



# Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

## President's Message – November 2011

Dear SRA-NE Members:

As Autumn is quickly turning into Winter (witness that Trick-or-Treat October storm!), I would like to update the Chapter on plans for the year. Although off to a late start, we will be resuming our seminar series in December, and have a number of exciting topics planned for the year.

For those that do not know me, I am Debra Kaden, a toxicologist and environmental health scientist at ENVIRON International. I work out of the downtown Boston office, and have been kicking around the greater Boston area for about 35 years now. I started my career at MIT and the Dana Farber doing research in the field of genetic toxicology and carcinogenesis, and after leaving the laboratory moved into the field of environmental health where I spent almost 20 years at the Health Effects Institute managing research on the health effects of air pollution. At ENVIRON, I work on a variety of projects spanning the fields of exposure science, air quality, community and occupational exposures to pollutants and human health risk analysis. My areas of interest include risk evaluation of air pollutants, both criteria pollutants and air toxics; use of biomarkers in understanding exposure; and ways to integrate the fields of exposure, toxicology, epidemiology, risk assessment, and policy. I have been working with our past presidents, as well as our newly elected President-Elect to help grow the Chapter and broaden our impact on the field of risk analysis.

One thing that has impressed me over the years is how welcoming this group is to scientists in all fields who are interested in the risk field. I encourage others who have yet to get involved in the Chapter to step up. You will find your involvement welcome and will quickly see the benefit of becoming part of the team!

Dues will remain the same this year: \$10 for students and \$20 for all others. This is a bargain given all you get with membership! As a reminder, you can pay your dues conveniently online as part of your SRA National Dues at <http://sra.org>. Just be sure to click the New England box in Section Three of the membership renewal page. If you do not wish to be a member of SRA National, we are working to facilitate online payment for you as well, but will continue to accept checks in the interim. If you enjoy the seminars and other opportunities provided by SRA-NE, I encourage you to renew your dues promptly. It is a great deal, and helps us keep those refreshments coming! Thanks.

Although I am off to a slower start than I would have liked, I am working to develop at least 4 more seminars during the year. I will continue our joint meeting with LSPA in the Spring, and hope to add a joint meeting with the New England chapter of the American Industrial Hygiene Association as well. I will continue Henry Roman's initiative to spread the location of the seminars around, hopefully making it easier for you to attend them. Feel free to contribute seminar ideas to

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me at the contact info above; I'm happy to hear from you!

Our first seminar is planned for **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**, at the Landmark Building of Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), and will focus on exposures and possible health effects from the chemical bisphenol A (BPA). Our two speakers will be Dr. Joe Braun, a HSPH Fellow who will discuss his just-published study of the effect of exposures to BPA to learning, and Dr. Julie Goodman, a Principal at Gradient Corporation, who will discuss the weight of evidence analysis for BPA.

I am also pleased to announce that the SRA-NE chapter is working on a new outreach initiative (see announcement section of newsletter). Funded through the SRA Council and led by Amy Rosenstein and a committee of volunteers, this effort will reach out to academic institutions in the area, starting with Boston University, to make them aware of SRA-NE.

As I complete the transition from President-Elect to President of SRA-NE, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for giving me the privilege of leading the group this year. I have enjoyed the mentorship of my Past Presidents Henry Roman and Amy Rosenstein, and look forward to working with our President-Elect Eric Ruder to continue their great work.

I look forward to seeing you at the first seminar, and to an exciting and thought-provoking year.

Debra A. Kaden



# Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

2011-2012 Event Series

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, December 14, 2011**

**Refreshments: 4:30 pm – 4:50 pm**

**Presentations: 4:50 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Discussion: 6:30 – 7:00 pm**

## BISPHENOL A AND HUMAN HEALTH

### PRESENTATIONS

#### EARLY LIFE EXPOSURE TO BISPHENOL A AND CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL DEVELOPMENT

Joe M. Braun, MSPH, Ph.D., RN  
Harvard School of Public Health

#### THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE REGARDING BISPHENOL A AND HUMAN HEALTH

Julie E. Goodman, PhD DABT  
Gradient

#### Location

Harvard School of Public Health  
Landmark Center  
401 Park Drive  
Room 414a West

**Please RSVP by Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> to Debra A. Kaden ([dkaden@environcorp.com](mailto:dkaden@environcorp.com)).**

Space is limited, so reserve your seat today. For more information on SRA-NE, please go to: [www.sra-ne.org](http://www.sra-ne.org)



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## ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

**Joseph Braun**, *Early Life Exposure to Bisphenol A and Children's Behavioral Development*

Virtually all persons in industrialized countries are exposed to bisphenol A (BPA) and animal studies suggest that early life exposure to endocrine disrupting compounds like BPA might impact behavioral development. Few studies have examined these relationships in humans. The fetus may be especially vulnerable to environmental factors due to reduced detoxification pathways and rapidly developing organ systems. We used a prospective birth cohort of 244 mothers and their 3-year old children to examine the relationship between gestational/childhood BPA exposures and behavior/executive function at 3-years of age. BPA exposure during pregnancy, but not childhood, was associated with worse behavior at 3-years of age, especially in girls. Domains related to behavioral and emotional regulation were most impacted by gestational BPA exposure. These data suggest that behavioral endpoints may be sensitive to early life BPA exposure. Based on these findings and prior studies of other environmental chemicals, additional study of this relationship is warranted.

**Julie Goodman**, *The Weight of Evidence Regarding Bisphenol A and Human Health.*

People are exposed to bisphenol A (BPA), mostly from the ingestion of food or beverages that have been in contact with materials manufactured with BPA. Biomonitoring and pharmacokinetic studies have shown that human exposures likely range from <0.03 to 1.61 µg/kg-d. BPA has weak estrogen-like activity and causes adverse effects at high doses in laboratory animals. A weight-of-evidence evaluation of the toxicological database associated with BPA's low-dose activity shows that positive findings are countered by null findings in more numerous studies; have not been replicated; do not exhibit coherence and plausibility; do not show consistency across species, doses, and time points; and/or are from studies using non-oral exposure routes. Positive findings of effect in epidemiology studies are not coherent with the toxicity, mechanistic, and pharmacokinetic BPA data. As a whole, the weight of evidence does not support the hypothesis that low oral doses of BPA adversely affect human health.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PRESENTERS

**Joe M. Braun, MSPH, PhD, RN** is a Research Fellow, epidemiologist, and nurse in the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. His research focuses on environmental determinants of childhood neurodevelopment. Dr. Braun's prior studies have examined the relationship between environmental chemicals and childhood growth and development. He has also published several studies examining the variability and validity of various biomarkers of environmental exposures. Dr. Braun received two BS degrees in Biochemistry and Nursing from the University of Wisconsin. After working as a school nurse in Milwaukee he received his MSPH and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Julie Goodman, Ph.D, DABT** is an epidemiologist and board-certified toxicologist specializing in human health risk assessment. She is a Principal at Gradient, an environmental consulting firm, and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her primary responsibilities at Gradient include weight-of-evidence analyses; the design, oversight, analysis, and interpretation of epidemiology studies; and the evaluation of chemical toxicology data, apparent disease clusters, and chemical exposures. Before joining Gradient, Dr. Goodman was a Cancer Prevention Fellow at the National Cancer Institute. She received an S.B. in Environmental Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an Sc.M. in Epidemiology and a Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences/Toxicology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



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## GETTING TO THE EVENT

Directions to Landmark: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/landmark/location.html>

- **From the [MBTA](#) Subway (on foot)** - Take the Green Line “D” train to the Fenway Stop.
- **Driving directions**

*From North or South of Boston:* Take I-93 North/South to Exit 26 (Storrow Drive). Follow Storrow Drive approximately 2.5 miles to Kenmore Square/Fenway exit (on left). The exit ramp forks, stay to your right. Take right at first light into Kenmore Square. Take leftmost fork at second light onto Brookline Avenue. Once on Brookline Avenue, pass Fenway Park on your left and the movie theater, part of Landmark Center, on your right. Turn right onto Park Drive at first big intersection. Turn right again into the parking area.

*From West of Boston:* Take I-90 to exit 18. Follow Storrow Drive eastbound to Kenmore Square/Fenway exit. Follow directions above.

- **Once you arrive at Landmark**

*Parking:* available at the Landmark Center. For questions, please call [Laz Parking](#) at 617-927-0398.

*Room location:* Enter on the ground floor between Best Buy and REI; take the escalator or stairs to the upper lobby. The East Wing will be to your right, the West Wing to your left. Proceed to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the West Wing.



# Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS!***

### **Calling All New Englanders!**

You are invited to a New England SRA reception at the 2011 Annual SRA Meeting in Charleston!

When: Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM - 7PM

Where: At the Charleston Area Convention Center – location to be posted at the conference registration desk

Who: All NE-SRA members and other New England risk analysis people.

We will have an area reserved in the Convention Center. Come join us for a beer and some light appetizers before to start off your evening. It will give us a chance to catch up, share ideas about chapter activities, and talk about the interesting sessions at the meeting. We hope to see you there!

---- Debra and Eric

### **SRA New Initiative Grant Awarded for Outreach to Academic Institutions in Six SRA Regional Organizations**

The SRA Council approved funding for six SRA regional organizations to conduct outreach to academic institutions, by conducting department briefing sessions and a seminar/mixer. The grant supports this approach as a pilot at one New England area university; additional grants could expand the scope to other area universities in the future. The objective of the grant is to conduct a pilot study for active engagement and recruitment of potential new members at universities in order to the build critical mass necessary to sustain vital regional organizations.

A committee of volunteers has been formed, and a pilot university (Boston University) has been selected. The Committee is currently working on contacting individuals in relevant BU academic departments, and selecting a date and format for the seminar/mixer. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Amy Rosenstein ([EnvRiskExpABR@aol.com](mailto:EnvRiskExpABR@aol.com)). Thanks!

This project, funded as a new initiatives grant by the SRA Council in 2011, is the first pilot study of its kind to assist regional organizations in recruiting new members from universities. The process and briefing materials we develop, along with our overall evaluations of the university events, will help guide future recruiting events for SRA regional organizations. This project will contribute to more systematic SRA processes for recruiting for regional organizations, nationally and internationally, and expanding to other sectors in addition to academics. The project addresses our common needs to build and sustain diverse and vital local organizations.