

# Ideas for the 2005 SRA Annual Meeting

By Chris Frey, SRA President-Elect

As SRA President-Elect, I am charged with overall planning for the upcoming annual meeting. I have identified three supporting goals for this year: (1) to take advantage of our meeting location in Florida to touch upon many “local” topics that have broad implications or analogies; (2) to continue the internationalization of the Society; and (3) to encourage a more interdisciplinary orientation in the technical program.

Our location in Florida is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and importance of our field to society, including public and private stakeholders. Florida is one of many possible subthemes for the meeting. Some Florida-relevant topics that are of wider interest include: risk management at amusement parks (such as those in the Orlando area); ecological risks associated with the Everglades and the coral reef systems in South Florida; characterization and management of biothreat agents; natural disaster preparation and response (e.g., hurricanes); health implications of land-use and development; health risks of recreation (e.g., UV and skin cancer to injuries from water sports); hazard analysis and management for space systems (e.g., NASA); and food and agriculture (e.g., cattle, citrus). No doubt there are many more topics. I hope you will choose one of these or come up with your own. When submitting an abstract for a paper for the 2005 Annual Meeting, feel free to use the subject category of “Other” if your topic does not clearly fit into any other category.

The internationalization of the SRA is evident in Sections in Europe and Japan as well as chapters in countries such as Australia and Russia. The Florida meeting location is particularly convenient for international members (or potential new members) in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. International attendees may wish to propose papers on topics relevant to their countries or regions, such as drinking water and chlorination, and others. SRA will continue to provide opportunities for partial international travel support to help promote international representation at the Annual Meeting.

The 25th anniversary of the SRA is also an opportunity to take a historical perspective, not only of the Society itself, but on the changing role of risk analysis in societal and private decision making. What has been the evolution of accomplishments and challenges and what can we learn from this for the future? Where has risk analysis been successful? Where has it been lacking and why? What are the emerging needs for improvements in methodology or applications? Given the critiques of risk analysis that we have heard from the “loyal opposition,” as described by President Baruch Fischhoff at the 2004 Annual Meeting, how should we respond as a profession?

All of the major units within SRA, including specialty groups, sections and chapters, as well as you - the individual member (or potential new member) - have a key role in preparing for the annual meeting, by encouraging members and colleagues to submit paper, symposia, and workshop proposals. I look forward to your input and contributions.