



Risk Newsletter

Volume 32, Number 1
January/February 2012

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Society for Risk Analysis Welcomes New Council Members for 2012

Ann Bostrom
President



George Gray
President-elect



Cristina McLaughlin
Secretary



Trina von Stackelberg
Treasurer-elect



Seth Guikema
Councilor



Marcello Wolansky
Councilor



Jo Anne Shatkin
Councilor



President's Message

Ann Bostrom



Thank you all for making the 2011 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Charleston memorable! Your presentations were informative and thought-provoking, posters better than ever, and discussions spirited. The meeting included a record number of sessions, with 379 oral presentations, and attendance by 670 members from over two dozen countries, despite the continued weak economy. It was an honor to welcome our newest regional organization from Korea.

Special thanks to Past Presidents Rachel Davidson, Rick Reiss, Alison Cullen, and Jonathan Wiener for their guidance and support with the myriad details of meeting planning; to the Annual Program Committee for putting together a stellar program—Stephen Beaulieu, Richard Belzer, David Berube, J. Michael Davis, Jeff Lewis, Julie Fitzpatrick, Steven Kurt Frantzen, Anthony Fristachi, Tee Guidotti, Sandra Hoffmann, Amber Jessup, Jeffrey Keisler, Margaret MacDonnell, Bob O'Connor, Bob Ross, and Joost Santos and Gail Charnley, Stan Levinson, and Steve Lewis, who ensured that the session schedule came together without a hitch; to Jim Butler and Ruedi Birenheide for managing the submission website; and to Burk & Associates for their excellent coordination of the event.

My heartfelt thanks to our distinguished plenary speakers, whose provocative and inspiring presentations were a highlight of the meeting: Director Margaret Davidson's wit and coastal risk extremes set the tone for the meeting; Admiral Thad Allen, former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, and Scientific Environmental Associates President Ann Hayward Walker provided a wonderfully complementary set of insights into Deepwater Horizon and oil spill risk management; and in tribute to Lester Lave, Lord Chair Professor M. Granger Morgan and Professors Jay Apt and Gil Omenn reminded us to pick risk research problems that matter, that we can tackle with fewer assumptions and some competitive advantage, and that we enjoy. Appreciation goes also to the organizers of the presidential roundtables for making these so successful and engaging large numbers of you in lively discussions; thank you Rick Belzer, Bernie Goldstein, Jo Anne Shatkin, and Lauren Zeise for your first-rate work. Behind the scenes, numerous SRA members graciously helped recruit speakers and fill last-minute holes—thank you! Last but not least, thanks to Mary Walchuk for her fine work at the meeting to develop this newsletter.

In case you missed any or all of the meeting, Mary's photo journey of the meeting follows, with snapshots of our distinguished plenary speakers, award winners, and special events. Kudos to the past presidents who created these awards to recognize contributions to risk analysis and to SRA and who initiated these popular SRA annual meeting events—such as the career fair and associated mixer, the roundtable on professional development (thank you Robin Cantor, Seth Guikema, and Katherine McComas and all participants for your contributions, especially Amanda Boyd and Franziska Boerner for organizing!), and the poster session (thanks to all of you who judged posters!). It was a particular pleasure to be able to congratulate Dick Burk in person on the inauguration and his and Sue's receipt of the Richard J. Burk Outstanding Service Award.

SRA is in excellent shape financially, thanks in no small part to the continuing improvement of our journal, *Risk Analysis*, under Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg's dedicated leadership. A new Audit Committee has been formed to ensure continued sound financial procedures and transparency. Although student membership has increased slightly

President's Message

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Society for
Risk Analysis

R i s k N e w s l e t t e r

over the last half decade, over that same time period overall membership has declined some, to about 1,500 members currently. The Society has embarked on several initiatives to strengthen member benefits and grow membership, including an overhaul of the website and strengthening connections with regional organizations. Thank you outgoing SRA Councilors and Officers Scott Ferson, Daniela Leonte, Donna Voorhees, Henry Willis, Jack Fowle, and Rick Reiss and to Past President Rachel Davidson for your many contributions to these efforts and your willingness to stay involved. The website redesign committee has been especially active; thank you Lisa Robinson and Jim Butler for your continued leadership.

To extend these efforts our strategy for this year is three pronged: (1) improve communications and increase visibility by revamping the website and our communications strategies, (2) increase membership by expanding member benefits, analyzing membership trends, and responding to those trends with strategic recruiting, and (3) strengthen regional organizations, building on the World Risk Congress. I am looking forward to working with President-elect George Gray, the Council, and all of you to improve SRA and advance risk analysis. To that end, we need your ideas! Email me (abostrom@uw.edu) or propose a new initiative via the SRA website in the Members Only section (www.sra.org/finance_committee_initiatives_new.php). SRA Treasurer Jeff Lewis (r.jeffrey.lewis@exxonmobil.com) will be happy to provide guidance on proposal development or concept clarification.

The third World Congress on Risk (WCR), to be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Center 18-20 July 2012 in Sydney, Australia, has had strong submissions. With the invaluable assistance of Burk and Associates, WCR Cochairs Alison Cullen, Daniela Leonte, and Jonathan Wiener have resolved most of the logistics for the meeting and successfully proposed and have been awarded funding from the Sloan Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and other sponsors to subsidize travel for students as well as others for whom travel costs might present a barrier.

The next SRA annual meeting will be in San Francisco 9-12 December 2012. President-elect George Gray is already hard at work capitalizing on its location to boost membership and strengthen the Society further. Email George Gray (gmgray@gwu.edu) by 10 February with your suggestions or to volunteer.

Several SRA-affiliated organizations are planning other upcoming events in 2012 around the world that will broaden your horizons and sharpen your risk analytics, including SRA-Latin America (Bogota in April) and SRA-Europe (Zurich in June), as well as others. See the rest of the newsletter for more details.

Happy New Year 2012!



*San Francisco Travel Association photo
by Phillip H. Coblenz*

2012 SRA Annual Meeting 9-12 December, San Francisco

Start making your plans to attend the 2012 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, 9-12 December, at the Hyatt Regency

Volunteers for the Annual Meeting Program Committee are welcome. Email George Gray (gmgray@gwu.edu) by 10 February.

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2011 SRA Annual Meeting Risk Analysis on the Coast 4-7 December, Charleston

Plenary Speakers

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Extremes: Weather and Risk

Margaret Davidson

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration Association
Coastal Services Center

Margaret Davidson discussed the relationship between weather and economic factors, the understanding of vulnerability exposure and risk, and the importance of communicating risk—of making it understandable on a personal level.



Reducing Risks of Oil Spills from the Exxon Valdez to Deepwater Horizon

Admiral Thad Allen

former National Incident Commander of the BP oil spill
and Senior Analyst at Rand

Ann Hayward Walker

President, Scientific Environmental Associates

P. Lynn Scarlett

Visiting Scholar and Co-director, Center for the Management of Ecological Wealth,
Resources for the Future, and former Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Of-
ficer of the U.S. Department of the Interior (2005-2009)

Admiral Allen spoke on national attempts to reduce risks of future events following the Exxon Valdez spill and how these actually played out in the Deepwater Horizon Spill. Walker (center in photo) and Scarlett provided discussion following Allen's talk.



2011 SRA Annual Meeting

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Plenary Speakers

A Tribute to Lester Lave

M. Granger Morgan

Lord Chair Professor in Engineering, Professor and Department Head, Engineering and Public Policy, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Heinz College Carnegie Mellon University

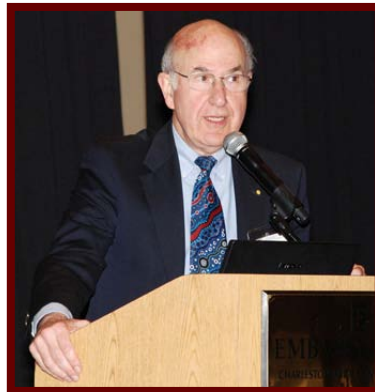
Gil Omenn

Director of Center for Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, Professor of Internal Medicine, Human Genetics, and Public Health, University of Michigan

Jay Apt

Professor of Technology, Tepper School of Business and Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, Executive Director, Carnegie Mellon Electricity Industry Center

Through his research and education contributions, as well as his service to SRA, as a member and chair of many National Research Council committees, and in many other ways, Lester Lave was a leader building the field of risk analysis. During this session, (left to right) Morgan, Omenn, and Apt—three of Lester Lave’s long-time colleagues and research collaborators—reflected on his many contributions to risk and policy analysis, highlighting the promise and future trajectory stemming from their collaborative research with Lester.



Professional Roundtable on Career Development

Organized by the Society for Risk Analysis Student and Young Professionals Group



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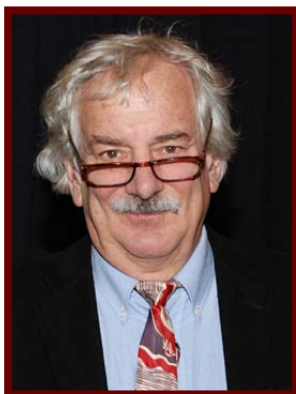
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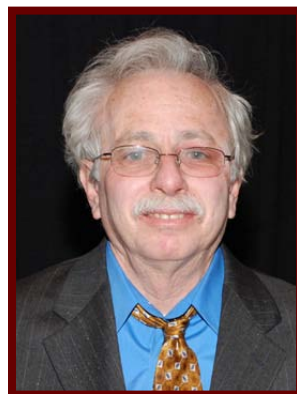
2011 Society for Risk Analysis Awards

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Roger M. Cooke
Distinguished
Achievement Award



Dale Hattis
Distinguished
Educator Award



Herman J. Gibb
Outstanding Risk
Practitioner Award



Alberto Alemanno
Chauncey Starr
Distinguished Young
Risk Analyst Award



Elaine M. Faustman
Sigma Xi
Distinguished
Lecturer



Rachel Davidson
Fellow



Jun Sekizawa
Fellow



Elke Weber
Fellow



**Left to right: Dennis Paustenbach, Luis Cifuentes,
James Hammitt, and James Lambert**
Fellows

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2011 SRA Annual Meeting

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2011 Society for Risk Analysis Awards

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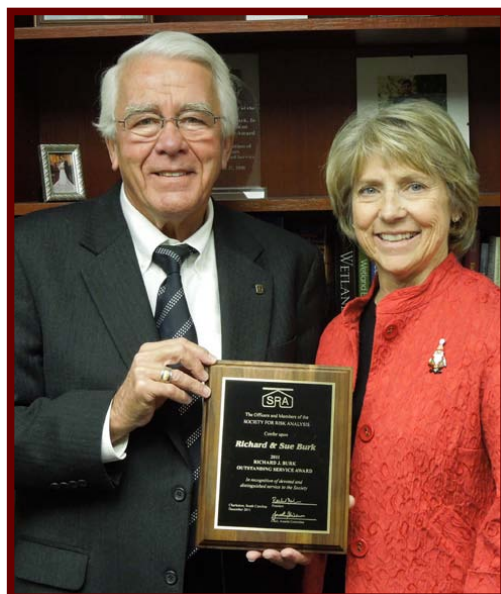
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Richard and Sue Burk

Richard J. Burk Outstanding Service Award



For 30 years, since they helped launch SRA in 1981, Dick and Sue Burk have guided and supported SRA in all of its activities. They have been the co-captains of the team – truly, and literally, a family – that has made every SRA meeting possible and successful. They have helped every SRA President and Council manage our Society through impressive growth, international expansion, and financial health. They have in a real sense been the parents of SRA. I know all of the past presidents of SRA join me in giving Dick and Sue our deepest thanks. When Dick announced his retirement a year ago, several past presidents of SRA proposed, and the Council agreed, to rename the Outstanding Service Award henceforth in Dick's honor, which from now on will be named the "Richard J. Burk Outstanding Service Award." Today I am delighted to present the first such award to Dick and Sue Burk, with our immense gratitude.

—Rachel Davidson, 6 December 2011



Best Poster Awards, left to right: Matthew Stasiewicz, Meng-hung Lin, Katherine McComas, Laura Rickard, Vicki Bier, and Cameron MacKenzie

"Increasing the Temperature of High Temperature, Short Time Pasteurization May Increase the Risk of Listeriosis from Consumption of Pasteurized Fluid Milk," M. Stasiewicz, N. Martin, S. Lane, M. Wiedemann

"In Google We Trust: Presentation and Information Seeking of Uncertain Information about the 2011 Japan Nuclear Crisis," J.S. Steinhardt, C.W. Scherer, J.L. Buckingham, A.D. Kermis, A.L. Klopp, K.A. Kubli, E. Ross

"Quantifying the Interdependent Effects of Supply Chain Disruptions and Mitigation Strategies," C.A. MacKenzie, K. Barker

"Effects of Early Life Exposure to Air Pollution on Childhood ADHD Among Newborn Infants in Taiwan," M.H. Lin, W.C. Ho, P.C. Chen, T.J. Cheng, T.N. Wu

"Extending Methods of Vulnerability Analysis to Address Resilience and Robustness," S. Tas, V.M. Bier

"Communication about One Health: Examining the Risks of a 'Shared Risk' Paradigm," K. McComas, D. Decker, L. Rickard, M. Wild, C. Higgins, D. Wong, K. Castle

2011 SRA Annual Meeting

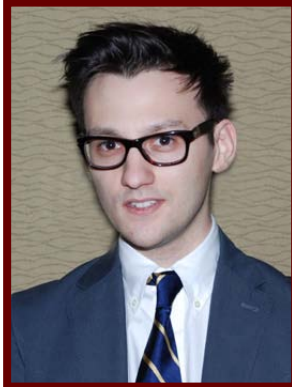
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2011 Society for Risk Analysis Awards

Specialty Group Student Merit Awards

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Ryan Calder
Ecological Risk
Assessment



John Coles
Decision Analysis
and Risk



Tao Hong
Microbial Risk and
Exposure Assessment



Austin Mitchell
Economics and
Benefits Analysis



Susmit Panjwani
Security
and Defense



Stephen Rose
Engineering and
Infrastructure



Ahmad Safi
Risk Policy
and Law



Dan Skinner
Decision Analysis
and Risk

Not pictured: Wan Jiao (Exposure Assessment), Richard Hartz (Security and Defense), and Sarah La Rocca (Engineering and Infrastructure)

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Pantheon of Risk Analysis

photo by John Collings



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

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

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

The full list is on the SRA website, at www.sra.org/about_pantheon.php, with links to the relevant Wikipedia page on each honoree. Wikipedia pages will be developed for Drs. Lave and Kaplan.

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

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2011 Society for Risk Analysis Awards

Student and International Travel Awards

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Left to right: Xiaojun (Gene) Shan, Cameron MacKenzie, Hsiao Ling Lei, Ryan Calder, Raghav Pant, Ming-Chien Tsou, Ahmad Safi, John Coles, Henrik Andersson, Frederic Bouder, Dan Skinner, Melanie Connor, Maria Elena Rivera Mancia, Michelle Hamilton, Arseni Timofeev, Seth Baum, Alina Agurenko, Ashley Mercer, Matthew Stasiewicz, Stephen Rose, Christopher Cummings, Sandra Demichelis, Claudio Roberto Lopez, and Susmit Panjwani



Front, left to right: Joanna Resurrecion, Men-Shan Tsai, Cecilia Lemus-Martinez, Raquel Jimenez, and Yuchao (Maggie) Zhao
Back, left to right: Wen-Chao Ho, Meng-Hung Lin, and Nichola Bronfman



Left to right: Craig Mauelshagen, Hwa-Lung Yu, and Luis Cifuentes

Not pictured: Steve Ackerlund, Sabit Cakmak, Eric Chu, Marle Cornu, Heitor de Oliveira Duarte, Richard Hartz, Peter Howe, Yin Huang, Wan Jiao, Adam Kokotovich, Sarah La Rocca, Yan Liu, Holly Marlatt, Diego Medrano, Asish Mohapatra, Wena Sides, Shital Thedki, Benjamin Trump, Daisy Wang, and Adam Zwickle

Future Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meetings

9-12 December 2012
San Francisco, California

8-11 December 2013
Baltimore, Maryland

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Presidential Roundtables



Bernie Goldstein speaking at the Presidential Roundtable on Sustainability and the U.S. EPA, the "Green Book" Report from the National Academies

Organizers: Bernie Goldstein and Lauren Zeise

In September 2011, an ad hoc committee of the National Research Council released its report "Sustainability and the U.S. EPA." This report, requested by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson, offers a framework to guide the agency as it incorporates sustainability in its activities and decision making. Both Administrator Jackson and Assistant Administrator Paul Anastas have begun calling the document the "Green Book" in comparison to the "Red Book" for risk assessment. The questions addressed by the committee are (1) What should be the operational framework for sustainability for EPA?, (2) How can the EPA decision-making process rooted in the risk assessment/risk management (RA/RM) paradigm be integrated into this new sustainability framework?, (3) What scientific and analytical tools are needed to support the framework?, and (4) What expertise is needed to support the framework? In developing this framework for sustainability, the committee carefully considered the relation between sustainability and the risk assessment/risk management paradigm. In this roundtable, Lauren Zeise and Bernie Goldstein, two of the committee members, provided an overview of the committee findings and its proposed framework and the committee's findings and recommendations concerning the relationship between sustainability and the RA/RM paradigm. Their presentations were followed by invited discussants.



Warner North speaking at the Presidential Roundtable on the Prospects for a Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis

Organizer: Rick Belzer

Congress has very recently shown a resumed interest in establishing a Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis (CORA), patterned after the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The scope and scale of its potential activities is highly uncertain at this time. However, it is certain that such an office would need to assess human health, safety, and environmental risks and be competent in reviewing the risk assessments of Executive branch agencies. This roundtable session explored the scientific, institutional, and procedural issues that Congress would have to address and manage when crafting the Office's charter and that the Office itself would have to manage in performing its work.

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Presidential Roundtables



Andy Atkinson speaking at the Presidential Roundtable on OECD and Critical Issues in Risk Analysis of Nanomaterials

Organizer: Jo Anne Shatkin

Andy Atkinson, of Health Canada, spoke at this roundtable discussion, which featured a panel discussion of a forthcoming publication on Risk Analysis of Manufactured Nanomaterials by the Organization for Economic Cooperation (OECD) Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN) Subgroup 6 (SG6) on Critical Issues in Risk Analysis of Nanomaterials. This interactive symposium featured a presentation highlighting the critical issues from Atkinson, a member of the group, followed by reactions from expert panelists. The aim of the discussion was to highlight perspectives on the key findings in the document and to discuss possible approaches for assessing risks for nanomaterials. This discussion was part of a New Initiative at the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), funded by the New Initiatives Fund, to explore collaboration between SRA and other organizations with an interest in risk analysis. The panelists were Richard Canady, RSIA, ILSI Research Foundation; Margaret MacDonnell, Argonne National Lab; Andrew Maynard, Risk Sciences Center, University of Michigan; and Lorraine Sheremeta, National Institute of Nanotechnology, Alberta, Canada. Jo Anne Shatkin of CLF Ventures, Inc., moderated the discussion.

Career Fair and Student and Young Professionals Mixer



Sponsors of the Career Fair and Student and Young Professionals Mixer were Exponent and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center. Participants were AR-CADIS, RAND, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Office of Planning, Office of Commissioner).

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Welcome Reception

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New Member/Fellows Coffee

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Coffee Break



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Exhibits



Box Lunch for Specialty Group Meetings



Poster Reception



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Grad Student Breakfast



Winner of Drawing for 2012 Registration, Tom Brody



Wine and Cheese Reception



2011 Die-Hard Risk Analyst T-Shirt,
modeled by Chris Taylor (left) and Craig Muelshagen

Call for Nominations for 2012 SRA Awards

Alison Cullen, chair of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Awards Committee for 2012, 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 Richard J. Burk 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 2012 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 8 April 2012 to SRA Past President Alison Cullen, Awards Chair, by email at alison@uw.edu WITH a cc to David Drupa at ddrupa@burkinc.com.

Call for Nominations for 2012-2013 SRA Officers

The Nominating Committee invites nominations for the following officer and Council positions in the Society’s fall elections for 2012-2013:

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). 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 2012 (preferably by email) to Nominating Committee Chair Rick Reiss, email: rreiss@expo.net, 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 2012, in time for its June midyear Council meeting, for the candidate to be listed on the ballot.

Message from Sally Kane, *Risk Analysis* Book Review Editor

In the upcoming months, readers will see a new focus on the review of books in *Risk Analysis*, informing and fostering discussion among our readership. Beginning in late winter, we will unveil the thematic review of books, a new feature in *Risk Analysis*, initiated by Tony Cox in his review of books on individual and organizational foibles in risk management and by Warner North commenting on books illustrating the contribution of cognitive psychology to risk and decision making.

We will also review a large compendium on an important new area of emerging risk, synthetic biology (reviewers are Jennifer Kuzma and Genya Dana) and on a compelling problem to manage the health risk posed by dust created by the collapse of the Trade Towers in New York on 11 September 2001 (reviewer is Tee Guidotti).

You can look forward to updates on book reviews in upcoming newsletters. As we implement our new vision, we encourage your comments on new (and forthcoming) books and our ideas for reviewing them.

Call for Nominations

Risk Analysis, An International Journal, is seeking to fill three area editor positions:

- Area Editor for Health Risk Assessment
- Area Editor for Engineering
- Associate Area Editor for Mathematical Modeling

Each position is a three-year appointment to serve on the Editorial Staff of *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*.

Health Risk Assessment

This position responds to the critical formative role of human environmental health in our multidisciplinary field. The journal expects applicants for this Area Editor position to have extensive professional experience, publications, and an advanced degree in one or more of the following fields: toxicology, epidemiology, and exposure assessment.

Engineering

This Area Editor position underscores the historically central role of engineering in risk assessment and risk management. Applicants are expected to have academic credentials (including a minimum of a master's degree), publications, and professional background in one or more relevant engineering specialties, including biomedical, civil, chemical, electrical, environmental, management, mechanical, nuclear, and/or systems engineering.

Mathematical Modeling

The Associate Area Editor will work closely with Area Editor L. Anthony Cox, Jr., focusing on applications in security and terrorism. Applicants should have academic training in mathematics, operations research, and allied disciplines that place them in the forefront of this rapidly expanding field.

All Positions: Responsibilities

These new editors will work closely with Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie to oversee the peer-review process for submitted manuscripts in this discipline area and make recommendations about the suitability of submitted manuscripts for publication in the journal. As prominent scholars in the field, they will be expected to invite submissions and to ensure that the journal is publishing high-quality articles on the most prominent topics in the field. The area editors are expected to be members of the Society for Risk Analysis and to meet for one half-day at the Society for

Risk Analysis annual meeting held each December to discuss their objectives for the coming year. They may have phone meetings at other times during the year. Each area editor position includes a stipend.

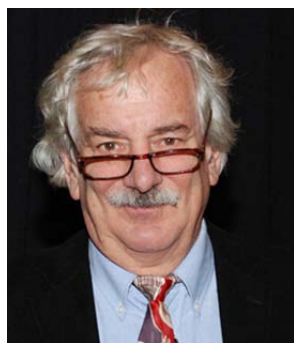
Nominations

Nominations for positions should include a CV and a brief statement of the nominee's qualifications, relevant experience, plans for the journal, and clear commitment to attend the annual editorial staff meeting. Please submit nominations by 28 February 2012 to Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg, Managing Editor Karen Lowrie, and Publications Committee Chair Rachel Davidson by email: mrg@rci.rutgers.edu, klowrie@rutgers.edu, rdaavidso@udel.edu. The search committee will begin reviewing applications and nominations on 1 March 2012 (tentative date) and will continue the search until the positions are filled.

2011 Risk Analysis Awards



Tony Cox
Best Paper



Roger Cooke
Best Reviewer



Seth Guikema
Best Reviewer



Left to right: Managing Editor Karen Lowrie, Best Paper Award Winners Saman Rashid and Anna Olofsson, and Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg

2011 Best Papers

"A Causal Model of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Risk" by Tony Cox, 31(1):38-62.

"Strategic Appraisal of Environmental Risks: A Contrast between the UK's Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change and Its Committee on Radioactive Waste Management" by Simon Dietz and Alec Morton, 31(1):129-142.

"Why Near Miss Events Can Decrease an Individual's Protective Response to Hurricanes" by Robin Dillon, 31(3): 440-449.

"Ecological Risk Assessment, Prediction and Assessing Risk Predictions" by Mark Gibbs, 31(11)

"The White (Male) Effect and Risk Perception: Can Equality Make a Difference?" by Anna Olofsson and Saman Rashid, 31(6):1016-1032.

"Can Environmental Insurance Succeed Where Other Strategies Fail? The Case of Underground Storage Tanks" by Haitao Yin, Alex Pfaff, and Howard Kunreuther, 31(1):12-24.

Committees

Regions Committee



Regions Committee meeting at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting, front, left to right: Donna Vorhees, Daniela Leonte, Yasunobu Maeda, Kuen-Yuh Wu, Yong-Jin Lee, Sally Kane; back, left to right: Janet Gough, Brandolyn Thran, Tom Brody, Margôt Kuttschreuter, Peg Coleman, Jo Anne Shatkin, Ortwin Renn, Frederic Boudier, and Audrey Turley

Publications Committee



Publications Committee meeting at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting, left to right: Michael Greenberg, Rick Reiss, Brett Burk, David Drupa, Trina Cody, and Karen Lowrie

World Congress Committee



Members of the World Congress Committee sorting abstract submissions at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting, left to right: David Berube, Yasunobu Maeda, Kuen-Yuh Wu, Daniela Leonte, and Claudia Vivalda

Specialty Groups Committee

Ben Trump, Jeff Keisler, and Igor Linkov

SRA Specialty Groups: What Is Missing?

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) encompasses a variety of fields and professions in the promotion and increased understanding of risk analysis. However, certain areas that are not explicitly included within the Society or its specialty groups could still provide a potential boon to SRA's membership numbers.

To discover what areas are underrepresented within SRA and what activities occur within these areas that warrant their inclusion into the Society, we engaged in 26 interviews with six past SRA U.S. presidents, four councilors, nine specialty group presidents, four past presidents from SRA-Japan, and three officers of SRA-Europe. Eight focus areas of risk analysis were identified: Consumer Product, Medical, Project Management, Finance, Supply Chain, Transportation, Insurance, and Law Enforcement. The primary objective of this study was to identify which of these areas SRA should engage in recruitment.

To accomplish this task, we conducted a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) study to provide a ranked list of subject areas according to their overall value to SRA. The Criteria Hierarchy (Figure 1) was derived from SRA's overall mission and goals stated in the by-laws and further discussed with the SRA officers in our 26 interviews listed above.

Three main criteria include Richness, Growth, and Service to Members, with seven sub-criteria (Figure 1). Criteria and sub-criteria weights in the Values Hierarchy were elicited and aggregated from the 26 interviews. The eight focus areas were scored based on seven sub-criteria by three individuals representing SRA U.S., Europe, and Japan.

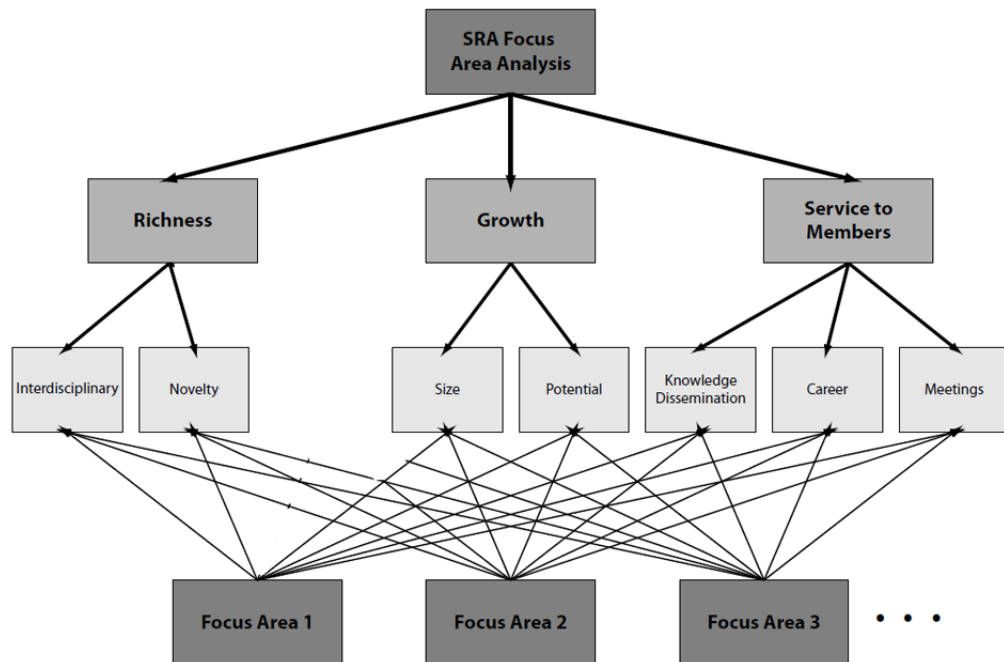


Figure 1. SRA Focus Area Values Hierarchy

Committees

Table 1 presents a summary of our findings. As a quick method, we calculated judges' average rank-based weights or scores at each level to produce a rough final score for each potential area.

We also conducted a sensitivity analysis to compare priorities by SRA section (United States, Europe, and Japan). While this study was not intended to acquire statistically significant results, but instead to acquire subjective input from SRA's current leadership, it is evident that a few common trends and divergences emerge among respondents of the three regions. Where the three regions tend to agree on the top three and bottom two scoring focus areas, differences in opinion across several items may be due to differing needs and emerging needs within risk analysis and may also be explained by differences in culture. In addition, a general trend emerges in terms of analyzing the rank scores of the sub-criteria.

Focus Areas	International Ranking	SRA-U.S. Scores
Consumer product	2.00	Top-Scoring Item
Medical	2.67	High-Scoring Items
Project /program management	3.33	Low-Scoring Items
Finance	4.00	Lowest-Scoring Items
Supply chain	4.00	
Transportation	6.33	
Insurance	6.67	
Law enforcement	7.00	

Table 1. Ranked List of Focus Areas (In Comparison to SRA-U.S. Scores)

The results of this study were presented at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, where a panel of several SRA officers discussed the ranked list of criteria along with several other items relating to the administrative and organizational side of the Society. The panel acknowledged that while these results were not statistically exhaustive, there may be value to recruiting membership within professional disciplines of the top-scoring areas (Consumer Product, Medical, and Project Management). However, to counter the concern of membership growth, several panelists noted the need for a broad-spectrum review of SRA's organizational activities. To facilitate growth for SRA's membership (as opposed to failing to retain several new members), the panelists agreed that SRA should seek to boost the Society's ability to directly benefit any members that may join in a unique and significant way related to their respective field of risk analysis.

To include information about your committee, regional organization, or specialty group in *Risk Newsletter*, send your reports to Editor Mary Walchuk, editormw@hickorytech.net. The deadline for the March/April 2012 issue of *Risk Newsletter* is 20 February 2011.

Risk Newsletter is now being published six times a year, scheduled to be posted on the Society for Risk Analysis website mid-January, mid-March, mid-May, mid-July, mid-September, and mid-November.

Specialty Groups

Dose Response Specialty Group

www.sra.org/drsg

George Woodall, Chair

Congratulations to the newly elected Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) officers for 2012: Chair-elect Julie Fitzpatrick, Vice-Chair Kan Shao, and Trustee-at-Large John Christopher. A warm “thank you” to the outgoing officers: Jeff Gift (past chair), Paul Schlosser (vice chair), and Allen Davis (trustee-at-large).

For 2011, DRSG provided three teleseminars on a single theme—Tox21/NexGen and Dose-Response. The teleseminar series concluded with a talk by Richard Judson of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on “Computational Toxicology and High-Throughput Risk Assessment,” which was preceded by Barbara Wetmore of the Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences talking about “Integration of Dosimetry, Human Exposure and High-Throughput Screening Data in the Toxicity Assessment of Environmental Chemicals,” and Weihsueh Chiu of the EPA on “NexGen Risk Assessments: Challenges and Opportunities for Dose-Response Assessment.” This topic was carried forward into a symposium (M2-C) at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting in December. The symposium consisted of a summary and recap of the teleseminars by Sarah Henry and presentations by Michael DeVito of the National Toxicology Program on the topic “Tox21 Activities at the National Toxicology Program” and Lyle Burgoon of the EPA on the topic “Use of Genomics and Systems Biology Data in Risk Assessment.” It concluded with a panel discussion of all six presenters (three from the teleseminars plus the three from the symposium). Thank you to all of the presenters for the interesting presentations, which stimulated interesting discussions among the participants.

DRSG sponsored several symposia at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting, in addition to workshops and other events of interest to the dose-response community. During 2011, DRSG continued sponsorship 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 is a compendium of risk methods tied to problem formulations, using case studies to illustrate methods. The third workshop was held 4-6 May 2011. More information can be found at http://www.allianceforrisk.org/ARA_Dose-Response.htm.

Planning for 2012 is actively underway. Ideas for teleseminars and workshops or symposia for the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting are welcome and can be sent to incoming Chair-elect Julie Fitzpatrick (fitzpatrick.julie@epa.gov).

Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group

www.sra.org/rplsg

Jennifer Kuzma, Chair

What is “risk policy and law”? Each of us has a unique perspective to bring to this question. To the current Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group (RPLSG) leadership, risk policy and law embodies the underlying approaches, values, and ideas that govern how we identify, assess, and deal with risks in society. In particular, it tackles how we form the big-picture decisions concerning risk and then put them into action in society. It is a broad area that fills an important niche for Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) members with deep yet diverse interests, methodological approaches, and expertise. Risk policy and law is a

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cornerstone area for SRA, and we welcome the participation of all interested SRA members in our work and collaboration with other subgroups. Please help us conceive of and host programs to advance inquiry and scholarship in this important domain. Feel free to contact our new chair, Jennifer Kuzma, at any time to explore potential avenues of collaboration (kuzma007@umn.edu).

As one of our first activities, we are co-hosting with the DC chapter of SRA, GWU's Environmental Law Program, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars a panel discussion titled "Emerging Risks of Synthetic Biology" at GWU's Law School in Washington, DC, 28 February 2012 (2000 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052; 6:00 p.m.). We hope to see you there!

At our annual meeting for 2011, we adopted new bylaws, elected an expanded slate of officers with greater representation from specialty group members, and laid out a plan for programming for coming years. Welcome to our new RPLSG board members: Vice Chair (and Chair-elect for 2012-2013) Frederic Boudier, Universiteit Maastricht; Secretary-Treasurer Richard Williams, George Mason University; At-large Board Member Michael Dourson, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA); and At-large Board Member (also Past Chair) Stuart Shapiro, Rutgers University. We greatly appreciate their service. Current Past Chair Tee Guidotti has also agreed to guide us through the next year on the board. In addition to selection of board members, several ideas for RPLSG programming in 2012-2013 were discussed at the annual meeting. Stay tuned for a direct email from our chair and board members in the near future to solicit your feedback on these and other ideas.

Finally, we will work to improve communications through our website (<http://www.sra.org/rplsg/>) and via email. We envision that this will be an exciting and active year of participation from all members!

Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

Jim Lambert, President

Congratulations to Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) members for the terrific results at the December 2011 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina!

DARSG held a panel discussion on Monday with the theme "Structuring Decision Processes to Manage Risks" with Vicki Bier, Tony Cox, Seth Guikema, Jason Merrick, and Jim Lambert. The panel was organized by Jeff Keisler.

DARSG members gave numerous presentations across nine or more sessions and poster platforms over three days. We co-sponsored several sessions with other SRA specialty groups.

We held a mixer Tuesday with the Security and Defense Specialty Group and the Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group.

At our business meeting, DARSG Past President Jeff Keisler, University of Massachusetts, gave an encouraging message. Jim Lambert, University of Virginia, became DARSG president. Myriam Merad, INERIS, France, became DARSG president-elect, to begin as president at next year's annual meeting. Chris Karvetski, George Mason University, con-

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tinues as the DARSG secretary/treasurer. Matthew Bates, USACE-ERDC, has been helping a lot in a position informally characterized as secretary-treasurer-elect. We presented the DARSG Student Merit Awards to Dan Skinner and John Coles.

Also at the business meeting, DARSG members discussed ways to grow our contribution to continuing-education workshops. We thanked Darrell Donahue for putting on a successful annual-meeting workshop. DARSG members were invited to submit papers and symposia for the World Congress on Risk, to be held in Sydney, Australia, in July 2012.

DARSG members are underway early in January 2012 helping SRA and fellow specialty group to explore the topic of supply chain risk management. Interested members please let us know your possible contributions

Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group

Joost Santos, Past Chair

I would like to thank the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) for involving me in the Annual Meeting Program Committee. This experience was truly productive and it enabled me to meet and learn from the officers of the Society and its specialty groups. The 2011 SRA Annual Meeting held in Charleston, South Carolina, was a success for the entire Society as well as the Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group (EISG). There were 24 abstracts submitted directly to the EISG, which were clustered into six distinct sessions in the final program. These submissions do not include many other engineering-related abstracts submitted to the other specialty groups. The EISG sessions encompass diverse topics, including disaster assessment and management, infrastructure interdependencies, and theoretical developments in probabilistic risk analysis, among others.



EISG Student Merit Awardees:
Sarah LaRocca (left) and
Stephen Rose (right)

Because of the high-quality submissions that we received this year, the EISG decided to give two student merit awards. These awardees (in no particular order) are:

- Sarah LaRocca, Johns Hopkins University, "Broadening the Discourse on Infrastructure Interdependence by Modeling the 'Ecology' of Infrastructure System"
- Stephen M. Rose, Carnegie Mellon University, "Quantifying the Hurricane Risk to Offshore Wind Turbines"

With this note, I would also like to welcome the incoming officers for 2012: Dr. Royce Francis as the new EISG chair and Cameron MacKenzie as the new EISG vice chair.

Francis is an assistant professor in the Department of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering at the George Washington University and Visiting Scholar in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. At George Washington, Francis leads the SEED research group—Sustainable [urban] Ecologies, Engineering, and Decision-making. SEED focuses on sustainability measurement in drinking-water systems, distributed sensing in drinking-water systems, and integrating life-cycle impact assessment with life-cycle cost-assessment methodologies. His PhD research, supported by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, was in the area of drinking-water regulation, focusing on the implications of DBP occurrence patterns for subsequent research priorities. Francis has an MS in civil and environmental

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engineering, a dual PhD in the Departments of Engineering and Public Policy and Civil and Environmental Engineering from Carnegie Mellon, and a BS in civil engineering from Howard University.

MacKenzie is a PhD candidate in the School of Industrial Engineering at the University of Oklahoma (OU), and he plans to graduate in May 2012. His doctoral research explores how industry-preparedness decisions such as keeping inventory and using alternate transportation routes or multiple suppliers can be numerically evaluated using interdependency models. This research thrust developed as a result of the research team's work on the economic consequences of closing an inland waterway port. This research earned MacKenzie a student merit award at the 2010 SRA Annual Meeting. MacKenzie was also named the 2010-2011 Outstanding Graduate Student by the OU Graduate Student Senate. He has been an SRA member since 2007.

Risk Communication Specialty Group

Craig Trumbo, Chair

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) had a typically robust presence at the 2011 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. The collection of paper sessions, symposia, and posters represented the rich diversity of topics in risk communication, addressing a range of theoretical, methodological, and contextual contexts. We presented three symposia covering the topics of trust, disasters, and the hurricane forecast and warning system. A dozen presentations were made during these well-attended sessions. Nine scientific paper sessions were presented, covering a diversity of issues and topics, including emerging theories of risk communication, public understanding and reaction to climate change, the use of games and digital platforms in research examining risk perception and communication, risk communication through organizational networks, lessons learned in the Fukushima disaster, emerging technologies, food contamination, health and well-being, and communication under situations of duress. Across the scientific sessions a total of 34 papers were presented. Finally, the RCSG put up a total of 22 posters at the Monday evening reception. Overall the conference was competitive, with 72 papers submitted.

Several topics were discussed during the business meeting, led by David Berube. As the specialty group has grown over the past years, some aspects of our institutional record-keeping duties have slipped. The specialty group bylaws have not kept pace with the group and have become somewhat incomplete concerning the duties of officers, annual deadlines, and other shared responsibilities. Reconstituting the bylaws is a priority job for the near future. Berube provided a draft template consistent with other specialty groups as a point of departure. This will be worked on and circulated for comments in the coming months and likely presented for a vote before or at the 2012 annual meeting.

Likewise, the RCSG website has drifted into a non-updated state. Fortunately, SRA has launched a major initiative for the year to update the organization's entire website with accommodations for all specialty groups. As this project moves along, requests will be distributed for contributions. And if members have suggestions for information content, please contact the chair.

Due to logistical factors, the Exxon student paper competition was not completed this year. At this writing, we are investigating the possibility of still reviewing the student papers presented at the annual meeting for this award. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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Decision, Risk and Management Sciences Program Director Bob O'Connor reported positive news from the National Science Foundation (NSF). A proposal that was being discussed in Congress involving the potential elimination of the social sciences at NSF has been dropped. The NSF has recently received its budget for the coming year, with an increase. And an interdisciplinary initiative on the topic of resilience is in the works.

Finally, new officers were elected. The former chair, David Berube, is succeeded by Craig Trumbo, with Robyn Wilson the 2013 chair-elect. Our student representative will be Christopher Cummings, and our webmaster will continue as Joseph Steinhardt. Board members will be Fianziska Boerber (continuing), Sweta Chakrabarty (new), and Frederick Boudier (new). The group's finances are sound, with approximately \$11,000 on account.

Looking forward, during the next six months SRA will go through the annual process of setting the agenda for the next annual meeting. That makes this the critical time to formulate ideas for symposia, workshops, and other activities. Calls for proposals will begin appearing soon.

Microbial Risk Analysis Specialty Group

Aamir Fazil, Chair

The Microbial Risk Analysis Specialty Group had a very busy year. First and foremost was the renaming of the specialty group from the Biological Stressors Specialty Group to the Microbial Risk Analysis Specialty Group. The process included an online vote with the intent of choosing a name that was more inclusive of the interests and background of the members, as well as a name that was easier to interpret for potential new members.

The specialty group announced new and continuing officers for 2012: Chair Aamir Fazil, Vice-Chair Jane Van Doren, and Secretary Mark Walderhaugh, who is on his last year on a two-year position. The specialty group would also like to recognize Stephen Beaulieu for an excellent job serving as chair in 2011 and Don Schaffner, who runs the website for the group, but also contributes in numerous ways including participating on conference calls and administering surveys, all while holding a position that is not even "officially" recognized.

The specialty group had a very productive meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, in December 2011, during which Tao Hong from Drexel University was awarded the Student Award for his poster "Identifiability of Bio-Aerosol Size Fraction from Environmental Sampling." The specialty group also managed to sponsor several symposia at the annual meeting and hopes to build on this track record to ensure that members have a series of sessions of interest to them that are not running concurrently and competing with each other for an audience. A key part of the meeting in Charleston was to brainstorm ideas for the specialty group to either sponsor at the annual meeting in 2012 or to potentially co-sponsor as a stand-alone meeting midway during the year. Some of the ideas that got traction included New Methods/Novel Approaches to MRA (including predictive microbiology modeling, dose response and application of genetic information), Development of Rapid Risk Tools, Alternative Exposure Routes to Food and Water, Changes in Susceptibility, and Climate Change Issues.

The Microbial Risk Analysis Specialty Group hopes to engage the members more in 2012 and encourages them to submit symposia ideas to Chair Aamir Fazil (aamir.fazil@phac-aspc.gc.ca).

Risk and Development Specialty Group

Alison Cullen and Garrick Louis, Co-Chairs

Welcome to the Risk and Development Specialty Group! The year 2011 was the first year of the specialty group's formal existence within the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), although the idea of launching the group had been incubated for about three years before we petitioned the SRA Council for membership in 2010. This was a very successful first year as more than 50 people joined the group and we sponsored three sessions at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting. Our business meeting attracted a great turnout, as did the joint mixer with the Risk Policy and Law; Emerging and Nanoscale Risk; and Economics and Benefits Specialty Groups.

The overall theme of next July's World Congress on Risk 2012 in Sydney, Australia, is "Risk and Sustainable Development in a Changing World," a close fit for our members. And indeed our specialty group has embraced the World Congress already, with a very large set of paper and poster submissions in the area of development received to date. The Program Committee is actively planning plenary and breakout sessions in this area—please send your ideas. And we hope to see all of you in Sydney next summer!

At the business meeting we discussed possible symposium themes for the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting scheduled for San Francisco. Some of the ideas presented include "Increases in Inequality with Respect to Distribution of Risk"; "Environmental Justice and Development"; "EPA and the New Environmental Justice Screen"; "Post-Disaster Reconstruction in Developing Regions"; and "Comparative Development and Risk." Please continue to send your ideas as we work toward organizing risk and development symposia for the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting in response to the call for proposals which will be released later in the year.

Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

www.sra.org/ebasg

Aylin Sertkaya, Chair

It's been another great year for the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group (EBASG), culminating in several wonderful events at the December SRA annual meeting. We especially appreciate the work of our members who sponsored workshops: Cristina McLaughlin and Aylin Sertkaya—"Eliciting Judgments to Inform Decision-Making"—and Lisa Robinson—"Synthesizing Evidence: An Introduction to Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis, and Expert Elicitation." Additionally, EBASG sponsored numerous symposia at the meeting this year, thanks to the efforts of many members, including EBASG Secretary/Treasurer Elisabeth Gilmore. The symposia topics included catastrophic climate change; benefits, co-benefits, and uncertainties of air quality improvements; quantifying and communicating the U.S. domestic benefits of GHG reductions; preference elicitation and benefits assessments; and synthesizing studies for evidence-based decision making. Additionally, there also were numerous interesting talks by our members on topics ranging from uncertainty analysis for regulations and the value of regulations and inspection regimes. Austin Mitchell, a PhD candidate in engineering and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University, was our Student Award Winner for his paper "The Economics of Environmental Reclamation for Shale Gas Development in Pennsylvania." Finally, we greatly enjoyed networking at our mixer, co-sponsored with the Risk Policy and Law, Emerging Nanoscale Materials, and Risk and Development Specialty Groups.

Specialty Groups

At our business meeting, we discussed a number of possible initiatives for the following year. These included co-sponsoring seminars with SRA regional groups, developing symposia for the 2012 World Congress on Risk in Sydney, Australia, and supporting a workshop on methods for combining data using expert elicitation, meta-analysis, and/or systemic reviews. The *Risk Analysis* editors also expressed interest in publishing more manuscripts on economic and benefit analysis. Sally Kane, the new *Risk Analysis* book review editor and current president of the SRA National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC), encouraged EBASG members to submit reviews and also noted that the NCAC is sponsoring several events over the coming year that will be of interest to EBASG members.

We also welcomed our new officers. Our incoming secretary/treasurer is Danya Machnes, an associate at Industrial Economics, Incorporated. Amber Jessup will remain on the Executive Committee as immediate past chair, Aylin Sertkaya will move from vice-chair to chair, and Elisabeth Gilmore will move from secretary/treasurer to vice-chair. We are deeply grateful to Lisa Robinson, now an SRA councilor, for her many years of service on the EBASG board.

Please feel free to contact me (Aylin.Sertkaya@erg.com) or any of the other EBASG officers (Amber.Jessup@hhs.gov, gilmore@umd.edu, DMachnes@indecon.com) with your ideas and suggestions for activities to pursue in 2012. We look forward to another exciting year!

Regional Organizations

SRA-China

Guofang Zhai, Secretary



Gathering of the participants in the 1st National Symposium in Shanghai

The Society for Risk Analysis-China recently held two successful symposiums, one in Eastern China and one in Western China.

On 29-30 October 2011, the 1st National Symposium on Disaster Risk Analysis and Management in China's Coastal Regions & Launching of the GRIP-Excellence of Risk Assessment and Management (CERAM) Shanghai was held at the Conference Hall at Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai. From the more than 80 submissions, 69 papers were accepted via peer review and presented during the symposium. Over 100 delegates from home

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and abroad attended the symposium, including participants from the United Nations Development Programme, Mozambique, Mexico, and Nepal. At the opening ceremony, Professor Jianfei Lu, chancellor of Shanghai Normal University, and Dr. Carlos Villacis, coordinator of the Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP), together inaugurated the nameplate of the GRIP-CERAM Shanghai.

On 7 November 2011, the Second Symposium of Risk Analysis and Risk Management in Western China (RARMW-2011) was fruitfully and successfully held in Yangling, Shanxi Province, hosted by the College of Economics and Management, Northwest A&F University, and supported by the Management School, University of Electronic Science & Technology, Chengdu. From more than 60 submissions, 30 papers were accepted and presented based on peer review. The symposium attracted more than 100 participants, including five international researchers.

SRA-Latin America

www.srala.org

Marcelo Wolansky, President

We said a couple of newsletter issues ago, “Time goes by fast...”; well, seems this “Relativity Theory” version continues to be true! A “2012 little baby” is pushing to be born, and



Bogotá City, Colombia

we are already excited counting down the minutes towards the Second Regional Congress of our Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Latin America group and the third World Congress of SRA. We are already receiving abstracts and proposals for our regional group meeting at Bogotá City (Colombia, 9-13 April 2012) that will bring together colleagues from all the Americas to contribute to improve the risk analysis knowledge base and expertise in our communities. Details of the scientific program may be accessed at <http://congresosrala2012.uniandes.edu.co> or www.srala.org.

Mark your calendar! This will be a unique “blend” of Colombian coffee, excellent risk analysis training opportunities, and fantastic landscapes! We have already confirmed participation of international lecturers who will address topics of audience-wide interest,



Colombian landscapes, among the best attractions worldwide!

such as “The Impact of Climate Change, The Significance of New Technologies” in times of striking for sustainable development and how we should consider “Highly-Damaging Natural Threats” as the recently experienced activity of volcanoes in hot points of Central and South America territories. Besides the traditional poster and oral presentations, we will also offer pre-congress courses, including training in qualitative analysis, and courses on assessment of environmental contamination and health effects.

In addition, we are entering a time of more active participation in global SRA development. The SRA-LA Executive Council is committed to making the best effort possible to help the SRA mission reach all world regions where the risk analysis arena has not

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reached a sufficient degree of maturity yet. While I am writing down these lines, SRA-LA President-elect Sandra Demichelis is flying back home from the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. There she engaged in numerous scientific activities and represented SRA-LA in SRA Council meetings as well. More, SRA-LA President Marcelo Wolansky has been appointed SRA councilor in the recent 2011 election of SRA officers.

We are in the process of elaborating proposals to give renewed impulse to SRA-LA outreach activities; that would increase SRA visibility and its participation as a facilitator of collaborative work in the risk arena among the Americas.

Last, we are already spreading the voice about the benefits of being in contact with SRA and promoting the upcoming Third World Congress in Sydney in universities, government offices, and industry sectors at every major city of Latin America. SRA-LA will sponsor a symposium at Sydney-2012 to show how risk analysis models and tools and know-how are being applied in the field to offer realistic solutions for old and new problems affecting the quality of life of our people.

SRA-Europe

www.sraeurope.org

Margot Kuttschreuter, President

Deadline for Abstracts

SRA-Europe Meeting 2012, Zurich, Switzerland

The call for papers for the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe (SRA-E) Meeting 2012 ends on 20 January 2012.

The SRA Europe Meeting in 2012 will be held 18-20 June at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. The special theme of this conference will be "Risk and Society: Decisions & Responsibilities," to reflect the fact that the analysis of risk is inextricably linked to the social context. The conference aims to facilitate exchange of experiences from different disciplines, fields, and application areas. Abstracts for symposia, oral presentations, and posters should be submitted electronically, by filling out the abstract submission form that can be found at www.sraeurope.org.

Confirmed speakers so far include:

- Valerie Reyna (Professor of Human Development and Psychology at Cornell University)
- John Adams (Emeritus Professor of Geography at University College London)
- Michael R. Greenberg (Professor and Associate Dean of the Faculty of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University)

The symposia as planned to date include:

- "Eye Tracking—Communication Material" organized by Vivianne Visschers (vvisschers@ethz.ch) and Rebecca Hess (hessr@ethz.ch)
- "Medical Risk Communication" organized by Carmen Keller (ckeller@ethz.ch)
- "Carbon Capture and Storage" organized by Selma L'Orange Seigo (slorange@ethz.ch)
- "Synergistic Risks" organized by Ian Dawson (i.dawson@surrey.ac.uk)
- "Literacy and Empowerment" organized by Melanie Connor (melanie.connor@usi.ch)

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- “Nuclear Power after Fukushima” organized by Vivianne Visschers (vvisschers@ethz.ch)
- “PACHELBEL” organized by Tom Horlick-Jones (Horlick-JonesT@cardiff.ac.uk)
- “Future Infrastructures for Meeting Energy Demands—Helmholtz Alliance Energy-Trans” organized by Pia-Johanna Schweizer (pia-johanna.schweizer@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de)
- “Preventive Risk Reduction: The Need for a Risk Dialogue” organized by Michael Siegrist (msiegrist@ethz.ch) and Peter Greminger (Peter.Greminger@bafu.admin.ch)

If you are interested in submitting an abstract for one of the organized symposia, contact the symposium organizer, and follow the directions for submitting an abstract.

Important Dates:

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 20 January 2012
- Notification of acceptance: 1 March 2012
- Deadline early bird registration: 15 April 2012

New England

www.sra-ne.org

Debra A. Kaden, President

The New England Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-NE) continues to have a strong and active membership. SRA-NE hosts seminars throughout the year, covering topics ranging from new risk-assessment methods to hot topics in environmental and human health. In addition to SRA-NE seminars, the regional organization partners with the Massachusetts Licensed Site Professionals Association each spring and is exploring partnering with the New England Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association for joint seminars of interest to both societies. The free-standing SRA-NE seminars are free and open to the public; the joint seminars are free to members. These seminars provide an opportunity for those interested in the science and policy of risk assessment to hear about current issues, research, and initiatives.

The most recent seminar took place on 14 December 2011 and included two interesting talks on bisphenol A and human health. Dr. Joe Braun of the Harvard School of Public Health presented results of various studies examining early life exposures to bisphenol A and children’s behavioral development, and Dr. Julie Goodman of Gradient presented a weight-of-evidence approach to understanding potential human health risks posed by bisphenol A.

Also included in this year’s topics are presentations on the Alliance for Risk Assessment series of workshops on new methods for risk assessment; exposures, and risks from hydraulic fracturing, exposure to particulate matter and metals in dusts in the environment, and understanding exposure to manufactured nanoparticles.

In addition, the SRA-NE is involved in the SRA-funded New Initiative Project, an effort to reach out to academic institutions to make them aware of the SRA and to encourage their participation in regional activities of SRA-NE. The first outreach effort is planned at Boston University in the spring and will include individual visits, a seminar, and an SRA-NE/Boston University mixer.

In an effort to enhance communication, SRA-NE has created a LinkedIn group and is exploring webinar capabilities for seminars in order to enable those who cannot travel to

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seminars to participate and possibly partner with other regional organizations. Feel free to check the SRA-NE website (<http://www.sra-ne.org>) for periodic postings on our activities.

SRA-NE also extends its congratulations to newly elected President-elect Eric Ruder of Industrial Economics and to Treasurer Arlene Levin of ERG and Secretary Karen Vetrano of TRC, both of whom were reelected.

SRA-Australia and New Zealand

www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra

Jean Chesson, Secretary

Janet Gough represented the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-ANZ) at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting in Charleston in early December. Taking part in the special meetings at the SRA annual meeting is valuable for SRA-ANZ to make sure that we are up to date with the current activities of other regions and the Society. There were two meetings of the representatives of regional organizations. One of the main matters discussed was improving communication between the regional organizations through the new website.

All regional organizations requested more information about the new SRA website (now due to be launched in June 2012). There will be places for regions to put material and also an interactive forum for us to discuss matters. Several regional organizations expressed interest in having space for their organization hosted on the new website. It remains unclear as to how this might work and whether we will need to continue to maintain our own websites.

The 2012 year with the World Congress in Sydney will be important for SRA-ANZ, and we are looking forward to meeting participants and showing off our part of the world. SRA-ANZ is holding its 7th annual conference in Sydney 16-17 July, immediately prior to the World Congress, and we would welcome anyone coming to the World Congress to that meeting.

We have recently held elections for the 2012 committee. Jenny-Ann Toribio has been re-elected for a second term, and Terry Walshe has been confirmed as treasurer for a second term. The membership also approved the introduction of a membership fee commencing in 2012. We plan to use this income to extend the activities of SRA-ANZ. Past President Simon Barry has led our organization through a very successful year. Rochelle Christian became president on 1 January 2012.

National Capital Area

www.sra.org/ncac

Sally Kane, President, and Genya Dana, Secretary

The National Capital Area Regional Organization (NCAC) is updating its website, planning events, and beginning to use a new local membership to attract professionals interested in our programs and local networking opportunities.

Our winter and spring events will include lectures by experts visiting the DC metropolitan area as well as the following more formal programs. As always, check the NCAC website (<http://www.sra.org/ncac>) frequently for updates.

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- Nuclear Risk Issues in the United States, last week of January 2012. Focus is on perception, social trust and communication, regulation, and the political imbroglio of waste management (i.e., Yucca Mountain and beyond). Internationally recognized experts, including Warner North and Michael Greenberg, will be participating in the program. Check the NCAC website (<http://www.sra.org/ncac>) for finalized date and venue.
- Emerging Risks of Synthetic Biology, 28 February 2012, 6-8 p.m. at George Washington University. A panel discussion of the potential risks and governance challenges relating to the emerging technology of synthetic biology, with several co-sponsors: Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, George Washington Environmental Law Program and SRA's Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group. This is the first program of two being planned on the topic of synthetic biology.
- Managing a Healthy Chesapeake Bay, 22-24 April 2012 at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. A day-and-a-half workshop on the technical and policy challenges currently faced in managing ecological and health risks, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the local chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. We encourage NCAC members to get involved in presenting their research results and helping to organize sessions for the meeting.

To get involved in NCAC activities, contact Sally M. Kane and Genya V. Dana at ncac@sra.org.

World Congress on Risk 2012



The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) invites you to join us for the World Congress on Risk 2012: "Risk and Development in a Changing World," Wednesday, 18 July, to Friday, 20 July 2012, at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia.

Go to www.sra.org/worldcongress2012 for further details. Thanks to all who submitted proposals. Scheduling and registration details will be available soon.

The co-chairs of the World Congress 2012 are Professor Alison Cullen (University of Washington), Dr. Daniela Leonte (Australian Government Department of Health and Aging), and Professor Jonathan Wiener (Duke University).

Questions? Contact the SRA Secretariat (ddrupa@burkinc.com).

Member News

Ragnar Löfstedt



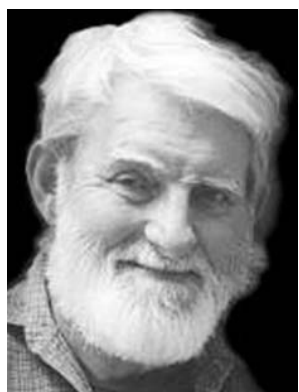
Professor Ragnar Löfstedt's report "Reclaiming Health and Safety for All: An Independent Review of Health and Safety Regulation" was published on 28 November 2011.

In March 2011, the British government established an Independent Review of Health and Safety legislation to make proposals for simplifying the existing raft of health and safety legislation. Löfstedt, a leading risk management specialist, was appointed to chair the independent review by Employment Minister Chris Grayling. Löfstedt, director of the King's Centre for Risk Management at King's College, London, has made recommendations aimed at reducing the burden of unnecessary regulation on businesses while maintaining Britain's health and safety performance, which is among the best internationally. The government has accepted his recommendations.

The Löfstedt report is available at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lofstedt-report.pdf> and on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety>.

The government response to the Löfstedt report, which fully supports his recommendations and sets out the next steps for implementation is available at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lofstedt-report-response.pdf>. Löfstedt's speech at the launch of his report is available at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety/speech-281111.shtml>.

Chris Hohenemser (1937-2011)



Chris Hohenemser, a Society for Risk Analysis fellow, died on 11 November 2011, at the age of 74, due to complications associated with multiple sclerosis (MS).

Chris's scholarly work in the Physics Department at Clark University was far reaching. He published over 80 papers in physics. His work also included public policy issues related to nuclear weapons, nuclear electric power, and a wide range of technological hazards. In 1971, he was a founder of Clark's pioneering Program on Environmental Science and Policy. And in 1986, he published groundbreaking work on the fallout from the disaster at Chernobyl. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the Society for Risk Analysis as well as a Marsh Distinguished Scientist. At the height of his career in 2002, Chris reluctantly retired from academic life due to debilitating effects of MS. That year, he and his wife Anne moved to Eugene, Oregon, to escape the snowy winters of New England and to live near his younger daughter and her family.

For 24 years, Chris lived with MS, a disease that slowly took away his ability to do most of the things he loved: working, hiking, playing music, dancing, writing, reading, and then finally the ability to move at all. He fought hard to adjust to each new phase of loss and in 2005 wrote a memoir, intended for his grandchildren, called *The Path of My Life*. In the past few years, Chris found pleasure in singing, listening to music, being read to, and

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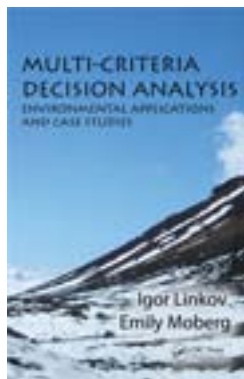
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spending time with family and friends. His wife and two daughters were at his side when he died.

Chris is survived by Anne Hohenemser, his wife of 51 years; his daughter Lisa Hohenemser and partner Mindy Feldbaum of Silver Spring, Maryland; his daughter Julie Hohenemser and husband Jesse Springer of Eugene, Oregon; four grandchildren; and his sister, Veronica Sutherland, of Vashon Island, Washington. A memorial service is being planned for the spring in Massachusetts. Donations may be made to the House of Peace, a nonprofit, therapeutic community providing shelter and support to victims of war: 1 High Street, Ipswich, MA 01938.

A full obituary can be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/registerguard/obituary.aspx?n=chris-hohenemser&pid=154856081>.

Igor Linkov



Dr. Igor Linkov co-authored the book *Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis: Environmental Applications and Case Studies*, published by CRC Press in 2011 (http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439853184;jsessionid=ipK1N0667Hrp1ig17Svy3g**).

Through a collection of case studies ranging from sediment management to environmental restoration, all the way to stakeholder engagement and green nanomanufacturing, the book gives readers the tools to apply cutting-edge MCDA methods to their own environmental projects. It offers an overview of the types of MCDA available and a conceptual framework of how it is applied, with the focus on its applicability for environmental science. In conjunction with these cases, the book also provides corresponding decision models that are implemented by the DECERNS software and allow users to examine the same case using multiple MCDA tools. The DECERNS software and models are available for download at www.crcpress.com. The book can be used as supplement to environmental science and management courses and complimentary evaluation copies are available for faculty members teaching these courses (please contact Igor.Linkov@usace.army.mil).

Alberto Alemanno



Governing Disasters: The Challenges of Emergency Risk Regulation is edited by Alberto Alemanno. Emergency crises have always tested our ability to organize and swiftly execute a coordinated response. Both natural and unnatural disasters pose new questions to which previous experience provides only limited answers. These challenges are arguably greater than ever, in a more globalized world confronted by a truly transnational hazard.

This is the first volume that addresses the complexities of the volcanic ash cloud that overshadowed Europe in April 2010, but has subsequently struck again in Australia, Chile, and Europe. It does so from a multidisciplinary perspective, drawing upon research from economics, law, sociology, and other fields, as well as volcanology and leading expertise in jet engineering. Whilst our knowledge base is wide-ranging, there is a common focus

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on the practical lessons of the ash cloud crisis both for subsequent eruptions and for emergency risk regulation more generally.

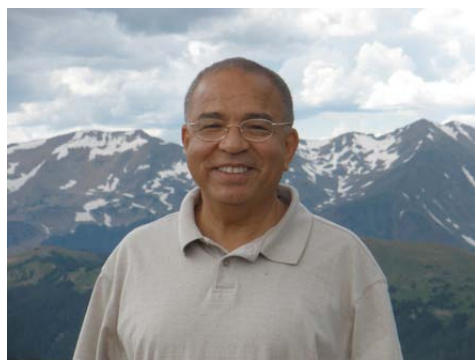
Among many other insights, *Governing Disasters* explains why it was that industry and regulators were largely unprepared for a phenomenon about which we were not scientifically ignorant. It concludes that the toolbox of risk regulation should not be expected to provide ready-made solutions but be applied flexibly, creatively, and with some humility.

This unique and timely resource will be useful to policy makers, scholars, officials of international organizations, research institutions, and consumer groups who want to acquire or further develop their capacities for risk regulation. For teaching purposes it is ideal for courses on risk regulation, disaster law and policy, and crisis management or as a supplement in courses on environmental law, transport law, space law, or land use.

What Do We Do?

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

Abdel-Razak M. Kadry



What is your job title?

I am senior advisor for Scientific Organizational Development and International Activities at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). NCEA is part of the Office of Research and Development (ORD).

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

Risk analysis is the core of my current job and most of my previous ones. I am responsible for the development of programs to facilitate international collaboration regarding major scientific issues related to human health risk assessment in order to promote the application of state-of-the-art assessment methodologies and procedures. I provided hands-on risk assessment training to several risk assessors in South Africa, Egypt, and Ghana. I am one of the authors of the interagency *Microbial Risk Assessment Guideline*, and I am also providing risk assessment expertise to an EPA agency-wide project to develop technical guidance for incorporating environmental justice into rule-making activities. In addition, I play a critical role in EPA's Sustainability and Healthy Community research program in designing the new directions of the research programs at EPA. I consider myself one of luckiest risk assessors in the world as, since I have joined EPA, I have been able to lead the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program. IRIS is one of the most prestigious human health assessment programs in the world. I am now using my 30 years of experience in toxicology and risk assessment to develop training programs to teach new generations of risk assessors and managers.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

I am a veterinarian, and I have both master's and PhD degrees in toxicology. Therefore, the application of risk assessment was a natural professional advancement. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, I was one of the pioneers who investigated the risk associated with chemicals adsorbed into various soils. Also, I investigated using data-driven numbers instead of default uncertainty factors in risk assessments. I am proud that I was able to

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publish several papers in the first issue of *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment Journal*. The rest is history. I continued to use risk assessment approaches until I left my faculty position at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey (UMDNJ) in 1998 and joined the United States Department of Agriculture and then EPA in 2006.

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

I started as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Kentucky and followed by another postdoctoral fellowship at UMDNJ. I then worked as senior scientist and manager in a contract research organization. Soon after, I worked as a toxicologist and faculty member at UMDNJ. During this period (1986-1998), I started to understand and appreciate the use of risk assessment principles in my research. From 1998 to 2006, I served as the lead toxicologist and risk analyst for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in several major cases that could have severely impacted United States consumer confidence and international trade. I then joined EPA in 2006 as the IRIS program director. In 2011, I became a senior advisor.

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

There are always new challenges on a daily basis. Risk assessment is systematic thinking, and you will never get bored working as a risk assessor.

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

Enjoy what you are doing, and ask yourself every day: what did I produce and learn today? Always think positively. Remember you are never too old to learn something new. Be very flexible and willing to move to different places, and always accept new scientific challenges.

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

I have been a member since 1999. I heard about the Society from my colleagues at FSIS. After the first meeting I attended, I severely regretted that I did not join earlier. SRA is an extremely valuable resource within the risk assessment community. As an example, many of the colleagues I collaborated with to develop new risk assessment approaches for the protection of food resources after 11 September 2001 are members of SRA.

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

SRA is a great organization. I formed a very good network of colleagues through my interaction with other members of SRA. I was able to organize several workshops during the annual meetings with other SRA members. These workshops worked as a very effective means to interact with our stakeholders and to have a very transparent scientific dialogue.

What are your interests outside of work?

I am a runner. I run at least five miles per day. In addition, I love cycling, and I participate in biking or spinning classes. I am also an electronics enthusiast, and I love working with computers. You can usually find me at every local HAMfest or electronics show.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

As I mentioned before, I am very active in international outreach and always I am looking for colleagues and organizations who are interested in collaborating with us in providing risk assessment training and experience, especially to developing countries. For more information please write to me at kadry.abdel@epa.gov. I thank SRA very much for providing me with this opportunity to talk about myself.

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2012 SRA Officers

President: Ann Bostrom, phone: 206-685-8198, email: abostrom@uw.edu
President-elect: George Gray, phone: 202-994-7993, email: ggray@gwu.edu
Secretary: Cristina McLaughlin, phone: 240-420-1978,
email: Cristina.McLaughlin@fda.hhs.gov, Latinhypercube01@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jeffrey Lewis, phone: 908-730-1107, email: r.jeffrey.lewis@exxonmobil.com
Treasurer-elect: Trina von Stackelberg, phone: 508-596-4209,
email: kvon@erisksciences.com
Past President: Rachel Davidson, phone: 302-831-4952, email: rdavidso@udel.edu
Executive Secretary: David A. Drupa, phone: 703-790-1745, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com
Councilor, 2014: Seth Guikema, phone: 410-516-6042, email: mailto:sguikema@jhu.edu
Councilor, 2012: Igor Linkov, phone: 617-233-9869, email: igor.linkov@usace.army.mil
Councilor, 2013: Margaret MacDonell, phone: 630-252-3243, email: macdonell@anl.gov
Councilor, 2013: Ortwin Renn, phone: (Germany) 49-711-6858-3970,
email: ortwin.renn@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de
Councilor, 2013: Lisa Robinson, phone: 617-965-0644, email: lisa.a.robinson@comcast.net
Councilor, 2014: Jo Anne Shatkin, phone: 617-850-1715, email: JAShatkin@clf.org
Councilor, 2012: Michael Siegrist, phone: (Switzerland) 044 632 6321,
email: msiegrist@ethz.ch
Councilor, 2012: Felicia Wu, phone: 412-624-1306, email: few8@pitt.edu
Councilor, 2014: Marcelo Wolansky, phone: Argentina, 541145763413, 541148547576,
email: mailto:mjwolansky@gmail.com

2012 Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting: George Gray, phone: 202-994-7993, email: ggray@gwu.edu
Audit: Michael Dourson, phone: 513-542-7475, ext. 14, email: dourson@tera.org
Awards: Alison Cullen, phone: 206-616-1654, email: alison@u.washington.edu
Communications: Lisa Robinson, phone: 617-965-0644, email: lisa.a.robinson@comcast.net
Felicia Wu, phone: 412-624-1306, email: few8@pitt.edu
Conferences and Workshops: Margaret MacDonell, phone: 630-252-3243,
email: macdonell@anl.gov
Education: Michael Siegrist, phone: (Switzerland) 044 632 6321, email: msiegrist@ethz.ch
Executive: Ann Bostrom, phone: 206-685-8198, email: abostrom@uw.edu
Finance: Jeffrey Lewis, phone: 908-730-1107, email: r.jeffrey.lewis@exxonmobil.com
Membership: Seth Guikema, phone: 410-516-6042, email: mailto:sguikema@jhu.edu
Marcelo Wolansky, phone: Argentina, 541145763413, 541148547576,
email: mailto:mjwolansky@gmail.com
Nominations: Rick Reiss, phone: 571-227-7228, email: rreiss@exponent.com
Publications: Rachel Davidson, phone: 302-831-4952, email: rdavidso@udel.edu
Regions: Ortwin Renn, phone: (Germany) 49-711-6858-3970,
email: ortwin.renn@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de
Jo Anne Shatkin, phone: 617-850-1715, email: JAShatkin@clf.org
Specialty Groups: Igor Linkov, phone: 617-233-9869, email: igor.linkov@usace.army.mil

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Regional Organization Contacts

Australia/New Zealand: Simon Barry, President, email: Simon.Barry@csiro.au,
website: <http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html>

Chapitre Saint-Laurent (Canada): Gaelle Triffault-Bouchet, President,
email: Gaelle.triffaultbouchet@mddep.gouv.qc.ca,
website: <http://chapitre-saint-laurent.qc.ca>

Chicago Regional: Carole Braverman, President, email: braverman.carole@epa.gov,
website: <http://www.sra.org/chicago>

China: Chongfu Huang, President, email: hchongfu@bnu.edu.cn

Columbia-Cascades: (currently inactive) James S. Dukelow, President,
email: jdukelow@owt.com

East Tennessee: (currently inactive)

Egypt: Shady Noureldin, President, email: shady@sra-egypt.org,
website: <http://www.sra-egypt.org>

Europe: Margot Kuttschreuter, President, email: M.W.M.Kuttschreuter@utwente.nl
Julie Barnett, Secretary, email: Julie.barnett@brunel.ac.uk,
website: <http://www.sraeurope.org>

Greater Pittsburgh: (currently inactive)

Japan: Toshinari Nagasaka, President, email: nagasaka@bosai.go.jp
Secretariat, email: office1@sra-japan.jp, website: <http://www.sra-japan.jp/english>

Kiev: Naum Borodyanskiy, President, email: naumb@list.ru

Korea: Dong-Chun Shin, President, email: dshin5@yuhs.ac,
Dr. Yong-Jin Lee, Secretary, email: YJLEE75@yuhs.ac

Latin America: Marcelo Wolansky, President, email: presidencia.srala@gmail.com,
website: <http://www.srala.org>

Lone Star-Texas: (currently inactive)

Metro (NY-NJ-CT): Rao V. Kolluru, President, email: raokollur@aol.com

Michigan: (currently inactive)

National Capital Area: Sally Kane, President, email: smkane55@verizon.net;
Genya Dana, Secretary and Program Development Officer,
email: gvdana@gmail.com, website: <http://www.sra.org/nca>

New England: Debra Kaden, President, email: dkaden@environcorp.com,
website: <http://www.sra-ne.org>

Northern California: Kay Johnson, Past President, email: Kay.Johnson@tetrattech.com,
website: <http://www.sra.org/ncc>

Philadelphia: Eileen Mahoney, Co-chair, email: Eileen.m.mahoney@gmail.com

Puget Sound: (currently inactive) Elaine M. Faustman, email: faustman@u.washington.edu

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2012 SRA Contacts

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R i s k N e w s l e t t e r

Research Triangle: John Grabau, Chair, email: jgrabau@nc.rr.com, <http://www.rtc-sra.org>

Rocky Mountain: Susan Flack, Chapter Contact, email: sflack@ccg-llc.net

Russia: Valery Lesnykh, Vice President, email: vvlesnykh@gmail.com,
website: <http://www.sra-russia.ru>

Southern California: Mary McDaniel, President,
email: mfmcdaniel@mclam.com, website: <http://www.sra.org/scc>

Southwestern and Central Ohio, Northern Kentucky: (currently inactive)

Taiwan: Kuen-Yuh Wu, Secretary General, email: kuenyuhwu@ntu.edu.tw

UK: Julie Barnett, President, email: julie.barnett@brunel.ac.uk

Upstate New York: JiYoung Park, President, email: jp292@buffalo.edu,
website: <http://www.sra.org/upstateny>

Specialty Group Contacts

Decision Analysis and Risk: Jim Lambert, President, email: lambert@virginia.edu,
website: <http://www.sra.org/darsg>

Dose Response: George Woodall, Chair, email: woodall.george@epa.gov,
website: <http://www.sra.org/drsg>

Ecological Risk Assessment: Greg McDermott, Chair, email: gregmc@neptuneinc.org

Economics and Benefits Analysis: Aylin Sertkaya, Chair, email: Aylin.Sertkaya@erg.com,
website: <http://www.sra.org/ebasg>

Emerging Nanoscale Materials: Lori Sheremeta, Chair, email: lsheremeta@gmail.com,
website: <http://www.sranano.org>

Engineering and Infrastructure: Royce Francis, Chair, email: seed@gwu.edu;
Cameron MacKenzie, Vice-Chair, cmackenzie@ou.edu
website: <http://sites.google.com/site/sraeisg>

Exposure Assessment: Robert Scofield, Chair, email: rscofield@exponent.com,
website: <http://www.sra.org/easg>

Microbial Risk Analysis: Aamir Fazil, Chair, email: Aamir.Fazil@phac-aspc.gc.ca,
website: www.MRASG.org

Risk and Development: Alison Cullen, Co-chair, email: alison@uw.edu,
Garrick Louis, Co-chair, email: gel7f@cms.mail.virginia.edu

Risk Communication: Craig Trumbo, Chair, email: ctrumbo@mac.com

Risk Policy and Law: Jennifer Kuzma, Chair, email: kuzma007@umn.edu,
website: <http://www.sra.org/rplsg>

Security and Defense: Heather Rosoff, President, email: rosoff@usc.edu
Henry Willis, President-elect, email: hwillis@rand.org
Bob Ross, Past President, email: Bob.Ross@dhs.gov

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Risk Newsletter is published by the
Society for Risk Analysis

Mary A. Walchuk, Editor, editormw@hickorytech.net
Genevieve S. Roessler, Consulting Editor,
gnrsslr@frontiernet.net
Sharon R. Hebl, Editorial Associate

Society Officers:

President: Ann Bostrom, abostrom@uw.edu
President-elect: George Gray, ggray@gwu.edu
Secretary: Cristina McLaughlin,
Cristina.McLaughlin@fda.hhs.gov
Treasurer: Jeffrey Lewis,
r.jeffrey.lewis@exxonmobil.com
Treasurer-elect: Trina von Stackelberg,
kvon@erisksciences.com
Past President: Rachel Davidson,
rdavidso@udel.edu

Members of SRA Council:

Seth Guikema, sguikema@jhu.edu
Igor Linkov, igor.linkov@usace.army.mil
Margaret MacDonell, macdonell@anl.gov
Ortwin Renn, ortwin.renn@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de
Lisa Robinson, lisa.a.robinson@comcast.net
Jo Anne Shatkin, JAShatkin@clf.org
Michael Siegrist, msiegrist@ethz.ch
Felicia Wu, few8@pitt.edu
Marcelo Wolansky, mailto:mjwolansky@gmail.com

Secretariat:

David Drupa, Executive Secretary,
Society for Risk Analysis,
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd.,
Suite 402, McLean, VA 22101;
phone: 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672;
email: SRA@BurkInc.com

Communications Chairs:

Felicia Wu, few8@pitt.edu
Lisa Robinson, lisa.a.robinson@comcast.net

Newsletter Contributions:

Send to Mary Walchuk,
Editor, Risk Newsletter, 115 Westwood Dr.,
Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142;
email: editormw@hickorytech.net

SRA website: www.sra.org

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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Deadline for Risk Newsletter Submissions

Send information for the **March/April 2012** SRA *Risk Newsletter*, which will be on the SRA website **mid-March**, to Mary Walchuk, *Risk Newsletter* Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; email: editormw@hickorytech.net) no later than **20 February 2012**.