

SRA Latin America Hosts its Third Congress on Risk



Opening reception. From left to right: Dr. Aldaberto Aurélio Azevedo, Colonel José Roberto Rodrigues de Oliveira, Elizabeth Nunes Alves and Dr. Zepir Panossian. Photo by Randa Kachef.

Randa Kachef, SRA News Editor

This May marked the third Congress of the SRA Latin American regional organization. Held in São Paulo, Brazil, from May 11-13, the Congress discussions ranged from the Zika virus to natural disasters. Participants advanced the roles and ethics of SRA-LA scholars and practitioners across the diverse region worldwide. *Read more on page 5.*

Risk Assessment is Central to the New U.S. Toxic Chemicals Law

David Clarke, SRA Press Director

After 40 years of increasing experience and frustration with the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and years of grueling legislative negotiations, the U.S. Congress passed - and on June 22 President Obama signed - the bipartisan Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (HR 2576). This is a major development for the nation's chemical management system and for the risk assessors whose work supports it.

Read more on page 9.

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Message from the SRA President

James H. Lambert, SRA President

The Society is in its busiest season with more than 600 abstracts submitted for the 2016 SRA Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, USA, on 11-15 December 2016.

The Program Committee met for a full day on Tuesday June 21 in Tysons Corner, Virginia, USA, to assemble 100 technical sessions. The meeting was led by Margaret MacDonell (SRA President-Elect, Chair of the Program Committee) and Stanley Levinson (Co-Chair of the Program Committee), with invaluable assistance from the SRA Secretariat's Jennifer Rosenberg and Jill Drupa.

SRA member volunteers to the Program Committee came from each of our fifteen SRA Specialty Groups: Lawrence Martin, Sara Henry, Amina Wilkins, Genya Dana, Laura Rickard, Matthew Wood, Amber Jessup, Elisabeth Gilmore, Sandra Hoffman, Fred Boulter, Jun Zhuang, Terje Aven, Hiba Baroud, Royce Francis, Karin Hoeber, Regis Pouillot, Jeremy Gernand. In addition, Steve Lewis provided cross-cutting support and legacy knowledge of the process. Thank you all!

The Preliminary Program will be available to you in early fall along with the details of meeting registration and options for SRA dues payments for CY 2017. Nominations for Student Merit Awards and Student Travel Awards are being reviewed over the summer, and awards will be based on extended abstracts submitted by dozens of SRA student members.

Margaret and the SRA Secretariat (Brett Burk, Executive Secretary) and Jill Drupa (Director of Administration) are actively seeking corporate and other sponsorships for various activities associated to the meeting. Please nominate potential sponsors to them. Jennifer Rosenberg of the SRA Secretariat is again addressing many details of the meeting organization.

There are SRA-sponsored events around the calendar in Azores, Venice, Oita City, Adelaide, Gothenburg, and elsewhere. Please check elsewhere in this newsletter and at the SRA.org website for the details. Please consider affiliating the SRA to your own events, which can be requested by submitting a one-page form (available at the SRA Conferences/Workshops Committee area of the SRA website) to the SRA Secretariat.

Are you available for leadership and volunteer opportunities in SRA Standing Committees, the SRA Specialty Groups, or the SRA Regional Organizations? Please contact the current chairs and presidents of those organizations and/or the SRA Secretariat. Contact information is available at the SRA website, some in the Members-Only area as well as elsewhere in this newsletter.

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The SRA Council met on Wednesday July 22 in Tysons Corner, Virginia. The Council reviewed and discussed reports from each of the SRA Standing Committees. Highlights of the meeting topics are:

- Search for the SRA Director of Communications (expected in place by early Fall 2016), where Members can provide input to Robyn Wilson and Ragnar Löfstedt;
- Plans for SRA certifications of risk analysts, where Members can provide input to Linda Teuschler;
- Ethics and appeals policies for the SRA journal *Risk Analysis*;
- Activities of SRA Regional Organizations and requests for new ROs from SRA members in Africa, India, Turkey, Cuba, and others;
- Translation of the SRA terms glossary into Nordic languages and eventually other languages;
- SRA finances, which are in good order thanks to diligent efforts of our Treasurer Jacqueline Patterson and Treasure-Elect Bilal Ayyub;
- Results and recommendations from the SRA Audit Committee, chaired by Aylin Sertkaya;
- SRA mentoring of young professionals and students;
- Continuing success in quality and quantity of the SRA journal thanks to the Editors, Editorial Board, authors, reviewers; and Publications Committee, chaired by SRA Past-President Pamela Williams; and
- Other topics that keep the Society for Risk Analysis vital and growing!



SRA Program Committee, Tysons Corner, Virginia.

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It is timely that SRA Members submit nominations for our SRA annual fall elections for SRA officers and Councilors and awards. Details will be emailed to you when voting begins. The Nominating Committee and Awards Committee (contact details available on page 17) are striving for balanced representation of SRA Regions, Specialty Groups, gender, age/experience, academia/industry/military/NGOs/other, and other constituencies.

SRA Past-President Pamela Williams is addressing recommendations for elevation of eminent risk scholars/practitioners who are deceased (typically from other than the recent year) to the SRA Pantheon <http://www.sra.org/pantheon-risk-analysis>.

Randa Kachef (Editor of the SRA Newsletter) has been effective bringing you timely and local notifications of SRA activities through Twitter, the SRA Newsletter, and other ways. Thank you, Randa!

Robin Dillon-Merrill has made tremendous progress bringing about the monthly SRA Webinars, both live through GoToMeeting and in the SRA website archives.

Please continue to educate and inform the SRA Specialty Groups, SRA Regional Organizations, SRA Standing Committees, and the SRA Secretariat of your accomplishments and interests!

Meanwhile, thank you for your support of the risk analysis discipline and profession as the SRA continues to encourage advancement and sharing of theory, methodology, and tools across disciplines and regions of the world!!

View more photos from the meeting on the SRA Flickr account:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis

Upcoming SRA Meetings

- **SRA Europe Nordic 2016 Meeting “Where are we and where are we going: New insights in risk analysis in the Nordic countries”** Monday, November 14 – Tuesday, November 15, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- **SRA Australia and New Zealand 2016 Conference “Engaging Risk”** Wednesday, 23 November – Friday, 25 November 2016, Adelaide, South Australia.
- **SRA-Japan 2016 Annual Meeting** Friday, 25 November – Sunday, November 27, Oita City, Japan.
- **SRA 2016 Annual Meeting “Risk and Resilience: Viva la Revolución!”** Sunday, 11 December – Thursday, 15 December 2016, San Diego, California, USA.

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Summary of the 2016 SRA Latin America Congress in São Paulo, Brazil



Participants gather for a photo at the SRA Members Meeting during the Congress.

Photo by Randa Kachef.

Randa Kachef, SRA News Editor

Meeting participants assembled first thing on May 11 at the beautiful campus of the Institute of Technological Research (IPT) where they received a warm welcome from the organizers and a number of special guests. Alongside SRA Latin America President Elizabeth Nunes Alvez, SRA President Jim Lambert attended through pre-recorded plenary video presentation and outlined to the audience the objectives and activities of the SRA, particularly encouraging non-members to consider the benefits of joining the society.

Kicking off the Congress' first plenary, Dr. Rita Schoeny, who recently retired as Senior Science Advisor in the Office of Science Policy at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, explained the foundational issues in using science to shape policy. Dr. Schoeny outlined the fundamental differences between the European precautionary principle and the U.S. convention of placing the burden of proof on the government to prove the likelihood of harm. Dr. Schoeny reminded the audience that the purpose of research and academic publications is to inform decision makers, not just to sit on a shelf.

After a coffee break loud with laughter and lively conversation, the first roundtable discussion - "Zika Virus: Environmental Factors, Health Effects and Mitigative Methods" - commenced in earnest.

Dr. Délsio Nata from the Department of Public Health, São Paulo University, described for attendees the history and nature of mosquito-borne diseases in Brazil. The first instances of Yellow Fever in the country date back to 1690, when locals attempted to combat the disease with armed forces, shooting cannon balls into the ocean. Modern medicine soon

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prevailed, eradicating the disease through inoculation in 1942. Dr. Nata also shed interesting light on the spread of Zika, speculating that the speed of infection indicates human transmission and not just mosquitoes. Of course, the prevailing background to the discussions was the upcoming Olympic Games in Rio and related health risks given the Zika crisis.

Next up Professor Expedito José de Albuquerque Luna, from the Institute of Tropical Medicine at the University of São Paulo, spoke about the environmental factors that allow Zika to thrive. Dr. José de Albuquerque Luna described in detail the breeding grounds that promote mosquito populations, explaining that the best way to combat urban outbreaks is through environmental actions, such as removing litter and open water containers that allow mosquitoes to thrive.

In addition to the plenary and roundtable presentations and discussions, participants attended parallel sessions in the afternoon on ‘Microbial Risk’ and ‘Risk Communication,’ topics of both global and local interest to the risk community.

Urban Risks

Day two of the Congress began with the plenary session featuring Dr. David Stevens, Senior Programme Advisor of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Dr. Stevens spoke about his experience in implementing the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction. He described various aspects of his work on Brazilian disasters, ranging from the deadly fire at Club Kiss in Santa Maria in January 2013 to the more recent 2015 disaster when the Tim Maia cycle path in Rio De Janeiro collapsed - a path that was built in anticipation of the 2016 Olympic Games.



Dr. David Stevens and Dr. Eduardo Soares de Macedo. Photo by Randa Kachej.

In keeping with the theme of urban and human disasters, the conference’s second roundtable session - on ‘Vulnerabilities of Cities’ - featured Yuri Rafael Della Giustina, Director of Urban Land Issues and Risk Prevention for the Urban Ministry of Brazil. Mr. Giustina explained the Government’s international alliance with Japan and Brazil’s adoption of risk mitigation methods from across the Pacific.

Next Dr. Victor Marchezini, from the Brazil National Center for Disaster Monitoring and Warning (CEMADEN), outlined how GIS and meteorology are being used to raise

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awareness of the immediate risk of environmental disasters in Brazil, such as flooding and mudslides.

Finally, Dr. Agostinho Tadashi Ogura of the IPT presented his work on identifying high-risk areas within the city of São Paulo. Dr. Ogura has found that poverty-stricken marginal urban areas are at high risk of mudslides because of both their geography and improper development. To mitigate this risk, Dr. Ogura enlisted the involvement of Civil and Geotechnical engineers to provide structural support and developed prevention plans that monitor the environment and provide alerts at four different levels of risk.

The parallel sessions for day two were on 'Natural Disasters' and 'Risk Communication'. In addition, these sessions were followed by a members' meeting where participants addressed the exciting future and ongoing activities of SRA Latin America.



SRA-LA President Elect, Rosa Flores Serrano and SRA-LA President, Elizabeth Nunes Alves. Photo by Randa Kacheff.

Disasters and Decisions

On the Congress' final day, the third plenary featured Dr. Néstor Sposito from Group Risk Assessment, Process Safety and Emergency Preparedness of the United Nations Environmental Programme, Argentina. Dr. Sposito gave a dynamic talk in which he explained that due to its multifaceted and evolving nature there is no single mathematical equation or solution to risk; something as simple as the heat from a light bulb can influence a risk assessment in an unknown yet significant way.

Roundtable three included insights from a select group of experts regarding the Mariana Disaster - the November 2015 catastrophic failure of the Bento Rodrigues dam that resulted in 17 deaths along with extensive environmental and structural damage. Fernanda Cunha Pirillo Inojosa, Coordinator of Environmental Emergencies at the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, briefly described why the dam failed and the subsequent management of the resulting widespread contamination. When the dam collapsed iron waste was released into the environment, resulting in what is considered Brazil's worst environmental disaster.

View all photos from the Congress on the SRA Flickr account:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis

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Attendees then heard about the consultancy side of natural disasters from Engineer Dinésio Franco and Dr. Carlos Machado de Freitas of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation's Center for Studies and Research in Emergencies and Disasters in Health.

The day's second roundtable covered the practices and challenges of technological risks. Daniel Mendez from Hazmat Argentina spoke on his organization's response techniques and protocols. Dr. Sandro Roberto Tomaz from the Environmental Agency of São Paulo discussed industrial disasters and fatality reduction. Ricardo Rodrigues Serpa, Executive Director at INERCO Brazil Consulting, initiated discussion on the practicalities of consultancy work within the field of technological risk assessment.

The final parallel sessions included presentations from SRA groups across Latin America, including Cuba.

A key theme of discussions throughout the Congress was the sharing of practical, first-hand experiences in tackling the Zika virus and exploring how other recent disasters may offer clues in developing resilience to deal with future crisis.

President Elizabeth Nunes Alvez ended the memorable third SRA Latin America Congress with a reflection on what had been achieved and discussed at the Congress by quoting the words of Cuban philosopher José Martí: *"The best way to say anything is to do something"*.



Closing remarks from SRA-LA President, Elizabeth Nunes Alves, Dr. Adalberto Aurelio Azevedo and Dr. Eduardo Macedo Soares. Photo by Randa Kachef.

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Risk Assessment is Central to the New U.S. Toxic Chemicals Law

David Clarke, SRA Press Director

Under the new law, which strengthens the 1976 law in a number of ways, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must find that new chemicals or significant new uses of existing chemicals are safe. For existing chemicals, EPA must create a risk-based process for deciding which chemicals should be prioritized for assessment. Chemicals that EPA deems to be high priority must undergo an extensive “health-based” risk evaluation that considers risk to “differentially exposed” or susceptible subpopulations the agency identifies, such as infants, children, pregnant women, and others. If EPA concludes that a chemical or particular use of a chemical poses significant risk, the agency must regulate the substance to protect against the risk to the general population and relevant subpopulations.

That requirement to regulate differs dramatically from the past 40 years of TSCA. During that time, EPA has required testing of only a few hundred chemicals in use. When it tried to restrict or ban chemicals it found to pose significant risks, EPA encountered significant barriers. Most egregiously, in the 1980s the agency tried to ban asbestos based on a lot of scientific evidence, but a court overturned EPA’s ban in 1991. Since then, the agency hasn’t succeeded in regulating any existing chemicals using TSCA.

Now, when EPA finds significant risks from chemicals, HR 2576 gives the agency many options to address them, including labeling requirements, use restrictions, phase-outs or other measures it deems appropriate. While the new law prohibits EPA from considering costs in its health-based risk evaluations, when the agency issues regulations it still must adhere to the 1976 law’s requirement to consider a chemical’s benefits and the rule’s reasonably ascertainable economic consequences.

‘Use of Science’ Guidance

Among the many provisions of HR 2576 that will bear watching as they unfold is a requirement that within two years of the law’s enactment EPA must “establish policies, procedures, and guidance on the use of science in making decisions” under section 4, which sets forth the various procedures and guidance documents EPA must develop. So much of the debate over EPA decisions has centered on “sound science” and whether the agency’s risk assessments adopt overly conservative or protective assumptions. Will we see a big debate on use of the precautionary principle, which the European Union adopted in 2000 as general risk management guidance? Science and uncertainty are perennial issues in policy debates.

How will the EU’s 2007 REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) law play into the U.S. debate as EPA’s new authorities unfold? Back then,

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the American Chemistry Council (ACC), which represents the majority of U.S. chemical companies, found REACH disturbing because it raised the possibility of removing chemicals from the market based on their “hazard characteristics” rather than risk. But responding to the passage of HR 2576, ACC CEO Cal Dooley welcomed the development, saying, “The path to more modern chemical regulation has been decades in the making and it’s been over three years since work to achieve TSCA reform began in earnest.” The Environmental Defense Fund, a key TSCA-reform environmental advocacy group, called passage of HR 2576 a “remarkable” event after 40 years, also welcoming the new law as a “strong TSCA reform.”

In testifying last April before the U.S. House environment and economy subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, EPA Assistant Administrator for Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention James Jones stated: “It is clear that even with the best efforts under current law and resources, we need to update and strengthen TSCA and provide the EPA with the appropriate tools to protect the American people from exposure to harmful chemicals.” The new law gives EPA more authority, and more resources, but will they be enough?

Attendees of the joint SRA/Society of Toxicology roundtable discussion on TSCA reform at the 2015 SRA Annual Meeting heard key perspectives on the debate as members of Congress were in the throes of final negotiations. For sure, HR 2576 will be a significant topic at SRA meetings going forward. EPA has a lot of work ahead, with tight deadlines. Stay tuned!

Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting

Sheraton, San Diego, California

11-15 December 2016

Become a SPONSOR or EXHIBIT with us at this year’s Annual Meeting!

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Regional Organizations

SRA Australia New Zealand

Steve Corin, SRA ANZ Treasurer

Society for Risk Analysis (Australia-New Zealand) 9th Annual Conference “Emerging Risk 2016” - registrations open in July.

What do climate change, immunization, refugees and animal testing have in common? They engage society in heated debate about risk, and they all involve tension between subjective and objective risk analysis. The experimental, natural and social sciences have all been called into question as stakeholders try to make sense of risk and reward in absolute terms as well as relative to their own work and lives. The 9th Annual Conference of the SRA (Australia – New Zealand) announces it will open registrations in July 2016.

The conference itself will bring together world-class speakers across Australasia for an action packed conference covering all areas of 'Engaging Risk'

The conference will be start on 22 November 2016 at CQUni's Appleton Institute in Adelaide, South Australia. An official welcome will be provided from Professor Scott Bowman, Vice-Chancellor and President of Central Queensland University. The conference will then be launched by a keynote from Professor Stewart Lockie which will be followed by two days of presentations, and further professional workshops on risk perception and risk analysis.

Our presenters bring a range of skills including:

- Applied mathematics
- Environmental assessment expertise
- Safety management

Professional workshops will include topics such as:

- The psychology of risk perception
- Quantitative risk assessment methods
- Expert judgement

See our conference page for more details:

<http://www.sraanz.org.nz/sra-2016.html>

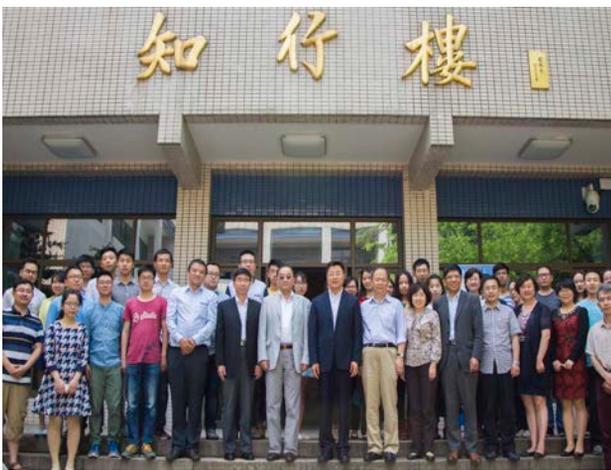
SRA China

Guofang Zhai, SRA China Secretary

Forum on Urban Safety and Disaster-Prevention Planning was successfully held at Nanjing on May 14th, 2016.

Over centuries of urban history, development has always been accompanied by efforts to prevent cities from diverse disasters. Urban public safety is not only the foundation of state security, but is also a vital condition of socio-economic growth, and a significant guarantee of contentment. On May 14th, the Forum on Urban Safety and Disaster-Prevention Planning was held at Nanjing University, Gulou Campus, by the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Nanjing University, with support from the Society of Risk Analysis-China (SRA-China), the Academic Council of Urban Safety and Disaster Prevention Planning of the Urban Planning Society of

China, the Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention, and of the Construction Council of China Society of Urban Planning. Prof. Chongfu Huang, the chairman of SRA-China and the president of the Risk Analysis Council of China Association for Disaster Prevention, made a speech in the opening ceremony and Prof. Guofang Zhai, the vice-Chairman of SRA-China chaired the ceremony and the forum. Wonderful reports were given by 10 experts from the China Earthquake Administration, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Nanjing University, Fudan University, Tongji University, Beijing Normal University, Northeast Normal University, Yunnan University, Beijing University of Technology, and Nanjing University of Technology. In addition, over 50 representatives from all over the country had heated and effective discussions on the research and practice of urban safety and disaster prevention planning in China. It is reported that this forum will be held again next year.



SRA China gathering.

SRA Europe Nordic Chapter

Ullrika Sahlin, SRA Nordic President

The Nordic Chapter of SRA Europe looks back at an active first year of its existence. The chapter invited members and non-members to a discussion during the SRA Europe conference in Bath, where we discussed common issues on risk, risk research and risk education.

We invite individuals and organizations interested in risk assessment, risk management and risk communication to join the SRA Europe 2nd Nordic Chapter Meeting in Gothenburg 14-15 November, 2016. The theme of the meeting is "Where are we and where are we going: New insights into risk analysis in the Nordic countries". The conference is hosted by Gothenburg Research Institute at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference is sponsored by the Partner Program at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg.

Submit your abstract before August 29, 2016! More info at the meeting web page <http://gri.handels.gu.se/konferens/sra-nordic-chapter-meeting>

Additionally, the Nordic Chapter is hosting a graduate research-focused course on Risk, Uncertainty, and Decision Making. We expect to cover quantitative risk assessment, the frontiers of uncertainty analysis, risk perception, risk communication and policy, using examples from critical infrastructures, ticks and climate adaptation. The course will take place in Lund, Sweden, October 13-14th

and in Gothenburg, Sweden, November 13-16th. The course is part of the research schools ClimBECO and LUCID but is open for anyone interested to attend. More info can be found on the course web page:

<http://evidence.blogg.lu.se/graduate-course-in-risk-uncertainty-and-decision-making/>

SRA Japan

Yasunobu Maeda, SRA Japan Vice President

Five years after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

This March the SRA-Japan released a letter to the people of Japan, entitled "A message from SRA-Japan: five years after the earthquake." The message is a summary of findings by the special research committee of the Great East Japan Earthquake, SRA-Japan, about risks Japanese society faces after the earthquake. This letter, written in Japanese, is available on the SRA Japan website.

On June 30, SRA-Japan will host its 2016 General Business Meeting at Sanjo Hall, University of Tokyo. During the meeting, the new SRA-Japan council for the 2016-2017 period will be inducted. Currently the president of SRA-Japan is Yoko Niiyama. A new president will also be appointed at the meeting.

Just after the General Business Meeting, we will have the 2016 Annual Symposium. The theme is "Seismic risk in our society." Four speakers, T. Kurosawa (journalism), J. Kanda (architecture), K. Koketsu (seismology), and S. Hirota (psychology), will discuss about seismic risk from

respective points of view.

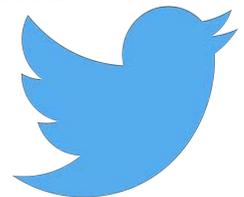
From November 25-27, SRA-Japan will host the 2016 Annual Meeting in Horuto Hall OITA, in Oita city. Oita is one of the closest cities to the area affected by the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake. The theme of the meeting is "Toward people's understanding and propagation of risk concepts." The chair is Michiaki Kai, former president of SRA-Japan. This is the first SRA-Japan Annual Meeting held in Kyusyu Island.

Visit the SRA-Japan Annual Meeting web site, <http://www.sra-japan.jp/SRAJ2016HP/>

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SRA Committees

Membership Committee

Brett Burk, SRA Secretariat

Risk Assessment Mentoring Program for current students and young professionals.

The SRA/SOT Joint Mentoring Committee composed of members from both SRA and SOT will work to develop a proposal for the overall structure of a proposed joint SRA/SOT program to provide mentorship in Risk Assessment, which will include a structure of key risk assessment principles, pieces, parts and key references. Given the joint involvement of the SOT, the proposed program will include key components already developed and made available by the SOT. Once identified, the mentees and mentors will be matched to the extent possible on interest in particular risk assessment goals, practices, or chemicals. They will be introduced to facilitate an initial transfer of information and contact schedule. The Risk Assessment Mentoring Program may comprise an initial Structured Phase and a follow-on, Flexible Phase. The Structured Phase should be assigned a maximum duration for mentees to complete based on their own availability, the completion of which will confirm the interest of the mentee. The Flexible Phase should be developed to address the interest, needs and availability of the mentee and mentor. The Structured Phase should include pre-recorded lectures and fundamental training courses, organized into three activities. The initial activity should be a

pre-recorded presentation on Careers in Risk Assessment. The second activity may be in the form of a short series of three to five, fifteen-minute “mini-lectures” on topics not covered at a sufficient level of detail in the half-day Risk Assessment Courses. The final activity should be two half-day Continuing Education Courses archived by the SOT, for which the SOT can provide documentation/certification of completion for the students. Further details will follow.

Audit Committee

Aylin Sertkaya, Audit Committee Chair

SRA now has a new Audit Committee for 2015-2016. The committee includes Aylin Sertkaya of Eastern Research Group, Inc. (chair), Frank Hearl of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and Naomi Cogger of Massey University. The audit committee met for the first time on May 3rd to go over the independent account’s review report on SRA financial statements for the year ending on March 31, 2015. At the meeting, Brett Burk, Executive Secretary, Burk & Associates, Inc., provided an overview of the report and responded to the committee’s questions. The Society continues to be financially sound. The Society’s net assets increased by \$125,540 in the reporting year to around \$2.7 million. Total cash or cash equivalents at the end of the year was \$750,100 up by \$540,790

from the beginning of the year. The audit committee will meet again at the 2016 Annual SRA conference in San Diego, CA, to conduct an evaluation that will take account of trends based on prior years' audit reports.

Standing Committees

The SRA Council maintains a number of committees to facilitate the governance and operation of the Society. Members interested in the topics covered by committees or who want to serve on a committee may contact their chairs.

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SRA News

Many Eyes on SRA Risk Analysis Research

David Clarke, SRA Press Director

In April there was a lot of excitement when SRA published a news release about research by Dr. Lyle D. Burgoon and his colleagues Ingrid Druwe, Kyle Painter, and Erin Yost. The release, “How Can Regulators Know Which of the 80,000 Manufactured Chemicals Might Pose Risks?” was about their study in *Risk Analysis*, “Using In Vitro High Throughput Screening Data for Predicting Benzo[k]Fluoranthene Human Health Hazards,” which the SRA Communications News Release Subcommittee selected as newsworthy. And they were right! Jemma Blow, an associate marketing manager for Wiley, the publisher of *Risk Analysis*, contacted me to say the release was “receiving a lot of attention,” generating an Altmetric score of 95 and being “picked up by multiple outlets.” Jemma added: “This is fantastic!” Newswise reported that the release had 1,848 hits.

Given the power of the research, it’s not surprising. “In my opinion, this work is starting to lay the foundation that will allow risk assessors and risk managers around the world to couple high-throughput screening tests and adverse outcome pathways for risk assessment,” said Dr. Burgoon, who works at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and

Development Center in Research Triangle Park, NC.

Then in May, the SRA news release, “What Makes the Public More Likely to Second-Guess Authorities During a Crisis?” drew attention to research by Jan M. Gutteling and Peter W. de Vries of the Department of Psychology of Conflict, Risk, and Safety, at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. Their *Risk Analysis* study, “Determinants of seeking and avoiding risk-related information in times of crisis,” sheds new light on what makes people seek or ignore emergency information in high-risk situations.

When the editor in chief of *Crisis Response Journal*, Emily Hough, received the release, she posted it on the journal’s website and wrote that it was “very popular.” But more than that, Editor Hough asked if we could write a 2,100-word article to feature in the September issue of CRJ. That was music to our ears, and Dr. Gutteling and de Vries are now writing a first draft that I will then edit to make it as suitable as possible for a non-academic but very relevant audience. Newswise also reported that the release had 2,825 hits.

Congratulations to our SRA risk analysts who are bringing important and well-received insights into a complex world where risks abound and insights are critical. You can find the releases on the SRA website under News.

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