

# RISK *newsletter*

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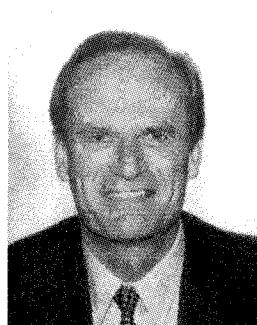
## Area Editors Named for Journal



**Vicki M. Bier**  
*Engineering*



**Paul F. Deisler Jr.**  
*Life Sciences*



**Detlof von Winterfeldt**  
*Social Sciences*

Three long-time members of the Society for Risk Analysis will serve as the first area editors of *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*, the Society's bimonthly publication. Those named are Vicki M. Bier, a former SRA councilor; Paul F. Deisler Jr., an SRA fellow, former president, and current chair of the Society's Advisory Board; and Detlof von Winterfeldt, an SRA fellow.

"The creation of these positions will broaden the journal's outreach and allow the editor-in-chief to devote more time to major policy development and special projects," said M. Elisabeth Paté-Cornell, SRA past president and chair of the Publications Committee. "The people we have chosen to fill these positions are leaders in the three disciplines of life sciences, social sciences, and engineering that are at the core of risk analysis and therefore of critical importance to the journal."

The editor-in-chief is Curtis C. Travis, who has served in that position since 1983. An SRA fellow and former president, Travis followed the first editor-in-chief, Robert B. Cumming, who was also the Society's first president and has continued as senior editor of the journal. Travis has been director of the Center for Risk Management at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, since 1985.

### Engineering

Bier, who is an associate professor of industrial and nuclear engineering at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, is the journal's area editor for papers focused on engineering.

"My main goals are to increase the number of papers on engineering applications and to expand the readership of the journal among engineers," said Bier, whose personal research interests include Bayesian and classical statistical methods for the use of accident precursor data, risk analysis of nuclear plants, the use of aggregation and decomposition in estimation, human judgment and decision making under uncertainty, and the treatment of uncertainty in estimation and decision making.

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## SRA Members Contribute to Major Risk Reports

Members of the Society for Risk Analysis made significant contributions to two major risk reports that have been released in recent months. One report, titled *Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Regulatory Decision-Making*, was issued in draft form on June 13 by the federal Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. The other, titled *Understanding Risk: Informing Decisions in a Democratic Society*, was published a few weeks earlier by the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council.

Although the two studies leading to the reports were conducted independently of each other, both concluded that stakeholder involvement should exist throughout the risk assessment and risk management process.

### Federal Risk Commission Report

The report from the Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, which was mandated by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, resulted from its charge to make "a full investigation of the policy implications and appropriate uses of risk assessment and risk management in regulatory programs under various Federal laws to prevent cancer and other chronic human health effects which may result from exposure to hazardous substances."

Of the commission's 10 members, three are SRA members: Peter Y. Chiu, a former environmental engineer and now a physician with the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in Milpitas, California; Bernard D. Goldstein, director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute in Piscataway, New Jersey; and David Rall,

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*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*

## Journal Editors Named *(Continued from page 1.)*

She plans to solicit papers from leading practitioners and to organize special issues revolving around specific themes or conferences. "All engineering-related topics are welcome, but I would especially like to see submissions on risk-based regulation and risk-based inspection," she said.

### Life Sciences

Deisler, who is a consultant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board and is retired from the position of vice president of health, safety, and the environment at Shell Oil Company, is the journal's area editor of environmental and health sciences.

"My main goal is to cover the area as broadly as possible, but there are certain things that I'm looking for in both submitted and invited papers," said Deisler, a founding director of the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology and a founding director of the American Industrial Health Council. "Above all, a paper must represent a real advance in knowledge, methods, and/or understanding in the field of risk analysis."

He will judge submissions based on the quality of logic, scientific argument, data handling, and scholarship; on the originality of the subject matter or approach; and on the significance of the topic. Clarity of expression also is important. "Authors need to avoid jargon or special terms that are not necessary for precision," he said. "Each of the journal's papers should be understandable to readers from different parts of the broad field of risk analysis."

### Social Sciences and Decision Making

The journal's area editor of social sciences and decision making is von Winterfeldt, a professor in systems



**Curtis C. Travis**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

management at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

"I'd like for *Risk Analysis* to become the first choice of authors who want to publish their best social sciences and decision-making research on risk topics," said von Winterfeldt, who also is president and founder of Decision Insights Inc. of Newport Beach, California, which provides decision-analysis and risk-management research and consulting to government agencies and private corporations.

To achieve his goals for the journal, he plans to personally request submissions from leading researchers and to propose a three-track review process. "I think we could motivate authors by implementing a review process that has a fast track for superior papers, a regular track for high-quality papers, and early elimination for lower-end papers," he said.

He is particularly interested in receiving submissions in the areas of behavioral decision research and experimental economics.

### International Submissions

All three of the new area editors emphasize that submissions are welcome from researchers in all nations around the world. "Researchers outside the United States shouldn't be shy about submitting papers to the journal," Deisler said. "We welcome good papers from any country."

With regard to engineering topics, submissions from outside the United States could take the form either of straightforward engineering papers or of papers discussing some of the unique local issues involved in the application of risk analysis, Bier said. "For example, risk analyses of technologies that are particularly appropriate to developing nations might be one possibility."

Papers on social science and decision-making research in unique cultural settings or with cross-cultural themes are also encouraged, von Winterfeldt said.

*Note: No papers should be sent directly to the area editors before January 1, 1997.*

## Members Contribute to Reports

*(Continued from page 1.)*

former director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Washington, D.C.

In addition, SRA Councilor Gail Charnley is the commission's executive director. Before joining the commission, she was acting director of the toxicology and risk assessment program at the National Academy of Sciences.

The commission's report, which is expected to have a major impact at national, state, and local levels, was first issued in draft form to solicit comments. More than 2,000 requested copies were distributed, and an electronic version of

the report is available on the Internet at <http://www.riskworld.com>. The deadline for comments was August 9.

"Many reports have been written about ways to improve risk assessments, but this report is one of the very few that addresses what you *do* with the risk assessment, which is the whole point," Charnley said. "The goal, after all, is risk reduction, not developing defined quantitative descriptions of risk."

The heart of the document is a six-stage framework for risk management that can address various contaminants, media, and sources of exposure, as well as public values, perceptions, and ethics. The report strongly emphasizes the

need to involve stakeholders at each stage along the way.

Controversial aspects of the report, which will be published in final form this fall, include its support for the use of a margin-of-exposure approach for carcinogens with linear dose-response characteristics, its call for more qualitative descriptions and fewer quantitative descriptions of uncertainty in risk assessments, and its recommendation that some rodent tumor responses be classified as irrelevant to human cancer risk assessments.

### Risk Characterization Report

The National Research Council's report was prepared by a 17-member

Committee on Risk Characterization, which was formed out of concern that "the way the nation handles risk often breaks down at the stage of risk characterization." SRA member Harvey V. Fineberg, dean of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, chaired the committee.

Other SRA members on the committee were John Ahearne, former director of the Sigma Xi Center in Durham, North Carolina; Thomas A. Burke, co-director of Johns Hopkins University's Risk Sciences and Public Policy Institute in Baltimore, Maryland; Caron F. Chess, director of Rutgers University's Center for Environmental Communication in New Brunswick, New Jersey; James C. Lamb IV, vice president of scientific and technical services at Jellinek, Schwartz, and Connolly Inc. in Washington, D.C.; D. Warner North, senior vice president of Decision Focus Inc. in Mountain View, California; Kristin Shrader-Frechete, distinguished research professor of environmental sciences and policy and of philosophy at the University of South Florida in Tampa; Paul Slovic, president of Decision Research in Eugene, Oregon; Mitchell J. Small, professor of civil and environmental engineering and of engineering and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; James D. Wilson, senior fellow at Resources for the Future's Center for Risk Management in Washington, D.C.; and Lauren Zeise, chief of reproductive and cancer hazard assessment at the California Environmental Protection Agency in Berkeley.

### **SRA To Hold Health Risk Assessment Symposium**

The Society for Risk Analysis will hold a symposium on "Health Risk Assessment: Current Issues," September 30 – October 1, 1996, at the Washington National Airport Hilton, Arlington, Virginia.

Nine internationally recognized leaders in risk assessment and risk management will share their expertise on topics ranging from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment and the recently released report of the federal Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to biologically based modeling and reproductive risks.

Elizabeth L. Anderson of Sciences International Inc., chair of the SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee and former SRA president, will chair the symposium and also present a history of carcinogen and noncarcinogen risk assessment. The deadline for early registration at reduced fees is September 13. For more information, contact the SRA Secretariat [see masthead on page 12].

Another SRA member, Thomas Weblor, served on the National Research Council's staff as a consultant. Sheila S. Jasanoff, a recipient of SRA's Distinguished Achievement Award, was also on the committee.

The report provides a sweeping redefinition of risk characterization, arguing that risk assessors can increase stakeholders' acceptance of risk assessments by including them at the beginning of the process.

"The report reframes risk characterization from an activity that happens at the end of the risk assessment process, as many people understand it, to a continuous, back-and-forth dialogue between risk assessors and stakeholders that allows the problem to be formulated properly," said North, a fellow and former president of SRA.

The document offers seven principles for implementing the risk characterization process, with one of the principles outlining an eight-step diagnostic process to help risk assessors determine the necessary level of stakeholder participation for a given situation.

The federal agencies and other organizations that supported the committee's efforts and are expected to consider the report's recommendations include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of Energy among others.

The report, which was edited by Fineberg and NRC staff member Paul C. Stern, may be ordered from the National Academy Press, telephone (202) 334-3313 or (800) 624-6242.

## **Suggestions for Improving Risk Analyses**

*(Editor's Note: After giving the risk analysis community a report card at the 1995 SRA Annual Meeting, M. Granger Morgan, head of Carnegie Mellon University's Department of Engineering and Public Policy, made suggestions for improving risk analyses.)*

Having assigned generally poor grades to the way things typically get done by federal risk management agencies and their contractors in the various areas of risk analysis, Granger Morgan emphasized that the situation had to be

improved, especially since so many people are calling for much wider use of the methods of risk analysis in federal risk management decision making. He then offered a few ideas for improvement as the first step in launching a more general discussion of this issue within the Society for Risk Analysis.

Congress, he said, should sponsor graduate fellowships to train more high-quality risk analysts. It should also require every federal risk management agency to produce two benchmark risk

analyses that illustrate the best practice in their fields and can be held up as models.

In addition, Congress should provide for a gradual "ramp-up" in any future across-the-board risk analysis requirements since there isn't enough manpower to do the work under the various risk bills being considered.

Federal risk management agencies should sponsor more in-service risk analysis training, sponsor graduate fellowships to allow their employees to

*(Continued on page 6.)*

# Operational Procedures for SRA Grants Management

*Editor's Note: The following procedures were prepared by the SRA Grants Management Committee: Yacov Y. Haimes, chair; Richard Burk; Paul Price; and Robert G. Tardiff.*

The following rules, procedures, and regulations for Society for Risk Analysis grants management are aimed at ensuring that all grants and contracts are properly developed and conducted in compliance with SRA's technical, procedural, and financial guidelines.

## I. Project Initiation

The purpose of this step is to determine the merits of the proposed task in relation to the mission of the Society and the meeting of its goals, to provide an understanding of the policy framework for the proposed work, to give detailed considerations to potential conflicts of interest and other matters that might threaten the Society's standing as a scientific organization, and to gain a sense that the requested resources appear both suitable to accomplish the proposed task and likely to be obtained from the identified potential sponsors.

All SRA grant and contract projects should adhere to the following procedures:

(A) A pre-proposal (two to three pages) should be submitted to the SRA Grants Management Committee for review. A pre-proposal should:

- (1) Identify the core individuals involved in the project.
- (2) Justify why the project should be conducted under SRA auspices and identify the benefits derived to SRA members and/or to the community.
- (3) Include a budget and an estimation of project duration.
- (4) Identify the sponsoring agency or agencies.
- (5) Provide a statement on real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest associated with the project participants.

(B) Once the pre-proposal receives the approval of the Grants Management Committee, it will be presented to the SRA Council for its approval and consent.

(C) A pre-proposal that fails to secure an approval of the Grants Management Committee will be returned to the petitioner. The Council will be informed of the Committee's decision.

## II. Proposal Development

(A) Upon approval of the pre-proposal, the project sponsors will work with the Grants Management Committee to develop a formal proposal for a contractual agreement with the sponsoring agencies.

(B) Only pre-proposals that have received the endorsement of the Grants Management Committee may be developed into formal proposals for contractual agreements with the sponsoring agencies.

(C) A single Principal Investigator is to assume the overall responsibility for all aspects of the project.

(D) The budget must comply with SRA financial procedures.

(E) Project team composition should reflect the SRA membership diversity and should be responsive to input from the Grants Management Committee and from other SRA sponsoring committees (as applicable).

## III. Project Approval

(A) All projects must be approved by the majority of the Council.

(B) All projects must be approved by and carry the signatures of the SRA President and Executive Secretary.

(C) Any modification of the project's scope, duration, budget and team composition must receive the approval of the SRA President and the Executive Secretary. This provision includes a renewal of the project.

## IV. Project Conduct and Monitoring

(A) The Principal Investigator is the person responsible for complying with all of the project's provisions—technical quality, financial, and managerial.

(B) In addition to complying with the sponsoring agency's requirements for progress reports and a final report, the Principal Investigator is required to share these reports with:

- (1) The sponsoring SRA committee.
- (2) The SRA Executive Secretary.
- (3) The SRA Grants Management Committee.

(C) The Principal Investigator is required to submit a quarterly financial report to the SRA Executive Secretary and SRA Treasurer, addressing the following:

- (1) The relationship between the budgeted expenditures and the actual expenditures.
- (2) Projection of future expenditures.
- (3) Certification that no unauthorized financial obligations to SRA will be realized in the future (due to cost overrun or to noncompliance of the contract with the sponsoring agency).

(D) The Principal Investigator is also required to submit a quarterly technical report to the Grants Management Committee and to the SRA Executive Secretary. The objective of this provision is to ensure quality control of the project.

(E) In case of a major failure to carry out the project's mission by the Principal Investigator and the project's Steering Committee, the Grants Management Committee may recommend to the SRA Council that the Principal Investigator and/or the Steering Committee be replaced.

## V. Project Management

(A) As a professional non-profit organization, SRA must manage its activities and be perceived by the public as conducting its affairs in a responsible manner. The Principal Investigator and project team must comply with:

- (1) SRA reimbursement procedures.
- (2) SRA Grants Management Committee procedures.
- (3) All other SRA rules and regulations.

## SRA and ISEA To Meet in New Orleans

"Risk Assessment and Risk Management: Partnerships Through Interdisciplinary Initiatives" will be the theme of the joint 1996 Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis and the International Society of Exposure Analysis to be held December 8-11 at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The meeting, which has attracted more than 500 abstracts, has been designed to be inclusive so that members of both societies will find their areas of interest intermingled throughout the meeting.

**Plenary Sessions.** The annual meeting's opening plenary session on Monday morning will highlight three reports that were released in the United States in 1996: *California Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Assessment Practices, Policies, and Guidelines* by the Risk Assessment Advisory Committee of the California EPA, *Understanding Risk: Informing Decisions in a Democratic Society* by the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Risk Characterization, and *Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Regulatory Decision-Making* by the Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. SRA Councilor Gail Charnley is organizing and will moderate the session, which will include time for audience questions and comments.

A second plenary session on Wednesday morning, December 11, will feature as speakers the recipients of awards presented by SRA and

### **SRA Annual Meeting To Include Poster Session on University Programs**

Universities that offer courses or programs or grant degrees in risk analysis, risk management, and risk communication at the graduate or undergraduate levels are invited to submit poster materials to be displayed in a special poster session at the joint 1996 Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis and the International Society of Exposure Analysis, to be held December 8-11 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The session is part of a new SRA initiative to make information on such programs available to the SRA membership.

The materials can include university-based program brochures, course titles and brief descriptions, and faculty lists. They should be of a length suitable for a poster and ready for direct display.

Please mail (do not fax) materials for this special session to the attention of Sue Burk at the SRA Secretariat (see address in masthead on page 12), with a copy to SRA President-elect Rae Zimmerman at New York University, Wagner Graduate School, 4 Washington Square North, New York, NY 10003. In order to review and incorporate the materials for the annual meeting, the organizers will need them no later than September 30.

ISEA. SRA President-elect Rae Zimmerman, chair of the SRA 1996 Annual Meeting Committee, is organizing the session.

A third plenary session on the U.S. EPA's proposed Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday. Presentations on the nature and status of the guidelines by Jeanette Wiltse of the EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment and Scott Baker of EA Engineering, Science, and Technology Inc. will be followed by an open discussion.

**Thursday Symposia.** ISEA-sponsored symposia on Thursday, Decem-

ber 12, will focus on the following exposure assessment issues: bioavailability of environmental contaminants, exposure to particulate matter, and environmental tobacco smoke. Thomas E. McKone, chair of the ISEA Technical Program Committee and councilor of both societies, is organizing the symposia.

**Registration Information.** The preliminary programs and registration forms for the meeting will be mailed after September 2. For more information, contact Sue Burk or Lori Strong of the SRA Secretariat (see address in masthead on page 12).

## SRA Advisory Board Wants Your Ideas

What do Society for Risk Analysis members think would improve SRA? Are there services you would like to receive, such as information on what is going on or being published in risk analysis beyond the scope of SRA? How can the Society attract new members? Should SRA be proactive in some field, such as risk education (for whom) or public commentary (when)? Is SRA doing things now that need to be changed or eliminated? Would you pay more for more services? Or is everything just fine?

The SRA Advisory Board asks SRA members to consider these questions and to send the Board their responses so that it can have the benefit of them as it considers what to suggest to the SRA president and Council.

The Board, established by the SRA Council in 1994 to stimulate further development of the Society, has two new members, Lawrence W. Barnhouse of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Catherine L. St. Hilaire of Hershey Foods Corporation. The charter Board members are Chair Paul F. Deisler Jr., retired from Shell Oil Company; William H. Farland, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; Ann B. Fisher, Pennsylvania State University; and B. John Garrick, PLG Inc.

Please send your succinctly and clearly expressed thoughts concerning these questions or other matters to Paul F. Deisler Jr., Chair, SRA Advisory Board, P. O. Box 5819, Austin, TX 78763.

## Council Considering Chapter Mission Statement

The SRA Council has tentatively approved a mission statement for SRA chapters that was drafted by the Sections and Chapters Committee and is based on discussions with chapter presidents. Charles Menzie, the committee's chair, presented the statement to the Council at its meeting last April.

The Council requests SRA members to comment on the draft statement before it takes formal action at its next meeting. Please send comments as soon as possible to Charles A. Menzie at Menzie-Cura & Associates Inc., One Courthouse Lane, Suite Two, Chelmsford, MA 01824, fax (508) 453-7260, e-mail menziecura@aol.com.\*

### Draft Mission Statement

The mission of the Chapters of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is to:

1. Provide a public forum for the discussion of risk analysis and risk management issues at local and regional levels, as well as national levels;
2. Foster the advancement and understanding of new methodologies and technology in the practice of risk analysis;
3. Serve as a resource for the local scientific, regulatory, and industrial/municipal community;
4. Represent the interests and goals of SRA in a regional setting;
5. Enhance communication between the national organization and its membership;
6. Develop membership within the SRA at a local or regional level.

Chapters may approach this mission in a variety of ways. They are particularly encouraged to:

1. Schedule, manage, and publicize periodic Chapter meetings. The frequency of meetings should be dependent upon the level of local interest. At least two meetings a year

(and preferably more) in addition to the annual meeting is considered a minimum in order to foster a continuing spirit of exchange. Consideration should be given to the location(s) of meetings so that the membership within the Chapter has an opportunity to attend. This might involve rotating the meeting locations.

2. Develop communication tools (mailings, newsletters, e-mail) for announcing events and local news.
3. Maintain a mailing list with notation of dues-paying members.
4. Encourage all chapter members to become members of the national organization and to receive the newsletter, meeting announcements, and journal.
5. Regularly advise the national office of Chapter activities. This includes the preparation of periodic news pieces for *RISK newsletter*.
6. Encourage the chapter president, or a designated representative, to attend the national annual meeting. Chapters should discuss possible travel support to the national meeting for the chapter representative.
7. Contact the SRA Sections and Chapters Committee chair or the SRA Secretariat as needed for assistance on: a) monetary issues, b) ideas on setting up workshops or poster presentations, c) obtaining speakers from the national organization, and d) publicizing events or activities.
8. Look for opportunities to cooperate with other scientific organizations and professional societies in activities pertaining to risk analysis.

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\*An electronic version of the draft mission statement that can be used in preparing comments is available on the World Wide Web in *RiskWorld* at <http://www.riskworld.com>. Go to the Professional Organizations department and successively select Society for Risk Analysis, *RISK newsletter*, Third Quarter 1996.

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### Suggestions for Improvement

(Continued from page 3.)

pursue advanced risk analysis studies, and encourage employees to publish their risk analyses.

SRA itself should sponsor the publication of one or more anthologies of the best risk analysis case studies, so people could review the best work in the field. Morgan admitted this would be very difficult, however, because most of the best studies aren't written up as summary papers.

SRA should also work to facilitate high-quality in-service training programs, as well as work with some group like the White House science office to establish an annual high-profile prize for the best risk analysis conducted in support of state or federal risk management decision making.

Finally, turning to regulatory reform, Morgan said that "growing numbers of Americans have come to understand that the regulatory approaches of the past are often inefficient, inequitable, and will not be adequate to deal with the risk management needs of the future."

Saying that society must find new approaches to reform its regulatory system, Morgan offered a list of some strategies he believed should be adopted in the search for better approaches.

1. Be better at learning from experience and figure out how to design institutions that make learning part of the process.
2. Work harder at internalizing externalities; that is, make financial and other incentive structures faced by society congruent with the risks imposed.

3. Work a lot harder on producing and disseminating better information.

4. Build on and use the rather substantial social science knowledge.

5. Encourage cooperative problem solving.

6. Make systematic risk comparisons.

7. Be flexible.

8. After learning new things, be adaptive.

9. Separate learning from establishing blame.

10. Run experiments in risk management.

"We have 50 states in the United States and hundreds of countries in the world. We need to run far more experiments than we have in the past, draw lessons from them, and then adapt," he concluded.

## U.S. Chapter News

**East Tennessee Chapter** learned how to use the Internet as a resource for risk analysis issues and previewed the chapter's new World Wide Web site (<http://stargate.ornl.gov/stargate/sra/etsrc.html>) at its meeting in June. The instructors were Wolfgang Naegeli and Edward J. Lapsa of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK) and John H. Sorensen of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. At the chapter meeting in July, Amy Fitzgerald of the U.S. Department of Energy Local Oversight Committee and Earl Lemming of the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation Oversight Committee spoke on clean-up activities in Oak Ridge and the role that risk analysis plays in decision making. When the chapter meets in August, Mark Steinhaff of UTK will present case studies on using site data to determine background concentrations for risk assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites, and Robb Turner of the National Center for Environmental Decision Making Research at UTK will speak about the center, which was created in 1995. On September 26, the chapter will cosponsor a dinner meeting with the American Nuclear Society, among others, that will feature guest speaker Warren Sinclair, internationally known biophysicist and president emeritus of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.

**Michigan Chapter** has printed a brochure for distribution to potential chapter members. The brochure includes information on the chapter's goals, history, and membership; lists of its previous meeting topics and current officers; and a membership registration form.

**New England Chapter** seminars in May and June included a three-part series on mercury. In May, Philip Davidson of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York gave an overview of the mercury exposure study of Seychelle Islands children, and Michael Dourson of Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment in Cincinnati, Ohio, presented a regulatory history of mercury and led

an audience discussion on the toxicology of methyl mercury. The series continued in June with C. Mark Smith of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection summarizing the department's recent report on mercury in Massachusetts. Lisa Bradley of ENSR Consulting and Engineering also spoke in June on the Arizona Hazardous Air Pollutant Assessment Program. The chapter will begin a new seminar series in September.

**Northern California Chapter** held a joint symposium on May 31 with the Genetic and Environmental Toxicology Association of Northern California. Topics for the day-long event were "Update on the Human Genome Project" and "Recent Advances in Risk Assessment." Among the presentations, the chapter's President-elect Steven L. Brown of R2C2 and other members of the Risk Assessment Advisory Committee—a panel of scientists who conducted an external peer review of the policies, methods, and practices which the Cali-

fornia Environmental Protection Agency uses to conduct chemical risk assessment—discussed recommendations from the Committee's recently completed report. (The public review draft, for which public comment ended June 30, is still on the Internet at <http://www.calepa.cahwnet.gov/ochha/>.) In addition, Robert Scofield, the chapter treasurer, of Environ Corporation outlined an American Society for Testing and Measurements initiative on risk-based corrective action.

**Rocky Mountain Chapter** has been taking a hiatus from meetings due to personal and professional changes among the officers and low turnout at meetings scheduled last fall. However, the chapter expanded its mailing list this spring with assistance from the SRA Secretariat and has planned a summer mailing and questionnaire to gain more information about the interests of local SRA members. The chapter intends to schedule three meetings for fall.

### U.S. Chapter Contacts

**Chicago Regional:** Tom Wolsko, interim president, (708) 252-3733, [tdwolsko@anl.gov](mailto:tdwolsko@anl.gov)

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## SRA-Europe: 1996 Annual Meeting the Largest

*Editor's note: This article is based on information provided by Ragnar E. Löfstedt, 1996 SRA-Europe conference director, and Ray Kemp, president of SRA-Europe.*

Using the theme "Risk in a Modern Society—Lessons from Europe," the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis—Europe was the largest ever. It was held June 3-5 at the University of Surrey in Guildford, United Kingdom, and was opened by the mayor of Guildford, John D. Woodhatch.

"The conference was a huge success, with more than 280 attendees from 30 countries," said Conference Director Ragnar E. Löfstedt, who is a lecturer in social geography at the University of Surrey. "The host country dominated with 130 participants, but there also was a high influx of Swedes and Germans. It also was encouraging that there was a large team of Americans."

Löfstedt credited the high turnout in part to the interest in bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as Mad Cow Disease, and the massive media attention it had received.

Organizers also generated pre-publicity by publishing 10 of the conference's papers in advance in a special section on risk in *The (London) Times Higher Education Supplement*, one of the largest higher education weeklies in the world with a readership of over 70,000. "The advance publication led to interviews with various local and national radio stations and with national broadsheets," Löfstedt said.

### Distinguished Scientist Award

At the meeting, Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer, leader of the Risk, Policy, and Complexity Programme at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria, received the SRA-Europe Distinguished Scientist Award.

"The award was given in recognition of Dr. Linnerooth-Bayer's pioneering work in risk and siting issues," said SRA-Europe President Ray Kemp, who is now manager of risk services for Dames and Moore in northwest Europe. "She played an important role in establishing IIASA as a premier research group in Europe by undertaking, amongst other things, path-breaking research on the problems of siting liquid natural gas terminals and on the role of risk perception in the understanding of energy scenarios."

### Invited Speakers

The meeting's keynote address was given by David Slater, a director of the U.K. Environmental Agency in Bristol, who spoke on the future role of risk assessment and risk management in environmental regulation. Plenary speakers included Ortwin Renn of the Center of Technology Assessment in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, who reviewed the past three decades of risk research, and Lennart Sjöberg of the Stockholm School of Economics' Center for Risk Research in Sweden, who spoke on the determinants and consequences of perceived risks. At an evening reception, Jim McQuaid, chief scientist of the U.K. Health and Safety Executive in London, spoke about the United Kingdom's efforts to introduce risk assessment across various government ministries.



Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer (center) was the recipient of the 1996 SRA-Europe Distinguished Scientist Award. With her (from left to right) are Lynda MacDermott and Mayor John D. Woodhatch (representing the city of Guildford), SRA-Europe President Ray Kemp, and Ragnar Löfstedt, conference director of the 1996 Annual Meeting.

### Four Themes

The meeting sessions followed four tracks organized and led by U.K. members of the Technical Committee. The tracks were: *Food, Technology, and Risk*, led by Lynn Frewer of the Institute of Food Research in Reading, David Tennant of TAS International in Malvern, and Marion Wooldridge of the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Addlestone; *Industrial Risk and Insurance*, led by Tom Horlick-Jones of the University of Surrey and Richard Taylor of Magnox Electric in Barnwood; *Risk Communication*, led by John Handmer of Middlesex University in London; and *New Trends in Risk Management*, led by SRA-Europe President Kemp.

### Special Events

The annual meeting also featured several special events.

A pre-meeting workshop on risk management practices in the United States was organized by former SRA president D. Warner North of Decision Focus Inc. in Mountain View, California; SRA Councilor Gail Charnley of the federal Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Washington, D.C.; and Steven Lewis of Exxon Biomedical Sciences Inc. in East Millstone, New Jersey.

A symposium track included discussions on post-normal science with talks by Jerry Ravetz of Research Methods Consultancy in London and Eugene Rosa of Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. It also included a session on siting organized by Linnerooth-Bayer and Howard Kunreuther of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

A panel discussion was held on present-day risk controversies, including the off-shore oil facility Brent Spar and BSE. The panel included Stuart MacDiarmid of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Sarah Parkin, the former leader of the U.K. Green Party.



The annual meeting also hosted the annual Geneva Association lecture, which this year was given by Kunreuther on managing losses and providing protection against catastrophic risks. An all-day workshop on risk and insurance, co-ordinated by Tom Horlick-Jones of the Centre for Environmental Strategy in Guildford, followed the lecture.

### Paper Abstracts

Abstracts of papers presented at the meeting were published in the conference proceedings, which were distributed at the meeting. The abstracts are expected to be on the Internet at <http://www.riskworld.com> by year end, and some will appear in a special European section of SRA's *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*.

### U.S. Representatives

U.S. attendees representing the SRA parent organization included SRA President John Graham of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts; SRA President-elect Rae Zimmerman of New York University in New York City; and former SRA president Robert G. Tardiff of EA Engineering, Science, and Technology Inc. in Silver Spring, Maryland.

### Technical Committee

In addition to those named above, the meeting's Technical Committee included Professor R. Clift as the conference chair and Jean Libaert as the conference administrator, both from the University of Surrey, as well as numerous other local and international representatives.

## SRA-Europe Holds Elections; Approves Journal, U.K. Chapter

*Editor's note: This article is based on information provided by Britt-Marie Drottz Sjöberg, a member of SRA-Europe's Executive Committee.*

### Executive Committee Members Elected

At its meeting in September 1995, SRA-Europe's Executive Committee voted to increase its size from eight to nine members. The following new members were recently elected by the membership by mail ballot:

Esko F. Blokker, head of International Office at the DCMR Environmental Protection Agency, Rijnmond, Netherlands.

Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer, leader of the Risk, Policy, and Complexity Programme at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria; recipient of the 1996 SRA-Europe Distinguished Scientist Award.

Ragnar Löfstedt, lecturer at the University of Surrey's Centre for Environmental Strategy, Guildford, United Kingdom; organizer of 1996 SRA-Europe Annual Meeting; co-opted member of the Executive Committee during 1995-96.

Ortwin Renn, director at the Center of Technology Assessment in Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany; organizer of 1995 SRA-Europe Annual Meeting; co-opted member of the Executive Committee during 1994-95.

These four will replace retiring Executive Committee members Vitaly Eremenko of the Kurchatov Institute's Russian Research Centre in the Russian Federation, SRA-Europe President Ray Kemp of Dames and Moore in London, Paolo Vestrucci of NIER in Italy, and Catherina Zwetkoff of Faculté de Droit in Belgium.

In addition, Lynn Frewer, risk perception psychologist at the Institute of Food Research, Reading, United Kingdom, was elected as the ninth member of the Executive Committee; Kemp, as the outgoing president, will serve one more year, replacing outgoing Detlef Müller of Procter & Gamble GmbH in Germany as the immediate past president; and Lennart Sjöberg, head of the Center for Risk Research at the Stockholm School of Economics and chairman of the Scientific Committee for the 1997 Annual Meeting, will serve one year as a co-opted member.

All newly elected members will take office on September 20 when the Executive Committee meets in Paris, at which time it will elect a president, president-elect, secretary, membership and fund-raising chair, and an East-West information chair.

### 1996 Annual Meeting Actions

Plans were approved at SRA-Europe's 1996 Annual Meeting to launch a new publication titled *Journal of Risk Research*. The editorial board is currently under review, and the journal's first issue is planned for the spring of 1997.

The formation of the U.K. Chapter, the first SRA chapter in Western Europe, was also approved. It was organized by Löfstedt and Kemp, who are acting treasurer and acting president, respectively. Frewer is the acting secretary and Judith Petts of the Loughborough University of Technology, Leicestershire, U.K., is acting membership coordinator. An inaugural meeting with three speakers addressing the theme "Risk Agenda: Regulatory, Research and Industrial Perspectives" will be held October 23 at the Health and Safety Executive Headquarters in London. For more information, contact Löfstedt, e-mail [r.lofstedt@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:r.lofstedt@surrey.ac.uk), or Frewer, e-mail [lynn.frewer@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:lynn.frewer@bbsrc.ac.uk).

### 1997 Annual Meeting Scheduled

The 1997 SRA-Europe Annual Meeting, which will focus on the theme "New Risk Frontiers," is scheduled for June 15-18 in Stockholm, Sweden. Send abstract submissions by January 15, 1997, to the conference secretary, Kristina Eddon, at the Stockholm School of Economics, e-mail [pke@hhs.se](mailto:pke@hhs.se) or [pks@hhs.se](mailto:pks@hhs.se), fax (46) 8 30 72 25, telephone (46) 8 736 95 70.

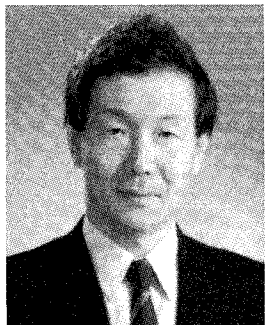
The conference director is Britt-Marie Drottz Sjöberg of the Stockholm School of Economics, e-mail [pbmds@hhs.se](mailto:pbmds@hhs.se), telephone (46) 8 736 95 76, fax (46) 8 30 72 25.

### Secretariat Established

Recapping the year, President Kemp says SRA-Europe has achieved a stable position with increasing membership and improving finances. In addition, it has established a Secretariat at P.O. Box 247, CH-4102 Binningen 1, Switzerland, fax/telephone ++41 61 422 13 70.

## SRA-Japan: Hirose Is Section President

Hirose, professor in the Department of Psychology at Tokyo Woman's Christian University and guest professor at Kyoto University's Disaster Prevention Research Institute, was elected the fifth president of the Society for Risk Analysis-Japan. He took office June 28, 1996, at the Section's spring symposium and annual business meeting held at the University of Tokyo and will serve a two-year term. His predecessor, Saburo Ikeda of the University of Tsukuba, will continue as a member of the Section's Council.



**Hirose Hirose**  
President, SRA-Japan

Hirose's professional interests include the human or societal response to natural disasters and mass emergencies such as major earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He was educated at the University of Tokyo and earned his Ph.D. in psychology. He began teaching at Tokyo Woman's Christian University in 1976 and was a Fulbright researcher at Ohio State University in 1983-84. He received a Japanese Psychological Association outstanding article award in 1987 for "The Psychological Impact of Tokai Earthquake Prediction: Individual's Response and Mass Media's Coverage," which was published in *Japanese Psychological Research* (Vol. 28, No.1, 1986; in English). He has written or edited nine books, including *Major Earthquakes* (The University of Tokyo Press, 1986), *Volcano Management in the United States and Japan* (JAI Press Inc., 1991), and *When We Meet Disasters* (Asahi Shimbun, 1996).

SRA-Japan also elected Tohru Morioka of Osaka University as vice president (he also serves on the SRA Council); and Kazumi Kogure of Japan NUS Corporation as treasurer. In addition, five councilors were elected to the now 25-member

Council: Shintoku Kabuto and Chiharu Tohyama, both of the National Institute for Environmental Studies; Zyunko Nakanishi of the Yokohama National University's Center for Environmental Sciences; Teruo Ohshima of the Research Institute of Chemical Products Safety; and Mitsuo Ueda of the Tokyo Fire & Marine Insurance Company. Two former presidents, Tomio Kinoshita of Setsu-nan University and Eiji Yokoyama, past dean of the National Institute of Public Health, also serve on the Council.

**Contact:** Secretariat of SRA-Japan Section, c/o Saburo Ikeda, Institute of Socio-Economic Planning, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305 Japan, telephone (81) 298-53-5380, fax (81) 298-55-3849, e-mail ikeda@shako.sk.tsukuba.ac.jp.



Sasaki Arioka of Kumagai Construction Company presented the keynote speech at SRA-Japan's spring symposium held June 28 on the campus of the University of Tokyo. The signs behind the podium translate, as follows: SRA Japan Section (*top*), Annual Spring Symposium (*middle*), and Risk Management Problems for Consolidating Social Infrastructure Systems (*bottom*), which was the symposium's theme.

## Member News

**Michael L. Dourson** of Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment announces the company's first independent peer review meeting for the International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (ITER) data base, to be held September 19-20 at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. The chemicals acrylonitrile and hexachlorobutadiene will be reviewed. More information is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.tera.org> or by contacting **Jacqueline Patterson**, ITER Leader, telephone (513) 521-7426, fax (513) 542-7487, email [jptera@aol.com](mailto:jptera@aol.com).

**Gay Goodman**, formerly of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, is now the principal at the new Seattle-area consulting company Human Health Risk Resources, P.O. Box 1645, Edmonds, WA 98020, telephone (206) 546-1577, fax (206) 542-1094, e-mail [ggdabt@aol.com](mailto:ggdabt@aol.com). She is organiz-

ing a symposium on the epidemiology of low-level environmental exposures for the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in Seattle in February 1997.

**Ray Kemp**, president of SRA-Europe, is now manager of risk services in northwest Europe for Dames and Moore, c/o O'Brien-Kreitzburg, 7th Floor, Artillery House, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RT, United Kingdom, telephone (44) 171 331 8900, fax (44) 171 331 8919.

**Eugene A. Rosa**, professor and recently named chair of sociology at Washington State University, has been named the first Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of Natural Resource and Environmental Policy in the university's recently dedicated Thomas F. Foley Institute of Public Policy and Public Service.

(Continued on page 12.)

## SRA Specialty Groups

The SRA specialty groups will participate in numerous sessions and activities at the joint 1996 SRA and ISEA Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

**Dose Response Specialty Group** will hold a mixer-seminar with the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group that will feature two informal presentations on human health and ecological dose response at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 8. The group will hold its business meeting at 7:30 a.m. Monday. During the Annual Meeting, two sessions on biologically based dose-response modeling and dose-response assessment for mixtures will involve posters displayed in a session room with brief platform presentations by the authors and questions and discussion on the posters, a format new to SRA. In addition, 12 symposia and three panel sessions will focus on dose-response topics. For more information, contact the group's president, Scott R. Baker, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology Inc., Silver Spring, Maryland, e-mail sb@eaeng.mhs.compuserve.com, telephone (301) 565-4216, fax (301) 587-4752.

**Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group** will join the Dose Response Specialty Group for the mixer-seminar on Sunday evening (see above) and will hold its business meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 9. For more information, contact the group's chair, William (Bill) Alsop, ChemRisk, Alameda, California, telephone (510) 748-5657, fax (510) 521-1547, e-mail bill\_alsop@mclaren-hart.com.

**Food Safety Risk Assessment Specialty Group**, one of two new specialty groups which the SRA Council approved last April, will hold an organizational meeting at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 11. Michael D. McElvaine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis, Washington, D.C., represented the specialty group at the Annual Meeting Program Committee meeting in June and helped to organize three sessions on food safety risk assessment and microbial modeling that will also be held on Wednesday and will include presentations by several of the specialty group members. Everyone with an

interest in food safety risk assessment is urged to attend the group's meeting and the annual meeting sessions. For more information, contact McElvaine, telephone (202) 720-8022, e-mail mmcelvaine@sies.wsc.ag.gov.

**Risk Communication Specialty Group** will hold its business meeting at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 8. During the Annual Meeting, the group will present two symposia and 13 sessions on topics relating to risk communication and risk perception. Richard C. Rich of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg helped organize the group's program at the Annual Meeting Program Committee meeting. For more information, contact the group's chair, Branden B. Johnson, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, telephone (609) 633-2324, fax (609) 292-7340, e-mail brandenj@eohsi.rutgers.edu.

**Risk Science and Law Specialty Group**, one of two new specialty groups that the SRA Council approved last April, will conduct its first business meeting at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 8. Charter members of the group will chair four Annual Meeting sessions on topics relating risk assessment with legislation, regulation, litigation, and law and policy. Paul Locke of the Environmental Law Institute represented the group at the Annual Meeting Program Committee meeting. To register as a charter member of the specialty group, contact its founder, Wayne Roth-Nelson of Roth-Nelson Risk Science in Lafayette, Colorado, telephone (303) 494-9694, fax (303) 494-3785, or Locke in Washington, D.C., telephone (202) 939-3842, fax (202) 939-3868.

For information on the following groups, contact:

**Engineering Specialty Group**, Ali Mosleh, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, telephone (301) 405-5215, fax (301) 314-9601, e-mail mosleh@eng.umd.edu.

**Exposure Assessment Specialty Group**, Alison C. Cullen, University of Washington, telephone (206) 543-4900, fax (206) 543-1096, e-mail alison@u.washington.edu.

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**Member News** (Continued from page 10.)

**Paul Slovic** of Decision Research in Eugene, Oregon, has a new telephone area code: telephone (541) 485-2400, fax (541) 485-2403.

**SOCIETY FOR RISK ANALYSIS**  
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McLean, VA 22101

**Michaela Zint** has a new teaching and research position in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, Dana Building, 430 E. University, Ann Arbor MI 48109-115, telephone (313) 763-6961, e-mail zintmich@umich.edu.

## Postdoctoral Fellowship Available

The Center for Indoor Air Research (CIAR) is accepting applications for the CIAR Postdoctoral Fellowship Program through October 31, 1996. The purpose of this program is to further develop the scientific productivity of outstanding young men and women pursuing careers in indoor air research and to stimulate interest in entering the field of indoor air research among individuals with strong backgrounds in related or allied sciences. For details and application brochure, write or call: Center for Indoor Air Research, Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, 1099 Winterson Road, Suite 280, Linthicum, Maryland 21090, telephone (410) 684-3777, fax (410) 684-3729, e-mail ciarinc@aol.com.

## SETAC Invites SRA Participation At Its Annual Meeting

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) has invited Society for Risk Analysis members to participate in SETAC's 17th Annual Meeting, to be held November 17-21, 1996, in Washington D.C.

The meeting theme, "Partnerships for the Environment: Science, Education, and Policy," reflects the increasing need for partnerships among scientists, educators, and policy makers. Over 1,600 papers will be given in such areas as environmental chemistry, environmental fate and transport, environmental toxicology, ecological risk assessment, environmental policy, and education in the environmental sciences. Key areas in which SRA can contribute include cost-benefit analysis and comparative risk assessment.

More information about the meeting is available on the Internet at <http://www.setac.org> or by contacting the SETAC offices, telephone (904) 469-1500.

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