

2004

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2003

At our Annual Meeting in Nashville, the RASS council updated the Section on several ongoing activities. Our website is now up and running. Special thanks goes to Steve DiZio, John Christopher, and Manita Rawat for pulling it together! Dennis Paustenbach received a strong show of support for his proposal for basic and advanced courses in risk assessment at SOT 2003. Mike Dourson summarized ongoing discussions with Council to develop a position on the use of human data in risk assessment. Matt Bogdanffy proposed that during the 2002/2003 years we experiment with the concept of “Tele-seminars” in which brief (30 min) seminars be presented via conference call and web-based presentation materials. We hope to hold the first such tele-seminar in the next month or two, so stay tuned. Matt also brought to attention ongoing activities between SOT and the Society of Risk Analysis (SRA) to prepare for the first World Congress on Risk. Mike Dourson (RASS Outgoing President) will be part of an ad hoc team representing SOT in the SRA-SOT program development. Members are encouraged to visit the [SRA website](#). Finally, the section was treated to a very interesting, humorous and somewhat troubling discussion by Councilor Mike Kamrin entitled “Exaggerated precision and accuracy in reporting risk values harms both science and risk management.” On behalf of the Specialty Section, let me extend great thanks to Mike for his enlightening discussion.

SOT 2003 in Salt Lake City is promising to offer a very exciting program. At the time of this writing, the Risk Assessment Specialty Section council is busy reviewing and prioritizing symposia, workshops and continuing education proposals. Fifteen proposals have been received and cover topics ranging from issues of cumulative risk, to risk assessments of bioterrorism, to bioethics and the use of genomics data. As mentioned above, we are also hoping to sponsor a comprehensive basic and advanced CE course in risk assessment. Stay tuned and thanks to all who have taken the time to develop a program proposal!