

**Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)
Presents a full day workshop:**

***From Discounting to QALYs to VSLYs and other Cost Benefit Analysis Approaches to
Help Inform Decision Making***

Sponsored by the Economics and Benefits Analysis Specialty Group

Sunday, December 7, 2008 - Boston, MA

Cost Benefit (CB) Analysis has become increasingly useful in helping policy makers evaluate health and safety policies. However, CB analysis carries considerable controversy, especially because it provides ways to measure health, safety and the environment in monetized terms.

This workshop will address how some of the components of CB analysis are used for measuring health and safety. For example, valuation approaches can include direct cost of illness approaches to estimates that includes society's willingness to pay (WTP) or Value of a Statistical Life Year (VSLY). One focus of this workshop is to address advantages and limitations in different VSL estimates such as in estimates from compensating wage studies. Different valuation approaches will also be discussed such as cost effectiveness analysis and the use of QALY's and DALY's. Another focus of this workshop is to explore how discounting can help evaluate costs and benefits of policies whose effects will happen in the very distant future or span over a long period of time.

This workshop will present a case study about short and long term occupational risks from Silica dust exposure and will discuss different health valuation approaches in measuring health effects of this problem. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to formulate their own cost benefit analysis approach of potential policy options regarding the case study or other subjects of interest. The workshop will be concluded with presenters forming a panel to discuss issues raised by participants.

Instructors:

Laina Bush, DHHS-ASPE
Frank J. Hearl, P.E., CDC- NIOSH
Amber Jessup, DHHS- ASPE
Cristina McLaughlin, FDA- CFSAN
Rene Pana-Cryan, CDC- NIOSH
Aylin Sertkaya, Eastern Research Group (ERG)
David Zorn, FDA- CFSAN