

# Candidate for President-Elect

Felicia Wu, PhD, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor  
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition  
Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics  
Michigan State University



Felicia Wu has been deeply involved with the Society for Risk Analysis since 1998, as a PhD student. In the last 24 years, she has served SRA in multiple ways; first as student representative for the Risk Communication Specialty Group and the (then) Food & Water Risk Specialty Group. Later, she served as Chair of both these Specialty Groups. Felicia has served on the SRA Council, Program Committee, Communications Committee, and Awards Committee. For 10 years, she has served as the Area Editor for Health Risk of SRA's flagship journal *Risk Analysis*. Felicia received the 2007 SRA Chauncey Starr Distinguished Young Risk Analyst Award, and was elected as a Fellow of SRA in 2020.

Felicia's research examines how food and nutrition security affect global public health. She currently leads/co-leads six extramural research grants; including from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), US Department of Agriculture, and US Agency for International Development (USAID). Felicia is a World Health Organization (WHO) Temporary Advisor to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), which conducts risk assessments of food additives and contaminants. She serves on the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Scientific Advisory Committee on livestock nutrition and health, and was an expert reviewer to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report on food security and land use change. Felicia is currently on the US National Committee to the International Union on Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), and has served on panels of the US National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). She has authored nearly 140 publications, including in *Science*, *Nature*, and *PNAS*. Felicia earned her AB and SM in Applied Mathematics-Medical Sciences at Harvard University, and her PhD in Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University.

## Statement of Goals

The Society for Risk Analysis is unique among professional societies in our sheer scope and breadth of expertise, methods, and applications. This is not surprising, as risk touches nearly every aspect of life and governance. Indeed, as a Society, we have a responsibility: the world needs our expertise in assessing, managing, and communicating risk – whether the topic is pandemics, climate, energy, technology, food, water, homeland security, natural disasters, health, or more. Every day in our world, the need for expertly-conducted risk analysis becomes more apparent.

Per the new SRA strategic plan adopted in December 2018, our core ideology is a safer world and improving life through the science and practice of risk analysis, and our vision as a Society is to be the world's leading authority on risk science and its applications. As such, our main strategic goals are to:

- 1) Enhance risk science and the profession
- 2) Influence and strengthen our impact globally
- 3) Expand the organizational capacity and efficiency of our Society

If I have the honor of being elected the next SRA President, my goal is to continue the work of our past leaders by carrying out the important SRA vision identified in our strategic plan. In keeping with our three goals as a Society, I plan to have SRA members involved throughout the year in more activities that **update our risk analysis skills, directly affect society and policy, and join members with organizations where our interactions will be of mutual benefit.** I will work to make this possible not only for senior members of SRA, but for students as well. As a student, I had the good fortune to be involved in high-level policy discussions on risk-based topics such as the Precautionary Principle and genetically modified organisms, in large part through connections built in SRA. Since then, serving multiple national and international organizations on topics ranging from estimating global burden of foodborne disease to selecting waterborne contaminants of concern to evaluating dietary guidelines, I have gained so much in new knowledge and colleagues and opportunities – and wish for all SRA members to have these chances to apply risk analysis to the critical problems of today's world.

To that end, I will work to bring relevant policymakers (national and international, including United Nations and national government agencies) and representatives from industries, NGOs, funding agencies, and academia to speak in plenary sessions of SRA Annual Meetings and in workshops (in person and online) throughout the year. In the workshops, I will arrange for open meeting times at the end of talks for SRA members to meet these individuals to foster collaborations. I will work closely with the SRA Council and membership at-large to identify further opportunities to bring SRA expertise across our members to national and global attention, so that risk analysis across multiple domains will gain prominence as a field of importance.

If you attend the SRA Annual Meeting in Tampa this December, please come talk with me and let me know about your areas of work and your aspirations, and what keeps you busy now. I am eager to meet you or to catch up with you, to hear about your work, and to consider how your risk analysis work might find an audience among decision-making groups with similar interests. It would truly be my honor to serve as your SRA President, and to give back in this way to a Society that has been my professional home for almost 25 years. Thank you for taking the time to read about me and these aspirations, and for your consideration in this election.