



# RISK *newsletter*

Volume 31, Number 1  
First Quarter 2011

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## The Society for Risk Analysis Welcomes New Council Members for 2010-2011



**Rachel Davidson**  
President



**Ann Bostrom**  
President-elect



**Jeff Lewis**  
Treasurer



**Margaret MacDonell**  
Councilor



**Ortwin Renn**  
Councilor



**Lisa Robinson**  
Councilor

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## President's Message

Rachel Davidson

Happy New Year! Let me begin by expressing my sincerest thanks to Past Presidents Rick Reiss, Alison Cullen, Jonathan Wiener, and Kim Thompson, all of whom have been extremely helpful in showing me the ropes. I look forward to continuing to work with them all in the year ahead.



phic risks in the face of climate change included Scott Belden, Patricia Grossi, William H. Hooke, and Granger Morgan, with Howard Kunreuther moderating. Richard Zeckhauser and Michael Mauboussin spoke about the recent financial crisis and the role of risk analysis in it, with Jonathan Wiener moderating. Dr. Geoff Tabin presented an unforgettable talk about the personal risk taking of an elite mountaineer and the risk of blindness in the developing world.

### Highlights of the 2010 Annual Meeting

#### Thank you

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the 2010 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City such a great success. Erin Johnson, Lori Strong, and all the others at Burk & Associates, Inc., provided fantastic support. The Program Committee reviewed and organized all the submitted abstracts (Gary Bangs, Steve Bennett, Gail Charnley, Julie Fitzpatrick, Kurt Frantzen, Stanley Levinson, Steve Lewis, Igor Linkov, Margaret MacDonell, David Oryang, Cesar Pinto, Louie Rivers, Lisa Robinson, Paul Schlosser, Thomas Seager, Stuart Shapiro, and Ron White). Peg Coleman led a team of poster-session judges. Jim Butler and Ruedi Birenheide managed the website. The Conferences and Workshops Committee planned fantastic pre-meeting workshops. And Adam Finkel, Howard Kunreuther, and Jonathan Wiener all helped me plan the plenary sessions.

#### By the numbers

- **Excellent participation.** 637 people attended the meeting, including 180 students, 143 new members, and 135 from outside the United States—Egypt, Australia, the United Kingdom, Colombia, and elsewhere.
- **First-rate presentations.** 461 abstracts were submitted, leading to 283 oral presentations and 113 posters. There were 40 symposia sessions, 3 roundtables, and 3 poster platform sessions, and I heard several people remark on the high quality of the presentations they saw.
- **Superb workshops.** 13 continuing education workshops were offered. A total of 146 people attended the workshops, including 26 students who took advantage of the new student discounts. Our first workshop with a field trip—on avalanche risk—got great media coverage in a lengthy front-page article in the *Salt Lake Tribune*! (<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50812350-76/avalanche-risk-canyon-snow.html.csp?page=1>)
- **Thought-provoking plenary sessions.** We had 3 memorable plenary sessions. The panel on catastro-

#### New features for students and young professionals this year

Several efforts were made to improve the experience for student and young professional members. From what I saw and heard, all seemed to be smashing successes, so we plan to make them all regular features of the meeting moving forward.

- **Roundtable on professional development.** A panel of leaders in the field—Ann Bostrom, Jack Fowle, R. Jeffrey Lewis, and Rob Scofield—offered their pearls of wisdom about how to launch and sustain a successful career in risk analysis, followed by lots of questions and answers.
- **Career fair.** Representatives from a dozen participating companies and organizations were available to talk and share informational materials with students, prospective applicants, and other interested participants. The room was packed and discussion was lively.
- **Student discounts for workshops.** The Society offered additional student support for the workshops. Students were allowed to register for any workshop for only \$50 and the Society paid the balance of the fee. Twenty-six students took advantage of the opportunity.
- **Mixer for students and young professionals.** Students and young professionals had a special opportunity to socialize Monday evening.

#### The Year to Come

The Society is in fantastic shape—financially and otherwise. Areas of focus in the coming year include:

- **Website overhaul.** The Council approved a major initiative to revamp the SRA website to both improve its look and enhance the functionality it offers to members, regional organizations, specialty groups, and the general public.
- **Educational materials.** The Education Committee will be undertaking another new initiative to collect, organize, and distribute risk analysis course materials

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in an effort to support members who teach risk analysis. Please offer to participate if you're someone who has taught a course in the past.

- **2012 World Congress.** Planning for the 2012 World Congress in Sydney, Australia, is well underway and will be in full swing this year. Keep an eye out for more information!
- **Continuing international growth.** Recently added regional organizations will continue to take root, and others are in the planning stages.
- **Risk and Development Specialty Group.** The new Risk and Development Specialty Group was approved at the annual meeting. Look for activities of this new group to take shape.
- **Your ideas?** The Society is in an enviable financial situation right now. We have funds available to support good ideas that will help improve and expand our ability to serve our membership and carry out our mission. **Think big and submit your new initiative ideas today!**

New initiatives submission information is available at the SRA website in the Members Only section ([www.sra.org/finance\\_committee\\_initiatives\\_new.php](http://www.sra.org/finance_committee_initiatives_new.php)). Contact SRA Treasurer Jeff Lewis ([r.jeffrey.lewis@exxonmobil.com](mailto:r.jeffrey.lewis@exxonmobil.com)) for assistance with proposal development or concept clarification.

I look forward to working with President-elect Ann Bostrom, the Council, and the entire membership to continue to help the SRA grow and improve. I encourage anyone interested to get involved. There are many, many opportunities to do so. Visit [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org) to keep up with developments and look for ways to get involved.

Best wishes for the coming year!

## Call for Nominations for 2011-2012 SRA Officers

The Nominating Committee invites nominations for the following officer and Council positions in the Society's fall elections for 2011-2012:

**President-elect**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer-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 May 2011** (preferably by email) to Nominating Committee Chair Alison Cullen, email: [alison@uw.edu](mailto:alison@uw.edu), AND to David Drupa, email: [ddrupa@burkinc.com](mailto: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 2011, in time for its June midyear Council meeting, for the candidate to be listed on the ballot.

## Pantheon of Risk Analysis



Photo by John Collings

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

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

In 2008, the SRA inducted 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis. In 2010, the SRA added three new inductees nominated by SRA members: William Haddon, David Blackwell, and Maurice Allais.

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

New nominees are welcome. To nominate other legends in the field, please contact Past President Rick Reiss ([rreiss@exponent.com](mailto:rreiss@exponent.com)).

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## SRA Executive Secretary Dick Burk Retires David Drupa Appointed New Executive Secretary

Below is a resignation letter from Dick Burk, the longtime Executive Secretary of the Society. Dick is entering into a well-deserved retirement phase of his life. His colleague David Drupa was appointed the new Executive Secretary of the Society for Risk Analysis at the December meeting.

Dick was there at the beginning of the Society and attended the very first planning meetings that got it all started. He has been with us through the good and bad times. When we look at what SRA is now, a Society with thousands of members and groups across the world, Dick is one of the persons most responsible for its success.

Join us in thanking Dick for his amazing service and wishing him a joyful retirement.

Rachel Davidson, President  
Rick Reiss, Past-President



**Dick Burk**



**David Drupa**

7 December 2010

Rachel Davidson, President  
Society for Risk Analysis

Madam President:

It is just about that time. It is time for me to spend fewer hours in the Office and more hours doing many of the things that I can never seem to find the time to do.

I have done an exit poll on many of my retired friends. I had two questions, when do you know it is time to back out, and how do you fill your time.

To the first, one of the best responses I received was "you will just know". I do now know, and I am pretty confident that I also know how to fill my time.

The Salt Lake City Annual Meeting marks my 30th year as your Executive Secretary. I was involved in the initial, organizational meetings with Alex Hollaender, Bob Cumming, Bob Tardiff, Gary Flamm, etc. so I feel that I was certainly intimately involved in the birthing of the Society. I am pretty proud of our offspring.

I shall continue certain responsibilities and support activities for the Secretariat up until the June 2011 Council Meeting.

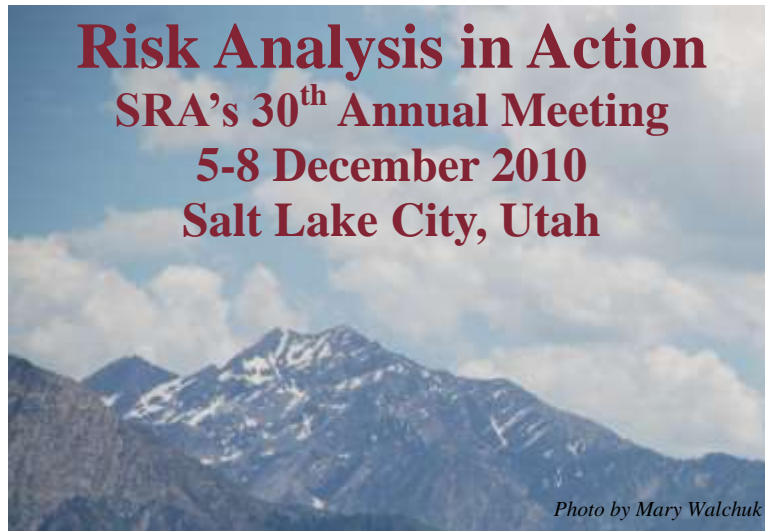
This has been a wonderful journey. I extend to you and to your 30 predecessors, Officers, and Council Members my grateful appreciation for accepting me as your Executive Secretary, and for your acceptance of my family into the family of the Society for Risk Analysis. At the same time I extend profound respect for all Members of the Society from where I have found many of my closest friends.

I shall miss the Society very much.

With warmest personal regards,

Richard J. Burk, Jr.  
Executive Secretary  
Society for Risk Analysis  
Chairman of the Board  
Burk & Associates Incorporated  
McLean, VA

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## Plenary Session Speakers

### Monday

**“Strategies for Reducing Catastrophe Risks in the Face of Climate Change”**



**Howard Kunreuther**  
Moderator



**Scott Belden**  
Speaker



**William Hooke**  
Speaker



**Granger Morgan**  
Speaker



**Patricia Grossi**  
Speaker



**Preparing for the Monday Plenary Session, left to right: Granger Morgan, Patricia Grossi, Howard Kunreuther, Rick Reiss, Rachel Davidson, and Scott Belden**

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**Tuesday**

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



**Jonathan Wiener  
Moderator**

**Wednesday**

**Personal Risk Taking as a  
Mountain Climber and His Work on  
Cataract and Other Eye Diseases in  
the Developing World**



**Geoffrey Tabin  
Speaker**



**Michael Mauboussin  
Speaker**



**Richard Zeckhauser  
Speaker**

**Start making your plans to attend  
the 2011 Society for Risk Analysis  
Annual Meeting in  
Charleston, South Carolina  
4-7 December**

**<http://sra.org/events.php#annualmeeting>**



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## 2010 Society for Risk Analysis Award Winners



**Paul Portney**  
Distinguished  
Achievement Award



**Yacov Haimen**  
Distinguished  
Educator Award



**Michael Bolger**  
Outstanding  
Practitioner Award



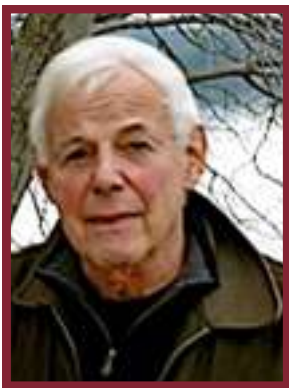
**Jo Anne Shatkin**  
Outstanding Service  
Award



**Seth Guikema**  
Chauncey Starr  
Distinguished Young  
Risk Analyst Award



**Charlie Menzie, Sharon Friedman, and Rick Reiss**  
Fellows



**Michael Baram**  
Fellow

2010 SRA Annual Meeting photos courtesy of Gen Roessler and Zach Walchuk

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## International and Student Travel Awards



Left to right, front row: Delanie Kellon, Chloe Wu, Evan Bowles, James Pita, Khara Grieger, Cameron MacKenzie, and Yoko Tanaka; middle row: Yin Huang, Michael Vedomske, Michelle Hamilton, Christopher W. Karvetski, Shital Thekdi, Gabriel Orozco Restrepo, Nicole Hagan, Jennifer Allen Catellier, and Paul Kailiponi; back row: Irina Zarayskaya, Lisette Wilson, Andrea Rush-Sirski, Jonathan Lizarazo, Josh Ferry, Kun Zan, Tao Hong, Lukasz Gruszczynski, Sergio Garcia, Zachary Walchuk, Matthew Wood, Ian Hall, Marcelo Wolansky, George Prpich, Keivan Rokneddin, Carlos Cardenas, Katsunori Sasaki, Kristianna Post, and Rowena Kirby-Straker; Not pictured: Azad Bayramov, Michael Cacciatore, Francisco Jose Donoso Galdames, Angela Guimares Pereira, Chongfu Huang, Ivy Huang, Steffan Iverson, Katarina Pintar, Benjamin Trump, and Toru Watanabe



Left to right: Jeremy Gernand, Kan Shao, Lauren Fleishman, and Alan Masinter



Wen-Chao Ho (left) and Shih-Chun Pan



Yaw Mensah

### 5 Best Posters Award

K.S. Lavelle, A.R. Schnatter, K.Z. Travis, G.M. Swain, D. Pallapies, C. Money, H. Vrighof, P. Priem, L. Onyen  
“Framework for Integrating Human and Animal Data in Chemical Risk Assessment”

N. Hagan, N. Robins, H. Hsu-Kim, M. Morris, G. Woodall, S. Halabi, A. Bacon, D. Richter, J. Vandenberg  
“Legacies of Mercury Production and Use in the Andes: The Cases of Huancavelica and Potosi”

H.K. Kim, D. Bartolo, J. Niederdeppe  
“Exploring Attributions and Emotional Reactions in Processing Narratives About Obesity”

D.J. Severtson  
“Do Map Features Convey Uncertainty for Modeled Cancer Risk from Air Pollution? Assessing Influence on Risk Beliefs and the Ambiguity of Risk Beliefs”

K.M. Butler  
“Qualitative vs. Quantitative Data Quality Objectives: What Should Reasonable People Who Are Not Statisticians Do?”

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## Specialty Group Student Merit Awards



**Yoko Tanaka**  
Dose Response  
Specialty Group



**James Pita**  
Security and Defense  
Specialty Group



**Jeremy Gernand**  
Emerging Nanoscale  
Materials  
Specialty Group



**Seth Baum**  
Economics and Benefits  
Analysis  
Specialty Group



**Cameron MacKenzie**  
Engineering and  
Infrastructure  
Specialty Group



**Shital Thekdi**  
Engineering and  
Infrastructure  
Specialty Group

### Call for Nominations for 2011 SRA Awards

Jonathan Wiener, chair of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Awards Committee for 2011, 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 2011 award will be for the private 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 **8 April 2011** to SRA Past President Jonathan Wiener, Awards Chair, by email at [wieners@law.duke.edu](mailto:wieners@law.duke.edu) WITH a cc to David Drupa at [ddrupa@burkinc.com](mailto:ddrupa@burkinc.com).

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SRA President Rachel Davidson at the first SRA annual meeting Career Fair, which she organized with Student Chairs Amanda Boyd and Franziska Borner



SRA President Rachel Davidson congratulates Seth Bourdon, winner of the drawing for free registration for the 2011 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting.

### Career Fair Sponsors

ChemRisk  
 Engineer Research and Development Center  
 Exponent  
 Neptune and Company, Inc.  
 Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA)  
 ZM Associates, Environmental Consultants

### Career Fair Participants

Applied Biomathematics  
 ARCADIS  
 RAND Corporation  
 University of Delaware  
 U.S. EPA National Center for Environmental Assessment



Gabriel Orozco Restrepo models the 2010 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting T-shirt.



Paul Slovic signs a copy of his book *The Feeling of Risk: New Perspectives on Risk Perception* for Dick Schwing.

More photos from the  
 2010 Society for Risk Analysis Annual  
 Meeting in Salt Lake City  
 will soon be on the SRA website:

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

**Call for Papers:**  
**Bridging Financial and Non-Financial Risk Analysis**  
*Risk Analysis: An International Journal*

*Risk Analysis: An International Journal* seeks papers for a special issue on “Bridging Financial and Non-Financial Risk Analysis” (Guest Editor Arcady Novosyolov and Area Editor Tony Cox). This special issue will focus on advances in financial risk analysis that can also be applied to non-financial risks, and vice versa. The issue is expected to appear in 2012. See [www.sra.org/journal](http://www.sra.org/journal) for author submission instructions.

The following types of papers will be considered for publication:

- Perspectives (2,000-4,000 words), including tutorials or papers that synthesize recent developments and apply them to risk assessment, perception, assessment, communication, and/or management, especially of health, safety, and environmental risks.
- Original research (about 7,000 words).

**Important Dates**

31 May 2011: papers submitted  
 30 September 2011 (approx.): referees’ initial decision announcement  
 31 December 2011: final papers due

The proposed topics for submitted papers include, but are not limited, to:

- Quantitative and axiomatic definitions and measures of risk: How should “risk” be defined and measured for non-financial attributes (such as lives or life-years in heterogeneous populations), psychological outcomes (anxiety, disappointment, regret), and complex, multiattribute outcomes (national security, economic and social stability, way of life)?
- Coherent risk measures in static and dynamic environments; their generalizations and applications beyond financial risk analysis: Are the requirements for coherence normatively compelling for non-financial risk? How can frequency-severity definitions of risk be reconciled with conditional value-at-risk and other coherent risk measures?
- Extensions and generalizations of expected utility theory for unknown or ambiguous probabilities.
- Insights from behavioral economics and neuroeconomics of decisions under risk.
- Assigning blame and importance: Methods and measures for attributing risks to specific causes: Can epidemiological methods improve/be improved by financial methods for attributing risks to specific events or decisions?
- Decision optimization techniques for risky systems (e.g., advances in robust optimization, online algorithms, zero-regret algorithms).
- Evolutionary and learning theories for adapting to unknown and changing risks.
- Black swan risks and limits of predictability.
- Portfolio optimization, optimal resource allocation, and investment in uncertain projects.
- Qualitative and quantitative characterization and comparison of risk attitudes: When should all decision makers agree that one prospect is “riskier than” another, independent of personal risk attitudes? When is one individual or society objectively more risk-averse than another, and what does this imply for individual and societal risk management of health, safety, and environmental hazards with uncertain and delayed consequences?
- Methods for managing specific risks: market, credit, operational, investment, R&D, etc.
- Computational and Monte Carlo methods for solving risk-management problems.
- Joint distributions and heavy tails, dependence and copula functions.
- Choice of discount rates, individual and societal hyperbolic discounting, and evaluation of long-delayed and uncertain consequences.

*Risk Analysis: An International Journal*  
<http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0272-4332>

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Karen Lowrie, Managing Editor

We are proud to announce that this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Risk Analysis*, the journal of the Society for Risk Analysis. To celebrate, we wrote an article for the January 2011 issue that highlights the experiences of the journal's first three editors, based on interviews we conducted with them last summer. We hope you enjoy the article, and as always, we are appreciative of the support and contributions of Society members, our editorial staff, and our reviewers, who keep the journal going.

We will add a new format this year called the "Editor's Choice." It will be a short essay by one of our area editors on a risk-related topic, designed to shed light on a new topic or idea and to spark debate among readers. Another new initiative is our own "top 10" list. The journal will call for nominations for the 10 most important advances in risk analysis. We will write an editorial about the list and then separate editorials about each of the 10 advances. More details are in the box below.

Thanks!

### Top 10 List Nominations Wanted

*Risk Analysis, An International Journal*, would like SRA members to identify the 10 most important accomplishments in risk analysis and then write about each in the journal. We are asking you to nominate one or more key accomplishments in risk analysis theory, methods, and applications from 1980 to the present. Please state the contribution and the significance and provide several key references. Each nomination should be one or two pages.

Please send your nominations by **1 June 2011** to Michael Greenberg ([mrg@rutgers.edu](mailto:mrg@rutgers.edu)) and Karen Lowrie ([klowrie@rutgers.edu](mailto:klowrie@rutgers.edu)). Once we have received your nominations, a committee of Chuck Haas, Tony Cox, Rick Reiss, Karen Lowrie, and Michael Greenberg will review the nominations and make the selections. We may get back to you with questions. The ultimate products will be an editorial that summarizes the 10 and then individual editorials or perspectives about each. This will be a fun exercise for all of us.



Left to right: Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg with *Risk Analysis* award winners Michael Siegrist, Dale Hattis, Lorenz Rhomberg, Roger Cooke, and Rob Goble



*Risk Analysis* 2010 Best Reviewer award winner L. Robin Keller

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## ***Risk Analysis Awards Presented at the 2010 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting***

### **Risk Analysis (Volume 30) 2010 Best Papers**

“Analyzing Evacuation vs. Shelter-in-Place Strategies After a Terrorist Nuclear Detonation”  
Lawrence Wein and Youngsoo Choi, 30(9):1315-1327

“Managing Invasive Species in the Presence of Endogenous Technological Change with Uncertainty”  
C.S. Kim, Glenn D. Schaible, Jan Lewandrowski, and Utpal Vasavada, 30(2):250-260

“Prioritizing Environmental Health Risks in the UAE”  
Henry Willis, Jacqueline MacDonald, Regina Shih, Sandra Geschwind, Sarah Olmstead,  
Jianhui Hu, Aimee Curtright, Gary Cecchine, and Melinda Moore, 30(12):1842-1856

“The Intuitive Detection Theorist (IDT) Model of Trust in Hazard Management”  
Matthew P. White and Branden B. Johnson, 30(8):1196-1209

“Anthropic Shadow: Observation Selection Effects and Human Extinction Risks”  
Milan Cirkovic, Anders Sandbert, and Nick Bostrom, 30(10):1495-1506

### **Risk Analysis 2010 Contribution to Best Issue-Linked Paper Set**

#### **Terrorism Risk**

“Intelligent Adversary Risk Analysis: A Bioterrorism Risk Management Model”  
Gregory S. Parnell, Christopher M. Smith, and Frederick I. Moxley, 30(1):32-48

“Probabilistic Risk Analysis and Terrorism Risk”  
Barry Ezell, Steve Bennett, Detlof von Winterdelft, John Sokolowski, and Andrew Collins, 30(4):575-589

Response to Parnell, Smith, and Moxley, “Intelligent Adversary Risk Analysis:  
A Bioterrorism Risk Management Model”  
Barry C. Ezell and Andrew J. Collins, 30(6):875

Response to Letter to the Editor  
Gregory S. Parnell and Christopher M. Smith, 30(6):876

#### **Uncertainty Factors**

“Conundrums with Uncertainty Factors”  
Roger Cooke, 30(3):330-339

“Are Conundrums with Uncertainty Factors an Obstacle to  
Developing Probabilistic Interpretations of Noncancer Risks for Chemicals?”  
Rob Goble and Dale Hattis, 30(3):340-345

Discussion of “Conundrums with Uncertainty Factors”  
Thomas Louis, 30(3):346-348

“Uncertainty Factor Conundrums: What Lessons Should We Draw?”  
Lorenz R. Rhomberg, 30(3):349-352

Response to Reviewers  
Roger M. Cooke, 30(3):353

#### **Trust and Risk**

“Trust in Risk Management: A Model-Based Review of Empirical Research”  
Timothy Earle, 30(4):541-574

“Trust and Confidence: The Difficulties in Distinguishing the Two Concepts in Research”  
Michael Siegrist, 30(7):1022-1024

“Distinguishing Trust from Confidence: Manageable Difficulties, Worth the Effort”  
Timothy Earle, 30(7):1025-1027

### **Risk Analysis 2010 Best Reviewers**

L. Robin Keller, Timothy Earle, Keith Florig

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

*Risk Analysis, An International Journal* is seeking two editor positions:

1. Associate Editor for Risk Perception & Communication
2. Book Review Editor

The Publication Committee of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) seeks nominations for the positions of Associate Area Editor for Risk Perception & Communications and for a newly created Book Review Editor. Each position is a three-year appointment.

### 1. Associate Editor for Risk Perception & Communication

This position responds to the critical role of risk perception & communications in our field.

The Associate Area Editor works with Area Editor for Risk Perception & Communication Michael Siegrist, Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg, and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie to oversee the peer-review process for submitted manuscripts in this discipline area and to make recommendations about the suitability of submitted manuscripts for publication in the Journal. As a scholar in the field, the Associate Area Editor is expected to work in concert with Michael Siegrist and Michael Greenberg to invite submissions and to ensure that the Journal is publishing on the most prominent topics in the field. Applicants for the Associate Area Editor position should demonstrate a strong track record of publications on health and environmental risk-related risk perception & communications topics and familiarity with the associated areas of public policy. The committee welcomes applicants from a broad range of disciplines, including but not limited to anthropology, communication, geography, law, management, psychology, public policy, and sociology. The Associate Area Editor will be responsible for managing the peer-review process for a subset of the risk communication and perception manuscripts submitted to *Risk Analysis*.

Compensation is \$4,000/year.

### 2. Book Review Editor

This position recognizes the need to provide high-quality and timely reviews of the numerous risk analysis-related books published every year.

This new position will be responsible for the inclusion of one to two book reviews in every monthly issue of *Risk Analysis*. The book review editor will scan for new risk-related books published, obtain review copies, maintain an updated inventory of available books by coordinating with the SRA webmaster, identify and contact potential reviewers, track their progress, respond to unsolicited reviews, and work with Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie to get the reviews published. Applicants for this position should submit their ideas for standardizing and managing the book-review process and for ensuring high-quality and timely reviews.

Compensation is \$3,000/year.

Nominations for both of these positions should include a brief statement of the nominee's qualifications, relevant experience, plans for the journal, and a CV. In addition, both editors will be required to attend in person an annual Editorial staff meeting that occurs during the SRA annual meeting, at which time the Editorial staff discuss the agenda for the coming year and meet with members of the Editorial Board. Please submit nominations by **30 April 2011** and include a clear commitment to attend the annual Editorial staff meeting by email to Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg ([mrg@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:mrg@rci.rutgers.edu)), Managing Editor Karen Lowrie ([klowrie@rutgers.edu](mailto:klowrie@rutgers.edu)), and Publications Committee Chair Rick Reiss ([rreiss@exponent.com](mailto:rreiss@exponent.com)). The search committee will begin reviewing applications and nominations on 1 March 2011 and will continue the search until the positions are filled.

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## Committees

### Regions Committee

*Donna Vorhees and Daniela Leonte, Co-Chairs*

**Creation of SRA-Egypt.** In October 2010, the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council approved the proposal for creation of SRA-Egypt. Mr. Shady Noureldin worked to bring the petition to a successful outcome, and representatives of the Regions Committee met with Noureldin during the annual meeting to discuss ways to grow SRA-Egypt.

**SRA World Congress on Risk III.** Planning is underway for the World Congress, which will be held in Sydney, Australia, in the summer of 2012. To date, 55 members have registered their interest in getting involved with various congress organising activities. The second congress organising meeting, held during the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting was an opportunity for members to brainstorm ideas on the overall theme and subthemes for the event and the preliminary structure of the scientific program. Feedback was also sought on members' preferences for side activities, including workshops and social activities before the congress.

**SRA Website Upgrade.** Members of the Regions Committee provided ideas for SRA website improvements that would benefit regional organizations, particularly those with members who cannot easily travel to the United States for annual meetings. These ideas have been faithfully reproduced by Past President Rick Reiss in his proposal for improving SRA's website, which was approved by Council at the 2010 annual meeting.

**Meeting of Regional Organization Leaders at the 2010 Annual Meeting.** Regional organization representatives from around the world participated in a formal meeting as well as an informal dinner and evening stroll during the 2010 annual meeting. Participants represented regional organizations from Asia, Latin America, North America, Europe, and Australia/New Zealand. The dinner provided an opportunity to get acquainted and exchange ideas.



Regional organization members enjoying a walk around the Salt Lake Temple after the first annual dinner for regional representatives, left to right: Rachel Davidson, Margôt Kutttschreuter, Ann Enander, Daniela Leonte, Donna Vorhees, Rick Reiss, Kuen-Yuh Wu, and Shady Noureldin.



## Regional Organizations

### SRA-Europe

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

*Julie Barnett, on behalf of the SRA-E Executive Committee*

Booking is now open for the 20<sup>th</sup> Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) Annual Meeting, which will be held in Stuttgart, Germany, 6-8 June 2011, and will be hosted by the European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management.

The special theme of this conference will be "Multi-Risk Analysis in a Global World." The conference venue is the famous Haus der Wirtschaft, located in the city center and easily accessible from the airport (25 minutes by metro) and the main train station (10-minute walking distance). See <http://www.hausderwirtschaft.de>.

We are delighted to be able to announce that a keynote presentation will be given by Dr. Ellen Peters, associate

professor on the faculty of the Psychology Department at The Ohio State University. Peters is a psychologist with a special interest and expertise in the role that affective, intuitive, and deliberative processes play in decision making.

In June 2011, two members of the SRA-E Executive Committee—Julie Barnett and Roberto Bubbico—will have completed their terms of office and will thus step down from the committee. To fill the vacancies in the committee, elections will be held in the spring of 2011. At this point, the SRA-E Executive Committee would simply like to bring the forthcoming election to the attention of the SRA members living in Europe. At a later stage, more details on the election process will be posted. The SRA-E Executive Committee is happy to answer questions from potential candidates or from those who wish to nominate them. You can contact the committee at [sraeurope@eu-vri.eu](mailto:sraeurope@eu-vri.eu).

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SRA-E now has a Twitter account! Follow us at @SRAEurope and get up-to-the-minute news and conference updates.

We look forward to meeting you in Stuttgart!

### SRA-Australia/New Zealand

[www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html](http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html)

*Jean Chesson, Secretary, and Janet Gough, Immediate Past President*

As of 1 January 2011, Dr. Simon Barry is the new president of the Society for Risk Analysis-Australia/New Zealand (SRA-ANZ). Simon works at the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, where he is research program leader for the Environmental Informatics program. The program consists of 45 scientists working on a diverse range of issues such as biosecurity, climate adaptation, extremes, and environmental monitoring. Janet Gough continues in office as immediate past president for the 2011 year. Other new officers are President-elect Rochelle Christian, Secretary Jean Chesson, and Councilor Asela Attapatu.



**Janet Gough, SRA-ANZ Past President**

As her last official activity as president of SRA-ANZ, Janet attended the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. This is the second time that our president has attended the annual meeting ex officio and, aside from the general benefits of attendance, it once again proved to be a valuable opportunity to make contacts with other regional organisations and SRA officers and councillors. We

look forward to working with the other regional organisations over the next year. Of particular importance to SRA-ANZ was the planning meeting for the World Congress 2012 in Sydney.

We are finalising the report from a membership survey undertaken with SRA New Initiatives funding. Once it is complete, we will share the report and our action plan with the other regional organisations as we expect that the findings will be relevant to them as well.

### SRA-Egypt

*Shady Noureldin, Chair*



During the development of my PhD thesis, the publications of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), including the peer-reviewed journal, were one of the most important research references. This important source of information overcame the scarcity of the available information related to risk analysis in Egypt during my PhD studies (2003-2008). Being a member of SRA, I received the SRA call for proposals for New Initiatives for

the second-quarter competition for fiscal year 2010 (1 April 2009 through 31 March 2010). It was a good opportunity for me to propose developing a newsletter for increasing awareness of the Society for Risk Analysis in Egypt. At that time, I believed that risk research, knowledge, and understanding of risk analysis techniques within Egypt required an immediate plan for awareness and familiarization.

However, this modest idea turned into a big and huge objective for establishing a focal point for Egyptian risk researchers: the SRA-Egypt Regional Organization. The idea has developed and grown with the sincere help of two people: SRA Councilor Dr. Donna Vorhees and SRA Past Treasurer Dr. Jack Fowle. I seize this opportunity to thank both of them for their sincere advice and support throughout the development of the concept until SRA approval of SRA-Egypt as a regional organization.



**Left to right: SRA Past Treasurer Jack Fowle, SRA-Egypt President Shady Noureldin, and SRA Secretary Henry Willis at the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting**

With over 40 members, the newly established SRA-Egypt provides a local network across Egypt, the Gulf, and North Africa (particularly Qatar and Algeria, respectively) that will help establish connections and links with risk professionals around the region. Our esteemed members are academia and professionals from the following bodies: Ain Shams University, Alexandria University, Arab African International Bank, Arab Consulting Engineers, Brooke Egypt, Cairo University, Capital Investment Trading, ECG Engineering Consultants Group S.A. (Egypt and Qatar), EGYCARE, EgyptAir Maintenance & Engineering, Higher Technological Institute, Nuclear Power Plants Authority, Orascom Construction Industries, Social Fund for Development (SFD), SOFICO, Tanta University, and Weatherford (Algeria).

Ten candidates, whose intention is promoting risk analysis and management, form the principal foundation of the society. The 10 represent a variety of backgrounds:

- Ali AbdelFattah, professor of geotechnical engineering, Ain Shams University
- Ashraf Hefny, assistant professor of geotechnical engineering, Ain Shams University



- Feiby Nassan, teaching assistant, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University
- Hassan Khater, projects general manager, EgyptAir Maintenance & Engineering
- Ibrahim Eshra, executive head of the Oil & Gas and Industrial Division, ECG Engineering Consultants Group
- Muhammad AbdelRahman, Consultant and former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transportation
- Muhammad Ghazal, Executive Director, EGYCARE
- Muhammad Madany, Research Team Leader, Brooke Egypt
- Shady Noureldin, Aviation and Airports Projects Business Development Manager, ECG Engineering Consultants Group
- Sherif Mawsouf, Head of Business Development and International Operations, Arab Consulting Engineers

SRA-Egypt issued its first electronic newsletter in December 2010 (<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=explorer&chrome=true&srcid=0B3dtafA8CXB6NDY3N2JiYmQtM2MxMy00ZWU5LTk2MmUtNzQwNjA3OGM3MjYz&hl=en>) and is in the process of launching a website shortly. We exchange contacts through our email ([sra.egypt@gmail.com](mailto:sra.egypt@gmail.com)) and through Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=hp#!/group.php?gid=32443246230>).

We have completed the design of the SRA-Egypt logo. The SRA logo has been given an Egyptian touch with the addition of the Winged Maat (Maat, Ma'at, Māt, or Mayet), which is the ancient Egyptian concept of balance, truth, order, law, morality, and justice. Maat was also personified as a goddess regulating the stars, the seasons, and the actions of both mortals and the deities who set the order of the universe from chaos at the moment of creation.

## SRA-Latin America

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

*Marcelo Wolansky, President*



The Society for Risk Analysis-Latin America (SRA-LA) was recently involved in two major events. Last August, we had our very first meeting. The I Regional

Meeting of SRA-LA was held at the University Diego Portales School of Engineering in the beautiful city of Santiago de Chile. This was a wonderful venue, where nearly 100 colleagues who came from over the entire continent met and had a not-to-be-missed opportunity to show their research and together think of ways to promote risk analysis. Also, conversations on how to increase the utility of risk analysis tools for improving the quality of life of our communities got started. Three plenary lectures, two the-

matic roundtables, and parallel sessions for oral and poster presentations were included in the scientific program. In addition, we enjoyed a visit to the vineyard lands of a traditional fine Chilean wine, Concha & Toro. We were glad to have Dr. John Graham, dean of the Indiana University School of Public Health and Environmental Affairs and a former SRA president, lecturing on climate change and energy.



**SRA-LA I Regional Meeting Roundtable on Contamination and Health Risks, left to right: SRA-LA President M. Wolansky (Argentina), UNAM University Faculty and ReLaSC Network Coordinator R.M. Flores Serrano (Mexico), and SRA-LA President-elect S. Demichelis (Argentina)**

We also had conferences by Dr. Eduardo Soares Macedo, from the Institute of Technological Investigations (São Paulo, Brazil), who lectured on strategies to reduce landsliding and flooding risks in vulnerable villages, and Dr. Catherina Ferreccio, from Pontifical Catholic University (Santiago, Chile), who lectured on risk assessment and decision-making processes on metal contamination.

Last, we recently finished our second Executive Council (EC) election since our creation as the SRA-LA regional organization (2008). SRA-LA members voted during October-November, and Election Committee Chairman Felipe Muñoz (Colombia) has already announced the new officers who will join me in leading our group during 2011-2012: Past President Esperanza López Vázquez (México), President-elect Sandra Demichelis (Argentina), Secretary Mabel Padlog (México), Treasurer Hugo Murcia (Colombia), and Councilors Elizabeth Nunes Alves (Brazil) and Inés Navarro (México).

I want to express the gratitude of all SRA-LA officers to Virna Gutiérrez, our former treasurer, for her excellent work as a chairman of the I Regional Meeting Organizing Committee.

I would also like to give a huge thanks to the I SRA-LA EC officers for their tough efforts to keep the original vision,



**SRA-LA President Marcelo Wolansky**



**SRA-LA Past President Esperanza**

mission, and dreams of SRA-LA alive and welcome our II EC officers.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to especially thank a long list of SRA officers. They have encouraged, helped, and given emotional and material support every time we needed it since the early days when we started to build up a Latin-American regional group project (back to December 2006) to present: Chris Frey, Kimberly Thompson, Jonathan Wiener, Alison Cullen, Rick Reiss, and Rachel Davidson—a heartfelt thanks for all of you!!

### **National Capital Area**

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

*Sally Kane, President*

In early April 2011, the National Capital Area Chapter will be hosting a lively panel discussion of last year's BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. We have two confirmed panelists: Priya Aiyar, Deputy Chief Counsel for the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, and Ragnar Löfstedt, director of the King's Centre for Risk Management at King's College London.

Check our website for logistical information and event description ([www.sra.org/ncac](http://www.sra.org/ncac)).

We are seeking suggestions for chapter events in the upcoming year. Please contact Sally Kane ([smkane55@verizon.net](mailto:smkane55@verizon.net)) or Richard Williams ([rwilliav@gmu.edu](mailto:rwilliav@gmu.edu)).

### **New England**

[www.sra-ne.org](http://www.sra-ne.org)

*Henry A. Roman, President*

The New England Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-NE) was well represented at the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, and a group of SRA-NE members met for happy hour during the meeting. Meetings with the SRA Regions Committee focused on New Initiatives funding opportunities, forthcoming website improvements to improve coordination of the national and regional SRA groups, and discussion of the role of regional organizations in the 2012 World Congress meeting in Sydney.

The SRA-NE seminar that took place on 6 October 2010 focused on risk assessment projects across continents. Our speakers were Dr. Shona Dalal of the Harvard School of Public Health and Dr. Sumi Mehta of the Health Effects Institute (HEI).

Dr. Dalal gave an excellent presentation on the initial stages of an impressive large-scale effort by Harvard researchers to prospectively study the incidence and causes of chronic diseases in populations across an increasingly urbanized Africa.

This was followed by a similarly engaging presentation by Dr. Mehta describing HEI's efforts to foster improve-

ments in the study of health effects related to air pollution in several Asian countries as part of its Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia (PAPA) program.

Our next seminar took place on 9 February 2011 and focused on efforts to improve cumulative risk assessment, both in terms of improving risk assessment methods and developing tools and indicators that will improve our ability to conduct community-level risk assessments. Speakers included Dr. Valerie Zartarian of the Environmental Protection Agency and Drs. Madeleine Scammell and Tom Webster of Boston University School of Public Health.

SRA-NE also extends its congratulations to newly elected President-elect Debra Kaden of Environ International Corporation and Treasurer Arlene Levin of ERG and Secretary Karen Vetrano of TRC, both of whom were reelected.

### **Upstate New York**

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

*Peg Coleman, President-elect, and Changhyun Kwon, Secretary*

In 2010, the Upstate New York Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (NY-SRA) offered three dinner and discussion events that drew 75 participants, predominantly non-SRA members in the Syracuse area with interests in risk analysis topics.

In November, the topic for the event, described below, was next-generation risk assessment (see <http://www.icfi.com/markets/environment/NY-SRA-Event.aspx>). In September and July, our current councilor, Dean Laura Steinberg (Syracuse University), presented work from her group on risk analysis for hazardous materials releases following hurricanes, and NY-SRA President JiYoung Park (University at Buffalo, SUNY) presented on economic spillover from the Gulf oil spill.

The 18 November event, "Advancing the Next Generation (NexGen) of Risk Assessment," was hosted at Upstate Medical University with sponsorship from ICF International and the Veterans Administration Medical Center, as well as travel support from the SRA Speakers Bureau for Dr. Gail Charnley, a lifetime SRA fellow. Gail offered the keynote address, speaking eloquently on "Implementing the National Academy of Sciences Report Toxicity Testing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Implications for Risk Assessment" and sparking dialogue with 25 participants in the audience. Kim Osborn (ICF) presented on the Environmental Protection Agency's plans to engage the public in the early stages of the NexGen program, and Peter McClure (SRC, Inc.) presented on evaluation of "omics" data to improve assessment of cancer risks from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) mixtures.

Thanks to our past and current officers, especially our new webmaster, Michele Stephenson. Please check our website (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny>) for information about 2011 events as planning continues for a student poster contest and another dinner and discussion event.



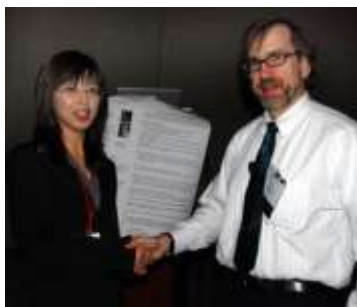
## Dose Response Specialty Group

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

Lynne Haber, Chair

Welcome to the Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) officers for 2011: Chair-elect George Woodall, Vice-Chair Paul Schlosser, Past Chair Jeff Gift, Secretary/Treasurer Peter McClure, Trustee-at-Large Allen Davis, and Trustee-at-Large Resha Putzrath. And a thank you to the outgoing officers: Julie Fitzpatrick (secretary/treasurer) and Kenny Crump (trustee-at-large).

DRSG had an active year in 2010, with three teleconferences: (1) "Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC)"—presented by Michael Lauferweiler, Procter & Gamble, and Steve Olin, ILSI Research Foundation, (2) "Microbial Dose-Response and Its Use in Estimating the Benefits of EPA's Drinking Water Rules"—presented by Jeff Swartout, Mike Messner, and Stig Regli, all of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and (3) "The Use and Misuse of Dose Thresholds in Risk Assessment"—presented by Kenny Crump. Thank you to the presenters for the interesting presentations, which stimulated interesting discussions among the participants.



Yoko Tanaka and Paul Schlosser

Congratulations to Yoko Tanaka from the University of Pittsburgh, winner of the DRSG student award at the annual meeting, for her presentation titled "A Two-Stage Dose-Response Adaptive Design Method for Establishing a Proof of Concept." DRSG sponsored several symposia, in addition to several workshops and other events of interest to the dose-response community.

DRSG is also a sponsor of a series of workshops being held under the aegis of the Alliance for Risk Assessment and called "Beyond Science and Decisions: From Issue Identification to Dose-Response Assessment." A key product of the workshop series will be a compendium of risk methods tied to problem formulations, using case studies to illustrate methods. At the second workshop in the series, held in October 2010, the expert science panel reviewed and commented on 18 case studies; additional case studies and the methods compendium will be addressed at the third workshop, scheduled for 4-6 May 2011. More information can be found at [http://www.allianceforrisk.org/ARA\\_Dose-Response.htm](http://www.allianceforrisk.org/ARA_Dose-Response.htm).

Planning for 2011 is actively underway. Ideas for teleseminars and workshops or symposium for the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting are welcome and can be sent to George Woodall ([Woodall@epa.gov](mailto:Woodall@epa.gov)).

Announcements for the meetings and teleseminars are distributed through YahooGroups.com. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DRSG> and click on "Join this Group." Open teleconferences are held the first Tuesday of every month (noon-1 p.m. Eastern Time) to discuss and plan symposia, proposed workshops, open forums, and other DRSG-sponsored activities on dose-response issues; teleseminars occur approximately three times a year. The call-in number for 2011 is 866-299-3188, Code 919 5414155#. (Note that this is different from the number in previous years.)

## Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

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

Amber Jessup, Chair

It's been a great year for the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group (EBASG), culminating in several wonderful events at the December 2010 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting. We especially appreciate the work of our members who sponsored workshops: Cristina McLaughlin and Aylin Sertkaya: "Use of Expert Elicitation to Inform Decision-Making" and Lisa Robinson: "Introduction to Behavioral Economics." There were many interesting presentations by EBASG members on topics ranging from benefit-cost analysis to food safety to catastrophic risks. Seth Baum was our Student Award Winner for his paper "Space-Time Discounting, Global Catastrophic Risk, and Climate Change Economics." We greatly enjoyed networking at our mixer, co-sponsored with the Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group (RPLSG). Additionally, a collection of articles from the 2009 conference "New Ideas for Risk Regulation" will be published in *Risk Analysis* in 2011. *Risk Analysis* is also interested in more economic pieces and encourages more economics reviewers.



Seth Baum and Lisa Robinson

At our business meeting, we discussed a number of possible initiatives for the following year. These include co-sponsoring seminars with SRA regional organizations and the RPLSG, developing symposia for the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting, and hosting a workshop on methods for combining data using expert elicitation, meta-analysis, and/or systemic reviews. We also welcomed our incoming secretary/treasurer, Elisabeth Gilmore, an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the Climate Science and Impacts Branch at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Lisa Robinson will remain on the Executive Committee as

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immediate past chair, Amber Jessup will move from vice-chair to chair, and Aylin Sertkaya will move from secretary/treasurer to vice-chair. We also want to congratulate Lisa Robinson on being elected as SRA councilor and thank Dom Mancini for his many years of service as vice-chair, chair, and past chair.

Please feel free to contact me ([amber.jessup@hhs.gov](mailto:amber.jessup@hhs.gov)) or any of the EBASG officers ([lisa.a.robinson@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.a.robinson@comcast.net), [aylin.sertkaya@erg.com](mailto:aylin.sertkaya@erg.com), [Elisabeth.gilmore@gmail.com](mailto:Elisabeth.gilmore@gmail.com)) with your ideas and suggestions for activities to pursue in 2011. We look forward to another exciting year!

### Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

*Jeff Keisler, President*

The Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) had a good turnout at the recent 2010 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. We held a two-part symposium jointly with the Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group on “Decision Support Methods for Nanomaterial Risk Assessment and Risk Management,” a session on “Decision Analysis: Current State and Emerging Ideas,” and a symposium on “Value of Information: What Has Been Done?” Specialty group members gave numerous presentations in other sessions as well, and Greg Parnell gave a successful workshop on “Decision Analysis for Risk Analysts.” We also held a mixer with the Security and Defense Specialty Group. At our business meeting, outgoing President Tom Seager handed me the gavel and Jim Lambert became president-elect and will become president at next year’s meeting. Matthew Bates was elected to be secretary starting next year, and Chris Karvetski is secretary for the current year.

At the business meeting, DARSG members discussed ideas for activities in the coming year. There seems to be a lot of interest in looking specifically at how risk analysis can be linked into the decision process and made relevant to the decisions used to manage risks—all of which nicely suits the mission of the specialty group, since decision-analysis practitioners pay a lot of attention to organizations and their decision processes. There is interest in more tutorials, and we should be thinking about topic ideas in the coming months. In addition, there is interest in having an interactive forum for DARSG members, and I am open to suggestions on how to do this.

May all your risks be informed.

### Risk Communication Specialty Group

*David Berube, Chair*

#### Risk Communication Challenges

The term “risk communication” means many things to different audiences. Recently, after evaluating a draft report associated with environmental health and safety of nanoparticles (NNI EHS Strategic Plan—2011 Environmental, Health, and Safety Strategy), I noted how the term

had been used to describe the role normally assumed by translation core officers. It called on standardization of nomenclature associated with nanoparticles as an important step to enhance risk communication. The assumption is that more precise and scientifically agreed upon descriptive terminology will improve the translation of findings into rule and standard-setting activities. By increasing some levels of certainty, the drafters of the document assumed uncertainty would be reduced. Of course, this is merely a second-level assumption—more certainty does not necessarily decrease uncertainty. The review of this document raised two important lessons for our community of specialists.

First, communication risk involves multiple audiences, and the best way to communicate risks to a less sophisticated audience may involve more than simply diluting the message. While translation activities are challenging and efforts toward standardization might be prudent, communicating risk involves much more than describing risk analysis and management activities. Policy makers, including many rule-setting and regulation-promulgating bureaucrats, do not share the field-discrete expertise found in the scientific and technical communities. Communicating risk for events to these individuals entails more than a shared language. To further confound this problem, we have very unexpert audiences, including the general public, who demand to participate in their own governance. Watering down technical language in a public document fails to treat the needs of the public in risk communication. The public wants and needs enough information to form an attitude. The assumption that the public needs technical-lite information is patronizing and, in some ways, disrespectful.

Second, more and more data may not reduce high levels of uncertainty. Science tends to resolve little. Calls for more research tend to generate more uncertainty rather than less. In nanotoxicology, this is true as well. Asking the toxicological community to increase research certainty generates calls for proposals to fund round after round of research. Truth be told, there will never be enough data to resolve questions of environmental health and safety given the tools we currently use in risk analysis and management. The tools call for precise data sets and it seems those are not on the horizon. It might behoove us to begin examining new tools that can accommodate higher levels of uncertainty rather than call for more and different data.

Students and colleagues in the risk-communication field may benefit from maintaining high vigilance on audience dynamics as well as tools to describe and codify risks as we move deeper in the 21st century. In our world of emerging science and technology, challenges will abound in communicating environmental health and safety risks of all sorts to audiences of all sorts. Striving for more and more certainty, while desirable for many reasons, may not be the answer to reducing uncertainty sufficiently to make decisions for ourselves and our families and to design policy.

## Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group

*Tee Guidotti, Chair*

We had a fine annual meeting with 10 panels sponsored by the Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group (RPLSG), the most ever. It is fair to say that policy studies remains at the core of conduct and use of risk science and to a large extent motivated its cohesion, if not its existence. The need for risk analyses that are relevant to policy guidance was the essential gap that the Society was created to fill and has done so very well. On the other hand, the application of risk science to law is still relatively undeveloped and represents an area where we may be able to make a unique contribution if we can bridge the professional communities.

The RPLSG transitioned to a new set of officers at the annual meeting with a promise to review the programming of the specialty group and to examine potential projects that would mobilize the talent of the group.

There is much to be done to redefine the policy framework and especially to advance thinking in risk science and law. Ideas discussed at the meeting include returning to the use of webinars first and phasing to conference sponsorship. Broad topics might include environmental justice, risk anticipation, “whither?” the field of risk policy (since there is a sense that we have reached a plateau in risk assessment and are repeating ourselves), risk policy and culture, risk and the doctrine of discrimination in law, and evaluation of scientific evidence for risk policy, but the sense at the meeting was that concrete, specific issues lend themselves better to conferences and webinars. A proposal was put forward for sharing syllabi from risk policy/law classes.

The first task of the new year, however, has been more mundane as a number of governance issues need to be addressed: drafting a new set of bylaws, deciding on the size of the governing board (that is, how many members who are not officers to include), and policies regarding the website.

The nature of the Society for Risk Analysis is that the second half of the year is taken up with planning for the annual meeting. Therefore, if specialty group projects do not get done by the summer, they generally have to wait until the next year. This means a six-month, rather than 12-month, activity cycle. There will be an email to all members shortly—please watch for it!

## Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

*Kurt A. Frantzen, Chair; Greg McDermott, Chair-elect; J.J. Cura, Outgoing Chair*

The 2010 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City featured two ecological risk sessions, a symposium concerning the Great Salt Lake, and our annual business meeting. During the business meeting, the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG) discussed updating its website (led by K. von Stackelberg and W. Landis) and coordinating a workshop with SETAC (led by J. Cura and K. von Stackelberg). Lisette Wilson (Dalhousie University) was the group’s student travel

award winner. ERASG joined with the Dose Response Specialty Group and the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group for a terrific mixer this year.

There were several sessions focused on ecological risk at the Salt Lake meeting. One session focused on international perspectives discussing risks and resilience of social-ecological fisheries, developing models to evaluate impacts to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, evaluating agro-biodiversity decline in Japan, and the modernization of environmental risk assessment guidelines in the United Kingdom. The second session had presentations addressing nanomaterial toxicity, assessing relative risk, and using weight-of-evidence evaluations. The specialty symposium focused on ecological risks due to heavy metal present in the Great Salt Lake.

The ERASG continues to recruit more ecologically related submissions to *Risk Analysis*. Last year saw the first time the journal had an issue dedicated to this topic. Going forward, we anticipate more opportunity to publish on diverse stressors and emerging issues. Because the journal bridges the social, engineering, and biological sciences, papers that deal with the interactions of each are particularly welcome. Wayne Landis ([wayne.landis@wwu.edu](mailto:wayne.landis@wwu.edu)) continues as the area editor for environmental/ecological risk assessment for the journal.

ERASG is looking for your ideas for symposia, workshops, session topics, and/or seminars for the upcoming year! The group looks to sponsor one or two workshops dealing with introductory and advanced ecological risk topics at the next annual meeting. Additionally, we look to establish sessions or symposia looking at resolving the interpretation of impact risk complicated by scale, patchiness, and population dynamics within complicated landscapes, the use of ecological risk assessment in evaluating sustainability, and causal analysis across multiple stressors and impacts, particularly with regard to land-use alteration, climate change, and biological threats.

We are always expanding the ERASG’s active members and email list, so all who are interested in joining should contact Chair Kurt Frantzen ([kfrantzen@kleinfelder.com](mailto:kfrantzen@kleinfelder.com)), Chair-elect Greg McDermott ([gregmc@neptuneinc.org](mailto:gregmc@neptuneinc.org)), or Outgoing Chair Jerry Cura ([jjcura@gmail.com](mailto:jjcura@gmail.com)).



Box lunches for the specialty group meetings at the annual meeting

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## What Do We Do?

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

### Seth Bourdon



#### What is your job title?

I am a defence scientist with Defence R&D Canada's Centre for Operational Research and Analysis (DRDC CORA). My current assignment has me leading a small team of analysts tasked with providing scientific advice to support decision making with the Canadian Air Force's central staff.

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

One of DRDC CORA's primary functions is to help the Canadian Forces reduce their risk by better informing their decisions. As such, risk analysis permeates more or less everything we do.

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

I started with DRDC CORA purely by coincidence. I was working as a consultant when my first son was born. I decided that, as a parent, it might be important to have a greater degree of predictability regarding my income. At around the same time, I saw a job posting with CORA that looked quite interesting. I had a successful interview and haven't looked back since.

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

The variety of projects and opportunities keeps my job fresh. Not only do I constantly juggle an interesting mix of short- and long-term tasks, but I am periodically assigned to different teams, whose mandate and physical location may be completely different from my current team's.

In fact, my previous assignment had me working Canada-U.S. issues for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, over a period of three years.

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

During my time at NORAD, I got involved with helping resource planners evaluate where to assign their resources in order to best fulfill NORAD and U.S. Northern Command missions. Risk analysis is a natural way to understand the benefit that can be achieved by funding certain initiatives.

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

Keep your analysis simple while ensuring that it generates meaningful results. Operational research analysts are often tasked with providing advice under tight deadlines. It is therefore paramount that a good analyst be able to distill the most important elements of a problem quickly. Complicated methodologies may often look authoritative, but they can also be too onerous to fully apply and it can be difficult to convince your stakeholders that they are appropriate.

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

I am a new member of SRA. However, attending the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting in December was a fantastic experience. I was impressed with the quality of the presentations, not to mention the breadth of activity that was being undertaken. It gave me the opportunity to establish connections with my counterparts at the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense who have mandates similar to that of the Department of National Defence.

#### What are your interests outside of work?

I am an avid, if not particularly skilled, hockey player. I also enjoy coaching my boys' sports teams whenever possible, especially hockey and soccer.

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### What Do You Do?

**Are you a member of the Society for Risk Analysis who would like to be featured in the "What Do We Do?" column of the RISK newsletter? Send a photo (casual or formal, your choice) and the answers to the above questions to Mary Walchuk, RISK newsletter editor, at [editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net). I will be choosing one submission for each issue of the newsletter.**

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



### Co-chairs:

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

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



## Member News

### Marjolein B.A. van Asselt

Marjolein B.A. van Asselt is one of the authors of the recently published book *Foresight in Action: Developing Policy-Oriented Scenarios*. Assessing the future is vital in informing public-policy decisions. One of the most widespread approaches is the development of scenarios. Research has indicated, however, that the reality of how professionals go about employing scenarios is often starkly at odds with the theory. This book, based on an intensive five-year study of how experts actually go about assessing the future, provides a groundbreaking examination of foresighting in action. Obtained via ethnographic techniques, the results lay bare the real processes by which scenarios are made. It also examines foresighting for public policy, which is so often overlooked in favor of business practice.

### Jonathan Wiener, Michael Rogers, and James Hammit

Edited by Society for Risk Analysis members Jonathan B. Wiener, Michael D. Rogers, and James K. Hammitt, along with Peter H. Sand, *The Reality of Precaution: Comparing Risk Regulation in the United States and Europe* was published in February 2011.

The “Precautionary Principle” has sparked the central controversy over European and U.S. risk regulation. This book goes beyond precaution as an abstract principle and tests its reality in practice. This groundbreaking resource combines detailed case studies of a wide array of risks to health, safety, environment, and security; a broad quantitative analysis; and cross-cutting chapters on politics, law, and perceptions.

**If you have written a book, received a job promotion or award, or participated in an event that you would like other Society for Risk Analysis members to know about, send a paragraph or two (150-200 words) and a photo to Mary Walchuk, RISK newsletter editor, at [editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net).**

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## Deadline for RISK *newsletter* Submissions

Send information for the **Second Quarter 2011** SRA RISK *newsletter*, which will be on the SRA website mid-April, to Mary Walchuk, RISK *newsletter* Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; email: [editormw@hickorytech.net](mailto:editormw@hickorytech.net)) no later than **21 March 2011**.

## Future Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meetings

4-7 December 2011-Charleston,  
South Carolina

9-12 December 2012-San Francisco,  
California

8-11 December 2013-Baltimore,  
Maryland

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is an interdisciplinary professional society devoted to risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

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

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

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

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