



RISK *newsletter*

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SRA Seeks Support for National Centers for Risk Analysis Proposal Sent to Government Leaders and Agencies

Yacov Y. Haimes, President, Society for Risk Analysis

The idea for establishing a national, university-based program of interdisciplinary training and research in risk analysis originated with John Graham several years ago. It was pursued and developed by an SRA committee chaired by Tim McDaniels and was officially put on paper in the form of a proposal in late May 1998.

At that time, as SRA President, I signed a number of letters outlining our proposal and sent the letters along with our proposal "Establishing New Educational and Research Centers for Risk Analysis: Needs and Benefits" to high-level government leaders and agencies. It was forwarded as a Statement of the Council of the Society for Risk Analysis.

The letters and proposal were mailed to the following:

- The White House
- All Cabinet Members and their Deputies
- The Leadership of the House and Senate, both Democratic and Republican
- The Committee Chairs of the House and Senate
- The Subcommittee Chairs of the House and Senate
- Major Agencies involved in risk analysis such as EPA and FEMA
- The Director of the National Science Foundation
- The Office of Science and Technology Policy

Committee members in addition to Chair McDaniels who worked to expand on Graham's idea and to put it into the proposal were Robin Cantor, Alison Cullen, William Farland, and Chris Frey.

The committee, the SRA Council, and I feel that this is the right time to approach our government and agency leaders. We plan to follow up on the letters by making personal visits to key legislators, cabinet members, and agency contacts.

The proposal itself is five pages long. However, in my accompanying letter I outlined the major points. We are printing the letter on page 2 of this issue of the *RISK newsletter* so that Society members can become familiar with the thrust of the proposal and, when in contact with the government leaders and agencies, will support the venture and offer additional information about the Society and the proposed National Centers for Risk Analysis as necessary. Please contact me or any committee member with ideas or comments. [Haimes (804-924-3803, haimes@virginia.edu), Cantor (202-466-4422, robin_cantor@dc.legc.com), Cullen (206-616-1654, alison@u.washington.edu), Farland (202-260-7315, farland.william@epamail.epa.gov), Frey (919-515-1155, frey@eos.ncsu.edu), McDaniels (604-822-9288, timmcd@unixg.ubc.ca)]

(see Letter on page 2)

Inside RISK

1998 Annual Meeting	3
1997 Annual Meeting Photos	4
SRA-Europe	6
Section Contacts	7
Committees	8
1998 Annual Meeting Information	9
Specialty Groups	10
Specialty Group Contacts	11
Chapter News	12
Chapter Contacts	14
Regulatory Risk Review	15
News and Announcements	15
Advertising Policy	16
RISK newsletter Deadline Information	16

(*Letter, continued from page 1*)

Subject: Proposed National Centers for Risk Analysis

Both the public and private sectors of the United States have a strong and growing interest in the application of the analytic tools of risk analysis. These tools are being applied to human health, safety, engineering and physical infrastructure, and environmental decisions, as well as to financial, manufacturing, and strategic issues.

The increasing interest in risk analysis reflects a widespread belief that the United States can do a much better job of responsibly addressing and reducing risks than occurs with current practice. With improved research and skills development, we can better balance the objectives of cost-effectiveness and public participation in managing risks to health, safety, technology, and the environment. This conclusion has been amply supported by reports from diverse organizations.

Although the explosion of interest in risk analysis is encouraging, the Council of the Society for Risk Analysis is concerned that the demand for qualified professionals and scientists will undoubtedly outstrip the number of well-trained people in this field. In the SRA Council's opinion, the educational needs in risk analysis within universities are apparent at four levels:

1. Undergraduates majoring in science, mathematics, engineering, economics, and other social sciences need access to a high-quality, interdisciplinary course on the subject of risk as well as to modules on risk that are integrated into current required courses.
2. Graduate students in numerous fields (particularly medicine, public health, statistics, law, environmental studies, toxicology, pharmacology, ecology, engineering, economics, and the social sciences) need to integrate the principles and methods of risk analysis into their required curricula.
3. Mid-career professionals in the public and private sectors, including government, business, the mass media, and advocacy organizations, need access to short yet intensive educational opportunities that can upgrade their understanding of risk-related methods and issues.
4. Doctoral-level training in each of the three facets of risk analysis also needs to be provided to a small but growing number of leaders who can advance research in the field and develop the next generation of theory, curricula, and applied approaches.

Although some universities have developed useful programs in these areas, the Council believes that at present no university in the United States is capable of providing the high level of education in risk analysis outlined above.

In order to address these needs, the Council of the Society for Risk Analysis recommends that the Administration and Congress create a national program for training and building research capacity in risk analysis. At the outset, this would mean supporting about ten high-level university-based centers in risk analysis in the United States. The SRA Council recommends that each center be funded at approximately \$800 thousand to \$1 million per year for a five-year start-up period. At the end of the start-up phase, the program could be reevaluated and strengthened, as appropriate.

Where appropriate, these centers would attempt to fill broad regional needs and build regional expertise by serving a constituency wider than a single university. Multi-university teams could be assembled to seek center funding.

The Council recommends that support for this initiative be appropriated to several agencies. One logical governmental sponsor of such a program is the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF has an uninterrupted, 15-year commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of risk analysis through a small, yet accomplished, extramural research program. With an emphasis on risk-related research and assessment in its research and educational programs, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is also a logical potential source of support for this initiative.

The university-based centers for risk analysis should be designated and funded through a competitive, peer-review process that is typical of the National Science Foundation, or of recent joint NSF/EPA environmental research programs.

The ultimate product of the proposed centers will be a new generation of faculty, professional practitioners, graduates, and students with the knowledge and skills to apply risk analysis in ways that can improve our ability to responsibly address national priorities.

It is estimated that the United States economy currently invests \$600 billion per year in various regulatory programs, with a majority of this investment dedicated to regulations aimed at reducing risks to human health, safety, and the environment. Risk analysis can help make sure that these kinds of investments are made wisely, taking into account both insights from science and public values about risk protection. If the effectiveness of regulation is improved by only one percent after five years, the implicit savings to the national economy would be on the order of \$6 billion annually, or more than 100 times the estimated total cost of the five-year program.

A five-year, \$40–50 million investment in university-based training and research in risk analysis can thus be seen as a modest step toward better assuring that future decision makers will achieve more health and environmental protection at less cost than is being achieved today. When applied to industrial sectors, the tools of risk analysis can assist in efforts to increase productivity, quality, and innovation.

We look forward to discussing the above initiative with you and your staff, and to answering any questions that you may have. Please contact me at 804-924-3803; fax: 804-924-0865; and e-mail: haimes@virginia.edu; mail: Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems, University of Virginia, Thornton Hall, Charlottesville, VA 22903, or through the SRA Secretariat.

Sincerely,

Yacov Y. Haimes

President, Society for Risk Analysis

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Assessing and Managing Risks in a Democratic Society Kennedy to Speak at 1998 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting

"Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., will speak at the Wednesday morning plenary session at the 1998 SRA Annual Meeting," announced Program Committee Chair Gail Charnley. Kennedy serves as Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. He is also a Clinical Professor and Supervising Attorney at the Environmental Litigation Clinic at Pace University School of Law in New York. A graduate of Harvard University, Kennedy studied at the London School of Economics and received his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School. Following graduation he attended Pace University School of Law, where he was awarded a master's degree in Environmental Law.

Kennedy has worked on environmental issues across the Americas and has assisted several indigenous tribes in Latin America and Canada in successfully negotiating treaties protecting traditional homelands. He is credited with leading the fight to protect New York City's water supply. The New York City watershed agreement, which he negotiated on behalf of environmentalists and New York City watershed consumers, is regarded as an international model in stakeholder consensus negotiations and sustainable development. He helped lead the fight to turn back the anti-environmental legislation during the 104th Congress.

Among Kennedy's published books are *The Riverkeepers* (1997), *New York State Apprentice Falconer's Manual*, *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation* (1987), and *Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., A Biography* (1977).

"One of the themes of Kennedy's book *The Riverkeepers* is how to involve people in risk management decision making, consistent with our meeting theme which is 'Assessing and Managing Risks in a Democratic Society,'" Charnley said. "The movement over the last few years towards stakeholder involvement in risk management decision making reflects our democratic society in action. In a participatory democracy, people expect to be a part of decisions that affect them. Today, more and more regulations are developed and implemented using transparent processes that include opportunities for consultation and cooperation among regulators, regulated parties, and the general public. Not only does this approach reduce the likelihood that everyone will end up in court at the end of the process, it promotes social trust and public confidence. At the same time, however, there is a feeling that involving the public in decision making threatens the scientific basis of risk management. There is a call by our legislators and by the scientific community for regulatory agencies to rely on the 'best available science.' Strengthening the scientific basis of decision making by reducing scientific uncertainty is an important goal. But how do we reconcile good science and public values? That is the quandary and the subject on which I hope our meeting will focus."



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who will speak at the 1998 SRA Annual Meeting

"I suggested Mr. Kennedy's name to the SRA as a keynote speaker for several reasons," said Program Committee member Charles Menzie. "The primary reason is that the theme of the SRA Annual Meeting is very consistent with key points Mr. Kennedy makes in his book with John Cronin. Second, because I am involved in the evaluation of PCBs in the Hudson River, I know that some of the decisions will turn on the outcome of the risk assessments (human and ecological). These will need to be informed by the larger democratic (e.g., stakeholder) process and in my view Mr. Kennedy has good insights into the role these processes play in environmental decision making. Finally, the SRA has emerged as the main professional organization in the country that is wrestling with how to integrate social, political, economic, and technical issues into fair risk management decisions."

Charnley pointed out other highlights for SRA members attending the meeting. "The last annual meeting featured what President Yacov Haimen called 'nugget sessions' for the first time," she said. "His goal was to present sessions in which the leaders of the various risk-related disciplines would discuss some of the larger issues in their fields; that is, they would present more general information than would be appropriate for a technical session, in a manner that would be accessible to those in other disciplines. For example, we heard the pros and cons of uncertainty analysis, about challenges to the acceptance of risk analysis, and a discussion of the relationships among sex, emotion, politics, trust, science, and risk. I hope to build on these themes this year with new nugget symposia that will be of interest to a broad audience."

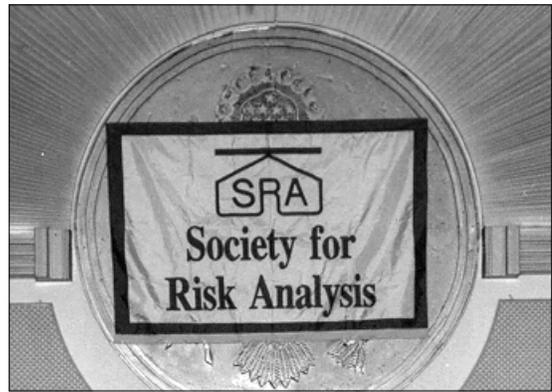
"Also, I hope to take advantage of the location to highlight Native American risk issues and the different perspectives that Native American risk analysts bring to risk management decision making," she commented. "In addition, the SRA Council has been working hard to develop new ways to take advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of our society. I have emphasized symposia in the call for papers as one way to get people to think about developing programs addressing particular issues from a multidisciplinary or, at the very least, multiopinionated point of view. We have also created invited symposia in an attempt to accomplish similar objectives."

If the speaker and theme have piqued your interest, the location offers another incentive to attend the 1998 Annual Meeting. "December in Scottsdale is bound to be nicer than December in most other places in the United States," Charnley said. "Some of the most spectacular scenery in the United States is easily accessible from Scottsdale. The birding is fabulous, and don't forget to bring your golf clubs!" ◇◇



(More Annual Meeting information can be found on page 9.)

1997 SRA Annual Meeting 7-10 December — Washington, D.C.



Andrey Bykova and Rao Kolluru



Speaker General Alton D. Slay, right, and Program Chair Yacov Y. Haimes



Dick Burk and Journal Editor Travis Curtis Share a Laugh at the President's Reception



Tom McKone and George Apostolakis



Jeff Swartout, EPA, Explains Poster "Breast Milk Pathway Model for Nonlipophilic Compounds"



SRA Year 2000 Committee: from the left, back, Yacov Haimes, Dick Burk, John Graham, Ragnar Löfsted, Phillipe Hubert, Robin Cantor, Lennart Sjöberg; front, Gail Charnley, Rae Zimmerman, Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer



Early Arrivals at Luncheon



**Roger McClellan and
Chris Whipple**



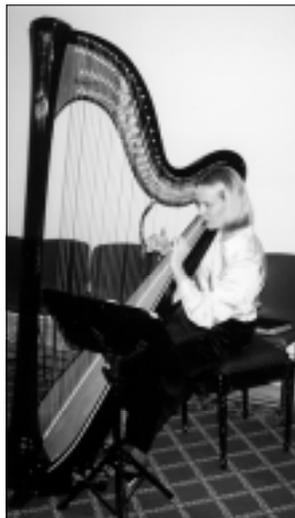
**Cheryl Bikowski and Ann
Landis, Secretariat**



**Amy Mills, EPA, Elaborates on Poster, "Integrated
Risk Information System (IRIS) Pilot"**



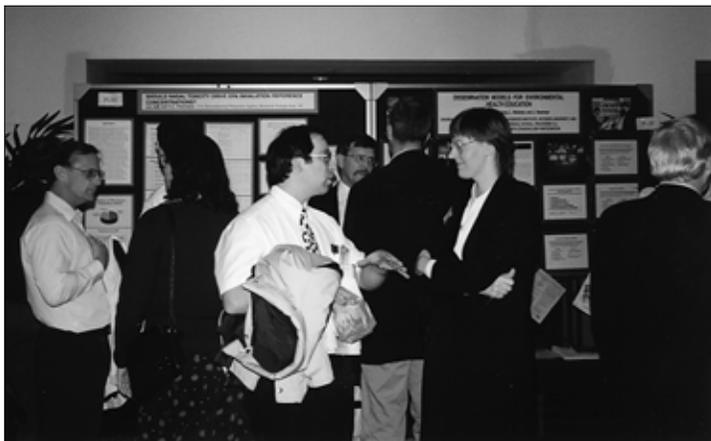
**Warner North and Gail
Charnley Enjoy President's
Reception**



**Harpist Sets the Mood at
President's Reception**



**Representing Europe, the United States, and Japan,
Phillipe Hubert, Rae Zimmerman, and Saburo Ikeda**



Crowds Mill at Poster Session



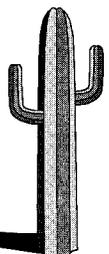
Hotel Balcony Decorated for Christmas



Officers, Councilors, and Secretariat Staff at Sunday Council Meeting

**See you in Phoenix for the 1998
SRA Annual Meeting**

**"Assessing and Managing
Risks in a
Democratic Society"**



6-9 December



SRA-Europe

SRA-E British Chapter

Lynn Frewer, SRA-E Executive Committee

The British Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis held a very successful meeting at the University of Edinburgh on 3 April 1998. The themes were "Industry-Related Risks," with special emphasis on the oil industry, and "Risks Related to Food Production," both prominent issues in the United Kingdom at the present time. Among the speakers were professor William Turmeau, Chairman of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, and Dr. Jacqie Reilly, of the University of Glasgow, who presented on media reporting of food risk.

SRA-E 1998 Annual Conference

11–14 October—Paris, France

Claire Mays-Poumadère, Liaison Committee

Risk Analysis: Opening the Process

Organized by Institut de Protection et de Sécurité Nucléaire

Conference Theme

A rational approach to risk analysis has been developed in the last three decades. Techniques for risk assessment have been thoroughly enhanced, risk management approaches have been developed, decision-making processes have been clarified, and the social dimensions of risk perception and management have been investigated.

Nevertheless, this construction is being challenged by recent events which reveal how deficits in stakeholder involvement, openness, and democratic procedures can undermine risk management actions. Indeed, the global process and most components of risk analysis may be radically called into question.

Food safety has lately been a prominent issue, but new debates appear, or old debates are revisited, in the domains of public health, consumer products safety, waste management, environmental risks, nuclear installations, automobile safety, and pollution. To meet the growing pressures for efficiency, openness, accountability, and multipartner communication in risk analysis, institutional changes are underway in many European countries. However, the need for stakeholders to develop better insight into the process may lead to an evolution of all the components of risk analysis, even in its most "technical" steps. For stakeholders of different professional backgrounds, political projects, and responsibilities, risk identification procedures must be rendered understandable, quantitative risk assessment must be laid open to critical analysis, and the data of impact assessment and exposure analysis must be intelligible and verifiable. Public perceptions and behavioural preferences must be identified and accommodated in action proposals, ranging from countermeasures to educational programs to insurance mechanisms. Management formats must be open to local and political input and other types of operational feedback.

Conference Profile

SRA-Europe (SRA-E) encourages multidisciplinary approaches and dialogue among all partners: scientists, engineers, corporate managers, insurers, authorities, and all types of interest groups.

Conference contributions are invited in the disciplines that ground risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication. The Conference as a whole will address each step of the risk analysis process, from the point of view of the differ-

ent partners. Papers on practical experience or on research in progress; on historical, evaluative, or prospective analyses; and addressing the local, corporate, national, or international levels will be welcomed.

Proposed Sessions

Risk-Based Sessions:

- Food Risk
- Global Change and Natural Disasters
- Environmental Health
 - Air and Health
 - Water and Health
 - Indoor Pollution
- Chernobyl Contaminated Populated Areas
- Waste
- Polluted Sites
- Hazardous Facilities
- Transport Risk
- Domestic Risk
- Consumer Product Risk
- Infectious Diseases
- Disease Clusters Around Industrial Sites

Issue-Based Sessions:

- Build Up of Expertise: Teaching, Training, Networking
- Governance and Trust
- Accident Management
- Insurance and Economy
- Legal Aspects
- Internationalisation of Risk Analysis & Control
- Quantitative Risk Assessment
- Risk Perception
- Risk Communication
- Policy Assessment
- Management at Corporate, National, International Levels
- Identification of New Risks
- Epidemiological Investigation and Monitoring
- Feedback from Major Risk Management Decisions
- Role of Experts

Conference Language

The official Conference language will be English.

Prizes

It is an SRA-E tradition that prizes be awarded for Best Student Paper, Best Poster, and Best Oral Presentation. Prizes also may be given by organizations willing to promote risk analysis in a specific area.

Timetable

Deadline for Abstracts: Special consideration will be given to abstracts from SRA members; please submit before the end of July.

Notification of Acceptance: 15 July 1998

Deadline for Full Papers: 10 September 1998

Submit to <srparis@ipsn.fr> or fax: 33.1.46.54.88.29.

Conference Centre

CAP 15 1–13 Quai de Grenelle Paris XV

CAP 15 ("Cap Quinze") is located close to the Eiffel Tower on the banks of the Seine. CAP 15 is served by metro station Bir Hakeim and by suburban train RER C station Champ de Mars with connections to Paris airports and rail stations.

Programme

The Conference opens Sunday, 11 October, at 5 p.m. with a cocktail reception and registration at CAP 15. Registration will also be available the mornings of 12–14 October from 8 a.m.

Opening Plenary Session: Monday, 12 October (9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.).

Parallel Sessions: Monday afternoon (2 p.m.–5:30 p.m.), Tuesday (9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; 2 p.m.–5:30 p.m.)

Closing Plenary Session: Wednesday (9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)

Conference ends: Wednesday, 14 October, at 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon on Monday and Tuesday and coffee breaks will be provided at CAP 15. A gala evening, open to accompanying persons, is planned for Tuesday, 13 October. Details will be provided in correspondence with authors and those registering, or contact the Organizers.

Accommodations

There are many hotels, of every category, conveniently located within walking distance of CAP 15. The Conference Organizers will provide to authors and those registering a list of hotels which will offer rooms at a reduced rate to SRA-E Conference attendees. The Organizers will be happy to provide you with assistance but will not issue reservations.

Registration Fee

The registration fee, payable in French francs ONLY, will cover Conference attendance, Conference Proceedings and Book of Abstracts, opening reception, lunches on Monday and Tuesday, and coffee breaks. Those registering become SRA Members for one year and receive the Society's Quarterly Journal, *Risk Analysis*. Submit to <srparis@ipsn.fr> for Swift code. Registration SRA Members ... non-SRA . Student Before 10 Sept. 1998 .. 3,000 FF 3,650 FF .. 1,300 FF After 10 Sept. 1998 4,000 FF 4,650 FF .. 1,300 FF VAT 20.6% included

Registration will be acknowledged by post.

Cancellation

Cancellations must be made in writing and received by 10 September 1998. Your fee will be refunded less a 500 FF handling charge. No fee will be refunded for cancellations received after this date. Substitutions may be made at any time.

Sponsorship

SRA-Europe Conferences each year benefit from institutional or corporate sponsorship. Sponsors may make unrestricted contributions or dedicate their contributions to special Conference events. With the help of sponsors, SRA-E has traditionally been able to invite Eastern scientists to attend Conferences. We would be particularly pleased to accept funding for this purpose. Sponsors may also wish to contribute to the Conference Prizes, for instance with a named prize in an area of spe-

cial interest to their organization.

We offer our Conference Sponsors advertisement space in the Proceedings, publication of their logo on Conference materials, and free registration for a negotiated number of delegates.

Please contact the Conference Director at <srparis@ipsn.fr>.

Conference Liaison Committee

Conference Director Philippe Hubert–France, Claire Mays–France, Esko Blokker–Netherlands, Britt-Marie Drottz–Sjöberg–Norway, Jean-Philippe Pineau–France, Jim Mc Quaid–United Kingdom, Denis Zmirou–France

Technical Programme Committee

Peter Allen–United Kingdom, Denis Bard–France, Gunnar Bengtsson–Sweden, Xavier Bonnefoy–Denmark, Martin Brüstlein–Switzerland, Jacques Calzia–France, Jean Philippe Caruette–France, Olivier Cerf–France, Vadim Chumak–United Kingdom, André Ciccollella–France, Catherine Courvalin–France, Vitaly Eremenko–Russia, Lynn Frewer–United Kingdom, Jean Pierre Galland–France, Claude Gilbert–France, José Gutierrez–Spain, Gilles Hériard-Dubreuil–France, Helmut Jungermann–Germany, Guy Lamand–France, Florentin Lange–Germany, Boris Ledoshuk–United Kingdom, Joanne Linnerooth–Bayer–Austria, Jacques Lochard–France, François Mansotte–France, Hilaire Mansoux–France, Claire Marris–France, Giovanni Marsili–Italy, Marie-Hélène Massuelle–France, Claire Mays–France, Yves Mortureux–France, Detlef Müller–Germany, Hans Pasman–Netherlands, André Poffijn–Belgium, Marc Poumadère–France, Pekka Pyy–Finland, Marvin Rausand–Norway, Jacqie Reilly–Scotland, Michael Rogers–Belgium, Laurent Rosso–France, Michael Savkin–Russia, Ola Svenson–Sweden, Jacques Theys–France, Josée Van Eijndhoven–Netherlands, Yvan Verot–France, Paolo Vestrucci–Italy, Bjorn Wahlström–Finland

Student Committee

N. De Marcellis–France, Vincent Placer–France, Joakim Ramsberg–United States of America, Mojdeh Keykhah–United Kingdom, Dirk Matten–Germany

With the Support of:

"Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement"; "Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité"; "Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche"; "Ministère de l'Équipement, du Transport et du Logement"; "WHO-Europe"; and "INERIS."

Special Journal Issue

A special issue of *Journal of Risk Research*, the Official Journal of SRA-E and SRA-Japan, will be published with selected papers from the Conference.

Consult <<http://www.sra.org/sraeur98.htm>> to learn the new address for the Conference home page.

Section Contacts

European Section: Lynn Frewer, SRA-E Executive Committee, 118-935-7000, fax: 118-926-7917, lynn.frewer@bbsrc.ac.uk

Paris Conference: srparis@ipsn.fr or fax: 33.1.46.54.88.29.

Japanese Section: Saburo Ikeda, 81-298-53-5380, fax: 81-298-55-3849, ikeda@sk.tsukuba.ac.jp



Committees

Awards Committee

Members of the Awards Committee are Chair Elisabeth Paté-Cornell, George Apostolakis, Elizabeth Anderson, Baruch Fischhoff, John Graham, and Jim Wilson.

Electronic Media Committee

Steve Brown, Chair

The SRA Web Site (www.sra.org) was used for the submission of about 200 abstracts and 20 symposium proposals for the Annual Meeting (December in Phoenix). To make the abstract form more interactive and to ease the burden of post-submission processing by the Secretariat, new features were added to the Site's software. That same software was also used to simplify the handling of on-line membership applications; the Site remains a significant source of new members.

Although we are continuing to improve the pages with links to risk-related sites, progress has remained slow. We would welcome suggestions by the members. Send them to [<webmaster@sra.org>](mailto:webmaster@sra.org) or [<slbrown@idiom.com>](mailto:slbrown@idiom.com). Include the complete URL as well as the site's name and a brief description of why it would be interesting to risk analysts. Other suggestions for improving the Site are also encouraged.

The Internet seems like the logical choice for distributing SRA news between the quarterly RISK newsletters. However, none of the current Electronic Media Committee members seem to have the reporting bent, and the officers and committee chairs do not make as much use of the Net as they could. We encourage news submissions to the above addresses. Moreover, please contact us if you would like to be a news "stringer" for the Site. You don't have to be a Web programmer; we can handle the computer stuff if you can get us the news.

Public Policy Committee

Linda-Jo Schierow

Future of Environmental Policy Forum

The SRA Public Policy Committee and the American Chemical Society (ACS) cosponsored a briefing in Washington, D.C., on 5 May 1998 on the Future of Environmental Policy. The briefing was the most recent in a series that SRA cosponsors with the ACS Science and the Congress Project (formerly the Risk Education Project). These luncheon symposia aim to inform policy makers, Capitol Hill staff, and others interested in public policy about current and emerging environmental issues. The principal speaker on 5 May was William Ruckleshaus, Chairman of Browning Ferris Industries, two-time former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Chairman of Enterprise for the Environment (E4E). E4E is a group of senior officials representing government, industry, environmentalists, public interest advocates, and other interested groups who worked for two years to achieve consensus on how the U.S. system of environmental protection might be improved. The E4E vision is described in its recently released report, "The Environmental Protection System in Transition: Toward a More Desirable Future."

Moderator David Clarke, Chief Editor of Inside EPA's *Risk Policy Report*, began the briefing by noting that the audience would be addressed by two well-known Republican moderates who have contributed significantly to debates on environmental policy issues, William Ruckleshaus and the Honorable Sherwood Boehlert, Representative of the state of New York (23rd District) and Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Representative Boehlert, however, kept his remarks brief. As a participant in E4E deliberations, he was impressed by the leadership of Chairman Ruckleshaus and hailed the Chairman's work on behalf of future generations.

Ruckleshaus began his talk with a brief overview of the E4E project. He emphasized the breadth of views encompassed by E4E participants and the difficulty of achieving consensus, but praised the group for its perseverance. The E4E process was built on the premise that progress in the public policy arena is possible only through bipartisan collaboration. The value of the E4E report, therefore, Ruckleshaus suggested, is in its con-

The E4E process was built on the premise that progress in the public policy arena is possible only through bipartisan collaboration.

sensual vision of the future, rather than in the specificity of its recommendations, which, he said, are quite general. The E4E vision bysteps the question "What is wrong with the current system?"—a question that the group found too contentious to resolve. Instead, E4E members agreed on what a better system would look like. Ruckleshaus mentioned a few elements of the vision: performance-based standards, flexible laws, and accountable programs, all built on a foundation of rich data. He noted that these and other elements of the vision converge with the conclusions of other recent reports, including "Resolving the Paradox of Environmental Protection," by the National Academy of Public Administration, and "Pollution Control in the United States: Evaluating the System," by J. Clarence (Terry) Davies of Resources for the Future.

A broadly shared vision of a better policy framework, as is contained in these reports, is rarely available to policy makers faced with policy problems, according to Ruckleshaus. Policy makers and other leaders, therefore, should seize the moment to forge ahead. However, due to the difficulty of making the changes required, the E4E group agreed that progress can only be made incrementally, step-by-step. Ruckleshaus specifically discounted as politically unrealistic the idea promoted by some of a single holistic unifying statute for EPA. Rather, because the means to attain the vision are unclear, many small pilot projects are needed to try out new approaches and thereby to discover the best means for reaching our goal, he said.

The first change that must occur is the relationship between EPA and Congress, the speaker argued. The current statutory framework reflects a historical relationship built on suspicion, according to Ruckleshaus. Congress did not trust the agency to accomplish what was intended, so Congress tried to restrict

the Agency's options and so to force actions in accord with lawmakers' purposes. The speaker urged Congress to loosen the statutory bonds on Agency action. Moreover, he emphasized the importance of encouraging innovation by celebrating failures as well as successes, suggesting that failures are evidence that agencies are trying new approaches, and that agency initiative is necessary if we are going to identify and demonstrate to the world that institutional processes in a free society can promote both the economy and a healthy environment.

Ruckelshaus expanded on these concepts during the question-and-answer period that followed his address. To a question about what might be the first step toward the vision, he replied that several groups of legislators are working on this question. Outside of the legislative arena, he maintained that there are many available options and referred the audience to the report. He noted that one important step is to involve everyone in the policy-making process so as to avoid mistrust in the legislative proposals that evolve. In addition, he recommended experimenting with performance-based approaches. Representative Boehlert added that his subcommittee had used a consensus-building approach involving all stakeholders in developing Superfund reform legislation (H.R. 2727). A Senate staffer took exception to that comment, however, noting that the process has broken down, at least temporarily, over a few difficult issues. He expressed the view that the Members should take the small steps on which they agree while continuing to work on tougher issues.

Another member of the audience asked about technical stumbling blocks to achieving the E4E vision. The reply was a strong

endorsement of investment in data collection and organization. Performance-based goals are only valuable to the extent that agencies are held accountable for achieving them, and achievement cannot be assessed without data, Ruckelshaus stated.

Finally, he was asked to assess current EPA efforts to reinvent itself. He praised the efforts, but gently reprimanded policy makers for forcing EPA to operate on the edges of its legitimate authority. He urged policymakers to adopt a more encouraging attitude and to facilitate an alignment of environmental goals with economic incentives for achieving them.

A copy of the E4E report is available electronically at <<http://www.csis.org/e4e/>>.

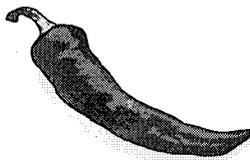
Sections and Chapters Committee

Charles A. Menzie, Chair

Several SRA Chapters have taken advantage of the SRA speaker's program. There is a limited amount of funding to cover the travel costs of SRA members to speak to chapters about SRA issues as well as to give a keynote or other technical paper. At least four events have been organized around joint meetings (e.g., with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry). Chapters interested in planning such an event for the 1998–1999 period should contact Charles Menzie.

The SRA chapter guidebook is currently being updated. All chapter presidents are requested to send information on their chapters to Charles Menzie. Such information could include announcements of major events and examples of newsletters.

1998 Annual Meeting Information



The program committee for the 1998 SRA Annual Meeting includes Chair Gail Charnley, Resha Putzrath, Annie Jarabek, John Keller, Charles Menzie, Stan Levinson, Paul Locke, Robin Cantor, Susan Youngren, Rick Belzer, Richard Rich, Katy Kunzer, and Larisa Rudenko.

The 1998 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton South Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona, 6–9 December. With the theme "Assessing and Managing Risks in a Democratic Society," the meeting will highlight the increasingly important influence that the principles of democracy are having on how risks are characterized, how decisions are made about managing risks, and

how those trends are affecting the scientific basis of risk analysis.

Exhibits: There will be an exhibition of risk-related and exposure-related products and services at the meeting. For further information on exhibiting, contact Lori Strong or Sue Burk at 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672.

Book Exhibit: For \$50 per title, books will be displayed and each attendee will be provided information through our list of publications. The list will include prices, any discounts that may be offered, and ordering information. For more information or book reservation forms, contact Lori Strong at 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672.

Meeting Format: The Annual Meeting will encompass several types of scientific sessions including Poster Presentations, Oral Presentations, Symposia, and Workshops.

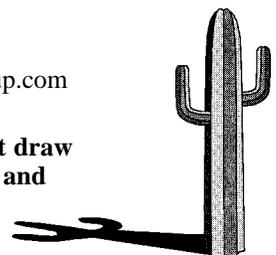
Programs: Preliminary programs will be mailed to members of the Society, as well as to those nonmembers whose abstracts have been accepted. Final programs will be available at the meeting in December. Preregistration and hotel reservation materials will be mailed as a part of the preliminary program.

Questions?

Program Chair: Gail Charnley, 202-833-8077, fax: 202-833-4157, e-mail: gach@weinberggroup.com

SRA Secretariat: 703-790-1745, fax: 703-790-2672, e-mail: sra@BurkInc.com

Risk Analysis: Special issues of SRA's journal, *Risk Analysis*, are strongly encouraged that draw papers from the SRA Annual Meeting under the direction of *Risk Analysis* Area Editors and Specialty Group leaders. All papers will undergo peer review.





Specialty Groups

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

Bill Alsop, Chairman

The Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group met at the SRA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The Specialty Group's primary focus is on the risk analysis issues and challenges posed by the evaluation of effects to individual ecological receptors and to higher levels of ecological organization including populations, communities, and ecosystems. Recent efforts at SRA meetings have been directed toward addressing issues specific to the ecology of the area of the meeting. Possible topics for discussion at the next SRA meeting included the local desert ecology of the Southwest, ecological effects of radionuclides, ecological values as perceived by Native Americans, and other ecological risk assessment issues.

Finally, if you would like more information about the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group, please contact Bill Alsop, Chairman of the group. Bill has recently left the ChemRisk Division of McLaren/Hart and joined Ogdan Environmental and Energy Services. He can be contacted by telephone at 978-692-9090, by fax at 978-692-6633, and by e-mail at <wralsop@oees.com>.

Food/Water Safety Risk Specialty Group

Debra Street, Interim Secretary

The Food/Water Safety Risk Specialty Group, which focuses on risk analysis issues posed by hazards in the food and water consumed and used by humans and animals, is in the process of defining its bylaws. In April 1998, the Food/Water Safety Risk Specialty Group disseminated a draft version of bylaws to its membership for comments. Following the comment period, the bylaws were revised. By late August 1998, the revised bylaws will be mailed to the membership and put to a vote.

Additionally, the Food/Water Safety Risk Specialty Group is planning to hold a workshop to immediately precede the Society for Risk Analysis' annual conference in Arizona in December 1998. Peg Coleman and Richard Williams, Jr., are developing this technical workshop, and it will emphasize methodological issues that impact microbial risk assessment from farm to table.

If you would like to know more about or to join this specialty group, please contact Debra Street, interim secretary, at 202-205-5327 or by e-mail at <das@cfsan.fda.gov>.

Risk Science & Law Specialty Group

Wayne Roth-Nelson, Chair

Secretary-Treasurer Katy Kunzer has distributed a Risk Science & Law Specialty Group (RSLSG) Call for Papers to alert our members to e-mail or fax a copy of their presentation titles (or a one-sentence description if a title is not sufficiently informative).

While the deadline for Annual Meeting abstracts has passed, there still is time for any SRA member to respond with a title or description he or she may prefer to be integrated into RSLSG-

sponsored sessions. Society members who submitted an abstract to the Secretariat and believe their presentations fit well with our proposed themes may find it advantageous to join one of our sponsored sessions.

The first of two three-hour sessions we are planning is titled "Regulatory Reform: Law and Science Policy Issues." It will focus on issues raised by legislative and administrative initiatives to reform public risk assessment and risk management practices. Topics may include the use of cost-benefit analysis in risk assessments and the utility of risk distributions or central tendencies in making regulatory decisions, as well as peer review and judicial review of risk assessments.

The second three-hour session we are planning is "Hot Topics in Toxic Tort Litigation." We want to cover both emerging legal issues and the practical use of risk science in the courtroom. Included, for example, are the exercise of judicial discretion to exclude expert testimony following the Daubert and Joiner decisions, the presentation of risk distributions and risk comparisons to a jury, the value of hypothetical versus actual risks as trial evidence, and the role of clinical medical testimony in toxic risk litigation.

The RSLSG also will repeat last year's popular poster session to present our analysis of benchmark regulatory and toxic injury cases argued with evidence of health and environmental risk.

Society members seeking participation in our Annual Meeting program or a registration form to join our Specialty Group may contact Katy Kunzer at <kathleen_kunzer@mail.cmahq.com> or fax: 703-741-6092.

Risk Communication Specialty Group

Robert J. Griffin, Chair

Nominees Sought by 15 August

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) is seeking nominations for one Vice-chair/Chair-elect and three members of the Specialty Group's five-person executive committee. The RCSG Vice-chair/Chair-elect will serve for one year in that position and then take over duties as Chair the following year. The three executive committee members will serve for two years.

Nominations should be sent by mail to Robert J. Griffin, RCSG Chair, College of Communication, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee WI 53201-1881, or by e-mail to <GriffinR@vms.csd.mu.edu> to be received no later than 15 August 1998. To be included on the ballots to be mailed to RCSG members in the fall, nominees must be members of the Society for Risk Analysis and state their willingness to serve in the position. Self-nominees are assumed to be willing to serve and should include a 150-200-word description of their qualifications. The same information will be sought from other nominees.

An initial list of verified nominees is slated to be published in the next RISK newsletter. Those elected will take office at the RCSG business meeting in December. The current Vice-chair/Chair-elect, Richard Rich of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, will become Chair at that time. Continuing in their current RCSG offices will be Secretary-Treasurer Ann Bostrom,

Georgia Institute of Technology, and executive committee members Jan Temple, Medical University of Science, and Ragnar Löfstedt, University of Surrey, United Kingdom.

Special Calls for Papers Issued

The Specialty Group issued two special calls for risk communication papers for the 1998 SRA convention: a call for graduate student research papers and a call for papers to be considered for inclusion in a special journal issue.

Both initiatives were in response to recommendations made at past RCSG business meetings (1) to improve the quality of risk communication research, (2) to help promote membership in SRA and the Specialty Group, and (3) especially to encourage graduate students, university faculty, and professionals to submit their best risk communication research to SRA. Abstracts were to be sent to SRA by the 15 May general submission deadline and identify the work as being in response to these special calls.

To save costs and time, the calls were issued electronically by e-mail and list servers to over 100 RCSG members, to more than 1,300 subscribers to the "Riskanal" on-line discussion group, and to members of various other organizations with potential interest in risk communication, for a total direct reach of about 5,000 individuals. The calls were issued in mid-April by the Chair with the help of RCSG officers and the generous assistance of Craig Trumbo of Cornell University. The calls gave authors some background about SRA and told them how to submit their abstracts via the SRA Web Site.

The top student paper will earn a \$500 prize provided by Exxon Corporation, as arranged by former RCSG Chair Steve Lewis of Exxon. To qualify for the competition, graduate students with accepted abstracts must submit full papers by 15

October. Full papers will undergo refereed review by an independent panel of RCSG members. The top paper prize will be awarded at the December RCSG business meeting, although a prize may not be awarded if papers are not of sufficient quality. The top paper might be assigned to either a poster or regular presentation session.

RCSG officers have requested that SRA provide \$500 for this competition in future years and contribute one or two annual student SRA memberships to be awarded to runners-up. That request is to be deliberated by the SRA Council.

More information on the call for papers is available from Griffin by mail, e-mail, or phone (414-288-6787); or from Richard Rich, Department of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0130; 540-951-7707; or e-mail: <urban@vt.edu>; or from Sharon Friedman, Department of Journalism and Communication, Lehigh University, 29 Trembley Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015; 610-758-4179; or e-mail: <smf6@lehigh.edu>.

SRA Approves Identification of Students, Specialty Group Members

In May, the SRA Executive Committee approved a proposal to include, in membership applications and renewal notices, a means for individuals to identify themselves as members of each of the specialty groups.

The new procedure is expected to streamline RCSG mailings and election procedures. SRA also approved a plan to include in convention abstract submission forms a means for student authors to identify themselves. This procedure will help the Specialty Group to identify student authors for future student paper competitions and recruitment efforts. Both procedures had been proposed to SRA by RCSG officers.

Specialty Group Contacts

Dose Response

Resha Putzrath, President, Georgetown Risk Group, 3223 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20007; 202-342-2110, fax: 202-337-8103, rmputzrath@mindspring.com

Ecological Risk Assessment

William Alsop, Ogden Environmental and Energy Services, Suite 1B, 239 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886; 978-692-9090, fax: 978-692-6633, wralsop@oees.com

Engineering

Ali Mosleh, University of Maryland, Reliability Engineering Program, College Park, MD 20742; 301-405-5215, fax: 301-314-9601, mosleh@eng.umd.edu

Exposure Assessment

Susan Youngren, 28 Deer Stalker Path, Monterey, CA 93940; 202-293-5374, fax: 202-293-5377, syoungren@novigensci.com

Food/Water Safety Risk

Michael D. McElvaine, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Room 5248 South, 1410 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-3811; 202-720-8022, fax: 202-720-1815, mmcelvaine@oce.usda.gov

Risk Communication

Robert J. Griffin, Chair, College of Communication, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881; 414-288-6787, fax: 414-288-3099, GriffinR@vms.csd.mu.edu

Risk Science & Law

Wayne Roth-Nelson, Chair, Roth-Nelson Risk Science, 8662 Hollyhock Lane, Lafayette, CO 80026; 303-494-9694, fax: 303-494-3785, roth_nelson@compuserve.com



Chapter News

Chicago Regional Chapter

Sean T. Dundon, President

Joint Meeting with Midwest Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Chapter

The first joint meeting of the Chicago Regional SRA Chapter and the Midwest SETAC Chapter was held 1–3 April 1998 at the Advanced Photon Source Conference Center, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), Argonne, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago). The meeting was co-hosted by representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Brenda Jones and Charles Maurice), ANL (Ihor Hlohowskyj), and GaiaTech, Inc. (Sean Dundon). The conference was also supported with ample donations from corporate sponsors: GaiaTech, Inc., Chicago, Illinois; Entrix Environmental Consultants, Barrington, Illinois; and Woodward-Clyde Consultants, Chicago, Illinois.

The conference was a huge success, providing a forum for over 100 environmental scientists to exchange ideas and information and to develop networks for future collaboration and partnerships. ANL provided a natural backdrop for the conference with its excellent conference facilities, calm and serene natural setting, and great food.

The program started on Wednesday afternoon with two concurrent short courses: (1) Ecological Risk Assessment and Natural Resource Damage Assessment Integration and (2) Monte Carlo Analyses for Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment. Both courses were generously supported by National SETAC. The courses were well attended and feedback on the courses indicated that good, usable information was provided. The success of the courses was due in large measure to the hard work and dedication of the instructors. Wednesday evening was topped off with a welcome reception that provided good food and cheer and a great place to renew old friendships and make new ones. A demonstration of the Ecorisk Simulation Game, developed by the American Industrial Health Council, and presented during the reception, was well attended.

The meeting officially opened Thursday morning with introductory talks by three speakers: (1) Dean E. Eastman, Director, ANL, who welcomed all attendees to the meeting; (2) Donald Versteeg (Procter & Gamble Company), Secretary-Treasurer, National SETAC, who spoke on current and upcoming issues associated with the National Office; and (3) Charles Menzie, National SRA Councilor and SETAC/SRA liaison, who spoke on matters of



Charles Menzie and Sean Dundon

concern to both societies, such as risk communication and the public policy implications of risk decisions.

The theme of the meeting, "Ecological Risk Assessment," was explored in the plenary session by three nationally recognized experts in the field: Dr. Glenn W. Suter II (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) provided a well-rounded survey of "Meth-

ods for Extrapolation from Ecotoxicological Test Endpoints to Ecological Risk Screening Values and Risk Estimates"; Dr. Charles Menzie (Menzie-Cura & Assoc., Inc.) provided a thorough presentation on "Assessing Bioavailability of Organic Chemicals in Soil"; and Dr. David Charters (EPA) provided a humorous treatment of Congress' efforts at reauthorization of Superfund in his "Ecological Risk Assessment Inside the Beltway." Following the plenary session on Thursday and Friday were 23 platform presentations on a wide variety of topics ranging from ecotoxicology and risk issues to malformed amphibians and endocrine disruptors. Thursday evening was capped off with a combined reception and poster session. Twenty-seven posters were presented along with displays from EPA, National SETAC, U.S. Department of Energy Center for Risk Excellence, and ENTRIX, Inc.

For those with amenable travel arrangements, a tour of ANL's advanced photon source was given Friday afternoon. Approximately 15 people took this tour of the world's largest x-ray generator.

Lone Star Chapter

Laura Plunkett, President

The Lone Star Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis will hold its second annual statewide conference on Friday, 16 October 1998, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston, Texas. The featured speaker will be Dr. John Graham. In addition, we are inviting at least two other nationally known speakers. The program is the yearly gathering that attempts to connect all SRA members within the large state of Texas. Details of the meeting will be forthcoming in a flyer to be sent out during the summer.

New England Chapter

Marilyn Lourandos

At the March meeting of the New England Chapter/Boston Risk Assessment Group, speakers were Dr. Charles Menzie of Menzie-Cura Associates and Mr. Paul Price and Dr. Russell Keenan of ChemRisk.

Menzie spoke about shrimp viruses which have been imported into the United States with foreign catches/feedstock and pose risk to our native shrimp populations, the aquaculture industry, and the shrimp industry around the Gulf of Mexico and the southeast United States. A committee was formed to address the issue and the resulting report was structured around the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Ecological Risk Assessment Framework. Discussions and meetings involved risk assessors, risk managers, governing agencies, and stakeholders. Menzie presented lessons learned and extrapolated the experience to application of ecological risk assessment and involvement of stakeholders in the process. The input from the stakeholders indicated that they were not willing to wait for the full study to be completed before actions to protect the shrimp were implemented. Stakeholders wanted to implement preventive measures as they were discovered in order to safeguard their shrimp crop and their livelihood.

Price and Keenan presented "Microexposure Event Modeling, an Approach to Modeling Time Varying Exposures." Their talk addressed uncertainties associated with assessing dose using static, time, and variable insensitive algorithms and proposed that a new model, which accounts for those parameters which vary from day to day and systematically as an individual ages, be employed. The results are exposure histories for individuals that can be used to determine relevant dose rates from a one-day exposure to life-time average daily dose.

Microexposure Event models can incorporate information from time varying sources of exposure, identify how doses change across different groups with age of the receptor, and determine total doses from multiple sources of exposure. These histories were encoded (visual basic) and used as the exposure events used in the risk calculations. Case studies, including a Maine Anglers study, were used to demonstrate the application of Microexposure Event Modeling.

For new and renewed memberships in the New England Chapter, send your name, address, and affiliation to Arlene Levin at Eastern Research Group, 110 Hartwell Ave., Lexington, MA 02173; phone: 617-674-7200; fax: 617-674-2851. Dues are \$15 per year for full memberships and \$7.50 for student memberships.

Northern California Chapter

Bob Howd, Secretary

The Northern California Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (NCCSRA) had a dinner meeting 9 April 1998 at the University of California-Berkeley faculty club. Dr. Richard Ames, an epidemiologist from the Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, spoke after dinner on his investigations into public complaints about health problems in Lompoc, California. His overall conclusion was that there is an increased incidence of respiratory illnesses, but the cause is still unknown. Discussion centered on how to interpret public health statistics and follow up on apparent effects with appropriate environmental and public health monitoring. On 7 May NCCSRA cosponsored, with the Genetic and Environmental Toxicology Association, an all-day meeting at the Oakland museum on genomic studies. The morning session covered "Progress on Model Genomes," while the afternoon theme was "Human Genetic Polymorphisms, Susceptibility, and Risk." Several local and national speakers provided excellent summaries on these topics. For the fall, NCCSRA is planning an all-day workshop on stochastic methods, tentatively titled "Quantifying Uncertainty in Risk Assessment—A Hands-on Workshop." This meeting is planned for the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley on 3 October. Detailed announcements will soon be sent to Chapter members or can be requested through the Chapter's page on the SRA Web Site or from Bob Howd (bhowd@berkeley.cahwnet.gov).

Ohio Chapter

Cathy Pickrel, President

The Ohio Chapter held a "Symposium on Issues Related to Risk Assessments for Children" on 21 May 1998. The event was cosponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment and

ARCADIS-Geraghty & Miller. Five speakers presented industry and government perspectives on the evaluation of children's risk to a standing-room-only crowd. Dr. Femi Adeshina, EPA, provided opening remarks followed by presentations from Karen Hammerstrom, EPA (Food Quality Protection Act), Dr. Bert Hakkinen, Proctor and Gamble Co. (Consumer Products), Dr. Kathryn Mehaffey, EPA (Multimedia Exposures to Lead and Mercury), Lawrence Catlett, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Agricultural Chemical and Pesticide Exposures), and Jeff Swartout (Noncancer Risk Assessment). The event concluded with a rousing panel discussion.

The Ohio Chapter is planning an autumn event with the topic to be announced. For information contact Cathy Pickrel, President (614-790-4555, cpickrel@ashland.com).

Research Triangle Chapter

Jonathan Wiener, President

1998 Officers

After a slight delay due to the relocation of our long-serving chapter secretary, Vickie Tatum, to Florida in late 1997, the Research Triangle Chapter (RTC) elected new officers in early 1998. The current officers are:

President: Jonathan B. Wiener, Duke University;
 President-elect: Bob Hetes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
 Past-President: Bruce Allen, ICF Kaiser;
 Treasurer: Elaina Kenyon, EPA;
 Secretary: Martin Clauberg, EnSafe;
 Councilors: Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, EPA; Paul Schlosser, Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology; and Douglas Crawford-Brown, University of North Carolina;
 Webmaster: Chris Frey, North Carolina State University.

Monthly Workshops

27 April 1998: Edward Calabrese, Ph.D., Professor of Toxicology at the University of Massachusetts and Director of the Northeast Regional Environmental Public Health Center. Calabrese spoke on "Hormesis: Improving Insights on the Biological Effects of Low Level Exposures." This monthly meeting was held in conjunction with the EPA's Fourth National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory Symposium on Research Advances in Risk Assessment, "Extrapolations in Human Health and Ecological Risk" (27-30 April 1998).

20 May 1998: Dan Loughlin, Department of Civil Engineering, North Carolina State University, speaking on "Evolving Reliable Pollutant Control Strategies Using Genetic Algorithm-Based Optimization."

24 June 1998: Judy Strickland, EPA, speaking on "Methods for Exposure-Response Analysis for Acute Inhalation Exposure to Chemicals."

Further Information

For the latest on RTC activities and officers and to join the Chapter, please visit the RTC Web Site at <<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~frey/rtsra.html>>; or contact the 1998 Chapter President, Jonathan Wiener, at <wiener@law.duke.edu>, or the Chapter Secretary, Martin Clauberg, at <mclauberg@ensafe.com>.

Southern California Chapter

Vincent Ho, President

The Annual Southern California Chapter (SCSRA) workshop and Chapter meeting was held on 21 May 1998 at the University of California at Los Angeles. The theme of the 11th SCSRA Annual Workshop was "Risk Analysis in the Coming Century." This one-day Workshop included speaker sessions in the morning, the Chapter's Annual Meeting, and forums in the afternoon. Through the morning speakers and the panel discussions, we attempted to identify the Good, Bad, and Ugly in the application of Risk Analysis and prepared ourselves with the right tools and attitude to accept the new challenges of the twenty-first century. We invited distinguished speakers not only from the local area but also from as far away as Washington, D.C. The diversity of the speakers' backgrounds and expertise provided a well-balanced perspective of the theme.

Three forums were held in the afternoon. Each forum included formal presentations and discussions between the speakers and the floor. All attendees were invited to participate during the floor discussion period.

The guest speakers included (in the order of appearance): Dr. Vincent Ho, Dr. Yoram Cohen, Dr. Detlof von Winterfeldt, Dr. Sergio Guarro, Dr. Joan Denton, Dr. Dennis Paustenbach, Dr. Yacov Haimes, Dr. Larry Froebe, Dr. Stanley Kaplan, Dr. Mardy Kazarians, Dr. Patrick Wilson, Mr. Paul Beswick, Ms. Kathy Jones, Ms. Carolin Keith, Mr. Steve Tsumura, Dr. Krishna Nand, Dr. Frederick Lercari, Ms. Barbara Yu, Mr. Aaron Nagayama, and Mr. Steve Maher.

We also announced the results of the election of officers and councilors. Dr. Jim Hudson will serve as secretary for 1998–1999. Dr. Don Greenlee agreed to serve as secretary for 1999–2000. Mr. Tom Meyer will be the Treasurer for 1999–2000. Mr. Steve Maher succeeded Dr. Vincent Ho as the President of the Chapter for 1998–1999.

The SCSRA had a very successful 1997–1998 year. We organized three dinner meetings, two very well-attended specialty workshops, and an annual workshop. Total participant count for the activities was well over 200. We are looking forward to having another successful year. Mr. Steve Maher has made plans to update the SCSRA Web Site and communication. He will be assisted by our newly elected President-elect Dr. Larry Gratt and our councilors.

For more information regarding the SCSRA activities, please see our Web site at <http://members.aol.com/scsra/index.html>.

Chapter Contacts

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Greater Pittsburgh: H. Gregg Claycamp, 412-967-6524, fax: 412-624-1020, hgc2@vms.cis.pitt.edu

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Metro (NY-NJ-CT): Rao V. Kolluru, President, 973-316-9300, fax: 973-334-5847, rkolluru@ch2m.com

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Canada: Louise Houde, 514-774-3560, ext. 4027, fax: 514-771-3101, houdelouise@hydro.qc.ca

Best Student Paper Awards—1997 Annual Meeting

The Society for Risk Analysis presented awards to four students for the highest quality student papers submitted to the 1997 SRA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The students presented their papers in platform sessions at the meeting and received \$500 Awards to help with their travel expenses. The students and their affiliates and topics are as follows:

- Trevor L. Hilderman, University of Alberta, "Modeling Zero Concentration Intermittent Periods in Toxic Gas Risk Assessment"
- Deborah A. Keys, North Carolina State University, CIIT Predoctoral Student, "Effect of the Maximum Likelihood Error Model on DI(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (DEHP) PBPK Model Low Dose Extrapolation and Validation"
- Jason Kinnell, Pennsylvania State University, "Analyzing Perceptions and Values for Prevention Ecosystem Change: A Case Study of Pennsylvania Duck Hunters and the Prairie Pothole Region"
- Katherine A. McComas, Cornell University, "Reassessing Public Meetings as Public Participation in Risk Management Decisions: An American Example"



Regulatory Risk Review

It's Summertime, and the Livin' Is . . . Risky!

David Clarke, Editor, Risk Policy Report

For the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (and those who observe its activities), risk-related activities and controversies in the early part of 1998 cropped up with the regularity of divots on a golf course tee.

On 1 May, after what seemed to many an interminable delay, EPA's Risk Assessment Forum issued the agency's final (and first) Guidelines for Ecological Risk Assessment, laying the groundwork for issue-specific supplements to follow. While akin to the National Research Council's four-step human health risk paradigm, the ecorisk guidelines are nevertheless distinctly tailored to the unique characteristics of assessing potentially adverse impacts on ecosystems. For starters, participants (including various stakeholders) kick off the process through a planning phase prior to the actual assessment. At this stage, participants define goals and information needs. Only then does the assessment formally begin, going through the three major steps: Problem Formulation, Analysis, and Risk Characterization. Incidentally, in May EPA's Office of Air Quality and Planning Standards also sent a Draft Report to Congress on Residual Risk, as required under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and included significant references to ecological risk as part of its program for residual risks, or the risks remaining after technology-based controls have been established for 188 hazardous chemicals. Almost simultaneously with the ecorisk guidelines, the Risk Assessment Forum issued EPA's first-ever guidelines for assessing the risk of neurotoxic effects from chemicals. More than 20 years of international debate preceded the guidelines, and continues, over both how to conduct neurotoxicity tests and how to interpret their results.

While EPA was busy issuing guidelines, proponents of generic risk and cost-benefit legislation, Senators Carl Levin (D-Michigan) and Fred Thompson (R-Tennessee), weren't having much luck garnering the Democratic votes they need before bringing their bill, S. 981, to the Senate floor with more than a forlorn hope. They had hoped for an early spring floor vote, but it doesn't take a risk analyst to calculate the likelihood of that happening. The House did, however, pass a bill, H.R. 3534, in late May that would require Congress to consider the private-sector costs of such laws as those directed at worker safety

and environmental health if those costs exceed \$100 million a year. Annual costs of more than \$100 million would raise a "point of order," under which Congress stops to debate whether it really wants to go forward with the law. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, home of S. 981, held hearings 3 June at which cosponsors testified on behalf of their bill. Industry groups favored the bill while the National Resources Defense Council opposed it.

The two environmental laws that were reauthorized in 1996 with major risk provisions—the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)—have both generated heat as policy decisions under the statutes have begun to make their way forward. Under FQPA, EPA must set pesticide tolerances using an additional tenfold margin of safety (the so-called children's 10X) unless reliable data support a different decision.

But as EPA has set about implementing the law, it has run into a hailstorm of criticism from food growers and others who say the agency's approach to FQPA threatens to curb the availability of valuable pesticides. Vice President Al Gore stepped into the fray (where angry members of Congress were already shaking their fists), admonishing the involved federal agencies to keep an eye on both protecting children's health and the strength and competitiveness of American agriculture. EPA's Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee met 28–29 May just outside Washington, D.C., to begin the arduous process of recommending a policy framework to help guide tolerance reassessment decisions under FQPA. On the drinking-water front, EPA ran into another hailstorm when it proposed to abandon a zero "maximum contaminant level goal" (MCLG) for the carcinogen chloroform, drawing upon a "weight of evidence" analysis that marked the first use of its (still draft) cancer risk assessment guidelines. Because MCLGs have, since time immemorial, been set at zero on the assumption that a linear dose-response curve should apply to all MCLGs for carcinogens, the proposal drew staunch opposition from environmentalists and others. Even supporters of the non-zero MCLG agree it would be a precedent-setting departure if EPA promulgated its chloroform proposal.

If you thought this was going to be a laid-back year for the risk assessment community, put away your hammock. ◇◇

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News and Announcements

Journal Discounts

As noted previously, the SRA has negotiated discounts on other journals for SRA members, in recognition of the various disciplines represented within the Society. Discounts are in the 20–35% range, and include such journals as *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment* (HERA), *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, *Journal of Exposure Analysis and Environmental Epidemiology*, and *International Journal of Reliability, Quality and Safety Engineering*. If you are interested in this membership option, please contact the SRA Secretariat for an order form (703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672; sra@BurkInc.com).



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RISK newsletter advertising policy

Employment Advertisements:

Organizations may purchase space for advertisements of employee openings at a cost of \$250 for a 3.25-inch-wide by 3-inch-high column in 10 point Times type with 11 point leading. The column length of an ad may be increased beyond 3 inches at a cost of \$100 per inch. Camera-ready ads are accepted. Individual members of SRA may place in the RISK newsletter, at no charge, an advertisement seeking employment for themselves as a benefit of SRA membership. The advertisement must fit within a 3-inch-high column.

Books, Software, Courses, and Events:

Advertisements for books, software, courses, and events will be accepted at a cost of \$100 per inch in a 3.25-inch-wide column in 10 point Times type with 11 point leading.

The RISK newsletter is published four times a year. Submit advertisements to the Editor, with billing instructions, by 1 March for the First Quarter issue (April), 1 June for the Second Quarter issue (July), 1 September for the Third Quarter issue (October), and 1 December for the Fourth Quarter issue (January).

Deadline for RISK newsletter submissions

Information to be included in the **Third Quarter 1998** SRA RISK newsletter, to be mailed at the beginning of October, should be sent to the Editor at the address above no later than **20 August**.

This will be the last newsletter to come out before December, so if you have information about the annual meeting now is the time to send it.

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