

Foreword

John C. Bailar

The Ninth Symposium on Statistics and the Environment provided a forum for discussion of the scientific knowledge underlying environmental policies and decisions, particularly those dealing with risk assessment and public policy. As in previous symposia, the emphasis was on uncertainties in knowledge and statistical approaches to those uncertainties. The symposium brought together policy makers, scientists and others who make or are affected by environmental decisions.

The scope and quality of earlier symposia in this series helped to attract an outstanding group of speakers on topics of great current interest and controversy. The papers included in this collection were organized in the following sessions at the symposium:

The Changing Role of Epidemiology Clifford S. Russell, Moderator

Changing Research Methods in Environmental Epidemiology, David E. Lilienfeld

Changing Policy Roles of Environmental Epidemiology, Devra Lee Davis

Statistics as Evidence in Litigation: The Role of the Expert Witness Miron L. Straf, Moderator

Litigation and Statistics, Jack B. Weinstein

Detecting Environmental Hazards Emanuel Landau, Moderator

Animal Studies of Human Hazards: Comparison of Epidemiology and Toxicology, David A. Savitz

Quantitative Risk Assessment: ELF as an Example, M. Granger Morgan

John C. Bailar served as Chair of the Ninth Symposium on Statistics and the Environment and as an Editor of the articles in this issue. He is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill University School of Medicine, and Science Advisor to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D. C. His mailing address is 468 N Street S.W., Washington, D. C. 20024.

Comparative Surveys of Risk Assessments

John C. Bailar, Moderator

Scientific Origins of Incompatibility in Risk Assessment, Paul D. Anderson

Sources and Policy Implications of Uncertainty in Risk Assessment, Jack Needleman

Insurability of Hazardous Material Handling

Walter S. Liggett, Jr., Moderator

Insurability of Hazardous Materials Activities, Michael S. Baram

Biologic Markers of Genotoxic Exposures

Sherry G. Selevan, Moderator

Tests for Biologic Markers of Genotoxic Exposure and Effect, Mortimer L. Mendelsohn

Statistical Aspects of Using Biologic Markers, Barry H. Margolin

The Use of Biologic Markers in Risk Assessment, Dale Hattis

Biologic Markers in Tort Litigation, Ralph H. Johnson

The symposium also included a less technical session open to the public for discussion of the assessment of environmental risks to health from indoor exposure to radon and formaldehyde:

Risk Assessment and Public Policy: Radon and Formaldehyde—Coping with Uncertainty

John C. Bailar, Moderator

Radon as an Indoor Air Pollutant, Michael E. Ginevan

A Little Exposure to Radon, Kevin Yale Teichman

Risk Assessment and Public Policy, Nicholas A. Ashford

This public session was an innovation intended to inform others about the nature of risk assessment and about what they should and should not expect from it. About 80 people attended and took full part in a vigorous discussion that lasted almost an hour. Clearly, there is an interested and informed public that wants to know more.