

# Candidate for President-Elect

## Frank Hearl, P.E.



Mr. Hearl is the Chief of Staff for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He assists the NIOSH Director with provide broad oversight and management of the Institute's research and service activities. He is the Institute's point-of-contact to coordinate with other federal agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Programs for robotics and artificial intelligence. Working with these agencies he promotes the translation of NIOSH research and risk assessments to practice for science-based decision making. Beginning with NIOSH in 1974, his experience includes conducting field industrial hygiene and epidemiology studies related to pneumoconiosis (dust induced disease) and various lung disease-producing agents. He was the NIOSH lead on an international project with the Tongji Medical University in Wuhan China and the U.S. National Cancer Institute to study silica, silicosis, and lung cancer.

Frank has been a member of the SRA since 2008, and in 2013 was a co-founder of the Occupational Health and Safety Specialty Group (OHSSG) for which he has served twice as Chair and represented the group on the SRA annual program planning meeting. He regularly is a co-presenter on SRA Workshops on expert elicitation and has served on the Audit Committee for the past several years.

Frank received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University in 1974 and earned a Master of Science degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1980. He is licensed Professional Engineer in Maryland and West Virginia, and a Fellow of the Society.

## Statement of Goals

The need for the Society to address our vision of being the world's leading authority on risk sciences and its applications has never been greater. The public is constantly being presented with facts and statistics, often incomplete and without context, and they as well as decision-makers make conclusions and take actions based on their interpretations. The need for the SRA and its members to inform and explain risk using the tools of risk science is critical to assure that individuals and organizations, public and private, are acting on an accurate assessment of risk for data-driven decision making. The key mechanisms the SRA has for doing this are the journal "Risk Analysis," working through its specialty groups and regional organizations, the convening of webinars and conferences, and the sharing of methodological approaches for using raw data to correctly assess risk and promote effective solutions. One area that could be improved is the public-facing presence of SRA. While our premier journal "Risk Analysis" provides outstanding scientific content on risk for our membership, the intensity of scientific rigor it presents is beyond what is broadly understandable to the public. I think SRA needs to consider developing an outlet for providing the public with understandable content related to risk

and interpretation of risk, and fact-checking analysis from non-risk-savvy writers. Other scientific or technical organizations often have both a rigorous scientific journal as well as a “trade journal,” or like “Science” have a front news section that explains or elaborates on the scientific articles, from which consumable technical content can be picked up by the popular media. The SRA needs something like this to actuate our vision to empower “...the public with the science and tools of risk analysis to better assess, manage, govern and communicate risk.” Doing so would expand the SRA’s reach beyond the audience of dedicated risk analysts.