



Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

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NEWSLETTER

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President's Message – September 2010

Dear SRA-NE Members:

Greetings! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. As fall's chill begins to enter the air, we are resuming our seminar series once again. As I 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 am inheriting the group from the very capable hands of our outgoing President, Amy Rosenstein, who did an excellent job not only organizing interesting seminars and a poster session across a wide range of topics but also in completing a key organizational transition – the integration of SRA-NE with SRA national. Thank you, Amy!

By way of introduction, I am Henry Roman, a Principal with Industrial Economics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where I work on projects at the intersection between human health risk analysis and the regulatory/economic analyses of environmental policies. My areas of interest include risk analysis of air pollutants, both criteria pollutants and air toxics; PCBs and dioxins; uncertainty analysis (including the use of expert elicitation methods); and ways to integrate risk assessment more effectively into economic analyses. I plan to continue to work closely with our past presidents, who bring a range of perspectives from academia, the public sector, and consulting, and welcome any and all interested SRA members who wish to participate more actively in the direction of the group.

As this letter goes out, we are currently holding elections to fill the positions of President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. I believe the President-Elect position, which was created last year, provides a useful way for the future president to familiarize him- or herself with the workings of the organization over the course of the year and to actively contribute ideas. The election is open to all dues-paying members; eligible members will receive an email shortly with details. Polling ends October 1. Please take a moment to vote if you are eligible.

Dues will remain the same this year: \$10 for students and \$20 for all others. As a reminder, our new incarnation as a chapter of SRA National should make paying your dues easier; you can now conveniently pay 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 pay your dues promptly, and please let me know if you encounter any problems with the new system. Thanks.

I am working to develop at least 4 seminars in addition to the now-annual poster session and joint meeting with LSPA in the spring. While our first seminar will be held at Harvard School of Public Health (thanks to Trina von Stackelberg for arranging!), we will be exploring some new venues this year in an effort to expand our reach and help attract student and professional attendees from other locations. Feel free to contribute seminar ideas to me at the contact info above; I'm happy to hear from you.



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Our first seminar is planned for **Wednesday, October 6**, at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), and will focus on risk-related research efforts in Africa and Asia. Our two speakers will be Dr. Shona Dalal, HSPH Research Fellow who will provide an update on Harvard's Partnership for Cohort research and Training (PaCT) project, a collaborative effort among African Institutions and HSPH to develop cohort studies of chronic disease risk in African nations, and Dr. Sumi Mehta of the Health Effects Institute, who will discuss advances in HEI's Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia (PAPA) study.

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

Henry A. Roman

2010-2011 Event Series

SRA-NE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

RISK ASSESSMENT ACROSS CONTINENTS

PACT: MEASURING CHRONIC DISEASE IN AFRICA

Shona Dalal, PhD, MSc, Research Associate, Department of Epidemiology,
Harvard School of Public Health

STRENGTHENING AIR POLLUTION HEALTH SCIENCE IN ASIA: EXAMPLES FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND AIR POLLUTION IN ASIA (PAPA) PROGRAM

Sumi Mehta, PhD, Senior Scientist, Health Effects Institute

Refreshments: 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Presentations: 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Discussion: 5:00 – 5:30 pm



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Location

Harvard School of Public Health
FXB Building Room G-13
651 Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02115

Please RSVP by Monday, October 3rd to Henry A. Roman (hroman@indecon.com).

You must RSVP so that we can give your information to the guard's desk. Please bring an ID to the meeting. For more information on SRA-NE, please go to: www.sra-ne.org

ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

Shona Dalal. *PaCT: Measuring Chronic Disease In Africa.*

Aid to Africa has focused on infections such as malaria, TB, and HIV. But such efforts will soon be overshadowed by a burden of chronic diseases similar to that seen in high-income countries. Dr. Dalal will provide an overview of chronic diseases in Africa, and describe the goals and progress of the Africa/Harvard School of Public Health Partnership for Cohort Research and Training (PaCT) multi-country collaboration.

Sumi Mehta. *Strengthening Air Pollution Health Science In Asia: Examples From The Public Health And Air Pollution In Asia (PAPA) Program.*

The World Health Organization estimates that, largely on the basis of research conducted in Europe and North America, urban air pollution contributes each year to approximately 800,000 deaths worldwide. As approximately 2/3 of these deaths occur in developing countries of Asia, however, there is a need to reduce the uncertainties involved with extrapolating research results to a region with different sources, magnitudes of exposures, and population characteristics. The Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia (PAPA) Program of the Health Effects Institute informs regional decisions about improving Asian air quality in three major ways: periodically assessing and reviewing science on the effects of exposure to air pollution in Asia, initiating new research in seven representative Asian cities; and developing the scientific and technical capacities of a network of Asian investigators. This talk will summarize recently published and ongoing work funded by the PAPA program, including results of a recent systematic review of the evidence on the health effects of air pollution in Asian cities. Key research gaps, as well as implications for health impact assessment, will be discussed.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PRESENTERS

Shona Dalal, PhD, MSc, is an epidemiologist at the Harvard School of Public Health. She trained in infectious disease in India and at the University of Michigan. Following her doctoral degree she spent two and a half years with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service working on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in five sub-Saharan African countries. Her research interests include reproductive tract infections, chronic sequelae of reproductive history, and the shifting burden of disease in developing countries. At HSPH she is focused on establishing large longitudinal cohort studies in Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda to study the growing burden of chronic diseases through the Africa/Harvard School of Public Health Partnership for Cohort Research and Training (PaCT).



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Sumi Mehta holds an MPH in epidemiology and biostatistics, as well as a PhD in environmental health science from the University of California, Berkeley. She is the lead scientific staff for the Health Effects Institute's Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia (PAPA) Program. She has also been actively involved in developing a research program on statistical methods to investigate the effects of multiple air pollution constituents. Prior to joining HEI, Dr. Mehta was a health policy analyst in the Evidence and Information for Policy group of the World Health Organization, where she led work on evaluating the cost-effectiveness of interventions to improve environmental health and promote safe motherhood. Dr. Mehta has worked on assessing exposures to indoor air pollution, including a World Bank funded project to assess exposures in Andhra Pradesh, India. She has co-authored chapters on exposure assessment and susceptibility in the latest update of WHO's Global Air Quality Guidelines. She collaborated with Dr. Kirk Smith to produce the first estimates of the global burden of disease from Indoor Air Pollution, and is currently an active member of the groups working to update the estimates for indoor and outdoor air pollution. Dr. Mehta is also Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environmental Health at Boston University School of Public Health, where she lectures occasionally on global air pollution and health.

GETTING TO THE EVENT

Directions to HSPH, FXB G-13: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/about/location-and-directions/longwood-campus-directions/index.html>

MBTA Subway:

The school is directly across from the Brigham Circle Green Line (E) 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. Follow Brookline Avenue approximately 1 mile and through a major intersection (Beth Israel Hospital will be on the left). Watch for blue and white Longwood Medical area signs. Take left on Longwood Avenue and a right onto Huntington Avenue.

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 HSPH:

Parking: There are a limited number of metered parking spaces available on Huntington Avenue in front of the HSPH, as well as on adjacent streets. There is also limited visitor parking. There are parking lots across the street from HSPH, and hospital parking garages on Francis Street.

Room location:

Enter 651 Huntington Avenue (FXB Building). Room G-13 is down the stairs on your right after you enter the building.



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Course Announcement

SESOIL and AT123D Massachusetts Training Seminar

MA LSP Course Number: 1385

8 Technical non-DEP Continuing Education Credits

September 24, 2010

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

At the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center
219 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886

Michael J. Barden has been added as an instructor for the SESOIL and AT123D training seminar. Michael is a nationally recognized expert on the SESOIL model and is co-author of "The New SESOIL User's Guide." He was responsible for the development of the default NR 720 soil cleanup objectives for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). As a senior hydrogeologist with the WDNR he was also responsible for application of risk-based corrective actions, and use of natural attenuation as a remediation option. Mr. Barden was co-chair of the task group responsible for developing the ASTM guidance for remediation by natural attenuation and a member of the National Research Council (NRC) committee on intrinsic remediation. He has worked with and lectured extensively on SESOIL, AT123D and U.S. EPA's Soil Screening Guidance.

Michael is President and Principal Geologist with Geoscience Resources Inc. in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He provides consulting services in hydrogeologic evaluation, environmental biogeochemistry, soil and groundwater modeling, and risk assessment. His project experience ranges from USTs to Superfund sites. He has developed and provided instruction for numerous training courses for professional organizations and state regulatory agencies.

This course will cover the use of the SESOIL and AT123D models. These models were used by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to develop default soil cleanup objectives. Consultants can use these models to develop site-specific soil cleanup objectives. Focus will be given to the use of SESOIL and AT123D in the SEVIEW transport and fate modeling software.

Additional Instructors:

Robert Schneiker, M.S., P.G., President

Environmental Software Consultants, Inc., Madison, WI

Mr. Schneiker has been in the environmental groundwater consulting industry since 1982. He is the sole designer and developer of the SEVIEW modeling software that includes enhanced versions of the SESOIL and AT123D models. SEVIEW is used by regulators and consultants around the world, including the MassDEP. It was selected as the best tier 2 modeling software available by an independent review. In 1992 he performed SESOIL modeling for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The results were used to establish baseline regulatory soil cleanup standards protective of groundwater quality. He has presented papers on modeling in the United States and the European Union. Mr. Schneiker has conducted numerous training seminars for consultants and regulatory agencies. He is a registered professional geologist in Wisconsin.



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Michael Kulbersh, LSP, P.HG., C.G./P.G

U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, MMR, MA

Mr. Kulbersh assisted in the design of the multiple SESOIL source version of AT123D in SEVIEW. Mr. Kulbersh has over 20 years of experience in the environmental arena as a geologist/hydrogeologist for CDM Inc./Stone and Webster (Shaw Group Inc.) and most recently at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Kulbersh is a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) in Massachusetts and a registered geologist in Maine, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania and is also a registered hydrogeologist with the American Institute of Hydrology (AIH). Additionally, Mr. Kulbersh developed and has presented (non-DEP Technical) Course 1290 - Groundwater Flow and Contaminant Transport to the LSP community in June 2005. The cost of this one-day course is \$350. To register complete and print this [Registration Form](#) and send it including payment to:

Environmental Software Consultants, Inc.

P.O. Box 2622

Madison, WI 53701-2622

Call ESCI at 608 240-9878 if you have any questions. You may also submit your questions to ESCI via e-mail at training@seview.com.

Visit www.seview.com for more information on the SEVIEW modeling software.

Employment Opportunities

If you have an employment opportunity you would like listed here, please contact Karen Vetrano at kvetrano@trcsolutions.com or 860-298-6351. Please note that the job-posting fee for this newsletter is \$100 for recruiters/commercial and \$50 for government and nonprofit organizations. Please make your payment to Arlene Levin, NE-SRA Treasurer at Eastern Research Group, 110 Hartwell Street, Lexington, MA 02173

Job Title: Statistician, GS-1530-12/13

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Job Announcement Number: LV-OAR-DE-2010-0073

The U.S. EPA is seeking qualified applicants for an exposure/health risk assessment/applied health statistician position to conduct exposure, risk, and health impact assessments in support of EPA air quality regulations, including the review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). Additional information related to this position is below. It can also be found at USA Jobs under announcement number LV-OAR-DE-2010-0073, Statistician, GS-1530-12/13. Applicants must be citizens of the U.S. Questions about the application process should be directed to Joan Alapati (contact information is provided below).

Additional information can be found on our web site:

http://epa.gov/ohr/ezhire/vacancy_requirements.htm



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Job Title: Statistician, GS-1530-12/13
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Sub Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Job Announcement Number: LV-OAR-DE-2010-0073

Salary Range:\$70,906.00 - \$109,611.00 /year
Series & Grade:GS-1530-12/13
Promotion Potential:13
Open Period: Monday, September 13, 2010 to Friday, September 24, 2010
Position Information: Full-time Permanent
Duty Locations: Research Triangle Park, NC
Who May Be Considered: Any U.S. citizen may apply.

Job Summary:

Earth Day is every day at EPA! Our diverse workforce connects to more than just a career-we share a common passion to promote a cleaner, healthier environment. Discover how exciting safeguarding our natural resources and protecting human health can be. We consistently rank as one of the top Federal agencies in which to work, with great benefits and work flexibilities. Find yourself at EPA. See more about us here: <http://www.epa.gov>.

This position is located in RTP, Office of Air & Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Health and Environmental Impacts Division, Ambient Standards Group, Durham, NC. For more information on this office, visit their website: www.epa.gov/oaqps.

Key Requirements:

- If you are selected, a pre-employment background check is required.
- You must submit resume and required documents (See How to Apply Tab)
- You may be required to travel 1 to 5 days per month.
- You must be a U.S. citizen.

Major Duties:

Conducts or manages the conduct of human risk assessments to support the review of the primary national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). Reviews literature including statistical analyses related to human exposure to and resulting health effects of air pollution and develops methods and data to support conduct of population scale risk assessments. Coordinates with air quality and exposure modelers in developing inputs to the risk assessment.

Prepares health risk assessment technical documents, including technical support documents documenting statistical and other modeling approaches, policy summaries, and rule language for use in developing policy assessments and rulemaking packages for reviews of the NAAQS.

Prepares local, regional, and/or national scale assessments of impacts on public health and benefits assessments, including probabilistic or other characterizations of uncertainty in inputs and results, related to changes in air quality for inclusion in regulatory impact analyses of major air pollution regulations, or in support of legislative or other air related program initiatives.



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Communicates results of risk, health impact, and benefits assessments in a variety of settings, including briefings, presentations at scientific meetings, journal articles, and websites.

Serves as technical representative of Contracting Officer for the purpose of monitoring the technical progress and performance of specific delegated portions of the work under contract. This duty includes assisting in the preparation of scopes of work for work assignments issued against the contract, development of independent work and cost estimates identifying the level of effort required to complete work assignments, and calculation of hours needed, labor mix, project schedules and deliverables, travel requirements, and other information needed by the Contracting Officer. In addition, this duty requires review of work plans submitted by the contractor, recommendation for approval of work assignment budgets and payment vouchers, and identification of any cost, performance, or conflict of interest problems. You will spend less than 25% of your work time on contracts, grants/cooperative agreements, and/or interagency agreements.

Qualifications:

You need a degree as described below to qualify for this position. In addition to the educational requirements, we are looking for at least one year of experience related to this position as described below:

GS-12: Experience conducting population-level human exposure and risk assessments and preparing technical reports that inform policy considerations regarding air pollution risks; and experience building and evaluating population-level models of air pollution exposure and risk based on the latest developments.

GS-13: Experience applying uncertainty characterization methods, including probabilistic methods, in characterizing and communicating uncertainty in population-level exposure and risk estimates; and experience using geographic information systems to organize, manage and analyze information related to population-exposures to air pollution, and associated human health risks.

Your answers to the on-line assessment will be used to evaluate your competencies in the following areas: --
Mastery of the principles, theories and practices of epidemiologic or statistical studies and evaluation of data from such studies to enable the incumbent to serve as a technical authority in extending and adapting existing approaches to applying the results of such studies in the assessment of population level health risks or public health impacts.

--Professional knowledge of a scientific field as evidenced by a degree in epidemiology, statistics, health sciences or a closely related quantitative field.

--Knowledge in the study of health effects from exposure to air pollutants, particularly in the area of epidemiologic studies or quantitative population level risk analyses of air pollution exposures.

--Knowledge or experience with health effects and/or risk analysis of exposure to the criteria air pollutants (ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead) is desirable.

--Working knowledge of risk assessment, and the ability to understand concepts and issues from other disciplines that contribute to risk assessment.

--Working knowledge of statistical computer software and database retrieval capabilities to ensure efficient and accurate performance of data retrievals and statistical analyses.

--Ability to work collaboratively with others on multi-disciplinary teams and committees.

--Ability to work on multiple projects concurrently.

--Ability to communicate ideas and results orally and ability to communicate ideas and results clearly in writing and through the use of tables and graphics.



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Degree: that included 15 semester hours in statistics (or in mathematics and statistics, provided at least 6 semester hours were in statistics), and 9 additional semester hours in one or more of the following: physical or biological sciences, medicine, education, or engineering; or in the social sciences including demography, history, economics, social welfare, geography, international relations, social or cultural anthropology, health sociology, political science, public administration, psychology, etc. Credit toward meeting statistical course requirements should be given for courses in which 50 percent of the course content appears to be statistical methods, e.g., courses that included studies in research methods in psychology or economics such as tests and measurements or business cycles, or courses in methods of processing mass statistical data such as tabulating methods or electronic data processing.

OR

Combination of education and experience -- courses as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education. The experience should have included a full range of professional statistical work such as (a) sampling, (b) collecting, computing, and analyzing statistical data, and (c) applying statistical techniques such as measurement of central tendency, dispersion, skewness, sampling error, simple and multiple correlation, analysis of variance, and tests of significance.

As part of the application process, you are required to submit college transcripts or a list of courses as described in the Required Documents section of this announcement. However, if you are selected, you must provide official educational transcripts before you start work with EPA. More information on verification of education can be found here: http://epa.gov/ohr/ezhire/vacancy_requirements.htm

If you are selected, you will be required to complete a Confidential Financial Disclosure Form prior to your first day of employment and annually thereafter. If you are selected, you must complete a one year probationary period. This position is designated as Low Risk and requires a background investigation. Unless an appropriate background investigation is already on record with the Office of Personnel Management, you must undergo a background investigation.

How You Will Be Evaluated:

We will review your resume and required documents to ensure you meet the basic qualification requirements. Your resume must address the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed in the Qualifications Section. If you meet basic qualification requirements, your application will be further evaluated based on your answers to the on-line assessment. Your responses to the on-line assessment will be used to measure the degree to which your background matches the requirements for the position and an applicable score assigned.

We will compare your resume and supporting documentation to your responses on the assessment questionnaire. If you rate yourself higher than is supported by your application materials, your responses may be adjusted and/or you may be excluded from consideration for this job. We will evaluate your qualifications and eligibility and notify you if you meet minimum qualification requirements.

Other Information:

EPA participates in e-Verify. E-Verify is an Internet based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in partnership with the Social Security Administration (SSA) that enables participating employers to electronically verify the employment eligibility of their newly hired employees. For additional information http://epa.gov/ohr/ezhire/vacancy_requirements.htm.



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This information is used to determine your qualifications for employment. The use of this information is authorized under Title 5 USC, Sections 3302 and 3361.

If you are selected, travel, transportation, and relocation expenses will not be paid by EPA. Any travel, transportation, and relocation expenses associated with reporting to work in this position will be your responsibility.

How To Apply:

You are strongly encouraged to read the entire announcement before you submit your application for this position. To begin the application process, click the Apply On-line button to the right on this screen, follow the prompts to log-in/register, submit all required documents, and complete the assessment questionnaire. To be considered, you must submit a complete application package by 11:59 PM Eastern time on the closing date of this announcement. All required supporting documents will be collected electronically via the USA Jobs document portfolio feature. If you cannot apply on-line, contact the Human Resources Office listed to the right for assistance at least three business days prior to the closing date of this announcement. Reasonable accommodations will be provided on a case-by-case basis. For detailed instructions to assist you in ensuring your application package is received, go to http://epa.gov/ohr/ezhire/vacancy_requirements.htm.

Required Documents:

Documents to be submitted on-line:

- Resume clearly stating your experience related to this position as described in the Duties Section and Qualifications Required Section.
- Responses to the on-line assessment questionnaire
- College transcripts - required to submit either unofficial transcripts or a list of courses that includes grades earned, completion dates, and quarter or semester hours earned.
- Veterans' Preference Documents (DD-214, VA Letter and SF-15 if applicable)
- Displaced Federal employees under ICTAP/CTAP (Provide these documents: copy of your most recent performance appraisal, proof of eligibility, and your most current SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application.)

Contact Information:

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