



Risk Newsletter

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SRAonCampus New Initiatives Grant

Peg Coleman, Amy Rosenstein, and Brandolyn Thran



Paul Slovic



Bernie Goldstein



Naomi Starobin



Susan Tierney



Scott Ferson



Steve York



Betty Anderson

What do these people have in common? They have spoken or have agreed to speak at an event funded by the SRAonCampus New Initiatives grant to assist Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) regional organizations (RO) with recruitment of new members on university campuses. The SRAonCampus project is developing beyond the initially proposed scope in Upstate New York, now including established ROs in the United States (New England and Upstate New York), a newly forming RO (Northern Nevada), and international ROs (Australia/New Zealand and Egypt).

Speakers and topics for the six SRAonCampus 2012 events:

- SRA Fellow Paul Slovic spoke at the University of Nevada, Reno, presenting "The More Who Die, the Less We Care: Confronting Psychic Numbing in Risk Analysis." The event was led by Brandolyn Thran and Glenn Miller, with hopes to form a new RO in Northern Nevada. Slides are available at <http://www.sra.org/upstateny/events.htm>.
- SRA Fellow Bernie Goldstein was interviewed at Syracuse University by Naomi Starobin, news director with NPR-member station WHSU, on "Risk Analysis and Fracking: A Conversation on Analytic-Deliberative Process." The event was led by Peg Coleman and Laura Steinberg of Upstate New York SRA. Slides and videos are available at <http://www.sra.org/upstateny/events.htm>.
- Energy economics expert Susan Tierney presented "Shale Gas: Analyzing Risks and Opportunities" at Boston University. The event was led by Amy Rosenstein and her team from New England SRA. Slides are available at <http://www.sra-ne.org/seminar.htm>.

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SRAonCampus New Initiatives Grant

- SRA Councilor (2008–2011) Scott Ferson has been invited to present “Frontier of Risk Analysis” at the University of Sydney in July before the World Congress on Risk 2012, along with two Australian colleagues (Steve York and Peter Fraser). The event will be led by Jenny-Ann Toribio for SRA-Australia/New Zealand. Seumas McCroskery is exploring possibilities to include Scott at the podium for an SRAonCampus event at University of Auckland, New Zealand, before the World Congress as well.
- SRA Fellow Betty Anderson has been invited to speak at Ain Shams University, Cairo, for SRA-Egypt later this year. Shady Noureldin is leading this event.

SRA ROs typically organize symposia and panel discussions of general and technical interest to local communities, but rarely recruit any new members from these events. The SRAonCampus grant provides funding to test a new model for recruitment on university campuses. A key aspect of the grant is the opportunity to leverage SRA Speakers Bureau funding to bring our SRA fellows and past officers to the podium at the SRAonCampus events to engage participants and assist the RO teams with recruiting new SRA members and RO members. Teams in each partnering RO are investing significant time on campus prior to and after their events to increase awareness of SRA, encourage faculty and student participation, and build relationships. The three teams who hosted events in March and April are now exploring multiple options for effective follow-up activities to encourage participants and other potential new members to join SRA and the ROs this year.

One added value of the SRAonCampus grant, in addition to recruiting new SRA members, is the opportunity for continuing outreach, capitalizing on the videography of the Upstate New York event on analytic deliberative process and hydraulic fracturing of shale gas. The video from the Syracuse University event will be available this month on the Upstate New York SRA website (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny>) and as a DVD. Short clips from the 1.5-hour event will be linked to the interview questions and slide numbers for easy viewing of the online version. SRA members can circulate the link or schedule visits to campuses to show the DVD version of the event to classes and faculty or interest groups. ROs may support additional membership raffles for on-campus shows from available funds in the RO treasury.



Dean Laura Steinberg (left) and Peg Coleman, co-organizers for the SRAonCampus event at Syracuse University

Photo by Stacey Massulik

Another added value of the SRAonCampus grant is the use of these funds to increase awareness of SRA and build relationships in Australia and New Zealand prior to the World Congress on Risk 2012 in Sydney this July. The activities of the SRA-Australia/New Zealand promoting the two SRAonCampus events at University of Sydney and Lincoln University will likely reach faculty and students who may otherwise not have imagined participating in the World Congress. Conversely, the World Congress theme (“Risk and Development in a Changing World”) may also assist the RO in attracting participants to SRAonCampus events prior to the World Congress at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (www.sra.org/worldcongress2012). The co-chairs of the World Congress (Alison Cullen, Jonathan

Wiener, and Daniela Leonte) and participants at the World Congress are also cordially invited to participate in the SRAonCampus events as their schedules permit.

SRAonCampus New Initiatives Grant

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In December 2012, the SRAonCampus project report will be presented to the SRA Council with results from the six events, lessons learned, and highlights of ongoing efforts in the partnering ROs. Future efforts leveraging the initial grant funding may include outreach at additional universities, outreach to other sectors in addition to academia, development of a networking database, and development of regional, national, and international research consortia to stimulate interdisciplinary research in risk analysis.

The partnering ROs extend sincere thanks to the SRA Council, current Regions Committee Chairs Jo Anne Shatkin and Ortwin Renn, past Regions Committee Chairs Donna Voorhees and Daniela Leonte, and Executive Secretary David Drupa for their support of the New Initiatives grant for SRAonCampus. Also, we acknowledge the generous support of the Metro NY/NJ/CT RO for providing funding for raffles of free SRA memberships at each event.

Information about the SRAonCampus project and events is available on the Upstate New York SRA website (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny>). For more information on the project, please contact Peg Coleman or any of the team leads for the grant project. SRA members who use LinkedIn can join the SRAonCampus group to continue work on outreach begun under the New Initiatives grant and build collaborative relationships that enhance the vitality of SRA and the ROs.

World Congress on Risk 2012 Risk and Development in a Changing World



Photo courtesy of Destination New South Wales

The Society for Risk Analysis 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, Sydney, Australia.

The preliminary program of the SRA World Congress on Risk 2012 is now posted online at <http://sra.org/worldcongress2012>. To register online, please go to <https://ssl4.westserver.net/birenheide/sra-payments/world12/index.php>, or to download a registration form, please visit http://www.sra.org/docs/WC_2012_Registration.pdf.

Information on hotel bookings through our travel agent is available at <http://www.anywheretravel.com.au/conferences>. You may need a visa to enter Australia (including those traveling from the United States). Information on obtaining visas is posted at <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/business-visit-visa-options.htm>.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Rosenberg at the SRA Secretariat, jrosenberg@burkinc.com.

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President's Message

Ann Bostrom



Spring is in the air and the call for papers is out for our upcoming Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) annual meeting in San Francisco. Invite your colleagues to submit an abstract and try SRA!

I'm pleased to announce that Council has approved the SRA Statement of Ethics below, which will be submitted to the full membership for approval on the SRA election ballot this fall. Mitch Small chaired a subcommittee that explored the development of a statement or code of ethics for SRA and developed a section of questions on ethics for the 2009 member survey, to which over 450 members responded. Ninety percent of those responding reported that there are significant ethical issues associated with the practice of risk analysis. Over half of respondents (58 percent) supported establishment of an SRA Statement of Ethics, which identifies a set of agreed-upon ethical practices and principles that members may refer to without explicit requirement that they follow the statement.

The statement approved by Council derives from these 2009 SRA membership survey results on questions related to ethics and includes those proposed statements that were supported by majorities of over 60 percent. Sincere thanks to Mitch Small for his and his committee's diligent efforts to develop the statement and to Councilor Igor Linkov for bringing it to Council's attention this spring.

DRAFT SRA Statement of Ethics, approved by Policy Council 8 May 2012

Members of the Society for Risk Analysis shall:

- I. Hold paramount the truth in all matters associated with risk analysis.
 - II. Observe the laws, regulations, and ethical standards with regard to the conduct of risk research and practice, including guidelines for human and animal studies.
 - III. Give due consideration to the ethical, legal, social, and policy implications of their research, advice, and communications.
 - IV. Conduct their work with objectivity and themselves with integrity, being honest and truthful in reporting and communicating their research and assessments.
 - V. Employ sound analytic methods in the effort to identify, characterize, and assess methods for addressing risks.
 - VI. Practice high standards of workplace, occupational, and environmental health and safety for the benefit of themselves, their co-workers, their families, their communities, and society as a whole.
 - VII. Abstain from professional judgments influenced by undisclosed conflict of interest and disclose any material or professional conflicts of interest.
 - VIII. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the risk analysis professions.
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2012 SRA Annual Meeting

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9-12 December
San Francisco

"Advancing Analysis" **9-12 December 2012, San Francisco, California**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, 31 May, 8:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern (5 p.m. Pacific)
For all abstract submissions go to <http://birenheide.com/sra/2012AM/form.php>.

Symposium Organizer Instructions:

- Please submit the symposium abstract in advance of the deadline in order to obtain (automatically) the symposium identifying number.
- Forward the number to the individual participants in your symposium.
- The individual participants in your session must then submit their individual abstracts for your symposium (with the symposium number included in their submissions) by Thursday, 31 May.

CALL FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, 31 May

For proposal forms and other information: http://www.sra.org/events_workshops.php
Proposals should be submitted to Mr. David Drupa, ddrupa@burkinc.com.

SRA members and others are encouraged to submit proposals for continuing education workshops to be offered on the starting Sunday (9 December). They may also be offered on the Thursday following the meeting (13 December), depending on organizer and participant interest. These workshops provide valuable education for our members in basic and advanced risk analysis topics.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Conferences and Workshops Committee, Subcommittee for Workshops at the Annual Meeting (Co-chairs: Jay Zhao, zhao.jay@epa.gov, 513-569-7373, or Jacqueline Patterson, patterson@tera.org, 513-542-7475 ext. 29).

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We are pleased to announce that *Risk Analysis* will publish an extra issue this year that was produced in cooperation with the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET). The 15-chapter monograph is titled "The Impact of Tobacco Control Efforts on U.S. Lung Cancer Mortality: 1975–2000." All Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) members will receive the issue by mail this summer, and it will then be posted online also. We thank Area Editor Suresh Moolgavkar and Special Issue Editor Eric Feuer of NCI for organizing this important set of papers.

Also coming up this summer, we resume our series of biographical features with an article based on an interview with Daniel Kahneman, Nobel prize-winning behavioral economist and professor of psychology at Princeton University. We hope you enjoy reading about Dr. Kahneman and his unique perspectives and contributions to the risk field. Please pass on to us any suggestions you have for future biographical profiles.

We are happy to announce that the SRA Council has approved an increase in page count for the journal, effective for the current calendar year (Volume 32). With increasing numbers of submissions in recent years, this increase will allow us to add one to two additional articles to each issue and will help to reduce the lag time between when an article is published online and when it appears in a monthly issue.

Share News and Information on the SRA LinkedIn Group

Discuss professional interests and activities, post job openings or inquire about job opportunities, share your research questions, and announce risk-related events with the SRA LinkedIn group at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Risk-Analysis-4265467>.

Share Your SRA Photos



Send us your photos of SRA members and activities to post on our Flickr site (http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis). If you have SRA-related photos to share, please email them to Mary Walchuk, newseditor@sra.org.

Committees

Communications Committee

Co-Chairs Felicia Wu and Lisa Robinson

The Communications Committee is in the midst of a very busy year! Felicia Wu (few8@pitt.edu) is leading our continuing efforts to publicize *Risk Analysis* articles, assisted by Communications Committee members John Besley, Sharon Friedman, Cindy Jardine, Steven Lewis, Katherine McComas, Susanna Priest, and Henry Willis, as well as *Risk Analysis* Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie. We review articles scheduled for publication and typically identify one from each issue to be the subject of a news release. Steve Gibb of the Scientific Consulting Group supports this effort, working with the committee and the authors to draft the releases and disseminate them to numerous news outlets. Recently highlighted articles include "Estimating the National Public Health Burden Associated with Exposure to Ambient PM2.5 and Ozone," co-authored by Neal Fann, Amy Lamson, Susan Anenberg, Karen Wesson, David Risley, and Bryan Hubbell, and "Social Amplification of Risk in the Internet Environment," by Ik Jae Chung. You can read the releases at http://www.sra.org/about_press.php.

Lisa Robinson (lisa.a.robinson@comcast.net) is leading our efforts to update the SRA website, assisted by Website Redesign Subcommittee members John Besley, Chris Cummings, Rachel Davidson, Scott Ferson, Sharon Friedman, Stijn Pieters, Susanna Priest, Rick Reiss, Ortwin Renn, Kim Thompson, Donna Vorhees, and Marcelo Wolansky. The redesign work is being undertaken by Digital Eye under the leadership of Bob Watson. Jim Butler, the SRA webmaster, is providing substantial support along with David Drupa of the SRA Secretariat and Mary Walchuk, the *Risk Newsletter* editor. Rick Reiss will be coordinating the development of the content for the new site, which we expect will be operational sometime this fall.

We are also beginning to venture into social media. Our new LinkedIn site is now operating (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Risk-Analysis-4265467>) and we hope you will join us to discuss professional interests and activities, post job openings or inquire about job opportunities, and share your research questions! You can also view photos from recent SRA events on Flickr (http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis/); please email your photos of SRA activities and members to Mary Walchuk (news_editor@sra.org) so she can add them to the site. We are creating a new Social Media Subcommittee to help guide these efforts as well as determine how to best move forward; please let us know if you are interested in becoming a member! More generally, we hope you will share your ideas and advice with us and let us know if you would like to be become more involved in our activities. New members are welcome at any time.

Photos from the 2011 SRA
Annual Meeting can be
found at
[http://www.flickr.com/
photos/
society_for_risk_analysis](http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis)

Future Society for Risk Analysis
Annual Meetings

9–12 December 2012
San Francisco, California

8–11 December 2013
Baltimore, Maryland

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Specialty Groups

Dose Response Specialty Group

www.sra.org/drsg

Chair George Woodall

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) is co-sponsoring the World Congress on Risk in Sydney, Australia, 18–22 July 2012 (<http://www.sra.org/worldcongress2012.php>). Additionally, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) has partnered with the Australasian College of Toxicology and Risk Assessment Inc. (ACTRA) to offer a four-day version of their dose-response assessment “boot camp” course immediately following the World Congress; more information and registration information are available at <http://www.tera.org/Global/Bootcamp/index.html>.

DRSG has developed a group on LinkedIn to help facilitate communication and outreach (http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4353900&trk=hb_side_g). Please consider joining our LinkedIn community, as well as the long-standing Yahoo Group (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DRSG>).

We are hoping that increasing our online presence will increase awareness of our activities, especially with students. Please contact Dr. Kan Shao (shao.kan@epa.gov) if you have suggestions or would like to assist in his efforts to increase student involvement in DRSG.

DRSG initiated its 2012 tele-seminar series with the presentation “Bisphenol A: Evaluating Toxicity and Dose Response in Rodent Models” by Barry Delclos and began using a web conference to present slides and facilitate discussion.

The next tele-seminar will be a joint seminar with the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group on 5 June 2012 at noon EDT. The next presenter will be Justin Teeguarden, who will continue the theme on BPA with the talk “Evaluating the Plausibility of Estrogen Receptors as Mediators of BPA Toxicity in the Context of Human Serum Concentrations of Unconjugated BPA.” The web conference will be available to all at <https://epa.connect.solutions.com/jfitzpatrick>; simply provide your name and log in as “guest.” The call-in number for the audio portion will be provided from there.

In addition, DRSG is willing to support and sponsor relevant symposia for the 2012 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting in San Francisco (see <http://birenheide.com/sra/2012AM/form.php>). The deadline for abstract submissions is 31 May. If you would like to have a session considered for DRSG support, please contact George Woodall, DRSG chair (woodall.george@epa.gov or 919-541-3896) prior to your submission.

Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

President Jim Lambert, President-elect Myriam Merad, and Secretary/Treasurer Chris Karvetski

Remember to visit www.sra.org in order to submit your Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) proposals for papers, posters, symposia, workshops, joint specialty group initiatives, etc., for the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) annual meeting in San Francisco, 9–12 December 2012.

In particular, you might contact DARSG President Jim Lambert (lambert@virginia.edu) or President-elect Myriam Merad (myriam.merad@ineris.fr) with your ideas for symposia or to request help with organizing them.

Specialty Groups

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We must encourage student members to submit their abstracts for the DARSG Student Merit Awards and requests for student travel awards.

DARSG promises a strong showing at the World Congress on Risk, to be held in Sydney, Australia, 18–20 July 2012.

DARSG continues to plan a workshop for supply-chain risk management related to security and defense. Interested DARSG members, please let Henry Willis know your interests (hwillis@rand.org).

Check the SRA website for details of Dr. Igor Linkov's upcoming June 2012 NATO workshop in Hella, Iceland, co-sponsored by the SRA. The workshop will address DARSG-related topics in the context of Sustainable Cities and Military Installations: Climate Change Impact on Energy and Environmental Security.

Let us know your wishes for the DARSG and the Society. We look forward to your comments and ideas.

Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

Chair Aylin Sertkaya

News from the Field

Economics and regulatory analysis continue to be areas of great interest in the fourth year of the Obama Administration. On 20 March 2012, the Office of Management and Budget issued guidance to the heads of executive departments and agencies regarding the cumulative effects of regulations. The guidance supplements Executive Order 13563 on "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review" and directs agencies to take active steps to take account of the cumulative effects of new and existing rules and to identify opportunities to harmonize and streamline multiple rules. Where appropriate and permitted by law, the guidance calls for engagement of stakeholders early on in the rulemaking process; identification of opportunities to increase the net benefits of regulations; and careful consideration, in the analysis of costs and benefits, of the relationship between new regulations and regulations that are already in effect, among other things. The guidance is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/inforeg/cumulative-effects-guidance.pdf>.

We will continue tracking related initiatives for Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group (EBASG) members and posting materials on our website. We hope that you will comment on these issues and provide information on other topics of interest to EBASG members by joining our discussion group, which can be accessed from the side menu on the EBASG website (<http://www.sra.org/ebasg>) or directly at <http://groups.google.com/group/sra-ebasg>.

EBASG Activities

On 23 March 2012, EBASG co-sponsored a Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) New England Regional Organization Event Series Seminar by Alberto Alemanno, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law & Risk Regulation, HEC Paris, titled "Lifestyle Risks: The Challenges of Regulating Excessive Consumption of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Unhealthy Foods." The seminar was held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the offices of Industrial Economics. Featured panelists included Brian Morrison, principal of Industrial Economics, and James Hammitt, professor of economics and decision sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health and director of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis.

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Please feel free to contact any of the EBASG officers—me (aylin.sertkaya@erg.com), Elisabeth Gilmore (vice-chair, gilmore@umd.edu), Danya Machnes (secretary/treasurer, dmachnes@indecon.com), or Amber Jessup (immediate past chair, amber.jessup@hhs.gov)—with your suggestions or concerns. We also welcome the opportunity to assist you in coordinating symposia for the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group

www.sra.org/rplsg

Chair Jennifer Kuzma

We encourage you to submit papers, posters, or symposia under the Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group (RPLSG)—or cross listing with another specialty group—for the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) annual meeting, 9–12 December 2012 in San Francisco, California. The SRA deadline for submittal is 31 May. If you have any questions or need assistance with risk policy and law symposia, please contact Jennifer Kuzma, RPLSG chair (kuzma007@umn.edu).

Remember to also encourage your students to submit under risk policy and law and apply for the Student Paper Merit Award. Each specialty group gives monetary awards to students who submit under that specialty group.

The SRA-Europe Meeting 2012, in Zurich, Switzerland, is taking place soon (16–18 June). RPLSG Vice Chair Frederic Boudier has put together a special symposium titled “Coping with the Risk Regulation Reflex,” which will bring together scholars in the risk policy and law field with decision makers from Europe. We hope many of you can make it.

Past Chair Tee Guidotti

An interesting example of cooperation within SRA is taking place between RPLSG and the National Capital Area Regional Organization, which serves the areas around Washington, DC, and Baltimore. Just this winter and spring, the regional organization and the specialty group have co-sponsored some of each other’s programs and, especially, an evening program in Washington titled “Emerging Risks of Synthetic Biology” (see <http://www.law.gwu.edu/News/20112012events/Pages/SyntheticBiology.aspx>).

It makes perfect sense that the regional organization that is home to the U.S. capital and the specialty group devoted to public policy would have a common interest in federal policies and procedures, and that is indeed driving the collaboration. However, there are other common interests. In addition to politics and public policy, Washington, DC, has a huge concentration of legal talent and is the home not only for regulatory law but much civil litigation that concerns risk-related issues (and the creative tension between the concept of risk and uncertainty, and the principles of civil law and the need to reach a decision based on the preponderance of evidence).

The regional organization has developed collegial ties with the environmental law program at George Washington University and the usual venue of its meetings at the George Washington University Law School attracts participation from the legal community. This works to the benefit of members with a legal interest in the RPLSG. The regional organization and the specialty group are exploring other opportunities to team up on programs.

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Specialty Groups

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

Chair-elect Matteo Convertino

During the last month, many papers about risk perception and communication of ecosystems to climate change have been published in a variety of journals. Risk perception, risk communication, and risk management play a large role into the solution of complex ecosystem problems that arise from climate change and human stressors. *Risk Analysis* and other journals are increasingly focusing attention on the quantification of decisions on ecosystem management. At the same time, centers that address these topics, such as the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC, www.sesync.org), are being created. The SESYNC fosters actionable synthesis research and education related to the structure, functioning, and sustainability of socio-environmental systems. The Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG) supports this idea of quantifying sustainability of complex socio-ecological systems and strongly invites the collaboration of other scientists in SRA.

Calls for Papers

ERASG invites the submission of papers to the open journal *Ecological Processes* (<http://www.springer.com/environment/journal/13717>) for the special issue "Wetlands in a Complex World," guest edited by ERASG Chair-elect Dr. Matteo Convertino (mconvertino@ufl.edu). The topic will be held by the Society of Wetland Scientists and the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference in conjunction with INTECOL 9 in Orlando, 3–8 June 2012 (<http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/intecol/topics.html>). Invited papers are exempted from the submission fee.

The editorial board of the journal *Environment, Systems, and Decisions* (formerly titled *The Environmentalist*), published by Springer Publishing Company, announces two special calls for papers: one addressing the challenges of energy, water, and infrastructure sustainability for cities, industrial and military installations, and small communities and the other about scenario analysis as a multidisciplinary approach to negotiate the risks and benefits associated with emergent and future conditions. Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Igor Linkov (Igor.Linkov@usace.army.mil) or Dr. James H. Lambert (Lambert@virginia.edu).

Upcoming Conferences and Initiatives

Dr. Matteo Convertino, chair-elect of ERASG, will attend the World Congress on Risk, to be held in Sydney, Australia, in July 2012. ERASG congratulates Convertino, who received a fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation fellowship to participate in the World Congress.

ERASG will sponsor a special workshop titled "Biocomplexity and Decisions for Sustainability" at the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. We are looking forward in the coming months to ERASG proposals for papers, posters, symposia, workshops, joint specialty group initiatives, etc., for the annual meeting. Contact Dr. Convertino (mconvertino@ufl.edu) and Igor Linkov (Igor.Linkov@usace.army.mil) for more information.

ERASG invites participation in the INTECOL conference "Wetlands in a Complex World" in Orlando, Florida, 3–8 June 2012, co-organized by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

ERASG announces also the creation of a new website and blog, which will be posted online in the next couple of months. Participation in this effort is encouraged. Stay tuned for further details!

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Specialty Groups

Risk and Development Specialty Group

Co-Chairs Alison Cullen and Garrick Louis

Hello Risk and Development Specialty Group!

We look forward to seeing many of you in Sydney, Australia, for the World Congress on Risk 2012. The congress has attracted a plethora of sessions related to risk and development—thank you all for contributing to this major theme!

Meanwhile, plans for the 2012 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting in San Francisco are unfolding (details in this issue of the newsletter, [page 5](#)). Please contact us if you would like help in putting together a symposium in the area of risk and development. At last year's business meeting, members proposed a number of possible themes, including:

- "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"
- "Comparative Development and Risk"

Feel free to add to this list, and let us know if you are planning to propose a session.

Finally, if you have a student who is submitting an abstract for the annual meeting, please encourage her or him to apply for our first-ever Risk and Development Specialty Group Student Award.

All the best—see you in Sydney and San Francisco!

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. Links are provided for biographies of 2011 honorees Drs. Lave and Kaplan.

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

Regional Organizations

SRA-China

President Chongfu Huang

The Society for Risk Analysis-China (SRA-China) has launched the Risk Analysis Network in Chinese (<http://racchina.gotoip2.com/inde.php>).

Different from other websites for societies, the Risk Analysis Network not only posts messages and provides a forum, its most important mission is to construct a powerful internet of intelligences (IOI) in risk analysis for online services.

An IOI consists of intelligence agents, the Internet, and a mathematics model. An IOI collects and processes the information provided by the agents with experience and judgment in a risk. It serves the customer who needs experience to deal with a specific risk. The key of constructing a positive IOI is to filter malicious interference, process inconsistent information, and carry out an optimal treatment on incomplete information. Its core technology is the data-processing method with information diffusion. The online services of IOI can help us in activities such as choosing health foods, correctly filling in the college candidate voluntary, and guaranteeing love affairs are more romantic.

IOI leads “knowledge service” to a new direction and provides a new perspective and ideas for the development of “knowledge service.” A so-called Active Multi-Agent Knowledge Service System is explored for taking the risk experience of the public as the primary source for online information service. According to individual needs, knowledge will be extracted using the analysis model, thereby providing solutions to the users and helping the public to improve the experience and awareness to mitigate risk.

Most of the members of SRA-China (also Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention) do not have the ability to compete for government projects. The way out of their situation is to provide services according to the public’s needs.

We hope that the first IOI commercial application will appear at the end of this year. Then, a company will be a partner to operate the online IOI.

SRA-Europe

www.sraeurope.org

Simone Dohle, ETH Zurich

SRA-Europe Meeting 2012 Zurich, Switzerland

The SRA Europe Meeting will be held 18–20 June 2012 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 aim is to facilitate interaction among all players in the risk field, ranging



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from risk experts from all disciplines and risk stakeholders as policy makers to the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and other interest groups.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

- Valerie Reyna (Cornell University)
- John Adams (University College London)
- John Graham (Indiana University)
- Adrienne Grêt-Regamey (ETH Zurich)
- Michael R. Greenberg (Rutgers University)
- Wolfgang Kröger (ETH Zurich)

Other invited speakers include Ortwin Renn, Ragnar Löfstedt, Raffaele Chiacchia, Bruno Merz, Roland Scholz, and Niels Holthausen.

The registration for the conference is now open. A programme became available 15 May 2012.

New England

www.sra-ne.org

President Debra A. Kaden

As we move into spring, the New England Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-NE) continues to be active. SRA-NE hosts seminars throughout the year covering topics ranging from new risk assessment methods to hot topics in environmental and human health.

On 23 March, the seminar “Lifestyle Risks: the Challenges of Regulating Excessive Consumption of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Unhealthy Foods” featured Dr. Alberto Alemanno of HEC Paris, as well as discussion by Drs. Brian Morrison of Industrial Economics Inc. and James Hammett of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis.

On 9 April, Dr. Susan Tierney of Analysis Group gave a presentation discussing shale gas and hydraulic fracturing. Dr. Tierney is an expert on energy economics, regulation and policy, with a focus on the electric and gas industries, and was a member of the Shale Gas Subcommittee of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board as well as a policy leader of the recent National Petroleum Council’s study on natural gas. Her talk addressed issues of energy markets, environmental and community impacts, economic development, and regulatory trends—topics that are essential in understanding the current debate on this topic. Her presentation and the following reception were part of the SRA New Initiatives program, held at Boston University.



Speaker Susan Tierney

On 10 April, SRA-NE held a joint meeting with the Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional Association. Gerard Martin of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Health discussed the recent vapor intrusion guidance issued by his agency, and the gathering provided an opportunity for risk assessors and licensed site professionals to network.

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One final seminar is planned for the late spring, addressing community exposures and risk (date and speakers to be announced on <http://www.sra-ne.org>). 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.

SRA-NE is also co-sponsoring the course “Decision Analysis in a Day.” This eight-hour course is for professionals who may have heard of decision and risk analysis but want further grounding to get more involved in the area, and will provide an introduction to the theoretical basis of decision and risk modeling, including principles of mathematical modeling, probability theory, and Bayes’ rule. It will be led by Professor Jeffrey Keisler, University of Massachusetts Boston, President-Elect of INFORMS Decision Analysis Society; and Dr. Igor Linkov, Risk and Decision Science Focus Area Lead, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.



SRA-NE officers, left to right: President-elect Eric Ruder, President Debra Kaden, and Past Presidents Henry Roman, Amy Rosenstein, and Donna Vorhees

In an effort to enhance communication, SRA-NE has created a LinkedIn group, and, where available, provides webinar broadcast of seminars in order to enable those who cannot travel to seminars to participate. SRA-NE actively seeks partnering opportunities with other organizations to widen the dialog surrounding risk assessment. Check the SRA-NE website (<http://www.sra-ne.org>) for periodic further details about these events as well as postings on our other activities.

National Capital Area

www.sra.org/ncac

President Sally Kane

The National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) has the challenge of serving the center of the United States when it comes to risk science and regulation and two metropolitan areas (Washington and Baltimore) with abundant risk-related academic resources and programs. Furthermore, Washington, DC, is a world center for creative litigation and for applied—and equally creative—economics. As a result, it is easy to find speakers on almost any risk-related topic, but difficult to compete with the wide range of highly visible activities related to risk in the regulatory, legislative, political, legal, and academic arenas. Over the past year, however, the chapter has found a formula that seems to work well: (1) more, rather than less, programming, which makes SRA more central to the daily work of risk analysts, (2) topics that are either quite visible or emerging before they break into national news, (3) close professional ties with local academic institutions and science-based federal agencies, (4) a time slot that gets members into a routine of attending right after work, and (5) free food. The latter seems to be particularly important to sustain evening seminars that start at 6:00 p.m.

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Topics thus far in this calendar year have included the future of nuclear energy and the perception of safety, changes in the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) database program, synthetic biology (the creation and manipulation of biologically based systems), and biohacking (the "do-it-yourself" avocational practice of biology and genetics); the latter two are distinct topics but presented on the same program. In late spring, the NCAC is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis in sponsoring two talks by Professor Ragnar Lofstedt, Kings College London: (1) food safety and (2) occupational and health regulations in Europe, particularly the United Kingdom; the hosting organization for the second talk is George Washington's Regulatory Studies Center. At George Washington University, we are also working closely on upcoming programs with Environmental Law Studies and the Center for Risk Science and Public Health.

In addition to local partners, the chapter has entered into a strategic relationship with the Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group for co-sponsorship and programming. The objective is to serve the highly specialized professional needs of the risk analysis community close to the federal government or studying policy on the federal level. Ideally, the NCAC would become the professional forum for discussion of these issues, removed from office constraints, and would assist new members in professional career development by providing context, skills (such as communication), and networking opportunities.

We have openings in our Executive Council for members who would like to work on future programs and/or become future officers. Please contact Sally M. Kane (current NCAC president, smkane55@verizon.net) with expressions of interest and frequently check our website for updates (www.sra.org/ncac).

SRA-Latin America

www.srala.org

Counselor Elizabeth Nunes Alves

II Regional Congress of SRA-Latin America in Bogota, Colombia



Dr. Felipe Muñoz Giraldo (center), chair of the local organizing committee, chatting with colleagues during one of the cocktail breaks

The II Regional Congress of SRA-Latin America was held 9–12 April at University of "Los Andes" in Bogota, Colombia. With modern, sophisticated, and comfortable facilities, the university staff, coordinated by Dr. Felipe Muñoz Giraldo, welcomed all members and participants with the Colombian charm. The theme of the II SRA-LA Congress — "From Prevention to Emergency Attention" — was truly an international matter and brought in more than 70 papers from various countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Colombia, and Mexico.

The program included oral presentations and posters in several areas:

- Pollution and Public Health
- Natural Disasters, Monitoring Systems, Emergency Preparedness, Climate Change
- New Technologies, Sustainable Development, Engineering
- Risk Management and Public Policy
- Perception and Risk Communication

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Undoubted highlights of the congress were the presence of international experts Dr. Olivier Salvi (France), General Secretary of ETPIS - European Technology Platform on Industrial Safety (www.industrial-safety-tp.org); Dr. Inés Camilloni (Argentina), expert in atmosphere sciences and climate change; and Dr. Fernando Diaz Barriga (Mexico), recognized worldwide for his contribution to the field of human health effects of chemical contamination in vulnerable communities.

The local speakers, Dr. Carlos Iván Marquéz, director of the Colombian National Risk Management Unit, and Dr. Marta Lucia Calvache, director of the Colombian National Geological Service, impressed everyone with their lectures.

The first two days were marked with three interesting pre-congress courses:

- “How to Study Contaminated Sites in Areas under Permanent Conflict Due to Multiple Stressors” by Dr. Fernando Diaz Barriga, University San Luis Potosí, Mexico (12 hours)



Mabel Padlog (Mexico) offering the course **Qualitative Analysis**

- “Probabilistic Risk Analysis” by Dr. Mauricio Sanchez, University of Los Andes, Colombia (3 hours)
- “Application of Qualitative Analysis in Risk Studies” by Dr. Mabel Padlog, University of Guadalajara, Mexico (4 hours)

The cocktail and coffee breaks pleased everyone, and these relaxing moments were arranged in parallel to the posters session. This made the scientific discussion time between attendees and presenters enjoyable, opening opportunities for networking and collaborative research exploration. The high quality of posters impressed everyone.

It is impossible not to talk about the awards . . . since I was one of the winners(!) with the poster “The Risk of Tanker-Truck Explosion by Electricity Static.” Two other papers were also selected by the Award Committee experts Dr. Ursula Oswald Springs, Fernando Díaz Barriga, and Rosa



SRA-LA President **Marcelo Wolansky (Argentina)** during his speech

M. Flores Serrano, those from Mariluz Betancur and Ramón Murillo (Medellín, Colombia) and Luciano Cermignani and colleagues (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

The experience was really fulfilling and certainly achieved the major goals of this II Regional Congress of our young Latin America group by bringing together a critical mass of colleagues interested in the various aspects of risk analysis. Congratulations to all who participated and contributed to the success of this event.



Dr. Inés Camilloni (Argentina) during her plenary lecture on climate change



Elizabeth Nunes Alves (Brasil) discussing with colleagues at the poster session

Regional Organizations

SRA-Australia/New Zealand

President Rochelle Christian

Thanks to to the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council, current Regions Committee Chairs Jo Anne Shatkin and Ortwin Renn, and SRAonCampus Project Manager Peg Coleman, SRA-Australia/New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) is planning two SRAonCampus events, one in New Zealand and one in Australia.

The Australian event will take place at the University of Sydney prior to the World Congress on Risk 2012 that is being held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre 18–20 July. Scheduled for 17 July, the SRA-ANZ will use Speakers Bureau funds to bring Scott Ferson to present alongside two Australian speakers, Steve York and Peter Frazer, in a panel discussion titled “Frontiers of Risk Analysis.”

The SRA-ANZ Executive Committee in 2012 is also working to implement recommendations arising from a New Initiatives Project that was supported by the SRA. New initiatives we are progressing include the production of our first regional newsletter and the introduction of an annual membership fee, which required an amendment to our bylaws. We are also exploring options for future hosting of our website.

SRA-Japan

Yasunobu Maeda, Liaison Committee

Voting for election of SRA-Japan councilors closed at the end of April. The new SRA-Japan council will be determined in the 2012 Annual General Meeting in June. In addition, the next president will be elected from the new councilors. The new president and the new councilors will serve for two years, from 2012 to 2014.

On 17 June 2012, we will hold the 2012 Public Symposium at the University of Tokyo, just after the annual general meeting. The theme of the symposium is “Another Correspondence to Low Probability High Consequence Risk: Utilization of Financial Functions” (tentative).

Moreover, the 2012 SRA-Japan Annual Meeting will be held in November at Shiga University in Hikoe, a scenic city on the shore of Lake Biwa, the biggest lake in Japan. Details of the events will be shown on the SRA-Japan website, <http://www.sra-japan.jp/english>.

Member News

Igor Linkov and Jim Lambert

Drs. Igor Linkov and James Lambert were selected as editors in chief for Springer’s new journal *Environment, Systems, and Decisions* (2013+, continuing the tradition of *The Environmentalist*, 1981–2012), which addresses the needs and perspectives of infrastructure owner/operators, engineers, environmental professionals, and risk managers through technical articles, editorials, interviews, and news columns. This journal provides a catalyst for research and innovation in cross-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary methods of decision analysis, systems analysis, risk assessment, risk management, risk communication, policy analysis, environmental analysis, economic analysis, engineering, and the social sciences. Zach Collier and Matthew Bates will act as managing editors. The journal welcomes submissions from SRA members (see Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group report on page 11). To submit a manuscript, please visit <http://www.springer.com/environment/nature+conservation+-+biodiversity/journal/10669?detailsPage=press>.

What Do We Do?

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

Steve Gibb



What is your job title?

I'm a project manager with the Scientific Consulting Group (SCG) just outside of Washington, DC, focused on technical support for environmental agencies and professional associations like the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA).

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

Our work focuses on crafting White Papers on challenging topics like cumulative risk assessment, uncertainty analysis, and health-adjusted life years. We also organize workshops and conferences on environmental health issues. These meetings address a range of topics such as sustainability, water research, and risk communication. We also do a fair amount of editing of technical documents, outreach work, and literature searches and reviews for agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Finally we support SRA's Communications Committee by crafting monthly news releases on newsworthy articles that appear in *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

I came to the field with a background in writing, editing, and health risk and was hired as an editor of *Risk Policy Report*, a publication focused on scientists interested in policy and policymakers interested in science. Reporting for *Risk Policy Report* immersed me in risk debates and developments and provides crucial context for my current work.

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

I think openness to new opportunities and genuine curiosity about intellectual and conceptual developments in risk assessment have fueled my enthusiasm for work in this field. The intersection of theory and science policies that make an impact on environmental health is an ongoing fascination of mine. I enjoy the field so much that I pursued a master's degree at Johns Hopkins University in environmental science. Besides that, hard work and innovating creative solutions to challenges seem important to any career in risk.

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

I think the variety and challenging nature of the tasks I work on get me up in the morning, eager to get to work. I like opportunities to "monkey-wrench" theory and concepts to fit practical solutions to client's challenges in our field. The news releases we craft for SRA are a high point in my month, as "translating science" is rewarding, as is seeing how the hundreds of media outlets cover our articles. By the way, we do not use the phrase "public relations" — "knowledge mobilization" is the new black.

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

Buckle up! Getting involved in an issue such as risk which is so fundamental to our society is a privilege that can be as exciting and energizing as you make it. You will be given opportunities to make positive contributions to scholarship, society, and the health of people and the environment. Make the most of them!

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How long have you been a member of SRA and what led you to join?

I have attended SRA conferences for 16 years, 10 as a reporter and have been a member since 2006. Unlike some other conferences I've attended, SRA offers a sense of community and "builds in" opportunities for sidebar conversations during meetings, which, as we all know, can often be just as interesting as the formal presentations.

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

SRA members come from multiple disciplines and I often tap the papers and other intellectual resources of experts I know from SRA in advancing SCG's work. We have sometimes retained special consultants I became acquainted with through SRA in our support of technical products for environmental agencies. I would say my association with SRA has been instrumental in adding value to our clients' requests.

In what ways are you involved in SRA as a volunteer?

I served as a volunteer on the communications committee and have presented multiple times. While not strictly "volunteer work," the *Risk Policy Report* includes a special section each January that highlights key presentations at SRA, providing a unique window into risk developments and controversies.

In what ways do you support SRA as a consultant?

As I noted above, we support the SRA Communications Committee in amplifying our messages to multiple audiences for newsworthy and timely technical findings that emerge from the Society's journal. Our goal is to raise the profile of SRA as a credible source of information on science and society. News releases have covered a wide range of topics including the impacts of hurricanes, the use of risk tools in urban planning in China, and food allergens and the response of school personnel. The committee plays a critical role in reviewing potential articles, building consensus on what might be the most newsworthy, and editing our drafts for technical accuracy. This all helps to represent the Society to the nation as a positive and reliable contributor to ongoing societal challenges.

When did you begin writing news releases for SRA?

We began in August of 2009 and have been privileged to work with Past Chair Sharon Friedman and current Co-Chairs Felicia Wu and Lisa Robinson, all of whom contribute significant time and energy as volunteers to the SRA Communications Committee.

What do the news releases cover?

The following are a few of the titles of recent releases, all of which are posted on the SRA website:

- Cultural Factors Figure Largely in Food Safety Crisis Communication
- Air Pollutant Levels of Particulates and Ozone Add to Public Health Burden
- Protests of South Korean Railway Project Fueled by Internet Comments
- University Study Links Fetal Distress with Maternal Hurricane Exposure
- Stanford Study Calls for Sheltering-in-Place in the Event of Nuclear Attack

How often are they sent out? To whom?

We average slightly less than one a month and send them to a unique set of national, trade, and web-based media outlets tailored to each news release. It's always exciting when we hear *U.S. News and World Report* or the *Weather Channel* or *The New York Times* has picked up our stories, as well as some of the more targeted trade publications that reach key professionals.

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What Do We Do?

What is the result/benefit of the releases for SRA?

I think people associate the information we disseminate with a certain level of credibility as scholars and experts have essentially reviewed the technical information twice: once in the journal's peer-review process and a second time by the experts on the SRA Communications Committee. This may help build trust and link SRA to the creation of knowledge in the public interest across sectors, policy domains, and fields of study.

What are your interests outside of work?

I enjoy sailing, music, and camping with my family—a preteen and a nine-year old.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Just that my wife is in the public health field, and with my interest in environmental health, we are able to have interesting dinner conversations while still having “our own thing.”

News and Announcements

Panel Discussion “Moving Forward with IRIS Reform: Implementing the National Academies’ Roadmap for Revisions”

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC
REGULATORY STUDIES CENTER

NCAC
Society for Risk Analysis

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND HEALTH SERVICES

Moving Forward With IRIS Reform:
Implementing the National Academies’
Roadmap for Revisions
Wednesday, April 18, 2012

In its 2011 review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) draft Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment for formaldehyde, a National Research Council (NRC) committee identified “recurring methodologic problems” with IRIS assessments generally and offered a “roadmap for revisions.” The committee recognized that implementation of its recommended changes would “involve an extensive effort by EPA

staff and others.” To aid in this effort, the National Capital Area Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) teamed up with the George Washington University (GW) Regulatory Studies Center and Center for Risk Science and Public Health to host the panel discussion “Moving Forward with IRIS Reform: Implementing the National Academies’ Roadmap for Revisions.”

The event was held at GW on 18 April 2012 and attracted more than 70 participants from government, academia, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations.



Left to right: George Gray, Lynn Goldman, Yiliang Zhu, Chuck Elkins, Rebecca Clark, and Heidi R. King

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Professor George Gray, director of the GW Center for Risk Science and Public Health, incoming SRA president, and former assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Research and Development, moderated the discussion.

Professor Lynn Goldman, dean of the GW School of Public Health and Health Services and former assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, provided background on the evolution of IRIS, considering it one of the most important resources on chronic and cancer toxicity in the world. She encouraged Congress and others to give EPA time to respond to the NRC recommendations, but suggested it may be time to rethink paradigms to ensure that IRIS addresses information critical to decision makers and enables the use of risk analysis tools by more parties to promote product de-selection.

Professor Yiliang Zhu, professor of epidemiology, biostatistics, and internal medicine at the University of South Florida, served as a member of the NRC committee that reviewed EPA's draft IRIS assessment of formaldehyde, as well as the committees that reviewed IRIS assessments of dioxin and tetrachloroethylene. He summarized the NRC formaldehyde report and focused on the committee's recommendations for progress on the IRIS program overall. Specific areas included study evaluation approaches, use of consistent weight-of-evidence evaluations, and characterization of uncertainty in risk estimates.

Chuck Elkins, president of Chuck Elkins & Associates and former director for the EPA Toxic Substances Program, encouraged EPA to engage stakeholders more effectively throughout the assessment process. He recommended more oversight of the peer-review process, envisioning a role similar to that of a journal editor.

Rebecca Clark, acting director for the EPA National Center for Environmental Assessment, explored myths and concerns surrounding the IRIS process. Among the myths were that IRIS involves risk assessment (rather than hazard assessment, which does not consider exposure) and that EPA does not engage in peer review. She said EPA embraces the recommendations in chapter 7 of the NRC report and suggested that the recent TCE (trichloroethylene) assessment reflects many of the recommendations.

Heidi R. King, chief economist, House Energy and Commerce Committee, said that Congress attempts to balance competing concerns to serve its constituents and that members are interested in IRIS because it is influential in policy decisions. She encouraged participants to recognize the tradeoffs involved in setting IRIS levels, including the possible negative health consequences of chemical substitutions. She observed that single point estimates are not informative for identifying and managing the most important risks.

During the discussion, panelists discussed creative ways to make IRIS more timely and effective, including changing its focus to provide an array of information to facilitate risk analysis by different users, supporting emerging approaches to data gathering and processing (e.g., crowd sourcing), and matching the level of effort in the assessment to the needs of users.

Presenters' slides are at www.RegulatoryStudies.gwu.edu and www.sra.org/ncac.

If you have written a book, received a job promotion or award, or participated in an event that you would like other Society for Risk Analysis members to know about, send a paragraph or two (150–200 words) and a photo to Mary Walchuk, *Risk Newsletter* editor, at newseditor@sra.org.

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The International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant



The International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP), an event recognized by the Society for Risk Analysis, will take place 28 July–2 August 2013 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

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Mercury is rising in the environmental and political agenda. Mercury in the atmosphere is a global issue, with methyl-mercury concentrating through the aquatic food chain to pose a neurological threat to sensitive individuals. In response to this, Canada and, more recently, the United States have already set legislation on mercury emissions from large combustion sources. The European Union may not be far behind, with mercury monitoring to be required annually and mercury control likely to appear in the next round of BREFs (best available technology reference documents). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will finalise a global legally binding instrument (LBI) on mercury in 2013 that aims to coordinate action to reduce mercury emissions from all sources including fuel combustion, chlor-alkali plants, smelting, cement production, gold mining (commercial and illegal artisanal), and products (dental amalgam, medical instruments, batteries, and light switches). The LBI is likely to include requirements for reductions in emissions and monitoring of mercury as well as remediation of contaminated sites.

The ICMGP has been maturing since its instigation in the early 1990s to become the foremost meeting for anyone interested in mercury – academia, commercial ventures, sources, regulatory authorities, environmental managers, health specialists, waste management consultants, and more. Attendance at the ICMGP has grown to reflect the increasing interest in the mercury issue and we therefore expect 2013 to be the most popular year yet. The timing of ICMGP in the same year as the launch of the UNEP LBI is ideal to maximise the interactions between those who have to put the treaty into practice and those who have the expertise to help them do so.

So make a date in your diary to visit Edinburgh, Scotland, for the 2013 ICMGP 28 July–2 August and visit <http://www.mercury2013.com/> for more information.

DA in a DAY

29 May 2012, Wentworth by the Sea Hotel, New Castle, New Hampshire

Lecturers: Professor Jeffrey Keisler, University of Massachusetts Boston; President-Elect of INFORMS Decision Analysis Society, and Dr. Igor Linkov, Risk and Decision Science Focus Area Lead, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

This eight-hour course sponsored by the Society for Risk Analysis is for professionals who may have heard of decision and risk analysis and who may want to get involved in these areas. The course provides an introduction to the theoretical bases of decision and risk modeling, including principles of mathematical modeling, probability theory, and Bayes' rule.

Participants will gain understanding of the key approaches – what they are designed to accomplish, the assumptions underlie them, their similarities and differences, the questions they can answer, and keys to using them properly. There will also be plenty of discussion, questions, and answers so that participants will be able to take well-informed positions as they plan, review, or execute decision and risk analysis.

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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.

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