challenges and Emerging Models of Analysis.”

The symposium was also an opportunity to reward students: **Excellence awards:**

- Mireille Plouffe-Malette, INRS-IAF—\$2,000 from Chapitre Saint-Laurent for her MSc research project “Determination of the Effects of Agricultural Activities on the Development and Integrity of the Reproductive Systems of Populations of Bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) in the Watershed of the Yamaska River”
- Michel Lavoie, INRS-ETE—\$2,000 from Chapitre Saint-Laurent for his PhD research project “Impact of Calcium and Micronutrients on the Support and Toxicity of Cadmium on Phytoplankton”

**Best student platform presentation awards:**

- Sophie Dussault, INRS-IAF—\$200 from Varian Inc. for “Effect of Agricultural Pesticides on the Retinoid and the Immune System of the Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)”

- Danaé Pitre, INRS-ETE—\$150 from Varian Inc. for “Support and Adsorption of Aluminum and Fluoride by Green Algae in the Final Effluent of an Aluminum Plant”

#### **Best student poster awards:**

- Josée-Anne Sauvageau, UQÀM—\$100 from the SRA and \$100 from Chapitre Saint-Laurent for “Characterizing the Difference in Sensitivity of Human Bronchial and Alveolar Cells to Cadmium Toxicity”
- Ildephonse Nduwayezu, UQÀM—\$150 from Chapitre Saint-Laurent for “Immobilization of Lead in a Sandy Soil Amended with Two Organic Amendments”

The symposium was a great success, with 120 participants from academia, government, industry, and private consultants. We would like to thank all the members of the organizing committee, the speakers, and participants as well as our sponsors: Aquarium du Québec – SÉPAQ, CEAEQ, CJB Environnement, Environnement Canada, Hydro Québec, INRS-ETE, INRS-IAF, MDDEP, OB Info Inc., Perkin Elmer Inc., Phytronix Technologies, Rio Tinto Alcan, Varian Inc., Ville de Québec, SETAC, and SRA.

Our next annual symposium will be held in Montréal in May 2011. For more details on the Chapitre Saint-Laurent see <http://chapitre-saint-laurent.qc.ca>.

#### **SRA-Japan** [www.sra-japan.jp](http://www.sra-japan.jp)

*Toshinari Nagasaki, President*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of SRA-Japan will be held 26-28 November 2010, at Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan. Programs will be available soon ([http://www.sra-japan.jp/SRAJ2010HP/english/index\\_eng.htm](http://www.sra-japan.jp/SRAJ2010HP/english/index_eng.htm)).

#### **National Capital Area**

*Richard A. Williams, President*

On 8 September 2010, the National Capital Area Regional Organization hosted a lunch seminar with two seasoned federal economists, Art Fraas and John Morrall. Both Art and John worked on the original Council on Wage and Price Stability and went on to become senior managers at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), eventually working for six presidents. John talked about some of the challenges working for OMB, which included criticism of his published work on the cost-effectiveness of risk regulation. Art talked about some instances in which regulatory agencies took extreme unusual paths to avoid regulatory analysis. Both mentioned that OMB is both an analytical agency that oversees regulatory analysis (including benefit-cost and risk assessments) as well as a political agency that works for the President and must balance the needs of the Executive Branch agencies. Attendees were treated to this rare look inside that small but powerful agency.

#### **SRA-Australia/New Zealand** [www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html](http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html)

*Janet Gough, President*



**Left to right, back row:** SRA-ANZ Immediate Past President Jean Chesson, SRA-ANZ President Janet Gough, SRA-International President Rick Reiss; **front:** SRA-ANZ President-elect Simon Barry

SRA-ANZ held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on 28-29 September in Sydney, Australia (the programme for the conference can be viewed at <http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/news.html>).



**View from Veterinary Science Conference Centre,  
University of Sydney  
Site of the SRA-ANZ 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

The conference was preceded by three workshops –

- **Decision tools**, which introduced the skills necessary to contribute to risk assessments that might be performed in-house or to evaluate assessments that are commissioned, adopted, or referenced from others' work. The purpose was to enhance understanding of risk-assessment and decision-analysis methods and their application within organisational decision making and policy development. The workshop consisted of presentations interspersed with practical exercises.
- **R-Workshop**, taking the form of a discussion of a series of case studies that use the R statistical package for

risk assessment work. The case studies were drawn from the presenters' applied work, where R was a key component, and the workshop was aimed at users who are comfortable with the basic use of R and wish to develop their skills further.

- **PopTools**, an introduction to PopTools, which is a versatile add-in for PC versions of Microsoft Excel (97, 2000, or XP) that facilitates analysis of matrix population models and simulation of stochastic processes. It was originally written to analyse ecological models, but has much broader application. It has been used for studies of population dynamics, financial modelling, and calculation of bootstrap and resampling statistics and can be used for preparing spreadsheet templates for teaching statistics.

We also held a Regulator's Forum, which provided an opportunity for regulators in Australia and New Zealand who are involved in risk-based decision making to meet and discuss the different approaches used in their different regulatory arenas.

The two keynote speakers for the conference were Rick Reiss (President of SRA-International) and Tom Kompas from the Australian National University. Rick spoke about "Health Risk Assessment for Fumigants," and Tom spoke about "Economics for Biosecurity Decisions." This diversity illustrated the varied nature of the programme.

The conference was well attended, with over 50 participants, and the dinner was a very successful social event allowing people to talk informally on a range of subjects.

We held our annual meeting as part of the conference. Rick Reiss was able to give us a progress report on the 2012 World Congress on Risk, also to be held in Sydney. We also received an update on the "New Initiative" project funded by SRA-International looking at membership benefits. We are considering holding the 2011 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Brisbane; this will be confirmed later in the year.



SRA-International President Rick Reiss presenting "Health Risk Assessment for Fumigants"



Taking a break during the SRA-ANZ 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



## Risk Analysis Journal

Michael Greenberg, Editor in Chief  
Karen Lowrie, Managing Editor

We are on pace for over 450 submissions to *Risk Analysis* in 2010, and Volume 30 will contain 129 articles from authors representing 22 countries. At the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting, we will again issue awards for Best Paper and Best Reviewer.

Upcoming in the journal, we will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the journal with an article written by Editor in Chief Mike Greenberg and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie featuring

interviews with the three prior editors, Robert Cumming, Curtis Travis, and Elizabeth Anderson.

This fall, we also look forward to the third theme issue of Volume 30, this one on the risks of nanotechnology, organized by Area Editor Warner North and SRA member Jo Anne Shatkin and drawn from a 2008 workshop on the topic sponsored by the Society.

Thank you to all who contributed to the journal this year—the authors, reviewers, guest special-issue organizers, and as always our area editors.

**Risk Analysis website:** <http://www.sra.org/journal.php>



## Specialty Groups

### Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group [www.sra.org/ebasg](http://www.sra.org/ebasg)

*Lisa A. Robinson, Chair*

We are greatly looking forward to seeing Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group (EBASG) members at the December conference in Salt Lake City.

The agenda includes many wonderful presentations, including symposia on climate change and global catastrophic risk (organized by Seth Baum and Vanessa Schweizer), health impact assessment (organized by Wilhelmine Miller), foodborne illness (organized by Sandy Hoffman), innovations and challenges in benefit-cost analysis (organized by Lisa Robinson), and numerous other topics of interest.

Our business meeting will be held at noon on Monday, 6 December; we will announce our Student Award winner and discuss plans for next year. Please join us!

We are also planning two workshops that promise to be excellent. Following up on their very successful session last year, Aylin Sertkaya and Cristina McLaughlin are planning a workshop on the “Use of Expert Elicitation to Inform Decisionmaking.” It will cover topics ranging from expert recruitment, elicitation protocol design, and elicitation techniques to aggregation methods for combining opinions from multiple experts. The role of expert elicitation and its limitations, problems, and risks in policy analysis will also be addressed.

In addition, we are sponsoring a new workshop, “Introduction to Behavioral Economics.” Behavioral economics is a large and rapidly growing field that challenges the assumption that individuals act rationally and make decisions that maximize their welfare. In response to these findings, behaviorally informed regulation has become a major priority for the Obama Administration. We will discuss the major conclusions of related research and their implications for risk policy design, analysis, and implementation.

Information on both workshops is available on the EBASG website (<http://www.sra.org/ebasg>) as well as on the SRA 2010 Annual Meeting website ([http://www.sra.org/events\\_2010\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2010_meeting.php)).

Please watch your email—we will be contacting you soon to solicit nominations for EBASG vice-chair and secretary/treasurer for next year and hope you will consider volunteering.

Please feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions, questions, and concerns: Lisa Robinson (chair), Amber Jessup (vice-chair), Dominic Mancini (immediate past chair), and Aylin Sertkaya (secretary/treasurer).

See you in December!

### Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group

#### SRA Emerging Nanoscale Materials New Initiative to Establish Partnerships with Other Organizations

*Jo Anne Shatkin*

The Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group (EMNMS) of the Society for Risk Analysis has long recognized the opportunity to partner with other membership organizations to address topics of mutual concern. In 2009, SRA EMNMS cosponsored a workshop with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Working Party on Nanomaterials Specialty Group 6 on Risk Assessment.

There were three main objectives:

- (1) To obtain expert input into the critical issues specific for the risk assessments of nanomaterials in a regulatory context.
- (2) To identify possible approaches for risk assessment based on the current state of knowledge.
- (3) To identify issues that may be addressed through the sponsorship programme.

SRA members participated as experts, gave presentations, and provided input on case studies, as well as participating in breakout sessions on Problem Formulation, Exposure, Human Health Hazard, Ecological Toxicity and Fate, and the linkages between Assessment and Management.

The report from that workshop, “Series on the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials No. 21 Report of the Workshop on Risk Assessment of Manufactured Nanomaterials in a Regulatory Context,” is now available at [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/displaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono\(2010\)10&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/displaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono(2010)10&doclanguage=en).

Through the SRA new initiative, EMNMS is providing input to a Critical Issues document currently under development that will provide risk assessment guidance to Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) member countries. The OECD WMPN SG-6 partnership is a model for future SRA organizational collaborations.

#### Electronic RISK newsletter

This is the fourth issue of the electronic-only RISK newsletter. Please let Editor Mary Walchuk ([editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net)) know how we are doing and what you like or dislike about the electronic-only RISK newsletter.



## What Do We Do?

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

### Cameron A. MacKenzie

#### Where are you a student?

I am a PhD student in the School of Industrial Engineering at the University of Oklahoma.

#### How is risk analysis a part of your current studies?

My current research at Oklahoma focuses on the interdependencies of risk among different economic sectors. We are studying how an event that causes a disruption in one type of business can result in economic losses in other industries that are not directly impacted by the initial event. For example, we created a model and simulation to quantify how a sudden closure of an inland waterway port can lead to production losses in many different types of industries across several different states.

#### How was risk analysis part of any past academic study?

I previously earned a master's degree from Stanford University, where I specialized in decision and risk analysis. This course of study focused on analyzing risk using probabilistic models and incorporating risk analysis into a rational decision-making framework.

#### How did you decide to pursue further academic study in risk analysis?

I used to work as a consultant, and much of my work focused on homeland security issues. One of the challenges that homeland security officials face is how to prioritize among all the different risks facing the United States. I became really interested in this problem and wanted to develop the expertise to study and solve these types of problems. Graduate studies in risk analysis would also enable me to combine my interests in mathematics and public policy.

#### What jobs, fellowships, work study, etc., have you had related to risk analysis?

I interned with the RAND Corporation, where Dr. Henry Willis and I developed a model on the risk of illegal border crossers. The mathematical model calculates the probability that an individual would get caught crossing the border given the number of border agents and the effectiveness of the surveillance technology. We also explored how an unmanned air vehicle might improve the U.S. government's ability to apprehend an illegal border crosser.

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

One of the most interesting parts of studying risk is the way in which it draws upon so many different disciplines. Risk analysis requires mathematical models to solve practical problems; the ability to look at engineering, economic, or



social systems from a holistic perspective; an understanding of how people perceive risk; and effective communication tools. Each of these different areas brings different challenges, and combining them under a risk analysis framework makes the problem both exciting and complex.

#### What are other opportunities for risk analysis research at the University of Oklahoma?

The research group in which I am involved is working on studying disruptive events in interdependent systems, particularly focusing on methodological developments in addressing uncertainty in these models for robust decision making. We are moving toward a research effort in data-driven maintenance decision making for large-scale systems that address reliability and risk modeling. We have several exciting developments, and my advisor, Dr. Kash Barker, and I

would love to work with new students in this area. Other significant research projects at Oklahoma are in risk communication and the risk of severe weather.

#### Do you have any advice for other students considering studies in a risk analysis area?

A lot of different disciplines involve some sort of risk. As you are considering studies in risk analysis, think about areas that interest you where you can apply risk analysis. Look for professors whose current research and publications match your interests and contact those professors about the possibility of your working with them. Journals like *Risk Analysis* are a great place to start looking for all the different applications of risk that might interest you.

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

SRA played a very important role in bringing me to Oklahoma to work on a PhD. A little over a year ago, Dr. Barker sent an email to SRA members saying that he was looking for doctoral students to work on interdependency modeling applied to supply-chain disruptions. The project interested me, and I contacted Dr. Barker and then applied to do a PhD with him at the University of Oklahoma. I doubt I would have ever heard about this project if I had not been an SRA member.

Additionally, I have found the SRA annual conferences very useful for meeting people in the field of risk analysis, hearing about many of the current research areas, and presenting my own research.

To contact Cameron about his research or pursuing graduate studies in risk analysis, please email him at cmackenzie@ou.edu.



## News and Announcements

### **Joe Fiksel Appointed to NRMRL**

Former Society for Risk Analysis Treasurer Joseph Fiksel (1987-1989) has accepted a part-time appointment as Special Assistant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Research and Development (ORD), National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL).

In this capacity, Fiksel, executive director of the Center for Resilience at The Ohio State University (OSU), will

advise the NRMRL director, the ORD assistant administrator, ORD senior management, and their senior scientists regarding the integration of a transdisciplinary, systems-based research approach that will provide sustainable solutions for the complex environmental problems confronting the Agency. He is currently a research faculty member in the Department of Integrated Systems Engineering at OSU and an internationally recognized expert in sustainable business practices.

**ANNOUNCING THE WORLD CONGRESS ON RISK III**  
**SYDNEY – AUSTRALIA – SUMMER 2012**



Co-chairs:

Professor Alison Cullen – University of Washington  
 Professor Jonathan Wiener – Duke University  
 Dr Daniela Leonte – University of New South Wales

Contact the SRA Secretariat to join the organizing effort: [ddrupa@burkinc.com](mailto:ddrupa@burkinc.com)

### **2010 SRA Annual Meeting** **Salt Lake City, 5-8 December**



Grand America Hotel



SALT LAKE CITY



Salt Lake Temple

*Photos by Mary Walchuk*

**Meeting information and online forms—[www.sra.org/events\\_2010\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2010_meeting.php)**



### **Branden B. Johnson**

Decision Research of Eugene, Oregon, is pleased to announce that Dr. Branden B. Johnson has joined its staff as a principal investigator in risk perception and risk communication. He will conduct basic and applied research in these areas for which he has over 30 years of experience, including consultation with both government and industry. Dr. Johnson's basic research has covered diverse topics in the risk field, including trust, uncertainty, gender and ethnicity, risk comparisons, and information processing, among others. His applied work has been primarily in the environmental field, partly reflecting his quarter-century with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, mostly as a research scientist, but also as a drinking water regulator. In addition to drinking water, he has dealt with such topics as air pollution, black bears, chemical accidents, climate change, hazardous waste, low-level radioactive waste, radon in indoor air, terrorism, and wetlands, among others.

### **Jo Anne Shatkin**

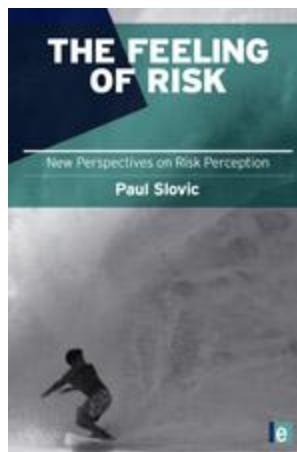
Jo Anne Shatkin, PhD, has been named CEO of CLF Ventures, the nonprofit consulting affiliate of the Conservation Law Foundation. Shatkin has been managing director of CLF Ventures since August 2007.

As managing director of CLF Ventures, Shatkin has both led and acted as an advisor upon multiple client projects, in addition to managing Ventures' day-to-day operations.

Shatkin's background is in health and environmental risk analysis, and her technical, regulatory, and public involvement work on Superfund, industrial facilities, and drinking water have prepared her well for the strategic initiatives CLF Ventures is well respected for con-

ducting. She successfully straddles the science/policy interface on a breadth of complex emerging issues affecting businesses and communities. A distinguished expert in the field of nanotechnology, she is the author of *Nanotechnology Health and Environmental Risks*, published in 2008 (CRC Press). Shatkin received her PhD in environmental health science and policy and her MA in risk management and technology assessment from Clark University and a bachelor of science degree in molecular biology and biotechnology from Worcester Polytechnic University. She is a research fellow of the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University.

### **Paul Slovic**



In his new book, *The Feeling of Risk: New Perspectives on Risk Perception*, Paul Slovic and colleagues explore the interaction between feeling and cognition in the perception of risk. The book also examines elements of knowledge, cognitive skill, and communication necessary for good decisions about risk.

Following on from *The Perception of Risk* (2000), Slovic's book presents some of the most significant research on risk perception in recent years, providing essential lessons for all those involved in risk perception and communication.

More information can be found at <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=102375&v=512355>.

### **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 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, Editor, RISK newsletter, 115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; email: [editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net).



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*SRA website:* [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org)

**Deadline for RISK newsletter Submissions**  
 Send information for the **First Quarter 2011** SRA  
*RISK newsletter*, which will be on the SRA website  
 mid-January, to Mary Walchuk, *RISK newsletter* Editor  
 (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-  
 625-6142; email: [editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net)) no later  
 than **20 December 2010**.

## Future Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meetings

2010-Salt Lake City, Utah, 5-8 December

2011-Charleston, South Carolina

2012-San Francisco, California

2013-Baltimore, Maryland

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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