



RISK newsletter

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Society for Risk Analysis 2004 Annual Meeting “Risk Analysis: The Profession and the Future” Palm Springs, 5-8 December

President’s Program

Baruch Fischhoff, 2004 SRA President-elect

Our Society is a remarkable association. It has scientists and practitioners. It has people trained in multiple disciplines. It has individuals employed by government, industry, consulting firms, NGOs, and academic institutions. Its members come from around the world. They seek one another’s company because they face problems requiring such diverse perspectives. As we approach our 25th year, it is a good time to celebrate our shared past and plans for a common future. The President’s Program will look both inward and outward, asking three questions: (a) How do we organize ourselves as a profession, while respecting the diversity so essential to our unique contribution? (b) How do we mobilize to address emerging risks? (c) How do we look to others, who might use or oppose our services? These questions are in the backs of our minds when we conduct our work. The President’s Program will bring them to the forefront and will:

- Focus discussion on issues critical to the future of the profession.
- Show the Society’s benefit and leadership for members.
- Complement this year’s focus on internationalization and disadvantaged groups.
- Expose other people to SRA as a source of expertise.

Monday Morning Plenary—Risk Analysis: An Integrated National Initiative

Over the past few years, the British government has been developing a uniform approach to risk management that is influenced by the kinds of natural, engineering, and social science research found within the Society. In the British context, its roots lie in the Tolerability of Risk concept, originally promulgated by the Health and Safety Executive, as a sort of middle ground between strictly formal approaches and precautionary ones (at least in my reading). The session would make this enterprise acces-

sible to Society members, while creating links with its leaders and providing them with our input (www.risk-support.gov.uk).

Chair: Ragnar Löfstedt (Kings College London)

Presenter: Hugh Pullinger (HM Treasury)

Respondents: Jonathan Weiner (Duke), JoAnne Shatkin (Cadmus Group), Don Elliott (Willkie Farr & Gallagher)

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Tuesday Morning Plenary—Risk Analysis: As Others See Us

People have opinions about the validity of risk analysis. Some of those opinions are motivated by the results that analyses produce, which facilitate some policies, while limiting others. Some of those opinions are motivated by the processes producing analyses, which are shaped by various parties' ability to commission, conduct, and critique analyses. Those opinions can affect the acceptance of specific results and of risk analysis per se. For example, the controversy over various precautionary principles partially reflects disagreements over what risk analysis can and cannot do. The session will feature two well-known critics of risk analysis, followed by responses from

three Society members and audience discussion, considering the possibilities for collaborations that satisfy the concerns of all.

Chair: Ann Bostrom (Georgia Institute of Technology)
Presenters: Mary O'Brien (University of Oregon)

Lisa Heinzerling (Georgetown University)

Respondents: Adam Finkel (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Princeton University), Gary Marchant (Arizona State University), Scott Farrow (General Accounting Office)

Wednesday Morning Plenary—Risk Analysis: Creating the Profession

Risk analysis is a unique profession, blending basic and applied research, with contributions from multiple disciplines. The Society has long played a leadership role in shaping that profession. The session will hear presentations from three individuals with different perspectives on such work. One has led interdisciplinary centers with applied foci, within academic settings. The second has studied interdisciplinary centers, primarily in natural science

and engineering. The third is a professional writer, completing a trade book on risk analysis, especially as it applies to the emerging science of genomics.

Chair: Baruch Fischhoff (Carnegie Mellon University)

Presenters: Dan Stokols (UC Irvine)

Denise Caruso (Hybrid Vigor Institute)

Diana Rhoten (Social Science Research Council)

Tuesday Luncheon Speaker

Chair: Baruch Fischhoff (Carnegie Mellon University)

Presenter: Richard Jackson (California State Public Health Officer)

More Meeting Information

Palm Springs, California

The 2004 Annual Meeting is being held at the Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel. With world-class facilities and a diverse range of cultural attractions, Palm Springs is always a favorite meeting location.

The Wyndham is 1.5 miles from the Palm Springs International Airport and provides complimentary transportation to and from the airport. Go to baggage claim and pick up the Wyndham courtesy phone.

Join Wyndham by Request for free at the hotel's Web site (www.wyndham.com) and when you arrive at the hotel your key will be waiting for you and your room will be prepared to your specifications.

For information on what to do in the Palm Springs area see the Third Quarter 2004 RISK *newsletter* (<http://www.sra.org/newsletter/news0804.pdf>) or go to the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Web site (www.palmspringsusa.com).

Registration Information

Register online at www.sra.org or register by fax or mail.

To register by fax send the completed registration form (received in your preliminary program) with credit card information to 703-790-2672.

To register by mail, send the completed registration form (received in your preliminary program) with payment to:

SRA Headquarters

1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402

McLean, VA 22101

For more information:

SRA Headquarters

1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402

McLean, VA 22101

phone: 703-790-1745, fax: 703-790-2672

email: SRA@BurkInc.com

Web site: www.sra.org

Wednesday Round Table Discussion

A variety of round table discussions will be offered this year. They will take place on Wednesday, 8 December, from noon until 1:30 p.m. Attend the round table of your choice and don't forget to order your lunch on the registration form. The round table choices are as follows:

- Developments in Risk Science and Law 2004—chaired by Susan Poulter
- Filling the Data and Knowledge Gap for Modeling Pre-Harvest Risks—chaired by Linda Abbott and Clare Narrod
- Can Drinking Water Risk Assessment Approaches Be Harmonized? A Case Study with Vinyl Chloride—chaired by Harvey Clewell
- The Benchmark Dose and Risk Assessment-20 Years Later—chaired by Gary Foureman
- Internationalization at SRA—chaired by Jonathan Wiener and Robin Cantor
- Risk and Culture: Incommensurate Risks and the Regulator's Dilemma—chaired by Terre Satterfield

Poster Sessions

There will be three poster sessions this year in the Ballroom Foyer. Refreshments will be provided during each session. Posters will be on display all day. Poster presenters will be at their posters during the session times listed for questions and answers.

P1, Monday, 10-10:30 a.m. and 3-3:30 p.m., Exposure Assessment, Preparedness and Perceptions for Terrorism/Extreme Events

P2, Tuesday, 10-10:30 a.m. and 3-3:30 p.m., Risk Perception/Risk Communication, Social Risk, Specific Applications in Government

P3, Wednesday, 10-10:30 a.m. and 3-3:30 p.m., Regulatory Policy & Decision Making, Dose Response, Ecological & Environmental Risk

Be a Die Hard Risk Analyst for Fun and Profit!

Attend the last session on Wednesday, 8 December (3:30-5:00 p.m.) and you will be eligible to win a terrific benefit. One attendee will be selected at random from the nine sessions and will receive a full credit toward 2005 Annual Meeting fees. This is at least a \$400 value and is not available in stores!

Everyone else will receive an official SRA-designed T-shirt!

Make your travel plans now to stay for the entire annual meeting, and you will go home a winner!

New this Year!

Official SRA Golf Tournament!

All levels of play welcome!

At 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, 5 December, tee off on one of Palm Springs' most popular playgrounds . . . the Cimmarón Golf Resort, where the only thing to distract you is the view. Cimmarón Golf Resort features two world-class layouts designed by John Fought. Cimmarón, named after the vibrant purple flower, also means "wild and untamed." Cimmarón strives against the cookie-cutter and condo-lined course characteristics that are predominant in Palm Springs golf. Enhancing the stark beauty of the native desert, Cimmarón utilizes European-style characteristics such as sod-wall bunkers filled with white crushed marble against the creative contouring of the emerald fairways. By combining an imaginative mix of traditional desert golf with the unarguable elements of European links styling reminiscent of old Scotland . . . Cimmarón Stands Alone. Included in this outing are eighteen holes of golf, motorized golf cart, and an awards luncheon following play. Registration information can be found in your preliminary program or on the SRA Web site (www.sra.org).

President's Fiesta

Join the president and councilors to recognize those who have contributed significantly to SRA during the past year. This evening of Mexican food, music, and drinks will take place at Del Rio's on the famous Palm Canyon Way (a short walk from the Wyndham) and will include traditional Mexican fare and all-you-can-drink sodas, beer, wine, or margaritas. The President's Fiesta will be held Monday, 6 December, from 7 until 10 p.m. Registration information can be found in your preliminary program or on the SRA Web site (www.sra.org).

Opportunity to Promote Academic Programs

There will be a formal opportunity at this year's meeting for universities and colleges to share information about their educational programs and courses related to risk analysis. These could include graduate or undergraduate programs or courses in risk assessment, risk characterization, risk communication, risk management, or policy relating to risk. Please bring a poster, brochures, or other handouts on your program for display and distribution at the meeting at a to-be-specified location.

Exhibition and Books on Display

At the SRA exhibition attendees have a first-hand opportunity to examine, talk about, and learn from the products and services on display. The exhibition booths and publications table will be in the Ballroom Foyer 6-7 December from 9:45 a.m. until 4 p.m. and 8 December from 9:45 a.m. until noon.



—New Committee to Explore Internationalizing the SRA—

After many internal discussions among the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) leadership, and with representatives from other organizations, which have addressed their own “internationalization” issues, an ad-hoc committee has been charged by the SRA Council with developing proposed actions for further discussion among interested SRA members around the world. The committee is making these proposed actions available on a Web-based discussion board for comment by individuals who have been asked to serve on the newly formed SRA Global Scoping Network. Additional opportunities for members to comment on these ideas will be at a planning meeting for the next World Congress on Risk and at a brown bag session on Internationalizing the SRA, both to take place at the annual meeting in December 2004 in Palm Springs. If you are interested in participating in this network, please contact Robin Cantor (rcantor@navigantconsulting.com) or Jonathan Wiener (wiener@law.duke.edu).


The proposed measures address both actions at the individual member level to make SRA more affordable for participants from the developing world and actions to be taken by the Society as a whole to advance its international visibility and relevance. Options for initial discussion include:

1. Creating a voluntary, tax-deductible increment to the annual dues (chosen by a simple check-off box on the annual member dues form) that, if SRA members choose to contribute, will be used to fund membership scholarships, decreased membership rates, and travel to SRA meetings for SRA members from the developing world. Other professional societies have experimented successfully with this approach. The SRA Secretariat would then use the funds collected to support new or continuing members from developing countries. Several SRA membership benefits already can be extended to members from developing countries at a reasonably low cost, such as by providing free electronic versions of the *Risk Analysis* journal. Travel support and discounted dues and fees are more challenging, and it is clear that the Society needs a regular funding source to expand this area. Questions to be addressed include how to define the members and/or regions eligible for support, and whether the level of support should be uniform for all supported members worldwide or should be adjusted for average income levels in different countries.

2. Promoting and helping to organize regionally based workshop and conference events that will help build interest and the recruitment of new members outside of the United States. The SRA should consider being an active cosponsor of events in which participants share SRA’s interest in risk analysis. Examples

might include the planned annual meetings of the International Risk Governance Council (next meeting in June 2005 in Beijing) and the new SRA-Russia affiliate (April 2005 in Moscow) and the US National Academy of Science program to support science-based decision-making capabilities in developing countries in cooperation with host countries’ academies of science. SRA might consider offering partial subsidy support for these events, because they are unlikely to fit the current financial guidelines (requiring a profit) used by the Conferences and Workshops Committee for SRA support of US-based events.

3. Building upon these regionally based events to flow into the agenda for the World Congresses on Risk. If planned well, the regionally based events can be used to develop a substantial portion of the agenda for each World Congress. Participants in the regionally based event would be charged with selecting representatives to attend the next World Congress and to present summaries of the individual events. In this way, the World Congresses can become a vehicle for exchanging information about risk interests in diverse parts of the world. Members of the SRA Global Scoping Network will be particularly important in helping to identify candidate events. The frequency of the World Congresses (such as every five years or every three years) and their location around the world should be addressed in light of the number, frequency, and location of the regionally based events. In addition, proposed events can be used to develop a funding strategy both for the regionally based events and for subsequent attendance at and sponsorship of the World Congresses on Risk. Members of the SRA Global Scoping Network, or individuals whom they identify, should be enlisted to develop a proposal by SRA to obtain the financial resources to support participants from the developing world. We imagine that this proposal would be sent to a number of international and national funding agencies.

4. Considering if SRA should develop a structure that includes additional sections. Discussion is on-going about the structure for internationalizing the SRA. Currently, SRA has a process for achieving chapter status, with a petition and detailed instructions available online at the SRA Web site (on the chapters page). But no such petition or instructions yet exist for the establishment of new sections. Building on recent experience with expanding SRA’s international reach (including several new chapters being established around the world), SRA should develop a sound set of guidelines for section status. Currently, the SRA has sections in Europe and in Japan (which jointly publish the *Journal of Risk Research* and hold annual meetings in each location). A number of regions may have interest in becoming new SRA sections. 



Regulatory Risk Review

Skirmishes and Hot Tips

David P. Clarke

On the battle front over the Data Quality Act, the latest skirmish occurred 15 September when the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a bill containing language that would exempt the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from the law's requirements for maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated by federal agencies. Critics regard these data-quality requirements as onerous, potentially blocking policy decisions in the face of uncertainty, while proponents of the law argue that quality guidelines are necessary to ensure the accuracy of important governmental information.

The Senate language, contained in the 2005 Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, states: "Provided further, That Section 515 of Public Law 106-554 [that is, Data Quality Act] and any regulations and guidelines promulgated under such authority shall not apply on or after the date of enactment to research and data collection, or information analysis conducted by or for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration." If the appropriations language stands, NOAA would be the only agency among more than 115 that is exempt from Data Quality Act requirements. It is also the lead agency in the interagency collaborative effort known as the US Climate Change Science Program, which recently issued its program report for fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

Who inserted the NOAA language into the appropriations bill, and for what reason, remains a mystery, but it has already attracted significant attention among parties interested in the Data Quality Act.

If the appropriations language stands, NOAA would be the only agency among more than 115 that is exempt from Data Quality Act requirements.

On another front, the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC) has provided guidance to investors and corporations on what to do if they are worried about climate change risks. According to the IRRC document released 23 July 2004—*Investor Guide to Climate Risk, Action Plan and Resource for Plan Sponsors, Fund Managers and Corporations* (http://www.incr.com/investor_guide/)—there

are ten steps a concerned investor or corporation should take, including the step of assessing "the physical and policy risks of climate change in evaluations of companies, industry sectors, investment portfolios and property holdings." In other words, worried parties

might want to assess whether it would be wise to invest in certain waterfront properties if sea levels are going to rise, or in certain types of companies if climate-related policies might wash away markets for the products those companies sell. Is there an assessor in the house? The hybrid financial-climate risk assessment suggested in the guidance is only one of the ten actions IRRC urges investors to take.

The IRRC guidance comes just prior to a *BusinessWeek* magazine cover story on *Global Warming* that reports businesses are starting to take actions directed at combating climate change. According to the story in the 16 August edition, "Many companies are now preparing for a carbon-constrained world," including the largest operator of commercial nuclear power plants, Exelon Corp., and the top coal-burning utility, American Electric Power Co. The news story also touches upon the action by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and counterparts in seven other states who, on 21 July, sued the nation's largest utilities, demanding that the utilities reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases.



Member News

Robin Cantor



Robin Cantor, 2002 President of the Society for Risk Analysis, has been appointed Director in Navigant Consulting's Financial & Insurance Services Practice. Dr. Cantor was previously a Principal and Managing Director of the Environmental and Insurance Claims Practice at LECG, LLC. At Navigant Consulting, she will specialize in environmental and energy economics, statistics, risk management, and insurance claims analysis. Navigant Consulting is an independent

consulting firm providing financial, operational, and dispute support services in many industries and specialty areas, including financial and insurance services, health care, construction, energy, bankruptcy, and restructuring.

Cantor's new contact information is:

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 Washington DC 20006
 Phone: 202-973-7203
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Specialty Groups

Risk Communication Specialty Group

Joseph Arvai, Chair

My final column as chair of the Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) may best be titled “The things we think but do not say.” More on that below; let me first dispense with some administrative details prior to our meeting—in five short weeks—in sunny Palm Springs.

The program committee did yeomen’s work this year in sorting through this year’s submissions to assemble a program that contains many poster and oral presentation sessions that are sure to delight. It is my sincere hope that all of you plan on taking in as many of the sessions as you can. I also hope that you pay particular attention to some of the excellent student work that was submitted this year (in addition to some of the “gold standards”).

Speaking of the next generation of researchers and practitioners in our field, the Student Paper Competition continues—with the generous support of ExxonMobil—for the 7th consecutive year. Thanks to those of you who (1) mentored these fine students and (2) agreed to serve as judges this year. Once again, a \$500 award has been made available to the top paper with subscriptions to the *Journal of Risk Research* being awarded to the runners-up.

As always, the winner of the Student Paper Award will be announced at our annual business meeting, which will take place on the evening of Monday the 6th of December. We will also hold elections at this meeting to fill vacancies on our Executive Committee. If you are aware of folks interested in one of the many open positions—including chair-elect—please let me know in short order. Our business meeting will then close with a joint-mixer (complete with food and, hopefully, music) with our friends from the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group.

To conclude, let me leave you with these parting thoughts (my “the things we think but do not say” thing). I’ve watched both as an interested observer, and as a member of the RCSG Executive Committee, as our Specialty Group—and indeed our subject matter area—has become *the* largest segment of the Society for Risk Analysis. It goes without saying that our growth is a clear indication of the level of interest that people have in our work.

Some worry, however, that we have grown too large, too fast and are in danger of toppling under our own weight within the SRA.

I would worry less about us becoming the “Society for Risk Communication” if, as I looked out over our landscape, I saw us pushing the boundaries of our field. I regret to say that in my personal judgment—with a few notable exceptions—I don’t see this happening. For too many, risk communication is still a “cookbook” discipline. For others, the research questions being pursued have been asked—and answered—a thousand times.

There are some big questions out there for us as a community and, in my view, we’re not doing as good a job as we’re capable in trying to answer them. For example, we learn more from our failures than we do from our successes; how can risk communication efforts be structured such that a broad range of stakeholders and decision makers remain engaged—and learn—during the good times and bad? How can we best design individual and joint deliberations to improve the quality and defensibility of risk management decisions? How can the NRC’s recommendations for an “analytic-deliberative process”—now almost 10 years old—finally be implemented on a broad scale?

I write these words not as a condemnation of our field but instead as a call to action. I continue to believe that our place within the SRA and the broader field of risk analysis is an important one. To justify our size and to maintain interest in our work, however, I hope that we will begin to aim a little—or in some cases, a lot—higher. Like I said, there are big questions out there; it’s high time for us as a community to start addressing them.

See you in Palm Springs.

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

*Randy Ryti (Neptune and Company, Inc.), Chair,
and Igor Linkov (Cambridge Environmental), Past Chair*

Hopefully readers of this newsletter have made plans to attend the annual meeting in Palm Springs, California. There will be several opportunities for attendees to learn about some of the emerging topics in ecological risk assessment. Some of these topics include papers with an arid theme or a landscape/regional scale and a series of papers on approaches for spatially explicit ecological risk assessment.

Of particular importance to the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG) is the Continuing Education class on “Ecological Risk Assessment of Arid Environments” organized by Randy Ryti, Jim Markwiese, Bruce Hope, Richard Myerhoff, and Bob Gensemer. Proceeds from this course will benefit ongoing and future ERASG activities.

Funds obtained from previous short courses have enabled us to start the Ecological Risk Assessment Student Research Paper Award. We would also like to support attendance by more than one student to the annual meeting and we would also like to have grants for other underfunded groups (for example, state regulators).

Besides the high level of technical content offered by the presenters in this course we will have a short field trip to the Coachella Valley Preserve to view an arid ecosystem firsthand. You may get further information on the course at http://www.neptuneandco.com/eecai_sra.htm. Please pass along this information to any colleagues who might be interested in this course, especially those in the Southern California area. Remember that one does not need to attend the annual meeting to be able to participate in the short courses.

Also at the annual meeting, ERASG will have a short business meeting on Monday, 6 December, 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to dialog on issues relating to the group. We will discuss ways to increase interest in the annual meeting through a specialty group speaker program, suggestions on the ERASG student travel awards and other award categories, nominations for chair-elect, and ways to obtain additional corporate sponsors.

We will acknowledge the recipient of the Ecological Risk Assessment Student Research Paper Award during the business meeting. SRA members are encouraged to participate in the ERASG business meeting. Members who cannot attend can provide input on these topics to Randy Ryti (rryti1@neptuneinc.org). Members are also encouraged to provide nominations for chair-elect (including self nominations) to Randy Ryti.

Lastly, but not least, ERASG will have a joint social mixer with the Risk Communication Specialty Group immediately following our separate business meetings on 6 December. Please attend and enjoy good conversation, good food, and perhaps some good music as well.

Dose Response Specialty Group

Gary L. Foureman, President, and Ralph Kodell, President-elect

The annual meeting is at hand! The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) will have a flyer available at or near the registration area listing our activities, the times and dates of the DRSG-sponsored sessions, as well as an email listing of all our Yahoo group members. Please pick one up! Plan to arise early for just one morning to attend our annual business breakfast on Tuesday at 7 a.m. And please don't miss the annual mixer, joint this year with the Food/Water Safety Risk Specialty Group, Tuesday evening 5:30 - whenever. As last year, there will be no formal speaker at the mixer—just food and fellowship.

The DRSG was informed in early August of the results from the Program Committee regarding proposed sessions.

All sessions proposed by the DRSG were accepted and appear on the preliminary program:

- The US Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program (Poster Platform, Chair: Amy Mills);
- Chemical Mixtures Health Risk Assessment Methods, Parts 1 and 2 (Symposia, Cochairs: Linda Teuschler and Ralph Kodell, DRSG);
- Dose-Response Relationships in Pharmacodynamic Modeling (Symposium, Chair: Paul Schlosser, DRSG);
- Microbial Dose-Response Assessment for Inhalation Exposures (Symposium, Cochairs: Peg Coleman and Annie Jarabek, DRSG).

Two Roundtable Discussions proposed by DRSG were also accepted and scheduled for Wednesday noon:

- "Can Drinking Water Risk Assessment Approaches be Harmonized? A Case Study with Vinyl Chloride" (Chair: Harvey Clewell)

- "The Benchmark Dose and Risk Assessment-20 Years Later" (Chair: Gary Foureman, DRSG).

The DRSG's September teleconference was devoted to this year's third teleseminar. Walter Piegorsch, Professor of Statistics at the University of South Carolina, presented a provocative talk titled "Benchmark-Dose Shopping with Proper Confidence."

In excess of 30 DRSG members and friends called in to participate, including a group hosted by Resha Putzrath in DC. If anybody was unable to connect, please let a member of the DRSG Executive Committee know so that we can arrange for more lines for future teleseminars.

And it's also DRSG election time! The following DRSG officerships are up for election this November: President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and one (or possibly two) Trustee-at-Large. This is a genuine opportunity to offer your guidance and professional thought to the advancement of dose-response issues as well as to experience some fine fellowship. So please contact any of our executive members (listed at the DRSG Web site, <http://www.sra.org/drsg>) about these officerships. The elections will be held in November via our Yahoo group, and we will announce the new officers shortly before or possibly in Palm Springs.

Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

Cristina McLaughlin, Chair, and Curtis Haymore, Vice-Chair

The purpose of the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group (EBASG) is to provide a forum for economists, risk assessors, scientists, and policy makers to discuss economics and risk assessment issues.

While the focus of the specialty group is to examine integrating economics and risk assessment, the group also hopes to promote a better understanding between economics and other disciplines.

The EBASG will be hosting a meeting/mixer on Monday, 6 December, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. during the annual meeting in Palm Springs. Everyone interested in economics and risk analysis is welcome.

The group is also sponsoring a couple symposia. One two-part symposium titled "State of the Art of Economics in Risk Analysis" will examine different examples of economic analyses and risk assessments integrated within risk analyses. The examples will include the effects of integrated approaches on policy decisions, the use of benefits analysis in cost allocation decisions, and the use of risk analysis techniques in evaluating cost uncertainties about procurement options in government.

The next symposium, "Risk Analysis in the Age of Terrorism and Homeland Security," will probe how risk analysis can inform allocation of homeland security resources. As investment in terrorism prevention and preparedness continues, the speakers will examine new approaches that are needed to set policies and manage investments.

If you are interested in getting more involved this year or have any ideas or suggestions for the group, contact either

Cristina McLaughlin (cristina.mclaughlin@cfsan.fda.gov) or Curtis Haymore (chaymore@cadmusgroup.com).

Exposure Assessment Specialty Group

Susan Flack, Chair

The Exposure Assessment Specialty Group (EASG) offers members access to the latest research in exposure assessment and provides a forum for interaction with top practitioners in the field of exposure assessment. The EASG was started in 1990 by Paul Price and currently has 171 members. The EASG meets once a year during the SRA annual meeting, enjoying a social hour followed by a business meeting and awards presentation. Conference calls are held several times during the year for purposes of planning sessions and symposia for the annual meeting. Current goals are to increase membership and group interaction during the year, especially at the local level.

Three members of the EASG participated on the Program Committee this year. A special thanks to Rick Reiss and Linda Abbott (new EASG member) for volunteering a day of their time to review abstracts and organize them into sessions. There were over 500 abstracts submitted to SRA for the 2004 annual meeting in Palm Springs. The EASG accepted 53 abstracts for presentations and posters for the 2004 annual meeting.

The first day of the 2004 annual meeting in Palm Springs will be a full day for EASG members. Three exposure assessment sessions are scheduled for Monday, 6 December: Pesticide Exposure Assessment, VOC Exposure Assessment, and Uncertainty Analysis in Exposure Assessment. In addition, exposure assessment posters will be presented in the two poster sessions on Monday. From 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. on Monday there will be a mixer for EASG members and anyone interested in joining the specialty group. Refreshments will include hors d'oeuvres and a complimentary beverage. The Best Student Research in Exposure Assessment Award will be presented during the mixer and nominations will be taken for EASG officers for 2005. On Tuesday, 7 December, there will be two regular sessions and one special symposium session. The sessions are Occupational Exposure Assessment, Issues in Probabilistic Methodology for Assessing Handler Exposure to Agricultural Pesticides (symposium), and Indoor Air Exposure Assessment. On Wednesday, 8 December, there will be a breakfast meeting from 7 to 8 a.m. for EASG members. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the EASG can stop by to get information about the specialty group and enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast. The winner of the Best Student Research Award will discuss his/her research and officers for 2005 will be introduced during the breakfast meeting.

A two-part symposium and one regular session comprise the exposure assessment portion of the Wednesday meeting program. The first two sessions on Wednesday will be a special symposium on the European Union Exposure Toolbox project that will conclude with a moderated roundtable discussion. According to Demosthenes Papameletiou, head of the Physical and Chemical Exposure Unit of the EU Joint Research Centre, the Exposure Toolbox "offers four major reference systems for

exposure factors, exposure data, exposure-related health data and exposure scenarios, to support exposure assessors in the EU. Several of the tools are the first of their kind in exposure assessment at a world scale. The basic concepts were first presented at the 2003 annual meeting of the International Society of Exposure Analysis (ISEA). Preliminary feedback indicates that the toolbox has the potential to become a globally applicable common approach to exposure assessment." Presentations from representatives of the EU Joint Research Center, Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, European Chemical Industry Council, and European Consumer Organization will comprise Part I of the symposium. Representatives of the World Health Organization, American Chemistry Council, Health Canada, and US Environmental Protection Agency will present the perspectives of their organizations in Part II. Thanks to Mike Dourson for providing the EASG with the connection to the EU Exposure Toolbox project. The third exposure session on Wednesday is Exposure in Food and Water.

The first annual EASG Best Student Research in Exposure Assessment Award was presented at the 2003 annual meeting in Baltimore. The award consists of a \$100 cash prize, a \$500 travel award, a complimentary meeting registration, and a one-year membership in the Society for Risk Analysis. 10 abstracts were submitted by students for the first competition in 2003. The EASG advertised the award in the Call for Papers and sends notices to .edu electronic mail addresses in the SRA membership directory and to select postgraduate programs at various educational institutions. Please forward information about the EASG award to qualified students at your institution and encourage their participation in the Society for Risk Analysis. A student does not have to be a member of SRA to enter the competition; however, the winner is expected to present his/her work at the annual meeting. 12 abstracts were submitted for the EASG Best Student Research Award that will be presented at the 2004 annual meeting in Palm Springs on 6 December.

Annual dues for EASG membership were initiated in 2004 and are intended to defray travel costs for the author of the Best Student Research Award to present his/her work at the annual meeting. EASG members were generally supportive of the addition of annual membership dues this year. There were 96 EASG members in 2002 and 113 members in 2003 when EASG membership was complimentary. According to the Secretariat, there are presently 171 EASG members who have paid the \$10 annual dues. The specialty group received inquiries from ten potential new members in 2004. We encourage all current EASG members to show their support of the specialty group by continuing to participate as a paid member. If you or your company would like to sponsor the EASG in general or specific EASG activities, such as the student research award, please contact Susan Flack at sflack@chemrisk.com or 303-417-1046 ext 1013.

For more information on the EASG or its activities, please contact any of the officers: Chair Susan Flack at sflack@chemrisk.com or 303-417-1046 ext 1013, Chair-elect Donna Voorhees at dvoorhees@menziecura.com or 781-782-6143, or Secretary Sheryl Beauvais at sbeauvais@cdpr.ca.gov or 916-445-4268.





Andrea T. Thalmann, Information Officer

New Executive Committee Members of SRA-E

It is a pleasure for the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) to welcome Marianne Abramovici (University de Marne-La-Vallée, France), Julie Barnett (University of Surrey, UK), Roberto Bubbico (University of Rome, Italy), and Andrea T. Thalmann (Research Center Jülich, Germany) as the four new members of the SRA-E Executive Committee (EC). They were elected in May 2004 by the European members for a three-year period. A short biographical sketch of the four new EC members follows.

Marianne Abramovici, PhD, is assistant professor at the University of Marne-La-Vallée, France. With a background in microeconomics and risk management she earned her PhD at the Ecole Normal Supérieur de Cachan (France) in organization and risk analysis. Her main research interests are organizational accident, risk culture, and innovation in service as well as risk in the transportation sector (railway).

Julie Barnett, PhD, is senior research fellow and social psychologist at the University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom. Her main areas of interest and research are related to risk perception and risk communication. Her current portfolio of

research addresses topics such as policy development, risk communication, public understandings of risk and uncertainty, stakeholder engagement, and citizenship.

Roberto Bubbico, PhD, is assistant professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering "La Sapienza" at the University of Rome (Italy). He graduated in chemical engineering and earned his PhD in industrial chemical processes. He was involved in research projects on loss prevention, industrial safety, and risk analysis. Presently, his main fields of interest are risk analysis, design of safety devices, and modeling of explosive phenomena.

Andrea T. Thalmann is scientific researcher at the Program Group Human, Environment and Technology at the Research Center Jülich (Germany). She graduated in psychology and neurobiology at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). Her main research interests are risk perception, risk communication, and dealing with uncertainty. Between 2001 and 2004 she has been working on her PhD in the field of risk communication, dealing with uncertainty and EMF.

13th Annual Conference 2004 of the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe "Emergent Risks and Risk Management in Europe"—15-17 November 2004, Paris, France

The 13th annual SRA-Europe Conference will be held 15-17 November 2004 in Paris, France, and will be hosted by Olivier Salvi (INERIS, Executive Committee Member of SRA-E), National Institute for Environment and Industrial Risks, France (INERIS, www.ineris.fr), and the Department Industrial Risks Management, France (EDF R&D, www.edf.com). The conference venue will be located in the east of Paris. The magnificent "Chalet Porte Jaune" (translated as "chalet yellow door") is a modern venue in the historic surrounding in the Wood of Vicennes (see <http://www.portejaune.com>). It is easily accessible as well from the centre by metro as from the Paris airports (Roissy Charles-de-Gaulle or Orly).

The focus of the conference will be on "Emergent Risks and Risk Management in Europe." Over 50 sessions with more than 150 oral presentations and 26 posters are planned. The session topics include Climate Change, Integrated Risk Management, Risk Management in Municipalities, Risk Perception, Risk Communication, Electromagnetic Fields, Risk and Regulation, Risk Assessment Methodology, Framework of the Seveso II Directive, Health Care, GMO and Risk under Uncertainty, Natural Hazards, Precautionary Principle, Terrorism, Nuclear, Risk Governance, Transport Safety, Organizational Learning, Finance

and Insurance. Additionally, workshops will be held regarding Integration of IPPC and SEVESO Directive, Risk Management, Taxonomy of Risks and Risk-Governance, Tools and Service Platform in Risk Management, and so forth.

All planning activities are in process and the management board of the conference is looking forward to creating an open platform, facilitating interesting discussions among the attendees about current risk-related topics. Further information on the programme, annual meeting registration, and hotel booking can be found at the SRA-Europe Web site (www.sraeurope.org).

The Management Board of the SRA-E Conference 2004

Chairmen of the Organizing Committee: Olivier Salvi (INERIS, France) and Yves Dien (EDF R&D, France); Chairman of the Scientific Committee: Jean-François Raffoux (INERIS, France); SRA-E Executive Committee: Peter T. Allen (President), Peter M. Wiedemann (Past-President), Scira Menoni (President-elect), Jan M. Gutteling (Treasurer), Olivier Salvi (Chair of Nominations Committee), Walter R. Stahel (Committee Member), and Andrea T. Thalmann (Information Officer). Conference Secretariat: SRA-Europe, c/o In Conference Ltd, 10b Broughton Street Lane, Edinburgh EH1 3LY, Scotland, UK; phone: +44 (0)131 556 9245; fax: +44 (0)131 556 9638; email: sra-e@in-conference.org.uk. 



Chapter News

Northern California Chapter

Edward Morales

The Northern California Chapter of the SRA has successfully completed its inaugural Student Travel Award Program with awards being given to two students.

Ben Bellows, MPH, of Davis, California, and Hsin-Yi Weng, DVM, MPH, of Berkeley, California, will receive awards to help pay for expenses at the upcoming SRA annual meeting in Palm Springs, California.

Many thanks to Greg Brorby, NCCSRA Past President, for spearheading this effort. It is our hope to continue this program for years to come.





News and Announcements

Security in Harbors and Coastal Areas: Management Using Comparative Risk Assessment and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Framework

24-27 April 2005, Thessalonica, Greece

The Society for Risk Analysis will cosponsor a NATO workshop, "Security in Harbors and Coastal Areas: Management Using Comparative Risk Assessment and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Framework," to be held next spring in Greece. Further information is available at www.risktrace.com/nato and from Igor Linkov of Cambridge Environmental at 617-225-0812 (Linkov@CambridgeEnvironmental.com) and from Greg Kiker of the US Army Engineer Research & Development Center (Gregory.A.Kiker@erdc.usace.army.mil).

With attention in many areas of the world focused on perceived and real environmental security threats, people in many professional disciplines are developing and implementing policies and actions regarding this class of environmental risk. Coastal areas attract people and are subject to increased industrial activities and overpopulation. At the same time, these areas are very sensitive to rapid changes in the landscape and ecological habitats and they may also be among the first victims of global climate change. During the 21st century, environmental challenges and hazards to coastal areas are likely to increase and may lead to violent conflicts if the causes of these environmental problems are not recognized and discussed. In response to these challenges, countermeasures and emergency plans should be launched jointly in the framework of cooperative strategies and conflict avoidance. Addressing the environmental threats and their resulting security/emergency-preparedness outcomes necessitates not only an understanding of the basic risk assessment paradigm along with a familiarity with the tools of risk analysis to assess, interpret, and communicate risks, but also requires a modification of the risk paradigm to incorporate unique political and ecological challenges of the developing countries in the Mediterranean Region and Eastern Europe.

This workshop will discuss applications of the analytical framework of comparative risk analysis (CRA) and multi criteria decision analysis (MCDA) to environmental security and emergency preparedness in coastal areas and to other situations

where limited environmental resources could result in major security threats. It will build on frameworks and tools reviewed and developed at the Society for Risk Analysis workshop on CRA and MCDA applications for sediment management (www.risktrace.com/sediments).

Call for Papers for Special Issue of the *Journal of Risk Research*

The *Journal of Risk Research*, the official journal of the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe, solicits innovative, high-quality articles for inclusion in a special issue around the theme "Living With Risk." The theme underscores the importance and growing breadth of the challenges of a variety of new, complex risks, such as terrorism, that require actions by high-level decision makers. We seek articles which expand the risk field to address these new risks and which encourage the introduction of innovations in methods from not only the field of risk analysis but also from a wide range of disciplines: decision sciences, engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences.

The journal is collaborating with the Center for Global Security Research at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (USA) and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in producing this issue, and Professor Eugene (Gene) Rosa of Washington State University will edit this special issue. By publishing a collection of conceptual, empirical, and case studies it is hoped that the project will expand the boundaries of risk analysis to inform national and international security policymaking. For further information on the project, please contact Genevieve Lester (lester@iiss.org) or Jean Savy (savy1@llnl.gov).

Manuscript Submission: The deadline for manuscripts is 31 March 2005. Please send manuscripts directly to the editorial offices of the *Journal of Risk Research*:

Professor Ragnar E. Löfstedt
School of Social Sciences and Public Policy
King's College London
Strand Building
London WC2R 2LS
United Kingdom
ragnar.lofstedt@kcl.ac.uk



Committees

Education Committee

David Hassenzahl, Chair

The SRA annual conference this year will include a symposium on trends in risk analysis education at institutes of higher learning. Please join us and come prepared to join in the conversation. We also plan to get together for dinner; we will try to plan this around meetings of other committees, since the education committee draws from all specialties within the SRA. Information on time and place for the dinner will be available at the conference.

The Education Committee would like to develop a searchable database of risk analysis courses and programs. Please visit <http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/dmh/ratl/> to download and fill out the program survey form. We plan to have this migrate to the SRA Web site in the near future. Anyone who is interested in joining a risk education email list should contact David Hassenzahl (david@hassenzahl.com).





Advertisements

Lehigh University Environmental Initiative Faculty Position in Risk Analysis, Perception, and Communication.

The Environmental Initiative (EI) at Lehigh University seeks an Assistant Professor (or Associate in exceptional cases) for a tenure track position beginning August 2005. Possible research specialties include decision processes and responses to environmental change, risk identification and response, risk perception, or risk communication to various audiences.

This is a joint appointment between EI and a department that most closely matches the successful candidate's teaching and research interests. Information about EI can be found at <http://www.ei.lehigh.edu>. The successful applicant will develop vigorous research programs and courses that contribute to EI and departmental curricula. Review of applications will begin 10 December 2004 and continue until the position is filled. Interested individuals can meet with Prof. Sharon Friedman at the SRA meeting.

To apply, send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy and research interests, up to three examples of scholarship, and three references to Dork Sahagian, Chair, EI Risk Search Committee, 31 Williams Dr., Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015 **and** to risk.ei@lehigh.edu.

Lehigh is a private, research extensive university near New York and Philadelphia. It is an AA/EO employer committed to recruiting and retaining women and minorities.

Scientist Position

ChemRisk is a consulting firm providing state-of-the-art toxicology, industrial hygiene, epidemiology, and risk assessment services to organizations that confront public health, occupational health, and environmental challenges. ChemRisk is seeking applicants with training in toxicology, pharmacology, the environmental sciences, risk assessment, biomedical engineering, industrial hygiene, medicine, or health physics.

This position requires a bachelor's degree in environmental or toxicological sciences. Candidates with a PhD or master's degree are preferred. Candidates with a background in consulting are especially desired. Positions are available in the San Francisco, California, Boulder, Colorado, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, offices.

Please send résumés to ChemRisk, 100 Spear Street, Suite 525, San Francisco, CA 94105, or email: hr@chemrisk.com, phone: 415-896-2400, fax: 415-896-2444, www.chemrisk.com.

RISK newsletter and SRA Web Site Advertising Policy

Books, software, courses, and events may be advertised in the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) *RISK newsletter* or on the SRA Web site at a cost of \$250 for up to 150 words. There is a charge of \$100 for each additional 50 words.

Ads may be placed both in the *RISK newsletter* and on the Web site for \$375 for 150 words and \$100 for each additional 50 words.

Employment opportunity ads (up to 200 words) are placed free of charge in the *RISK newsletter* and on the SRA Web site. 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 four times a year. Submit advertisements to the Managing Editor, with billing instructions, by 30 December for the First Quarter issue (published early February), 30 March for the Second Quarter issue (early May), 30 June for the Third Quarter issue (early August), and 30 September for the Fourth Quarter issue (early November). Send to Mary Walchuk, Managing Editor, *RISK newsletter*, 115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; fax: 507-625-1792; email: mwalchuk@hickorytech.net.

To place an employment ad on the Web site, fill out the online submittal form at www.sra.org/opportunities_submit.php. To place other ads on the Web site contact the SRA Webmaster at webmaster@sra.org. Ads placed on the Web site will usually appear several days after receipt. For additional information see the Web site at http://www.sra.org/policy_website.php.

AAAS Risk Policy Opportunities in Washington, DC, 2005:06

Po Work with **policy-makers** on the economic, environmental and human health aspects of risk. Learn about risk analysis at federal agencies that use scientists and engineers in regulatory decision-making. AAAS Public Policy Fellowship Programs provide one-year opportunities for scientists and engineers to apply their scientific and technical input to issues relating to risk, beginning in September 2005. Qualified Fellows serve in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food and Drug Administration. The stipend is \$62,000.

Fe The **AAAS Risk Policy Fellows Program** is sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). It is designed to provide each Fellow with a unique public policy learning experience and to bring technical backgrounds and external perspectives to decision-making in the U.S. government. Applicants must have a PhD or an equivalent doctoral-level degree by the application deadline (January 10, 2005). Underepresented minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

For more information: Phone: 202/326-6700 • E-mail: fellowships@aaas.org





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Deadline for RISK *newsletter* Submissions

Information to be included in the **First Quarter 2005** SRA RISK *newsletter*, to be mailed early February, should be sent to Mary Walchuk, RISK *newsletter* Managing Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; fax: 507-625-1792; email: mwalchuk@hickorytech.net) no later than **20 December**.



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 socio-economic 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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