



Society for Risk Analysis

# Risk Newsletter

Volume 32, Number 5, September/October 2012

## “Advancing Analysis” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting 9–12 December 2012 San Francisco, California

*George Gray, SRA President-elect*



California here we come! The 600-abstract-strong program for the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting is locked in, events and extracurriculars are being planned, and we are all looking forward to a great meeting in San Francisco.

This year’s theme—“Advancing Analysis”—highlights the ways SRA members are pushing forward our field and advancing the use of risk analysis for important decisions. Plenary sessions will underscore

the importance of analysis in risk policy and communication. Session tracks will highlight progress in the development and application of risk tools for security and defense, food safety, environmental decision making, exposure assessment, nanotechnology, and engineered systems. Papers will describe advances in policy analysis, risk communication, and techniques of risk analysis.

Our Monday plenary, “Advancing Risk Regulation: The U.K.’s Review of Health and Safety Rules,” will examine the way analytic approaches can inform decisions about risk regulation. Panelists will be Ragnar Löfstedt, professor and director of the King’s Centre for Risk Management at King’s College London;

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Society for Risk Analysis

# Risk Newsletter

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## **“Advancing Analysis” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting**

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Geoffrey Podger, the chief executive of the U.K. Health and Safety Executive; and Julie Girling, a member of the European Parliament for the South West of England and Gibraltar.

Tuesday we will turn to “National Risk Assessments: Analysis to Guide Risk Management around the World.” Governments across the globe are developing strategies for managing catastrophic risks with national and global consequences. Strategic National Risk Assessments have become a key tool in these efforts. However, conducting and using these assessments raises several fundamental methodological and public policy challenges. The plenary will illustrate how governments and the private sector are addressing these challenges and how research from the risk analysis community can be leveraged to help. Our speakers will be Alan Cohn, deputy assistant secretary for policy (strategic plans) in the Department of Homeland Security Office of Strategy, Planning, Analysis & Risk; Elaine Dezenski, senior director at the World Economic Forum; John Tesh discussing his work at the Civil Contingencies Secretariat of the U.K. National Security Secretariat; and Henry Willis of the Rand Corporation.

Wednesday at lunch we will have a special treat as Andrew Revkin, the “DotEarth” blogger from *The New York Times*, helps us think about “Advancing Public Understanding of Risk through the Media.”

Other highlights of the meeting will include our eagerly anticipated Monday evening Poster Reception, our career roundtable for students and young professionals, and the Tuesday business lunch.

Join over 700 colleagues from government, the private sector, nonprofits, and academia dedicated to advancing analysis.

Sponsors and Exhibitors: To be a sponsor of the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting, sponsor your organization’s exhibit booth, or include your book in the book exhibit, please contact Siobhan Tabor no later than 30 September 2012 at [stabor@burkinc.com](mailto:stabor@burkinc.com).

**2012 SRA Annual Meeting Website**

**[http://www.sra.org/events\\_2012\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2012_meeting.php)**



## Committees

### Education Committee: SRA Student Initiatives

*Ben Trump, Michael Siegrist, and Igor Linkov*

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) has consistently sought to improve opportunities for students and young professionals not only within the field of risk analysis in general, but within the specialty group areas as well. Past initiatives and involvement have included student travel awards to attend the annual conference, best paper awards, networking luncheons, roundtable discussions, and various career fairs within both the local and annual meetings. Student membership is on the rise within the Society, no doubt largely due to the growing opportunities for young professionals. SRA has even sponsored a student and young professionals group in order to better meet student needs and interest within risk analysis.

With rising interests from students, SRA has a unique opportunity to expand its programming for this important and growing membership bloc. We are currently searching for input for future student initiatives and programs, with the goal of gaining even more student involvement and membership within the Society. One example includes the creation of a student-focused mini conference, which could be stand-alone or attached to the SRA annual meeting. Within such a conference, students interested in the study of risk analysis could gather to share their insights and ideas while potentially acquiring valuable research experience and contacts along with professional networking. Having such a student-centered meeting would strongly appeal to student interests and concerns and would help the Society to build its next generation of members as they continue their undergraduate and graduate schoolwork. If you would like to get involved, contact Ben Trump ([bdtrump@umich.edu](mailto:bdtrump@umich.edu)) or attend the meeting of the Education Committee at the next SRA meeting.

### Specialty Groups and Regional Organizations: Implement and Maintain Your Own Website with the Society for Risk Analysis Redesigned Web Capabilities!

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) redesigned website, scheduled for completion in late 2012, allows easy, plain-text editing of specialty group and regional organization microsites hosted on the main SRA site. Rick Reiss ([rreiss@exponent.com](mailto:rreiss@exponent.com)) will be contacting the leadership of all specialty groups and regional organizations, as well as the student and young professionals group, to provide more information in mid-October. If you are interested, you will need to designate an individual who will be responsible for maintaining your site. SRA will migrate existing content from your current site and provide training for those who are interested. If you prefer to maintain an independent site, a link to that site will be provided on the main SRA website.





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## *Risk Analysis Journal*

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*Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie*

This summer marks the end of service for two of our *Risk Analysis* area editors, Suresh Moolgavkar in the health risk field and Kimberly Thompson in engineering. We thank Suresh for his many dedicated years of service and Kim for stepping in two years ago to fill the engineering position and serving until we were able to hire a permanent area editor. We are now very pleased to announce that three new members have joined the *Risk Analysis* editorial staff. Felicia Wu is our new area editor for health risk and James Lambert is our new area editor for engineering. In addition, Seth Guikema joins us in a new associate editor position in mathematical modeling, a growing field for the journal.

These changes, along with other issues and trends related to the journal, were announced at a session with panelists Chuck Haas (microbial risk editor), Michael Siegrist (risk perception and communication editor), and Sally Kane (book review editor) at the recent World Congress held in Sydney, Australia.

This summer Wayne Landis, area editor for ecological risk analysis, compiled a virtual issue on ecological risk analysis, featuring key articles from the journal from the past 30 years, along with an introductory editorial setting the articles into context. We invite you to enjoy this set of articles on the journal's Wiley Online Library webpage and share with others outside the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA). Articles will be free to anyone for download until the end of 2012.

As noted in the past two newsletters, we recently collaborated with the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) to produce a special monograph of 15 articles discussing models to assess the impact of tobacco control efforts on U.S. lung cancer mortality. SRA members received the print issue in August and it is also available online. We thank Area Editor Suresh Moolgavkar and special guest editors from NCI for organizing this important set of papers.



**2012 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting  
9–12 December  
San Francisco, California**

*Photo by Genevieve Roessler*



## *Risk Analysis in the News*

A Society for Risk Analysis news release describing the findings in “Water Pollution Risk Associated with Natural Gas Extraction from the Marcellus Shale,” published in the August issue of *Risk Analysis*, was picked up by over 100 media outlets, including:

- Boston.com (*The Boston Globe*)  
[http://finance.boston.com/boston/news/read/21964026/hydraulic\\_fracturing\\_poses\\_substantial\\_water\\_pollution\\_risks](http://finance.boston.com/boston/news/read/21964026/hydraulic_fracturing_poses_substantial_water_pollution_risks)
- Andrew Revkin’s *The New York Times* “Dot.Earth” Blog  
<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/02/more-on-frackin-peer-review-and-public-health/?comments#permid=53>
- *The Wall Street Journal* “Market Watch”  
<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/hydraulic-fracturing-poses-substantial-water-pollution-risks-analysts-say-2012-08-06>

The news release also resulted in the authors receiving a high number of reporter calls from *Platts*, *Greenliving*, *EcoWatch*, *Cleantech*, *Energy Wire*, *Science News*, and *Inside EPA*.

### **Share News and Information on the SRA LinkedIn Group**

Discuss professional interests and activities, post job openings or inquire about job opportunities, share your research questions, and announce risk-related events with the SRA LinkedIn group at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Risk-Analysis-4265467>.

### **Share Your SRA Photos**

Send us your photos of SRA members and activities to post on our Flickr site ([http://www.flickr.com/photos/society\\_for\\_risk\\_analysis](http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis)). If you have SRA-related photos to share, please email them to Mary Walchuk, [newseditor@sra.org](mailto:newseditor@sra.org).



Photo by Jennifer Rosenberg



## Specialty Groups

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### Dose Response Specialty Group

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

*George Woodall, Chair*

Julie Fitzpatrick was granted a travel award by the Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) to participate in the 2012 World Congress on Risk held in Sydney, Australia, in July as DRSG's contribution to that meeting. She reported back to DRSG that the trip was quite productive and was a great opportunity to network with risk assessors from across the globe.

DRSG continued its 2012 tele-seminar series with a presentation by Resha Putzrath from the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center on the topic "Improving Dose-Response Assessment for Mixtures" on 4 September. Anyone can join in these tele-seminars by dialing in to the conference line number (866-299-3188) and entering the conference code when prompted (919 541 3896#). Updates and more details can be found on the "calendar" from the DRSG website ([www.sra.org/drsg](http://www.sra.org/drsg)).

DRSG has developed a group on LinkedIn to help facilitate communication and outreach at ([http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4353900&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4353900&trk=hb_side_g)). Please consider joining our LinkedIn community, as well as the long-standing Yahoo group (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DRSG/>). We are hoping that increasing our online presence will increase awareness of our activities, especially with students and their academic advisors. Please contact Kan Shao ([shao.kan@epa.gov](mailto:shao.kan@epa.gov)) if you have suggestions or would like to assist in his efforts to increase student and academic involvement in DRSG.

### Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group

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*Royce Francis, Chair*

I hope that your summer has gone well and that the scope and impact of your ideas have increased. I am writing you a short message to remind you to pencil into your calendars (if you haven't already) 9–12 December for the 2012 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting ([http://www.sra.org/events\\_2012\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2012_meeting.php)). This year, the meeting is in San Francisco, and the Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group (EISG) is looking forward to an exciting time.

We will have 11 symposia, 2 poster platforms, and several posters in the main poster session. We will also be starting next year with our new EISG chair, Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, assistant professor in the Naval Postgraduate School, and looking to elect a new vice-chair and a new treasurer. I look forward to meeting you all there and discussing the future of our group together. If you have nominations for these positions, please forward their names to me at your earliest convenience ([seed@gwu.edu](mailto:seed@gwu.edu)).



## Specialty Groups

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Let me also take this opportunity to continue to encourage EISG members to submit to the journal, *Risk Analysis*. Since the May issue, several papers of interest to our membership have been published, including:

- “Extended GTST-MLD for Aerospace System Safety Analysis” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2011.01718.x/abstract>) by Guo, Gong, Tan, and Guo
- “A Bayesian Method to Mine Spatial Data Sets to Evaluate the Vulnerability of Human Beings to Catastrophic Risk” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2012.01790.x/abstract>) by Li, Wang, Leung, and Xiao
- “Sustaining Critical Social Services During Extended Regional Power Blackouts” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2011.01726.x/abstract>) by Narayanan and Morgan
- “Adversarial Risk Analysis with Incomplete Information: A Level-*k* Approach” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2011.01701.x/abstract>) by Rothschild, McLay, and Guikema
- “Decision Analysis and Risk Models for Land Development Affecting Infrastructure Systems” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2011.01719.x/abstract>) by Thekdi and Lambert
- “Water Pollution Risk Associated with Natural Gas Extraction from the Marcellus Shale” (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2011.01757.x/abstract>) by Rozell and Reaven

As always, thank you for your membership, and please feel free to contact me with any announcements, concerns, or questions you may have.

### Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

*President Jim Lambert, President-elect Myriam Merad, and Secretary/Treasurer Chris Karvetski*

Congratulations to our Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) members who submitted 143 abstracts for oral presentations, posters, and poster-platform sessions at the upcoming 2012 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. We look forward to visiting with you all in person in San Francisco 9–12 December. The numerous DARSG symposia, sessions, tracks, session chairs, etc., will be available to you soon via the Preliminary Program at the [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org) website.

The adjudication of the best student paper merit awards for DARSG has been ongoing this summer with the leadership of Myriam Merad and Jeffrey Keisler (past president of the DARSG). Several travel awards will be available to the runners-up. Stay tuned for upcoming notice of the DARSG student winners.





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## Specialty Groups

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The DARSG had a strong showing at the 2012 World Congress on Risk, held in Sydney, Australia, 18–20 July. We are grateful to our DARSG members who contributed to this significant event—the third of the world congresses—in the history of our Society.

The 3–6 June 2012 workshop organized by Dr. Igor Linkov in Hella, Iceland, had participation by many DARSG members. The workshop addressed DARSG-related topics in the context of “Sustainable Cities and Military Installations: Climate Change Impact on Energy and Environmental Security.” This event is presently developing its proceedings in book form and had cosponsorship of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Society for Risk Analysis.

We need you to begin nominations of DARSG officers for next year. Please send any of us your nominations for president-elect and secretary/treasurer well in advance of the annual meeting. We will hold the election of officers at the DARSG business meeting in San Francisco.

Let us know your wishes for the DARSG and the Society. We look forward to your comments and ideas.

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## Regional Organizations

### SRA-China

*Chongfu Huang, President*

To fit the trends of networking and the awakening of risk consciousness in China, SRA-China has been focusing on constructing a platform for public service since 2012. First, we have chosen “Internet of Intelligences” (IOI) to be the base of the platform. Second, SRA-China signed the Overall Cooperation Agreement with Beijing Cazl Technology Service Co., Ltd., which will invest in the platform.

In November 2011, with a keen and unique research perspective to widely scan the online world, Professor Chongfu Huang suggested IOI, which combines agents, the Internet, and mathematical models. It takes public experience as a major source of information and provides empirical knowledge for risk assessment. It would overturn the traditional paradigm in risk assessment.

To promote development of industry, academia, and research, in April 2012 SRA-China founded the Development Department to achieve our objective “from public, serves public” in terms of risk assessment, with the help of IOI.



## Regional Organizations

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In May, the Development Department designed and implemented an experiment to show road conditions and has achieved some significant results, including discussion of the favorite way people express characteristics of cognitive things and toolboxes for data, demonstration of the feasibility of the weighted classification argument expression based on the risk characteristics and information synthesis approach, and the importance of customization tools.

In June, the Development Department realized a road-condition model in an experimental IOI, bringing forward concepts of a demand customization tool, experience express tool, and experience zoning map of the online version. It provides an important entity product model to achieve the goal of experience service in IOI. The road-condition model product is being developed, and we expect forms and services to be online at the end of this year.



**SRA-China and Beijing Cazl Technology Service Co., Ltd., signing the Overall Cooperation Agreement**

In July, SRA-China signed the Overall Cooperation Agreement with Beijing Cazl Technology Service Co.,Ltd., with the following items:

1. Technology transform, journal management, website maintenance, and financial management associated with conferences organized by SRA-China.
2. The first generation network product development of IOI.
3. To explore the international market.

By this cooperation with the enterprise, SRA-China can get a better understanding of the needs of community, seek broader

space for development, and also create new opportunities to promote the socialization of risk analysis in China and the world.

SRA-China (with the license issued by Chinese Central Government, SRA-China is officially named RAC-Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention) will hold the fifth annual meeting in Nanjing, China, 27–28 October 2012, with the theme “Innovative Theories and Methods of Risk Analysis and Crisis Response.” 2012 has been an important year for SRA-China and will be written down in history.



## Regional Organizations

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### SRA-Europe

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

*Mathew White, Secretary*

**Professor Julie Barnett.** After eight years of excellent service on the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) committee, Julie Barnett is stepping down. We'd like to express our sincere thanks to Julie for all her work helping SRA-E run smoothly. I'm sure everyone at SRA-E will join us in wishing Julie all the very best in her new Professorship in Health Research at Brunel University.

**New Committee Members.** This leads us on to introduce two new members of the committee, Seda Kundak and Pia-Johanna Schweizer. Seda is assistant professor in the Faculty of Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning at Istanbul Technical University. She has a particular interest in natural hazards (including earthquakes) and disaster management and mitigation. We are especially pleased to have Seda join us as we prepare the 2014 SRA-E meeting in Istanbul (more details soon). Pia-Johanna has a PhD in risk governance and the sociology of risk and currently works at the Interdisciplinary Research Unit of Risk Governance and Sustainable Technology Development at the University of Stuttgart. Her experience in the fields of risk regulation and participatory decision making will add important breadth to the committee's background.

**SRA-World Congress.** Several SRA-E members were among the international researchers attending the World Congress on Risk at Sydney (18–20 July). Professor Michael Siegrist (ETH - Zurich) chaired a symposium on trust and risk that was particularly well received, especially among policy people in the audience. Sydney was, by all accounts, a perfect place to hold the congress, with excellent facilities and stunning views from the conference centre. The kangaroo steak was also highly recommended!

**SRA-Europe 2013, Trondheim.** Details are now being finalised for the 22<sup>nd</sup> SRA-E annual conference at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, to be held 17–19 June 2013. The special theme is "Safe Societies – Coping with Complexity and Major Risk," concerning challenges related to our society's vulnerability to major risks of natural and industrial disasters, malicious attacks, financial breakdowns, and epidemic diseases.

The conference website (<http://www.srae2013.no/>) is now open for abstracts and symposia with a deadline for submission of 15 January 2013. We're certainly looking forward to giving you a big "Velkommen" in Norway next June.



## Regional Organizations

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### SRA-Japan

<http://www.sra-japan.jp/english>

*Yasunobu Maeda, Vice President*

The Japanese *Journal of Risk Analysis* issued a series of review papers on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake in Volume 21, Numbers 3 and 4, and in Volume 22, Number 1. These are now available online at <https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/sraj>. (The papers are written in Japanese, sorry.)

In addition, the 2012 SRA-Japan Annual Meeting will be held 9–11 November at Shiga University in Hikone, Shiga prefecture. Detailed information is available on the SRA-Japan website, <http://www.sra-japan.jp/SRAJ2012HP>. If you have any questions, contact the Annual Meeting Organizing Committee, [risk25taikai@st.shiga-u.ac.jp](mailto:risk25taikai@st.shiga-u.ac.jp).

### SRA-Australia/New Zealand

<http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html>

*Rochelle Christian, President, and Jean Chesson, Secretary*

The successful World Congress on Risk 2012 held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre saw papers presented by more than 70 authors from Australia and New Zealand alone, which demonstrated the strength of the small but growing field of risk analysis in our region. Kate Bromfield from the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority provided the following comments:

This was my first time at the congress, and I was impressed largely by the scope of the subject. I began to work in the field of risk analysis less than a year ago, and attending the congress gave me perspective on what it is I do in my day-to-day work and connected me with the international field of risk analysis. Working as a regulator in New Zealand, I acknowledge that the pool of risk analysts is quite small, and the biggest lesson I gained in Sydney is that we are part of a global field.

We also held our annual general meeting, at which it was agreed that a business plan would be developed and that our 2013 annual conference will be held in Canberra in September.

In the lead-up to the congress, we held two exciting SRAonCampus events in collaboration with the new initiatives project managed by the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Upstate New York Regional Organization (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny>). Approximately 30 people attended the full-day event at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, headlined by SRA Fellow Scott Ferson. Other speakers included



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Professor Jean Fleming from the University of Otago discussing science and risk communication, Tim Hale from AgResearch reviewing the risk management of the GM Cattle Field Trials, Angelene Holton from Plant and Food Research discussing kiwifruit disease, and Seumas McCroskery from the Environmental Protection Authority speaking on risk analysis with respect to biological control agents. The workshop in the afternoon, facilitated by Steven Corin from Synapt, demonstrated a new tool in identifying social values and how that can be used in risk analysis and ultimately good decisions.

The afternoon event at the University of Sydney immediately before the World Congress also drew an interested crowd. Scott Ferson spoke along with two Australian colleagues (Steve York and Peter Frazer) on "Frontiers of Risk Analysis." Overall feedback was very supportive of both events and we already have several new members as a result.

### SRA-Latin America

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

*Mabel Padlog, Secretary*

The Society for Risk Analysis-Latin America (SRA-LA) has been achieving great relevance among colleagues in Latin America, closing ties among those who participate and contribute with their scientific findings.

Proof of our strongly growing process of promotion and consolidation as a network are:

1. The organization of the II Regional Congress, successfully held last April in Bogotá, Colombia, sponsored by the University of Los Andes (share this experience with us by entering our website: [www.srala.org](http://www.srala.org)).
2. The participation in the World Congress on Risk 2012, where we shared a session with SRA North Africa in which hazard, vulnerability, and risk were the topics addressed in both natural and anthropogenic activity. The session included fascinating points of view from Argentina, Colombia, Libya, Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and New Zealand, which illustrated the similitude of the problems we have in all regions. Volcanoes, floods, and water pollution sources, economic and social aspects, and their relationship with society were the topics treated. Conference attendees from other areas became curious about hazard and risk perception in our regions and were interested enough to discuss new research projects. The session provided a forum for contact not only with Latin American colleagues, but also with scientists worldwide interested in our regions.





## Regional Organizations

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3. The inclusion in a program of internationalization by the SRA-LA Local Committee in Buenos Aires of a Colombian chemist (from Nariño, Pasto), who has been a guest since 2009, and of a Mexican PhD candidate at the National University of Mexico, who was a visitor from March to June 2012, both working in projects at the National University of Buenos Aires. Thus, SRA-LA is moving on to a wider regional integration by hosting scientists and graduate students from abroad, training colleagues, promoting the exchange of knowledge among professionals involved in risk analysis, and aiming to reach the officials in the field of prevention and mitigation of risks.

We are proud to announce that the process of election of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee has just begun. We invite all interested colleagues to participate by sending their CVs to the secretary, along with their own proposal or project for the period to be run (2014–2016).

### Upstate New York

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

*Peg Coleman and Changhyun Kwon*

Fall is more active for the Upstate New York Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (UNY-SRA) in 2012, thanks to continuing support from the SRA Council on the “new initiatives” grant SRAonCampus that is funding outreach to universities in three partnering regional organizations (ROs) in the United States (New England, Upstate New York, and newly forming Northern Nevada) and in Australia and New Zealand. An additional partnering RO, Metro NY/NJ/CT, is providing supplemental funding to support raffles for annual SRA memberships in each partnering RO. Five events were held in 2012 (University of Nevada Reno, Syracuse University, Boston University, University of Auckland, and University of Sydney). The goals of the SRAonCampus project are (1) to actively promote awareness of the benefits of collaborative multidisciplinary research and analysis locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally and (2) to recruit and train more active SRA membership with commitment and skills to foster the analytic deliberative process needed to address complex societal problems. The benefits of the infusions of SRA support in the partnering ROs are becoming increasingly evident as follow-up continues on university campuses this fall.

The SRAonCampus event at Syracuse University (SU) in Upstate New York featured an interview of SRA Fellow Bernie Goldstein by news director Naomi Starobin on “Risk Analysis and Fracking: A Conversation on Analytic Deliberative Process.” Clearly, hydraulic fracturing has generated complex societal problems and tremendous controversies about risks. More than half of the funding budgeted for this



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SU event was allocated to videography so that the interview could reach additional audiences online from the UNY-SRA website (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny/events.htm>) and at follow-up events for the SRAonCampus project.

One of the winners of the SRA membership raffle at the SU event, Dr. Keli Perrin (assistant director of the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism, SU Law School), is jointly organizing another event at SU in October. Keli invited professor John Mueller (Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies, Mershon Center, Ohio State University) to speak about two of his books that are required reading in her classes on perspectives of terrorism: *Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Inflate National Security Threats and Why We Believe Them* and *Terror, Security, and Money: Balancing the Risks, Costs, and Benefits of Homeland Security*. The event is jointly funded by the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (<http://insct.syr.edu/default.aspx>) and UNY-SRA (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny/>), and participants who are non-SRA members will have another opportunity to win an annual SRA membership as a follow-on activity of the SRAonCampus project. Please check these websites for more information on the October 2012 event at SU.

Another winner of an SRA student membership, Darrick Evensen (a PhD student at Cornell University), is assisting with organizing a follow-up event at Cornell University. Darrick, fellow students Gina Eosco and Graham Dixon, and Peg Coleman are planning a follow-on event this fall that will build on the SU event and engage faculty and students at Cornell University in deliberations of the topic starting with portions of the videotape from the interview with Bernie Goldstein. A panel of Cornell University professors, including several SRA leaders, will be invited to watch segments of the video with the audience and offer responses from perspectives of their disciplines in risk assessment, risk communication, and risk management.

The seed money provided by the new initiative grant is expanding awareness of the benefits of SRA membership on campuses and fostering some creative thinking in organizational development and sustainability of ROs. The follow-on event at Cornell University in October may include video links to other campuses in Upstate New York and other regions (please email [peg@colemanscientific.org](mailto:peg@colemanscientific.org) if your university would like to join in for the Cornell event). The model of the Australia/New Zealand RO of organizing and sponsoring a regional multiday conference annually is under discussion in UNY-SRA. Additional options under exploration in UNY-SRA include interactive videoconferencing across multiple campuses (and other sites) using Facebook, Skype, and G-chat that don't require purchase of webinar software. Stay tuned to the Upstate New York SRA website (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny>) for more information on the SRAonCampus project as follow-up events continue this fall.



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### National Capital Area

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

*Sally Kane, President*

In the upcoming year, the National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) will host talks by visiting experts as well as programs on timely topics with risk science and public decision-making dimensions. Given the growing list of partnering organizations and range of topics we cover, joining our planning team is a good opportunity to meet other professionals in the nation's capital and keep up with current advances. Please contact Genya Dana (NCAC secretary and programming officer) or Sally Kane (NCAC president) if you are interested in working on programs listed below or have ideas for new programs. We are also committed to outreach and education; please contact NCAC officers with items to post on our website. Check the website for program updates (<http://www.sra.org/ncac/>).

### Early Fall 2012 - Advancing the Next Generation of Risk Assessment (NexGen)

The NCAC is actively planning a nighttime panel event to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's NexGen Program. NexGen is a multiyear, cross-agency program with the ambitious goal of incorporating the advances of molecular systems biology into risk assessment and learning from the process of iteratively improving and testing the assessments. We are partnering with two regional chapters of technical societies—the NCAC of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) and the Chesapeake-Potomac Regional Chapter of the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)—and working closely with Wendy Hillwalker (SETAC) and Erik Janus (SOT). We look forward to a sustained regional alliance. Another partner is the George Washington University (GW) Center for Risk Science and Public Health. George Gray (center director and incoming president of SRA) will moderate. Tentative plans call for a two-hour program of presentations and panel discussion, followed by a wine and cheese reception.

### Fall 2012 - Improving the Quality and Throughput of EPA IRIS (Integrated Risk Information System) Assessments

Planning is proceeding for an October event, which is a follow-up to the successful spring 2012 program on "Moving Forward with IRIS Reform: Implementing the National Academies' Roadmap for Revisions." The lead organizers are the GW Center for Risk Science and Public Health and GW Regulatory Studies Center. Partners include the American Chemical Council. The program is envisioned to take place in late October over a half day with panel discussions of short- and long-term solutions for conducting the "key steps" in Figure 7-2 of the National Academy of Sciences report. Main contact is Susan Dudley, director of the Regulatory Studies Center.



## Regional Organizations

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### Spring 2013 - Emerging Environment Risks and Implementing Anticipatory Governance

Building on a successful 2012 winter program on “Emerging Risks of Synthetic Biology,” hosted by Environmental Law Studies at George Washington University and organized by the NCAC, we are coconvening an upcoming conference on the topic of risk and anticipatory governance. We envision the topics to include governance of environmental, energy, and technology problems such as synthetic biology and nanotechnology. The lead organizer is GW’s School of Law (Leroy Paddock, associate dean, GW Environmental Law Studies) and additional partners include Arizona State, the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute, and the University of Minnesota Law School.

### 2013 - Fracking: Environmental and Health Risks in a Climate of Contentious Public Decision Making

Early plans are being made for a program dedicated to the timely problem of emerging risks and uncertainty associated with fracking, i.e., the technique of inducing hydraulic fracturing to release petroleum, natural gas, or other substances for extraction. Possible partnering organizations and speakers are being sought.

## What Do We Do?

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

**Susmit Panjwani**



### What is your job title?

I am a risk and information research scientist at Thane International, Inc. We are an engineering and management consulting firm based in Maryland. We provide a range of consulting services to government and commercial clients. I lead our risk management services group.

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

My job is to research, develop, and implement the risk assessment frameworks for the next generation of critical cyber-physical systems and digital infrastructure. My research focus is on digital infrastructure acquisition, safety, reliability, and cyber-security risk assessment.

Currently I conduct quantitative risk assessment for the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Data Communication (Data Comm) program. Data Comm is one of the FAA’s premier programs since it is the





## What Do We Do?

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cornerstone of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), termed the most complex system ever developed by the U.S. Government. Currently air traffic management depends on voice communications. However, for the National Airspace System (NAS) to meet future traffic, safety, and security demands, data communications will take an ever-increasing role in air traffic control, ground management, and flight-crew communications. The Data Comm program presents the first transition phase from the current decades-old analog voice communication system to a significantly more efficient and predominantly digital mode of communication.

The FAA projects that domestic air travel will grow substantially by 2015 and it will nearly double in the next 20 years. This means a lot more planes and passengers needing to arrive safely and on time. Without NextGen, the air transportation industry runs the risk of gridlock in the skies severely damaging the national economy. FAA estimates that not implementing NextGen would cost the U.S. economy \$22 billion annually in lost economic activity.<sup>1</sup> My responsibility is to identify risks and mitigation strategies in a timely manner and increase our confidence level that the Data Comm program will be able to provide the intended benefits no later than 2016.

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

Digital infrastructure and cyber-physical system risk assessment is a relatively new field. We are still trying to lay down the scientific foundations of this new domain. It is a challenging and testing, yet very exciting, time of the field. My undergraduate and master's education was on cyber-security, telecommunication infrastructure and engineering systems. I was always very enthusiastic about the advancements in this emerging field and decided to pursue my doctorate research on cyber-security and digital infrastructure risk assessment.

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

My work involves conducting risk assessment for novel infrastructure projects that have never been implemented before. This requires identifying, understanding, and solving new problems in a dynamic environment in a short period of time. Of course education and knowledge are instrumental, but I believe passion, curiosity, and patience have helped a lot. Passion for enhancing the state of science keeps you going, curiosity allows you to decipher novel problems, and patience helps you keep the sanity to deal with the demands of a dynamic environment.

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/ato/service\\_units/techops/atc\\_comms\\_services/datacomm/documentation/media/brochures/90818\\_DataComm\\_11x17\\_PRINT4.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/techops/atc_comms_services/datacomm/documentation/media/brochures/90818_DataComm_11x17_PRINT4.pdf)



## What Do We Do?

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

As I mentioned before, digital infrastructure and cyber-physical systems risk assessment is an emerging field. Current research focuses on laying down the scientific foundation of this domain. My dissertation research was to identify the novel characteristics of cyber-security domain and to develop a first-of-its-kind risk assessment algorithm that meets the unique challenges of this domain. It is very exciting to participate in research that helps define your field. Also being able to observe the benefits of your work on society is a unique and very rewarding opportunity.

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

There is a famous saying by Confucius, "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you don't stop." Digital infrastructure and cyber-physical system risk assessment is a diverse domain that requires multidisciplinary knowledge.

I would highly recommend that those interested in this domain seize any opportunity they can to expand their knowledge beyond their primary field of interest.

### How long have you been a member of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and what led you to join?

I have been a member since 2010. My research adviser, Dr. Gregory B. Baecher, initially introduced me to the SRA.

### In what ways are you involved in SRA?

In the last three years, as a member, I have participated in the SRA's annual meetings. I presented my dissertation research as an abstract in the 2011 annual meeting, for which I was fortunate enough to receive the student merit award from the Security and Defense Specialty Group. At this year's annual meeting, my colleagues and I are presenting two abstracts and will be recruiting new talent for our risk management group.

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

SRA provides a unique opportunity to learn about the diverse field of risk management. I was able to meet some of the brightest minds and legends in the field at the annual meeting. The student merit award allowed me to discuss my research with pioneers in the field and also greatly enhanced my confidence level in my work.

### What are your interests outside of work?

I like to watch and play tennis, watch science fiction movies, and go running with our dog, Misia.



## World Congress on Risk 2012

### “Risk and Development in a Changing World”



Photo by Synthia Maes

The World Congress on Risk 2012, sponsored by the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), was held 17–20 July in Sydney, Australia. The theme for 2012, “Risk and Development in a Changing World,” invoked the global trend toward better use of risk-based concepts, tools, and processes (derived from both research and practice) in science, decision making, and risk management.

The congress began with an opening ceremony on Tuesday evening and featured a traditional welcome-to-Australia address by an aboriginal elder, accompanied by a didgeridoo performance. Congress attendees enjoyed many other social events while in Sydney, including the opera performance of Verdi’s *Aida* at the Sydney Opera House, beautiful walks on the promenade in Circular Quay, in front of the congress venue, and short trips to areas surrounding Sydney.



Photo by Synthia Maes

Nearly 400 attendees came from more than 44 locations around the world, including Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam. Close to 200 new members were enrolled in the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) at the congress, a significant boost to the total membership of SRA.

A recent survey of Congress participants, compiled by the SRA, indicates that over 70 percent of the respondents rated the event as either “Very Good” or “Excellent.” For the majority, a key factor in the decision to attend the Congress was the Scientific Program (either overall, or a particular theme/session).





## World Congress on Risk 2012

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The congress included three plenary sessions:

- “Extreme Risks: Shocks & Disasters,” with speakers Pierre-Alain Schieb (OECD) and David Zhang (University of Hong Kong)
- “Synthetic Genomics, Risk and Governance” - Sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, with speakers Michele Garfinkel (European Molecular Biology Organization) and Robert Friedman (J. Craig Venter Institute)
- “Global Public Health,” with speakers Antoine Flahault (dean of the French School of Public Health) and Raina MacIntyre (head of the School of Public Health, University of New South Wales)



Plenary speakers, left to right, Schieb, Zhang, Garfinkel, Friedman, Flahault, and MacIntyre

*Flahault and MacIntyre photos by Jennifer Rosenberg*

The congress also offered breakout sessions on several topics (for example, the lessons from the 2011 earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster in Japan, the risks of climate change, and more on synthetic biology) and a wide variety of program sessions (for example, chemicals, natural disasters, hazard warnings, financial risk, microbial risk assessment, global catastrophic risk, and many others).

The SRA deeply appreciates the many contributing sponsors, partners, and scientific and professional organizations who helped support the Congress.

### World Congress 2012 Core Leadership Sponsors

- Society for Risk Analysis
- U.S. National Science Foundation
- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

### World Congress supporters

- Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis
- American Chemistry Council
- Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre, Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland



*Photo by Synthia Maes*





### World Congress on Risk 2012

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#### Friends of the Society for Risk Analysis

Environ

International Council of Chemical Associations, Belgium

L'Institut National de l'Environnement Industriel et des Risques, France

United States Study Center, University of Sydney, Australia



Photo by Jennifer Rosenberg

#### World Congress 2012 Co-Chairs

Left to right:

Daniela Leonte, Australian Department of Health/NICNAS

Jonathan Wiener, Duke University

Alison Cullen, University of Washington

For more photos of the World Congress on Risk 2012, visit the SRA Flickr page at [http://www.flickr.com/photos/society\\_for\\_risk\\_analysis/collections/72157631522983763/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis/collections/72157631522983763/)

#### Pantheon of Risk Analysis



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 selects the inductees.

In 2008, the SRA inducted 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis. In 2011, the SRA added two new inductees nominated by SRA members: Lester Lave and Stan Kaplan.

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. Links are provided for biographies of 2011 honorees Drs. Lave and Kaplan.

New nominees are welcome. To nominate other legends in the field, please contact Past President Rachel Davidson ([rdavidso@udel.edu](mailto:rdavidso@udel.edu)).



## News and Announcements

### Exploring Human Genomic Plasticity and Environmental Stressors: Emerging Evidence on Telomeres, Copy Number Variation, and Transposons

“Exploring Human Genomic Plasticity and Environmental Stressors: Emerging Evidence on Telomeres, Copy Number Variation, and Transposons” will be held 4–5 October 2012 in Washington, DC. This meeting is free and open to the public and more information can be found at <http://nas-sites.org/emerging-science/workshops/genomic-plasticity>.

The human genome is routinely thought of as a static component of the cell, one that is subject to just two fates—to be inherited or to mutate. However, since the completion of the sequencing of the human genome, scientists have been exploring how the genome responds to environmental stressors and chemical exposure. It turns out the genome is much more dynamic than we thought. Genomes have the characteristic of plasticity, which makes it possible to adapt quickly in order to survive changes in environmental conditions.

Changes in the genome can have a big impact on human health. The Standing Committee on Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions has been exploring factors that influence human health in its workshop series. An earlier forum on epigenetics (<http://nas-sites.org/emergingscience/workshops/epigenetics/>) looked at how genes are expressed and silenced in response to environment stressors. Mobile and evolving elements such as telomeres, transposons, and copy number variants are other important factors in understanding the potential effect of our environment on human health.

The genomic plasticity forum will look beyond random mutation and discuss the fundamental changes in genomic alterations that can contribute to disease and aging, as well as new technologies and tools to identify and study genome plasticity events. The forum will initiate/foster the exploration of how environmental stressors may impact the genome, by exploring the intersection of mechanisms leading to genomic changes and mechanisms targeted by environmental stressors.

### Future Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meetings

**9–12 December 2012, San Francisco, California**

[http://www.sra.org/events\\_2012\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2012_meeting.php)

**8–11 December 2013, Baltimore, Maryland**



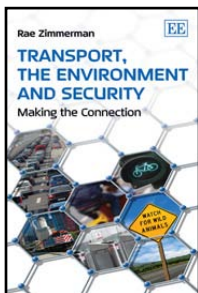
## Member News

### Bernard Goldstein



Society for Risk Analysis Past President Bernard Goldstein was appointed as professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, and a colloquium in his honor titled “Interface of Environmental Health Science and Public Policy” was held 5 September 2012. The colloquium panel included (front row, left to right) Glenn Paulson (science advisor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Linda Birnbaum (director of the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences), Bernard Goldstein, Joanna Burger (distinguished professor of biology, professor at the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, Rutgers University), and Paul Anastas (director of the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale University, former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency science advisor) and (back row, left to right) Bruce Pitt (chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health), Martin Philbert (dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health), Lynn Goldman (dean of the School of Public Health and Health Services, The George Washington University), and Don Burke, MD (dean of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health)

### Rae Zimmerman



Rae Zimmerman has written *Transport, the Environment and Security: Making the Connection*, available at [http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry\\_mainUS.lasso?id=13884](http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry_mainUS.lasso?id=13884). Zimmerman is Professor of Planning and Public Administration at New York University’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service where she is director of the Urban Planning Program and director of the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS). She is a fellow and former president of the Society for Risk Analysis. Effective means of transport are critical under both normal and extreme conditions, but modern transport systems are subject to many diverse demands. Synthesizing existing data, new analyses, and a rich set of case studies, the book uses transportation networks as a framework to draw together the typically conflicting arenas of transport, the environment, and security and provides collective solutions to their respective issues and challenges. The book encompasses cases for severe and potential impacts of natural hazards, climate change, accidents, and security breaches on transportation and the potential risks these pose. These cases support the analyses of the forces on transportation, land use, and patterns of population change that connect, disconnect, and reconnect people from their environment and security. The book is aimed at academics, students, and practitioners across a wide range of fields including transport planning and policy, environmental economics, environmental management, urban planning, public policy, risk management, and terrorism and security.



Society for Risk Analysis

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Society for Risk Analysis

# Risk Newsletter

September/October 2012



*Risk Newsletter* is published by  
the Society for Risk Analysis

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

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Send information for the **November/December 2012** SRA *Risk Newsletter*, which will be on the SRA website **mid-November**, to Mary Walchuk, *Risk Newsletter* Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; email: [newseditor@sra.org](mailto:newseditor@sra.org)) no later than **22 October 2012**.