



# RISK newsletter

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**Rick Reiss**  
President



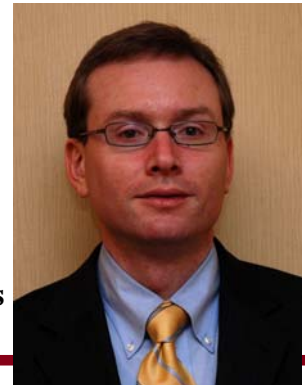
**Rachel Davidson**  
President-elect



**Jeff Lewis**  
Treasurer-elect

## SRA Welcomes New Council Members for 2009-2010

**Henry Willis**  
Secretary



**Igor Linkov**  
Councilor



**Michael Siegrist**  
Councilor



**Felicia Wu**  
Councilor

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

## President's Message

*Rick Reiss*

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed our annual meeting in December as much as I did. The meeting set a new attendance record with more than 830 attendees. Particularly given the weak economy, this was an impressive turnout. Planning the meeting, while a lot of work, was a true pleasure. I want to thank everyone at Burk & Associates for their excellent event coordination. I also want to thank outgoing President Alison Cullen for her excellent service over the last year.



One idea is to sponsor an overhaul of the Web site to provide more content for members, possibly including a news section that is regularly updated with risk-related Web items. An upgraded Web site might also include sections of interest to journalists (e.g., an expert database) and the lay public (e.g., simple examples of risk analysis, quizzes to compare their risk ranking with experts). The goal would be to get members and nonmembers to visit the site more regularly.

In case you missed all or part of the meeting, some of the highlights included plenary lectures by Major General Bo Temple of the Army Corp of Engineers, Dr. Yacov Haimes of the University of Virginia, Philip Howard of the Common Good Foundation, Allan Kanner of Kanner & Whiteley, and Dr. Kenneth Arrow of Stanford University. Dr. Arrow, a 1972 Nobel Laureate in economics, received SRA's Distinguished Achievement Award at the Wednesday luncheon. I thank all of the speakers for coming to the SRA meeting. Of course, I welcome any feedback on things we could have done better.

As I discussed at the Tuesday business meeting, the Society's finances are in excellent shape. The Journal continues to generate significant revenues for the Society and we recently renegotiated the contract with Wiley, which will likely lead to ever-greater revenues. The Society has also met its goal of having at least one year of operating expenses in reserve.

To that end, the Council will be considering new ways to use our growing resources. We have put in place a six-month process to consider significant new projects to grow the Society and serve its mission. We welcome suggestions from members. Here are some of the areas of focus:

**Enhanced visibility for the Society** – Society members produce research that is useful across many disciplines and of interest to the lay public. However, in my opinion, we have scratched the surface on our outreach.

**Increased internationalization** – This has been a focus of the Society for a number of years and more opportunities have recently presented themselves. We'll look for ways to use our resources to enhance risk analysis globally.

**Increased member benefits** – While we have a healthy number of members (nearly 2,000), our membership growth has been flat for a number of years. We need to look for ways to make the Society more useful to its members. One idea is to look for more ways to help students, such as enhancing our career services programs.

If anyone has ideas related to these topics or others, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have a few other news items to share. Many of you know that the 2010 meeting will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the 2011 meeting will be in Charleston, South Carolina. The council also voted to take advantage of some relatively low hotel rates in this weak market and have the 2012 meeting in San Francisco, California. We normally have the meeting near the Washington, DC, area every three years, but we decided to make an exception. For the 2013 meeting, we'll go back to Baltimore, Maryland.

Also, we will be holding another World Congress (our third). It will be in Sydney, Australia, in the summer of 2012 (exact date to be determined). Jonathan Weiner, Alison Cullen, and Daniela Leonte will serve as co-chairs.



Image courtesy of Tourism New South Wales

## Announcing the World Congress on Risk III

Sydney, Australia  
Summer 2012  
(exact dates TBA)

**Co-chairs: Alison Cullen, Jonathan Wiener, Daniela Leonte**

**To join the organizing effort,  
please contact the SRA Secretariat: David Drupa  
([ddrupa@burkinc.com](mailto:ddrupa@burkinc.com))**

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***Risk Analysis: The Evolution of a Science***  
**2009 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting**  
**6-9 December 2009, Baltimore, Maryland**

**Sunday, 6 December**

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**Registration**



**Welcome Reception**

**Monday, 7 December**

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**New Member and Fellows Breakfast**

Meeting photos taken by Genevieve Roessler and Mary Walchuk

Monday, 7 December

**Plenary Session**

**“Challenges of Applying Risk Analysis to Decision Making in a Public Organization”**

— Major General Bo Temple, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers —

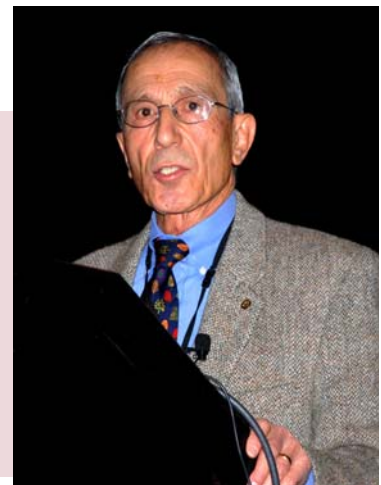


“George Washington set a high standard for our government even in its earliest days, so our goal is to deliver superior performance in all of our missions, to set the standard for our profession, to have a unique positive impact on our nation and other nations, and to be built to last by remaining the learning organization and working with other organizations like yours and by building our human capital in technical competencies so that we can continue to be a positive contributor to our nation and the American people.”

**“A Holistic, Adaptive, Incremental, and Sustainable Systems-Based and Risk-Informed Decision-Making Process”**

— Yacov Haimes, University of Virginia —

“The challenge is that for many of the public, risk engulfs lots of mystery and misunderstanding and misperception. In particular we need to address the element of modeling; we have to see how to model the system, how to understand it better. Only then can we really do proper risk assessment, management, and communication. So the question is, How do we answer the question what are the impacts of current decisions on the jobs given that life is dynamic, all systems are changing, they are all under risk and uncertainty, and our decision must be adaptive and must be incremental at the time?”



**Morning Coffee Break**

**2009 SRA Annual Meeting  
Meeting  
Program Committee**

President-elect and Chair Richard Reiss, Steven Anderson, Rick Belzer, Gail Charnley, Julie Fitzpatrick, David Hassenzahl, Sara Henry, Cindy Jardine, Stanley Levinson, Steve Lewis, Dominic Mancini, Margaret McDonell, Jo Ann Shatkin, Bob Tardiff, and Jonathan Wiener

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## Monday, 7 December

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**Box Lunch and Specialty Group Meetings**



**Exhibitors**



**Poster Reception**



**Soapbox**

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## Tuesday, 8 December

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**Open Meeting on Future SRA Public Information Activities**

The Communications Committee has been charged by the SRA Council to assess current public information activities and to investigate possible new ones to bring SRA more national recognition. The committee sponsored an open meeting at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting to get feedback from members on what SRA should be doing about future public information activities in the *RISK newsletter* and on the Web site and with news releases that are currently being issued monthly to the media on selected articles from *Risk Analysis*. Should SRA follow many other societies and have a presence in the social media on Facebook and Twitter? This would offer SRA news and basic information to a different audience. Should SRA have more media coverage for its annual meetings? These are just a few of the questions that were discussed at the open meeting. Additional comments from SRA members are still welcome. Send them to Communications Committee Chair Sharon Friedman (smf6@lehigh.edu).

Tuesday, 8 December

**Plenary Session: “Life Without Lawyers”**



— Philip Howard, speaker, Covington & Burling, Common Good —

“What we’ve forgotten is that freedom actually has a formal structure. The law sets boundaries and the boundaries define what you must do ... but those same boundaries are supposed to define and affirmatively defend the dry ground of freedom where people can go forward focusing on their goals, including taking reasonable risks all day long, and be accountable not by law but by those who deal with them about whether they’re good at their jobs and whether they want to deal with them. That idea has been lost. The ground of freedom is covered in law. People wade through law all day long.”

— Allan Kanner, respondent, Kanner & Whiteley —

“There are a lot of crazy, frivolous lawsuits out there. I’m not sure that we need to rethink our entire system of justice based on the extreme. Law is messy. ... I think we need more law, not less law. I think we have a great deal of freedom, and we should cherish our freedoms, but I think we should also realize that with freedom, our freedom means the next guy’s got freedom and if they do something stupid, greedy, or fraudulent, you should be able to haul them into court and deal with it. ... Can it possibly swing too far? Yes, so we use our collective wisdom to maybe come up with other laws to deal with it.”



Left to right, Allan Kanner, Philip Howard, and E. Donald Elliott are welcomed to the “Life Without Lawyers” session by Rick Reiss.



E. Donald Elliott, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, Yale Law School, moderates the “Life Without Lawyers” session and the following question-and-answer period.

Tuesday, 8 December

**Roundtable 1**  
**“EPA’s Endangerment**  
**Finding on Climate Change”**  
 organized by Sally Kane



**2009 SRA Awards**



**Kenneth Arrow**  
 Distinguished  
 Achievement Award



**Greg Paoli**  
 Society for Risk  
 Analysis/Sigma Xi  
 Distinguished  
 Lecturer



**Lorenz Rhomberg**  
 Outstanding  
 Practitioner Award



**M. Granger Morgan**  
 Distinguished  
 Educator Award



**Pamela Williams**  
 Chauncey Starr  
 Distinguished Young  
 Risk Analyst Award



**Alison Cullen**  
 Fellow



**Michael Dourson**  
 Fellow



**Genevieve Roessler, Mary Walchuk,  
 and Sharon Hebl**  
 Outstanding Service Award



**Paul Fischbeck**  
 Fellow



**Michael Greenberg**  
 Fellow

**Call for Nominations**  
**Society for Risk Analysis**  
**2010 Awards**

**Deadline 2 April 2010**  
**See page 14 for details.**

Tuesday, 8 December

Specialty Group Student Merit Awards



**Yin Huang**  
Biological Stressors  
and Dose Response



**Ana Carolina  
Cassiano**  
Risk Policy & Law



**Jade Mitchell-  
Blackwood**  
Biological Stressors



**Mark Weir**  
Biological Stressors



**Rapik Saat**  
Engineering and  
Infrastructure



**Ye Cao**  
Exposure Assessment



**Elliott Hillback**  
Emerging Nanoscale  
Materials



**Niam Yaraghi**  
Economics and  
Benefits Analysis



**Thomas Peyret**  
Dose Response



**Reza Kazemi**  
Decision Analysis  
and Risk

Best Poster Awards



**Susan Cormier**  
“Concepts and  
Characteristics of  
Causation:  
A Clarification  
of Hill’s  
Considerations”  
with G.W. Suter II



**Yin Huang**  
“Time-Dose-  
Response Model”  
with C.N. Haas



**William McGill**  
“Helping Experts  
Help Themselves:  
RiskWiki—The Full-  
Spectrum Risk  
Knowledgebase”  
with L. Jackson and  
D. Neale



**Judy LaKind**  
“PCB Risks to  
Northeastern  
Manitoba Residents  
from Consumption of  
Caribou and Fish”  
with J. Naiman, M.  
Zeimer, J. Rogers, P.  
Paul, and U. Ghosh



**Abani Pradhan**  
“Quantitative Risk  
Assessment on the  
Effect of Listeria  
Monocytogenes  
Contamination in Deli  
Meats Originating  
from Manufacture  
and Retail, on  
Listeriosis Cases”  
with R. Ivanek, Y.T.  
Gröhn, R. Bukowski,  
I. Geornaras, J. Sofos,  
and M. Wiedmann

Call for Nominations for 2010-2011 SRA Officers  
See page 23.



**Tuesday, 8 December**

**2009 SRA Travel Award Winners**



Front, left to right: Jeesang Jung, Yin Huang, Irina Zarayskaya, Alessandra Arcuri, Natarajan Krishnamurthy, Darlene Alexander-Houle, and Reza Kazemi

Middle, left to right: Laure Canis, Tracey Epps, Dorian Watts, Katrina Groth, Mohd Rapik Saat, Xiaozhen Liu, Wen Chao Ho, Tade-Ane de Amorim, Delfina Mercedes Romero, FlorAngela Quintero C., and Jade Mitchell-Blackwood

Back: Mansour Hajbagheri, Elliott Hillback, Arseni Timofeev, Thomas Peyret, Ye Cao, Toru Watanabe, Christopher L. Cummings, Meng-Hung Lin, Ana Carolina Cassiano, Johnathan Batista, Sandra Demichelis, Anton Travlev, and Niam Yaraghi

Inset photo: Ross Collins

Not pictured: Sarah Evans, Timothy Fung, Timothy James, Christopher Karvetzki, Yan Liu, Cameron MacKenzie, Joost Santos, Mark Wier, Sunday Adedayo Adesina, Svetlana Bayda, Christobal De La Maza, Jorge Gomez, Dario Gomez Cabrera, Monica Jara-Gonzalez, Marjorie Rodriguez-Baeza, Alexa Spence, Marcelo Wolansky, Parnali Dhar Chowdury, Jingjie Teng, Laura Rickard, Camilo Rosas, Tao Hong, Azod Bayramov, Dennis Hsieh, Esperanza Lopez Vazquez, and Sweta Chakraborty



**Roundtable 2**  
**“New Ideas for Risk Regulation”**  
 organized by Lisa Robinson

**Roundtable 3**  
**“An Integrated Risk Framework for Gigawatt-Scale Deployments of Renewable Energy: The Wind Energy Case Study”**  
 organized by Bonnie Ramm



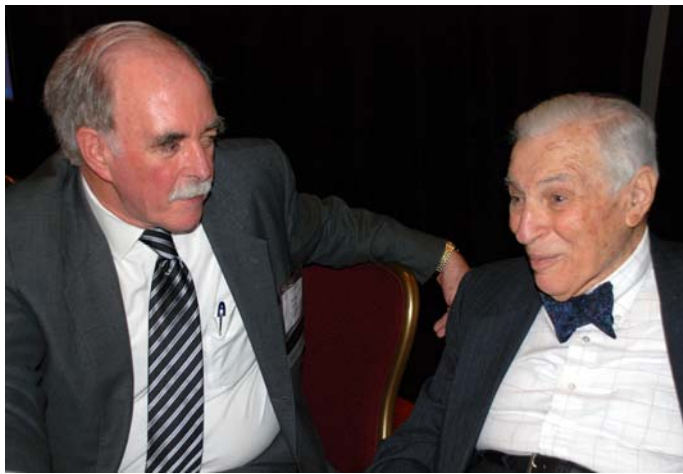
Wednesday, 9 December

**Plenary Session: “Uncertainty and Public Action”**



— **Kenneth Arrow, Stanford University, Nobel Laureate** —

“Anything that starts here affects things everywhere even though to connect you have to go through a very circuitous route. There is a network where a single member of the network is connected only perhaps with a few neighbors but eventually you’re connected with everybody, and the events of the last couple of years illustrate that strongly and painfully. This group does not need to be reminded that uncertainty is a basic characteristic of the world. . . . When you have an adaptive system . . . one of the consequences is that the outcome of any uncertainty has repercussions throughout the system.”



Warner North (left) speaks with Kenneth Arrow before introducing him as the speaker for the Wednesday Plenary Session.



Kenneth Arrow (left) receives the Society for Risk Analysis Distinguished Achievement Award from Alison Cullen.



**Wine and Cheese Reception/T-Shirt Giveaway**



Photo by Steve Greenwood, Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau



**Best Paper Award 2009**  
**Sebastiaan Jonkman**

“Loss of Life Caused by the Flooding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina: A Preliminary Analysis of the Relationship between Flood Characteristics and Mortality” (29:5); with Bob Maaskant, Ezra Boyd, and Marc Lloyd Levitan



**Best Paper Award 2009**  
**Timothy Julian**

“A Model of Exposure to Rotavirus from Non-Dietary Ingestion Iterated by Simulated Intermittent Contacts” (29:5); with Robert Canales, James Leckie, and Alexandria Boehm



**Best Paper Award 2009**  
**Frank Koch**

“Evaluating Critical Uncertainty Thresholds in a Spatial Model of Forest Pest Invasion Risk” (29:9); with Denys Yemshanov, Daniel McKenney, and William Smith



**Best Paper Award 2009**  
**Eileen Munro**

“Managing Societal and Institutional Risks in Child Protection” (29:7)



**Best Paper Award 2009**  
**Christoph Rheinberger**

“Dealing with the White Death: Avalanche Risk Management for Traffic Routes” (29:1); with Michael Brundl and Jakob Rhyner



**Best Reviewer Award 2009**  
**Bill Huber**  
Principal  
Quantitative Decisions

Michael Greenberg, EIC, and Karen Lowrie, Managing Editor

The editorial staff and editorial board of *Risk Analysis* held successful meetings at the 2009 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting. We discussed journal priorities for the coming year and generated many ideas for continued improvement of the journal. In the next issue of the SRA RISK newsletter, we will share the results from the SRA membership survey regarding *Risk Analysis*.

Coming up in 2010, we will have theme issues devoted to ecological risks and to foodborne illnesses. Several other theme issues are in development. We will also continue publishing perspective articles that are accompanied by several commentaries by experts in the field. These perspectives with commentary provide an opportunity for readers to see important risk issues from various viewpoints, and we hope they will foster productive debates.

We are pleased to announce that in 2009, we added new Area Editor for Policy Alberto Alemanno and new Associate Area Editor for Risk Perception and Communication Michael Siegrist. We take this opportunity to introduce them.

Alberto Alemanno is an associate professor of law at HEC Paris. He specializes in European and international economic law, risk regulation, and food safety law and policy. He is the founder and scientific director of the EFFL Summer Academy on Global Food Law & Policy and the editor-in-chief of the *European Journal of Risk Regulation*. Besides serving as the first area editor in public policy for *Risk Analysis*, Alemanno serves on the editorial boards of *Revue du Droit de l'Union Européenne* and *European Food and Feed Law Review*. Professor Alemanno received a law degree cum laude from Torino Law School and LLM degrees from Harvard Law School and the College of Europe, Bruges, and was awarded a PhD in international law and economics from Bocconi University. Before entering academia full time, Alemanno worked as a teaching assistant at the College of Europe in Bruges and clerked for more than four years at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. He is an attorney at law (New York State) since 2004. Among Alemanno's recent publications is the book *Trade in Food: Regulatory and Judicial Approaches in the EC and the WTO* (London: Cameron, May 2007). He was a nominee for the L'Oréal Prize in Innovation in Teaching in 2009.

Michael Siegrist studied psychology, economics, and mass communication at the University of Zurich, where he also worked as a research assistant in the Psychology Department. In 1994, he received his PhD from the University of Zurich. During 1997-1998, Siegrist worked as a project manager at the Swiss Dairy Producers Association, Department of Marketing Research. During 1998-2000, he was a visiting researcher at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, USA (funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation). He returned to the University of Zurich, working as a senior researcher. Since April 2007, he has been an associate professor of consumer behavior at ETH Zurich. Professor Siegrist has published numerous articles about risk perception, trust, risk communication, and risk management in *Risk Analysis*, *Journal of Risk Research*, *Human and Environmental Risk Assessment*, and other peer-reviewed journals. His current research focuses on public perception of gene technology, nuclear power, mobile communication, climate change issues, invasive species, and food hazards.





## Committees

### Conferences and Workshops Committee

*James Lambert, Chair*

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Conferences and Workshops Committee (C&W) coordinated 11 Sunday workshops at the December 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore. We are grateful to over 100 workshop participants, the organizers and speakers, the members of the C&W annual meeting events subcommittee, subcommittee co-chairs Jacqueline Patterson and Margaret MacDonell, and David Drupa of the Secretariat.

New for 2009, we held a post-meeting Thursday/Friday continuing education event: the IRAC-SRA-CBER-JIFSAN Symposium on New Tools, Methods, and Approaches for Risk Assessment.

C&W is eager to approve SRA sponsorship of events of interest to SRA members. Sponsorship conveys advertisement in the newsletter and use of the SRA logo. See our C&W Web page from the "Events" link at sra.org for how to propose SRA event sponsorship. Our nonannual-meeting event subcommittee co-chairs, Amber Jessup (Welcome as the subcommittee co-chair, Amber!) or Jim Wilson, can assist with these proposals. We are grateful to Katy Walker for several years of service through December 2009 as a co-chair of the nonannual-meeting events subcommittee.

C&W's SRA new initiative distributed 50 video DVDs of the workshop "Introduction to SRA Specialty Groups" at the 2009 New Member Breakfast. Contact the lead of our video task force, Rick Belzer, to find the evolving plans for distributing video of several annual meeting workshops.

We welcome the following new members of the C&W: Laure Canis, Ian McCammon, Don Schaffner, Tyra Walsh, and Jay Zhao. Others are invited. We meet monthly or more often by teleconference and once in person at the annual meeting. We want your ideas for events of all types both on and off the annual meeting.

Upcoming SRA-sponsored events:

- Air Pollution and Health: Bridging the Gap from Sources to Health Outcomes; San Diego, California; 22-26 March 2010.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> iNTeg-Risk Conference 2010: New Technologies & Emerging Risk; Stuttgart, Germany; 14-18 June 2010.
- Dose-Response Assessment Boot Camp; Washington, DC; 18-22 October 2010.

Upcoming events pending approval for sponsorship:

- Beyond Science and Decisions: From Issue Identification to Dose-Response Assessment; 16-18 March 2010 at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Austin, Texas; Contact Lynne Haber for additional information (haber@tera.org).

- Research Institute on Federal Water Planning Guidelines; date and location to be determined; contact Tom Seager of the Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group for more information (thomas.seager@rit.edu).

- Climate Change: Global Change and Local Adaptation, NATO Advanced Research Workshop; 6-10 June 2010; Iceland; Contact Igor Linkov for more information (igor.linkov@usace.army.mil).

Check at [www.sra.org/events](http://www.sra.org/events) for the latest notices of SRA sponsorship of upcoming events. For more information about any of the above items, contact C&W Chair Jim Lambert (lambert@virginia.edu).

### Specialty Groups Committee

*Igor Linkov, Chair*

As the new chair of the Specialty Groups Committee, I would first like to thank Kara Morgan for all her work strengthening the SRA specialty groups over the last two years. Kara was instrumental in many initiatives, including developing guidance for new specialty group chairs, explaining their role, and initiating the new initiative study of the specialty groups.

This new initiative included a survey of the membership and a review of the risk assessment literature to determine the comprehensiveness of current specialty groups and to determine if additional groups might be added to meet expanding member interests. The survey is being performed by Seth Guikema, former chair of the Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group. Based on preliminary results of this survey, the Council approved a petition by Drs. Igor Linkov, Steven Bennett, Robert Ross, Gregory Parnell, and Henry Willis for formation of the Security and Defense Specialty Group (see article by Bennett and Linkov on page 15 of this newsletter). The final recommendation of the survey will be available in spring 2010. Once those results are shared with members, I would like to initiate several symposia at the next SRA annual meeting in the high-priority areas identified in this

effort. These symposia can be a good starting point for discussing new specialty groups as well as collaboration across existing specialty groups.

The Specialty Groups Committee met at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Specialty groups are crucial in developing programs for annual meetings as well as in organizing SRA workshops and other events. The committee is open to new ideas and recommendations. SRA has many formal and informal ways to encourage creative ideas, including a new initiative funding mechanism. Please contact me (igor.linkov@usace.army.mil) if you would like to discuss your ideas or if you would like to recommend a way to improve our current procedures.

**Specialty groups are crucial in developing programs for annual meetings as well as in organizing SRA workshops and other events.**

**C&W is eager to approve SRA sponsorship of events of interest to SRA members.**





## Regional Organizations

### SRA-China www.srachina.cn

Guofang Zhai, Secretary

SRA-China succeeded in holding the 2<sup>nd</sup> international conference on Risk Analysis & Crisis Response (RACR-2009) 19-21 October 2009 and the 1<sup>st</sup> China-Europe Risk Forum 21-23 October 2009. RACR-2009, supported by SRA, SRA-Europe, SRA-Japan, and the Korean Society of Environmental Toxicology, attracted nearly 140 participants from China and abroad. During the conference, the Risk Leader Summit was held and the Beijing Declaration was issued by SRA representatives and the leaders of regional organization to promote international cooperation in risk analysis.



**Gathering of Risk Leaders, front (left to right): Debra Riddell, Chongfu Huang, Jonathan Wiener, and Olivier Salvi; back (left to right): Guofang Zhai, Dong Chun Shin, Roberto Bubbico, Jinren Ni, and Akihiro Tokai**

The 1<sup>st</sup> China-Europe Risk Forum was jointly held by SRA-China, SRA-Europe, the European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management (INERIS), and the Beijing Municipal Institute for Labor Protection. Eleven keynote speakers were invited to talk about the risk management of natural hazard disasters, hazardous substances, and lifeline systems.

Northeast Normal University in Changchun, Jilin Province, will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention (RAC-2010), which will take place 16-17 August 2010. Presentations are welcomed on topics that span across the range of SRA themes and new fields of risk-related research. Details of abstract submission will be available on the SRA-China Web site ([www.risk-china.cn](http://www.risk-china.cn)) in due course.



**Changchun City, China,  
location of the August 2010 Congress  
of the Society for Risk Analysis-China**

### SRA-Europe www.sraeurope.org

Julie Barnett, SRA-E Communication Officer

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Society for Risk Analysis-Europe Conference Risk, Governance & Accountability 21-23 June 2010 King's College London, UK

We are delighted that the 2010 SRA-Europe (SRA-E) conference will be hosted by King's College London next June. The special theme of the conference will be



“Risk, Governance & Accountability.” This theme reflects the increasing centrality of risk analysis to decision making in a wide range of policy and organisational contexts, such as climate change, the financial crisis, environmental pollution, terrorism, and health and social policy. The 2010 conference will also provide a forum for traditional SRA themes across a broad range of disciplines, perspectives, and issues.

Confirmed keynote speakers so far include:

- Baruch Fischhoff, Carnegie Mellon University
- Ethel Forsberg, Director General, Swedish Chemicals Agency
- Alan Irwin, Copenhagen Business School
- Nick Pidgeon, Cardiff University
- Geoffrey Podger, Director General, Health and Safety Executive
- Michael Power, London School of Economics
- Tim Smith, Chief Executive, Food Standards Agency
- Kip Viscusi, Vanderbilt University

King's is one of England's oldest and most prestigious university institutions. Its location in the heart of central London on the banks of the Thames will give delegates an exciting opportunity to enjoy the cultural life that London has to offer. For example, King's is within easy walking distance of many of London's iconic and world-famous attractions, such as Tate Modern, the British Museum, the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral, and the Theatreland of Covent Garden.

The provisional programme will be available on 1 April 2010, and the registration deadline for the “early bird” discount is 19 April 2010. Once again SRA-Europe is sponsoring two student scholarships and the recipients of these will be announced in due course.

For more information, please see the Web site: [www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/srae2010](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/srae2010).

Finally, we are pleased to announce the new incumbents of some of the key roles in the SRA Europe Executive Commit-

tee. Dr. Margôt Kuttschreuter (University of Twente) is now president-elect of SRA-Europe and will take over from Dr. Ann Enander at the 2011 SRA-E annual conference. Dr. Lars Bodsberg (SINTEF, Norway) is the new treasurer of SRA-E, and Professor Michael Siegrist (ETH Zurich) has been elected as the SRA-E representative on the SRA Council.

Details of the conference and all the latest SRA-E news can be found on the SRA-E Web site: [www.sraeurope.org](http://www.sraeurope.org).

### **New England** **[www.sra-ne.org](http://www.sra-ne.org)**

*Amy B. Rosenstein, President*

At the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, a group of New England Regional Organization (SRA-NE) members met for happy hour in a lovely room with a view of the harbor. Meetings with the SRA Regions Committee and the SRA Education Committee focused on coordination of the national and regional SRA Web sites, New Initiatives funding, increasing communication among regions, and ways to increase the knowledge of risk assessment in primary, secondary, and university educational settings. These initiatives will move forward in the next six months to one year.

The most recent SRA-NE seminar took place on Thursday, 19 November 2009. We heard three interesting presentations on traffic-related air pollution and had a lively discussion following the presentations.

Our speakers were Dr. Maria Costantini of the Health Effects Institute (HEI), who presented an overview of the main conclusions of the HEI Special Report on Traffic-Related Air Pollution; Dr. Douglas Brugge, professor in the Department of Public Health and Family Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and the director of the

NIEHS-funded Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health being conducted in the Boston area; and Dr. John Godleski, who presented an overview and some results from studies currently being conducted at the Environmental Protection Agency Harvard Particle Center.

In the near future, the presentations will be available on the SRA-NE Web site, along with a videotape of the seminar.


A poster session will be held in March 2010 to highlight current research from around the region. The call for abstracts is available on the Web site ([www.sra-ne.org](http://www.sra-ne.org)) and invites students and post-doctoral researchers, as well as individuals from academia, government, and consulting, to submit abstracts. This event provides an opportunity to learn about multiple topics and to introduce students and post-doctoral researchers to each other, to SRA-NE, and to prospective employers.

### **Metro (NY/NJ/CT)**

*Rao Kolluru, President*

The Metro Region is planning two seminars in early 2010 at Columbia University in New York City:

- NYC-DEP Water Security Initiatives for Risk Management and how they may be applicable to other infrastructure programs, 11 February 2010, 5-7 p.m., and a reception; Columbia Alumni Center, 622 West 113 St., New York.
- Green Incentives for Innovative Approaches, The Tao of Dow, Orchestrating the 3E Triad: Environment/Energy/Economics; meeting details will be posted on the SRA Web site under Regional Organization Events ([www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org)).

Please renew your Metro Region membership, if you haven't already, by sending a \$15 check to SRA. We are also planning to post the seminar videos on the Internet. 

### **Call for Nominations for 2010 SRA Awards**

Kimberly Thompson, chair of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Awards Committee for 2010, invites nominations for the following awards:

The **Distinguished Achievement Award**, which honors any person for extraordinary achievement in science or public policy relating to risk analysis.

The **Distinguished Educator Award**, which is given to "that teacher, author, or mentor who has contributed substantially to the training of new experts in risk analysis."

The **Outstanding Service Award**, which honors SRA members for extraordinary service to the Society.

The **Outstanding Risk Practitioner Award**, which honors individuals who have made substantial contributions to the field of risk analysis through work in the public or private sectors. The 2010 award will be for the public sector.

The **Chauncey Starr Distinguished Young Risk Analyst Award**, which honors individuals age 40 years old and under who have made exceptional contributions to the field of risk analysis.

The **Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis Award**, which recognizes and honors up to one percent of the Society's membership whose professional records are marked by significant contributions to any disciplines served by the Society and may be evidenced by one or more of the following: (1) Recognized, original research, application, or invention, (2) Technical, scientific, or policy analysis leadership in an enterprise of significant scope that involves risk analysis in a substantial way, (3) Superior teaching or contributions to improve education and to promote the use of risk analysis that are widely recognized by peers and students, or (4) Service to or constructive activity within the Society of such a quality, nature, or duration as to be a visible contributor to the advancement of the Society. Nominees for Fellow must have been SRA members for at least five years and must now be members in good standing.

Please submit nominations by sending the nominee's name, contact information, AND a brief paragraph supporting the nomination by **2 April 2010** to SRA Past President Kimberly Thompson, Awards Chair, by email at [kimt@kidrisk.org](mailto:kimt@kidrisk.org) WITH a cc to David Drupa at [ddrupa@burkinc.com](mailto:ddrupa@burkinc.com).



## Specialty Groups

### Security and Defense Specialty Group

*Steve Bennett, President, and Igor Linkov, Founding President*

At the 2009 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the SRA Council approved the formation of a new Security and Defense Specialty Group (SDSG) in response to the petition filed by Drs. Igor Linkov, Steven Bennett, Robert Ross, Gregory Parnell, and Henry Willis. Similar to other SRA specialty groups, the SDSG will provide leadership and play an active role in advancing the use of risk and decision analysis in security and defense and will facilitate knowledge development and exchange of ideas. The interdisciplinary nature of this specialty group implies close ties and joint activities with other specialty groups, particularly Decision Analysis and Risk, Economics and Benefits Analysis, and Risk Communication. According to the bylaws, the SDSG leadership will be composed of a president and a secretary-treasurer, with support of a past president and president-elect. Bennett and Ross (both from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security) will serve as president and president-elect. Professor Barry Ezell (Old Dominion University/Virginia Modeling and Simulation Center) will serve as the secretary-treasurer. Linkov (United States Army) will serve as founding president (equivalent to past president). The first election will be held in the fall of 2010.

If you have attended the Society's annual meetings over the last several years, you can't help but notice the growing number of security- and defense-related risk and decision analysis presentations, posters, and papers—usually enough to fill multiple full-day tracks in the meeting schedule. The growing number of these submissions (most often clustered in the Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group), coupled with the specialized challenges in the application of risk and decision analysis in security and defense, was a large part of the motivation for a petition to create a new specialty group focused on risk analysis in security and defense.

As we all know, a chief end of risk analysis is to improve the quality of decision making in a particular problem space, and there are few problem spaces with decisions as difficult as those in security and defense. As practitioners of risk and decision analysis in these domains, we have observed that security and defense problems present unique and challenging opportunities for the risk analysis community. Whether it's exploring new ways to apply classic techniques to emerging security and defense problems or developing novel approaches to better characterize adversary behavior for counterterrorism applications, there are many aspects of the security and defense domains that are unique and require significant advancement. Having one foot in both the risk analysis and security communities, it is our belief that the security and defense community has a significant need for increased interaction and engagement with the academic and broader risk analysis communities to ensure that the best minds and approaches are brought to bear on some of our toughest problems.

As such, the vision for the SDSG is, first, to provide a forum for the sharing and exchange of ideas related to the

unique risk and decision analysis challenges in security and defense; second, to encourage the use of sound analytic practice in security and defense analyses; and third, to encourage and facilitate the advancement of the state-of-the-art with respect to security and defense risk analysis.

We are very excited about the SDSG, and we value any and all ideas for suggested SDSG activities and topics. While we work to develop our Web site, please contact Steve Bennett ([steve.bennett@dhs.gov](mailto:steve.bennett@dhs.gov)) or Barry Ezell ([bezell@odu.edu](mailto:bezell@odu.edu)) with any ideas or suggestions. We look forward to making the SDSG a meaningful contributor to the Society and to the wider risk community.

### Risk Communication Specialty Group

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



ExxonMobil's Jeff Lewis presents the ExxonMobil Prize for Excellent Achievement to Andrew Binder. The Risk Communication Specialty Group selected his paper "Interpersonal Amplification of Risk? The Influence of Discussion on Perceptions of Risks and Benefits of a Biological Research Facility" for the student award.

### Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

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

*Lisa A. Robinson, Chair*

It's been an enormously exciting year for the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group (EBASG), culminating in several wonderful events at the December SRA conference.

We built on our June "New Ideas for Risk Regulation" conference ([www.sra.org/events\\_2009\\_risk\\_regulation\\_conf.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2009_risk_regulation_conf.php)) by co-sponsoring a roundtable (with the Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group [RPLSG]) to reflect on key issues. Speakers included Alberto Alemanno (HEC Paris), John D. Graham (Indiana University), James K. Hammitt (Harvard University), Sandra Hoffmann (Resources for the Future), Dominic J. Mancini (U.S. Office of Management and Budget), Lisa A. Robinson (Independent Consultant), and Jonathan Wiener (Duke University).

EBASG members also participated in several conference panels and poster sessions on diverse topics, presenting,

for example, new research on valuing human health risks, applying benefit-cost analysis to environmental and food safety issues, managing imported food risks, and addressing uncertainty. We especially appreciate the work of EBASG members Cristina McLaughlin and Aylin Sertkaya, who sponsored a very successful workshop on using expert elicitation to inform decision making.

Our Student Merit Award winner was Niam Yaraghi (Swedish Royal Institute of Technology), who presented “A Model for Integrating Quantitative Risk Analysis of Vendor’s Environmental Performance into the Supplier Selection Process.”

In addition, we welcomed Nobel Prize-winning economist Kenneth Arrow as a conference plenary speaker and greatly enjoyed networking at our mixer, co-sponsored with the RPLSG.



**Plenary Speaker Kenneth Arrow (center) with SRA Past Presidents, left to right, Jonathan Wiener, Alison Cullen, and Warner North and SRA President Rick Reiss.**

At our Monday business meeting, we discussed a number of possible initiatives for the following year. These include expanding the use of our Web site and social networking tools, co-sponsoring seminars with SRA regional groups and the RPLSG, and developing workshops on topics such as behavioral economics or the expected new Executive Order on regulatory analysis and review. *Risk Analysis* Editor-in-Chief Michael Greenberg encouraged members to submit articles on economics research as well as reviews and commentary. We also welcomed our new officers. Our incoming vice-chair is Amber Jessup, a science policy analyst at the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Our incoming secretary/treasurer is Aylin Sertkaya, a vice president and senior analyst at Eastern Research Group. Dominic Mancini will remain on the Executive Committee as immediate past-chair and Lisa Robinson will move from vice-chair to chair. We especially thank Laina Bush for her many years of service as vice-chair, chair, and past-chair and Jun Zhuang for his support as secretary/treasurer.

Please contact me (Lisa.A.Robinson@comcast.net) or any of the other EBASG officers with your ideas and suggestions for activities to pursue in 2010. We look forward to another exciting year!

## Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group

*Stuart Shapiro, Chair*

The Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group (RPLSG) is proud to have concluded a successful year capped by a number of very successful sessions at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting. We sponsored six panels on subjects varying from an examination of analysis in the regulatory process to the role of the World Trade Organization. The panels were widely attended and a few of them were even standing room only!

We also co-sponsored a roundtable with the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group. The roundtable was a follow-up to our co-sponsored conference in June titled “New Ideas in Risk Regulation.”



**“New Ideas in Risk Regulation” Roundtable**

Finally, in our annual business meeting we elected new officers with Stuart Shapiro moving from chair-elect to chair; Tee Guidotti has become chair-elect and Jennifer Kuzma has assumed the responsibilities of secretary-treasurer.

RPLSG would also like to thank Alberto Allemano for his service to the specialty group this past year and his role in helping to organize a very successful 2009 conference.

## Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group

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

*Ron White, Chair*

The SRA Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group (ENMSG) met on Monday, 7 December 2009, in conjunction with the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Outgoing ENMSG Chair Jo Anne Shatkin provided a summary of ENMSG key activities over the past year. These included:

- A series of papers on nanomaterial risk science topics, including several papers originally prepared for the “2008 SRA Nano Risk Analysis Workshop,” are currently in preparation for a special collection of papers to be published in 2010 in *Risk Analysis*.
- As part of the ENMSG efforts to explore partnerships with other organizations through SRA’s New Initiatives Fund, SRA joined with the OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials as a co-host of a “Workshop on Risk Assessment in a Regulatory Context.” The workshop, held 16-18 September 2009 in Washington, DC, involved several members of the ENMSG and was also co-hosted by the Business and Industry Advisory Council to the OECD.
- The 2009 SRA Annual Meeting program included five symposia involving 34 papers on the topic of



nanomaterials risk sciences, as well as several posters. Dr. Shatkin also organized a premeeting workshop, "Introduction to Environmental and Health Aspects of Nanotechnology."

Incoming ENMSG Chair Ron White thanked Shatkin for her leadership and extensive work as ENMSG chair for the past three years. He particularly noted her role in the creation of the ENMSG, her extensive work organizing the "2008 SRA Nano Risk Analysis Workshop," and her ongoing efforts to expand SRA's outreach to other parties interested in nanotechnology risk analysis issues, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development.

White noted the need to begin organization of nanomaterials risk sciences symposia in early 2010 to meet the May 2010 submission deadline for the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting. In terms of coming-year activities, he noted that Shatkin would be representing the ENMSG at a meeting of the Institute for Food Technologists in July 2010 as part of the ENMSG's efforts to expand collaboration on nanomaterial risk sciences issues with other groups.

White called for suggestions for possible future ENMSG-sponsored meetings or briefings. It was suggested at the meeting that the ENMSG explore possible collaboration with the Society for Toxicology's Nanotoxicology Specialty Section. In terms of other future activities of the ENMSG, it was suggested that a strategic plan for the specialty group be developed.

White closed the meeting with a call for nominations for vice-chair and treasurer for the current year, as required by the ENMSG bylaws. Several members attending the meeting were either nominated by others or self-nominated for these positions. White will send an email to the ENMSG members in early 2010 requesting a vote to fill these positions.

### **Dose Response Specialty Group**

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

*Paul Feder, Past Chair*

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) Web site can be accessed at [sra.org/drsg](http://sra.org/drsg). The Web site includes executive committee and member contact information, bylaws, specialty group poster, meeting minutes, information about and abstracts from past teleseminars, and detailed information about the student research award program and past winners.

DRSG had a successful 2009. DRSG's principal activities included a teleseminar series, a student awards program, and participation at the annual meeting.

The outgoing officers are Vice-Chair Patty Toccalino, Past Chair Sara Henry, and Trustee Nagu Keshava. We thank them for their contributions to DRSG.

The 2010 Executive Committee is Chair Jeff Gift, Chair-elect Lynne Haber, Vice-Chair Paul Schlosser, Secretary/Treasurer Julie Fitzpatrick, Past Chair Paul Feder, Trustee Kenny Crump, and Trustee Allen Davis.

#### **Teleseminar Series**

Jeff Gift organized and led an intellectually rich and stimulating teleseminar series, with major contributions from Michael Dourson. The theme of the year's teleseminars centered around the recent National Academy of Sciences report (2008) on risk assessment methodology recommen-

dations titled "Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment." The four teleseminars, held in March, June, September, and October, were discussed in the two previous issues of the *RISK newsletter*. The teleseminars were all high quality, well presented, and well attended and fostered considerable discussion. We thank the presenters and discussants for their efforts and intellectual contributions to our teleseminar series.

#### **Student Awards**

Outgoing Vice-Chair Patty Toccalino provided excellent leadership for the student award program. Toccalino and her committee (Dale Hattis, Steve Lewis, and Paul Schlosser) reviewed a number of fine award applications among the abstract submissions and selected first-place winner Yin Huang from Drexel University and second-place winner Thomas Peyret from the University of Montreal. The award winners presented their research at the annual meeting and received honoraria and plaques to recognize their accomplishments.

#### **Annual Meeting**

DRSG was an active participant at the annual meeting with 11 oral and poster-platform sessions and 19 individual posters. DRSG thanks Julie Fitzpatrick, Sara Henry, and Steve Lewis for attending and participating in the program committee meeting this past spring and organizing the DRSG participation. One of the DRSG posters, by Yin Huang, one of DRSG's student award winners, won a best poster award.

DRSG and EASG held a joint mixer that was well attended, had good food, and fostered good interaction within and between specialty groups.

### **Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group**

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

*Thomas P. Seager, Chair*

The Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) appointed Laure Canis (U.S. Army Corp of Engineers) as chair-elect; she will take over the duties of chair at the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting. For 2010, the DARSG has set a goal of increasing the level of activity and interaction among group members in between the annual meetings. For example, DARSG is planning a one-day workshop in Washington, DC, slated for Wednesday, 10 February, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a location to be announced. At the workshop, DARSG members and other attendees will be tasked with commenting on the draft Proposed National Objectives, Principles and Standards for Water and Related Resources Implementation Studies released 3 December 2009 by the federal government. The comments generated at the workshop, which is open to any SRA member, invited guests, and the public, will be both written into the public record during the public comment period that expires 3 March and submitted for peer-reviewed publication. The goal is to elevate the status of structured decision-analytic processes in the principles document to speed implementation of decision analysis in problems of environmental policy, design, and decision making. The DARSG welcomes other ad-hoc or small-scale efforts to foster collaborative scholarship, outreach, or education. Initiatives can be led by any SRA member, and advice directed to me or new Chair-elect Canis.

## Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group <http://sites.google.com/site/sraeisg>

Cesar Pinto, Chair

The Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group (EISG) sponsored 10 sessions and five symposia at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

The specialty group received a large number of student merit award submissions and awarded Rapik Saat (University of Illinois) for his work titled “Environmental Risk Analysis of Railroad Transportation of Hazardous Materials.”

Our business meeting was well attended; we had new ideas to keep our members involved through a Web-based conference, working groups, and creation of a strategic plan for SRA EISG.

There were 79 engineering submissions to the journal *Risk Analysis* in 2009. The EISG Executive Committee will work to increase the number of 2010 submissions.

The EISG has a new Web site (<http://sites.google.com/site/sraeisg>).

The EISG-sponsored Risk Tweet initiative was successful. In fact, the pictures to the left are from Twitter and are tagged #sra2009—clockwise: <http://twitpic.com/skuy3> (William McGill presenting), <http://twitpic.com/sjhgt> (Mary Lou Scarbrough [left] and Lori Strong at the registration desk), and <http://twitpic.com/sk5zp> (Ross Collins with Michael Vedomske and Chris Karvetzki behind him presenting some of their work on disaster research).




Photos from the EISG-sponsored Risk Tweet initiative



## News and Announcements

### Proceedings of RACR-2009 Conference

The Conference on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response (RACR) is a biennial international conference launched by the Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention. Its purpose is to provide an international forum for specialists and stakeholders in risk analysis, crisis response, and disaster prevention. RACR-2009, held 19-21 October in Beijing, was the second conference in this series, following the highly successful first RACR-2007 in Shanghai.

RACR-2009 facilitated multidisciplinary collaboration among professionals to further contribute to risk analysis and crisis response, introduce advances in research and practice, and provide for the dissemination of this important knowledge.

All accepted papers were published as a proceedings book titled *New Perspectives on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response* (800 pages, \$250), published by Atlantis Press. The book can be ordered by sending a message to [contact@atlantis-press.com](mailto:contact@atlantis-press.com).

More information on RACR-2009 can be found at the conference Web site (<http://www.iee.pku.edu.cn/racr2009/about%20racr-2009.html>).

### 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on SAMO 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Papers

Modelling activities are steadily increasing in all scientific disciplines, ranging from financial to environmental assessments. Sensitivity analysis is crucial both in the modeling

phase and in the interpretation of model results. Sensitivity analysis contributes to model development, model calibration, model validation, reliability and robustness analysis, decision making under uncertainty, quality assurance, and model reduction.

The Sensitivity Analysis of Model Output (SAMO) conference, being held 19-22 July 2010 in Milano, Italy, is devoted to advances in research on sensitivity analysis methods and their interdisciplinary applications. The SAMO conferences are held every three years. The aim of the SAMO conferences is to bring together users of sensitivity analysis in all disciplines of science. Sensitivity analysis methods are powerful tools in physics, operations research, chemistry, biology, engineering, environmental science, nuclear and industrial safety, economics, and finance.

More information can be found at <http://samo2010.unibocconi.it>.

### Critical Perspectives on Security, Call for Papers DEADLINE: extended to 1 March 2010

The conference Critical Perspectives on Security, to be held 27-28 May 2010 at Maastricht University, The Netherlands, is sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and organised by Marjolein van Asselt and Valentina Mazzucato.

Since 9/11, national security has been high on political agendas. An increasing number of issues these days is framed in terms of national and international security. The aim of the conference Critical Perspectives on Security is

to bring together a range of insights on security, with the aim to offer intellectual checks and balances on the “securitization” of various domains of life. It is especially targeted to scholars from development and migration studies, science and technology studies, and risk research.

We invite papers that can address any of the issues and questions mentioned above. The conference will have 12 papers in total. Prospective contributors are invited to submit abstracts of 200 to 300 words in length. The abstract should accompany an application with a cover page specifying the name of the author(s), academic affiliation, and contact information.

Please submit proposals by 1 March 2010 electronically as an attachment in .doc or .rtf format to Lidwien Hollanders (l.hollanders@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

More information about the content of the conference can be found at <http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/show/id=107489/langid=42>.

### ***Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health Sciences***

#### **Call for Papers/Reviewers**

The *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health Sciences* (JTEHS) publishes high-quality articles in English, in all areas of the subject. All papers published by JTEHS are peer-reviewed. JTEHS is a very rapid-response journal with an issue published every month. The following types of papers are considered for publication:

- Original articles in basic and applied research.
- Critical reviews, surveys, opinions, commentaries, and essays.

Our objective is to inform authors of the decision on their manuscript(s) within four weeks of submission. Following

acceptance, a paper will normally be published in the next issue.

Instruction for authors and other details are available on our Web site ([www.academicjournals.org/JTEHS](http://www.academicjournals.org/JTEHS)).

Prospective authors should send their manuscript(s) to [JTEHS@acadjournal.org](mailto:JTEHS@acadjournal.org).

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JTEHS is seeking qualified reviewers as members of the review board team. JTEHS serves as a great resource for researchers and students across the globe. We ask you to support this initiative by joining our reviewers team. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, kindly send your résumé to [JTEHS@acadjournal.org](mailto:JTEHS@acadjournal.org).

### **New Economics and Risk Journal *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis***

Many Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) members may be familiar with researchers such as John Graham, Kip Viscusi, Lisa Robinson, and David Weimer, who are on the editorial board of the new *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis*.

The journal is encouraging manuscripts integrating risk, benefit-cost, cost-effectiveness, or related methods. All areas of application, at all levels of analysis whether international, national, state, or local, are encouraged, as are shorter pieces on “skills of the trade.” SRA member Scott Farrow is the editor.

Detailed information is available at [www.bepress.com/jbca](http://www.bepress.com/jbca).

## **SRA Adds Seven New Inductees to Pantheon of Risk Analysis**

The Pantheon of Risk Analysis, launched in 2008, honors deceased giants in the field on whose shoulders we now stand and showcases how high-quality risk analysis can advance knowledge and the public good.

Any Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) member may nominate a candidate to the past president; the SRA Council selects the inductees.

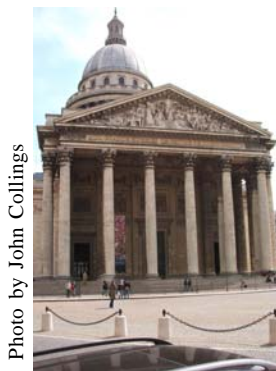


Photo by John Collings

In 2008, the SRA inducted 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis. In 2009, the SRA added seven new inductees nominated by SRA members:

- Peter Bernstein
- Nils Bohlin
- Ward Edwards
- Ronald A. Fisher
- William Sealy Gosset (Student)
- Gilbert F. White
- Aaron Wildavsky

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

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



## Member News

### Terje Aven



Professor Terje Aven has recently published his book *Misconceptions of Risk*. The book reviews common perspectives related to the risk concept, risk assessments, uncertainty analyses, risk perception, the precautionary principle, risk management, and decision making under uncertainty.

Aven discusses these perspectives and their strengths and weaknesses and concludes that they are often best judged as misconceptions of risk. The book is relevant for different types of applications, including engineering and business. It is available from Wiley. For further information see, <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470683880.html>.

### George Apostolakis

U.S. President Barack Obama nominated George Apostolakis as Commissioner for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in October 2009.

Dr. Apostolakis is the Korea Electric Power Company Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering and a professor of Engineering Systems at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He received his PhD in engineering science and applied mathematics from the California Institute of Technology in 1973. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society and of the Society for Risk Analysis.

He received the Tommy Thompson Award for his contributions to improvement of reactor safety in 1999 and the Arthur Holly Compton Award in Education in 2005 from the American Nuclear Society. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2007.

He is the editor-in-chief of the international journal *Reliability Engineering & System Safety* and the founder of the International Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Management Conference (PSAM).

Apostolakis is a member and former chairman of the statutory Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards of the NRC. His current research interests include methods for risk and reliability assessment of complex technological systems, nuclear reactor safety, uncertainty analysis, the use of probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) in design, infrastructure security, risk-informed and performance-based regulation, and risk management involving multiple stakeholders. He has published numerous papers and has participated in many PRA courses and PRA reviews.

### Dr. Rosalind Schoof



The Washington State Department of Ecology has appointed Rosalind Schoof, PhD, DABT, of Integral Consulting Inc., to the newly formed Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) science panel for a term extending to June 2012. MTCA governs the cleanup of contaminated sites in Washington State. The role of the MTCA science panel is to provide objective scientific advice to the director and other Department of Ecology officials with respect to management and cleanup of hazardous substances under MTCA.

Dr. Schoof is an expert in human health risk assessment. She received her PhD in toxicology from the University of Cincinnati, and her research interests include the bioavailability of arsenic and metals present in soils and dietary exposures to arsenic and metals. She has served on numerous peer-review panels for U.S. agencies and Canadian ministries and has been a member of several U.S. National Research Council committees.

For more information, contact Schoof at [rschoof@integral-corp.com](mailto:rschoof@integral-corp.com).

### Lisa M. Sweeney

Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) is pleased to welcome Lisa M. Sweeney, PhD, DABT, CHMM, to its growing organization.

Dr. Sweeney has a broad range of experience in the application of toxicology, chemistry, and engineering to problems in the health and environmental sciences. She has over 15 years of experience in risk assessment, pharmacokinetics, and biochemical engineering from a variety of private-sector and nonprofit backgrounds.

Her experience has focused on the development and refinement of physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) models and their application to risk assessment and experimental design.

She is an author of over 30 peer-reviewed publications, with 18 as first author. Sweeney is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University and Cornell University, where she earned bachelor's and doctoral degrees, respectively, in chemical engineering.

Sweeney is certified by the American Board of Toxicology and is a certified hazardous materials manager. She has previously served as a councilor for the Society of Toxicology's Risk Assessment and Biological Modeling specialty sections.



*Have you moved?*

**Send address changes to [SRA@BurkInc.com](mailto:SRA@BurkInc.com)**



## What Do We Do?

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

### Ainsley Otten

#### What is your job title?

**Otten:** I am a risk modeller with the Health Risk Modelling Unit at the Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses, within the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

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

**Otten:** I deal with the risk assessment aspect of risk analysis most often in my job, creating quantitative microbial risk assessments in the field of zoonotic foodborne illness. As a risk modeller I am often involved in the initial research to understand a system, the design of the model within a software platform, running the final model to produce results, and the analysis of final outputs. The time required for each of these activities varies depending on both the system and current risk management questions the model is intended to address.

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

**Otten:** As with most who are featured in this column, this career found me more than I found it. I was lucky enough to have a cooperative education term of eight months with the Health Risk Modelling Unit while completing my undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

While on my term, I was exposed to risk assessment and began learning how it is applied to microbial agents. I began models for estimating Salmonella attribution in a local community and a model to study community-associated *C. difficile* infection while on my co-op term. Both of these projects were continued in my work after graduation when I returned to PHAC.

I took the opportunity to return to the Health Risk Modelling unit, as the work is challenging and uses a wide variety of the skills I obtained while pursuing my engineering degree, from innovative design for new models to the logical, mathematical skills needed in all quantitative models. I also have the benefit of knowing that my efforts are helping to



improve the health of Canadians, and possibly those outside of Canada, with all of the projects I am able to work on.

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


**Otten:** Since returning to the agency I have been given the opportunity to collaborate outside of the agency on a large-scale project and am greatly enjoying it. Working in partnership with scientists and researchers outside of our department and agency, as well as experts in various fields, to create innovative models is exciting. These partnerships allow me to meet new, interesting people with varied backgrounds and to learn many new things throughout the project.

#### What would you recommend to those interested in a job like yours?

**Otten:** If possible, I would recommend using a program such as co-operative education to gain experience while still in school. My co-op placement allowed me to gain a full understanding of risk modelling as practised in my department. The term also provided some experience in the field, as there was little opportunity to utilize my design and mathematical skills in a risk assessment application within my undergraduate degree.

My experience so far has proven that communication, teamwork, and the ability to learn are by far the most important skills in the risk analysis field—or any career you may be interested in for that matter.

#### How has membership/involvement in the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) benefited you?

**Otten:** Being a very new member to SRA, I am sure the answer to this question will begin to grow in length, but even at this early stage I have benefited greatly from attending the annual meeting this year in Baltimore. The meeting expanded my understanding of risk analysis in fields outside of my own, provided networking opportunities, and allowed me to present some of my own work, which I could then discuss with more experienced members. 

**Did you tweet at the 2009 SRA Annual Meeting in Baltimore?  
What did you think of the Twitter experience during the meeting?  
Share your thoughts and ideas with RISK newsletter readers.  
Send comments to Mary Walchuk at [editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net).**

### 2010 SRA Officers and Councilors

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*President-elect:* **Rachel Davidson**, phone: 302-831-4952, email: rdavidso@udel.edu  
*Secretary:* **Henry H. Willis**, phone: 412-683-2300, email: hwillis@rand.org  
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*Treasurer-elect:* **Jeffrey Lewis**, phone: 908-730-1107, email: r.jeffrey.lewis@exxonmobil.com  
*Past President:* **Alison Cullen**, phone: 206-616-1654, email: alison@u.washington.edu  
*Executive Secretary:* **Richard J. Burk, Jr.**, phone: 703-790-1745, email: rburk@burkinc.com  
*Councilor, 2011:* **Scott Ferson**, phone: 631-751-4350, email: scott@ramas.com  
*Councilor, 2010:* **Sharon Friedman**, phone: 610-758-3303, email: smf6@lehigh.edu  
*Councilor, 2010:* **David Hassenzahl**, phone: 702-895-4457, email: david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu  
*Councilor, 2010:* **James Lambert**, phone: 434-982-2072, email: lambert@virginia.edu  
*Councilor, 2011:* **Daniela Leonte**, phone: +61-2-9358-17411, email: d.leonte@unsw.edu.au  
*Councilor, 2012:* **Igor Linkov**, phone: 617-233-9869, email: igor.linkov@usace.army.mil  
*Councilor, 2012:* **Michael Siegrist**, phone: 044-350-05-07, email: msiegrist@ethz.ch  
*Councilor, 2011:* **Donna Vorhees**, phone: 617-459-7987, email: dvorhees@post.harvard.edu  
*Councilor, 2012:* **Felicia Wu**, phone: 412-624-1306, email: few8@pitt.edu

### 2010 Standing Committee Chairs

**Annual Meeting:** Rachel Davidson, phone: 302-831-4952, email: rdavidso@udel.edu  
**Awards:** Kimberly Thompson, phone: 617-680-2836, email: kimt@kidrisk.org  
**Communications:** Sharon Friedman, phone: 610-758-4179, email: smf6@lehigh.edu  
 Felicia Wu, phone: 412-624-1306, email: few8@pitt.edu  
**Conferences and Workshops:** James Lambert, phone: 434-982-2072, email: lambert@virginia.edu  
**Executive:** Richard Reiss, phone: 571-227-7228, email: rreiss@exponent.com  
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**Membership:** David Hassenzahl, phone: 702-895-4457, email: david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu;  
 Scott Ferson, phone: 631-751-4350, email: scott@ramas.com  
**Nominating:** Jonathan Wiener, phone: 919-613-7054, email: wiener@law.duke.edu  
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 Daniela Leonte, phone: +61-2-9358-17411, email: d.leonte@unsw.edu.au  
**Specialty Groups:** Igor Linkov, phone: 617-233-9869, email: igor.linkov@usace.army.mil

### 2010 Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

**Education:** Michael Siegrist, phone: 044-350-05-07, email: msiegrist@ethz.ch  
**2012 World Congress:** Alison Cullen, phone: 206-616-1654, email: alison@u.washington.edu  
 Jonathan Wiener, phone: 919-613-7054, email: wiener@law.duke.edu  
 Daniela Leonte, phone: +61-2-9358-17411, email: d.leonte@unsw.edu.au

### Call for Nominations for 2010-2011 SRA Officers

The Nominating Committee invites nominations for the following officer and council positions in the Society’s fall elections for 2010-2011:

#### President-elect Three Councilors

The terms of office and duties for each position, and the role of the Nominating Committee, are set forth in the SRA Bylaws ([www.sra.org/about\\_bylaws.php](http://www.sra.org/about_bylaws.php)). Active members of SRA may submit in writing to the Nominating Committee the name and proposed office for any qualified nominee. Please submit nominations by **1 March 2010** (preferably by email) to Nominating Committee chair Jonathan Wiener, email: wiener@law.duke.edu, phone: 919-613-7054, AND to David Drupa, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com, phone: 703-790-1745.

Additionally, as provided in the Bylaws, any active member may submit a petition to list a candidate on the next annual ballot for one of the open positions. Such petitions must include the signatures of at least five percent of the current SRA membership (i.e., at least 90 signatures of other active members) and the completed petition must be received by the Council by **15 May 2010**, in time for its June midyear Council meeting, for the candidate to be listed on the ballot.

### Specialty Group Contacts

**Biological Stressors:** David Oryang, Chair, email: david.oryang@fda.hhs.gov, [www.biostressors.org](http://www.biostressors.org)  
**Decision Analysis and Risk:** Tom Seager, President, email: thomas.seager@rit.edu  
**Dose Response:** Jeff Gift, Chair, email: gift.jeff@epa.gov, [www.sra.org/drsg](http://www.sra.org/drsg)  
**Ecological Risk Assessment:** Jerry Cura, Chair, email: jjcura@gmail.com  
**Economics and Benefits Analysis:** Lisa Robinson, Chair, email: Lisa.A.Robinson@comcast.net, [www.sra.org/ebasg](http://www.sra.org/ebasg)  
**Emerging Nanoscale Materials:** Ron White, Chair, email: rwhite@jhsp.edu, [www.sranano.org](http://www.sranano.org)  
**Engineering and Infrastructure:** Ariel Pinto, Chair, email: ariel.pinto.odu@gmail.com, <http://sites.google.com/site/sraeisg>  
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**Risk Communication:** Louie Rivers, Chair, email: lriversiii@gmail.com, [www.sra.org/rcsg](http://www.sra.org/rcsg)  
**Risk Policy & Law:** Stuart Shapiro, Chair, email: stuartsh@rci.rutgers.edu  
**Security and Defense:** Steve Bennett, Chair, email: Steve.Bennett@dhs.gov

### Regional Organization Contacts

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**SRA-China:** Chongfu Huang, President, email: hchongfu@bnu.edu.cn  
**SRA-Europe:** Ann Enander, President, email: Ann.Enander@fhs.se  
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**SRA-Russia:** Valery Lesnykh, Vice President, email: vvlesykh@mail.ru, <http://www.sra-russia.ru/russian/index.php>  
**Chapitre Saint-Laurent (Canada):** Stéphane Masson, President, email: masson.stephane@sepaq.com, <http://chapitre-saint-laurent.qc.ca/englishaccueil.html>  
**Chicago Regional:** Mario Mangino, President, email: Mangino.Mario@epamail.epa.gov, <http://www.sra.org/chicago>  
**Columbia-Cascades:** James S. Dukelow, President, email: jdukelow@owt.com  
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**Southern California:** Kristin Hockett-Swihart, President, email: Kristin.Hockett-Swihart@rmcorp.com, <http://www.sra.org/sec>  
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**Upstate New York:** Donald M. Geiss, Jr., President, email: dgeiss@hillsfarnham.com, <http://esc.syrres.com/sraupstateny>

The following regional organizations are currently inactive: East Tennessee, Greater Pittsburgh, Lone Star-Texas, Michigan, and Puget Sound.

**If the contact information listed for your specialty group or regional organization needs to be updated, please contact Mary Walchuk at [editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net).**



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*SRA Web site:* www.sra.org

### Deadline for RISK newsletter Submissions

Send information for the **Second Quarter 2010**  
SRA RISK newsletter, which will be on the SRA  
Web site mid-April, to Mary Walchuk, RISK news-  
letter Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN  
56001; phone: 507-625-6142; fax: 507-625-  
1792; email: editormw@hickorytech.net) no later  
than **22 March 2010**.

## Future Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meetings

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

**2011—Charleston, South Carolina**

**2012—San Francisco, California**

**2013—Baltimore, Maryland**



The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)  
is an interdisciplinary professional soci-  
ety devoted to risk assessment, risk man-  
agement, and risk communication.

SRA was founded in 1981 by a group  
of individuals representing many differ-  
ent disciplines who recognized the need for an interdiscipli-  
nary society, with international scope, to address emerging  
issues in risk analysis, management, and policy. Through its  
meetings and publications, it fosters a dialogue on health,  
ecological, and engineering risks and natural hazards, and  
their socioeconomic dimensions. SRA is committed to research  
and education in risk-related fields and to the recruitment of  
students into those fields. It is governed by bylaws and is  
directed by a 15-member elected Council.

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

Members of SRA include professionals from a wide range of  
institutions, including federal, state, and local governments,  
small and large industries, private and public academic institu-  
tions, not-for-profit organizations, law firms, and consulting  
groups. Those professionals include statisticians, engineers,  
safety officers, policy analysts, economists, lawyers, environ-  
mental and occupational health scientists, natural and physical  
scientists, environmental scientists, public administrators, and  
social, behavioral, and decision scientists.

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