

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Rudy Lechners Grill • Woodlake Square, Gessner at Westheimer  
Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 Preregistered members; \$30 Nonmembers & Walk-ups

Make your reservations now on-line through the HGS website at [www.hgs.org](http://www.hgs.org); or, by calling 713-463-9476 or by e-mail to [Joan@hgs.org](mailto:Joan@hgs.org) (include your name, meeting you are attending, phone number and membership ID#).

## Environmental and Engineering Group Dinner Meeting

by Ben Thomas, Ph.D.  
RAM Group  
Houston, Texas

# What's New in Risk Assessment in the Environmental Geosciences?

Risk assessment has become the dominant paradigm for managing environmental issues since its introduction by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the mid 1970's. Today, more than 25 state and tribal agencies have developed and implemented risk-based decision-making programs in an effort to standardize and streamline the regulatory process.

It is an opportune time to consider what we have learned over the past 30 years and how the risk assessment process has evolved during this period. This presentation will discuss such issues as the health risks posed by complex mixtures, how we extrapolate from Mickey to Walt and how our increasing understanding of the human genome and of disease processes like cancer will affect the strategies we use to characterize and assess a contaminated site.

### Bibliographical Sketch

DR. THOMAS has over 25 years of experience in toxicology, risk assessment, regulatory negotiation, litigation support, strategic planning, program development, and program management. He received his bachelor's degree



in biology from Tulane University, his MS and PhD in pathology (study of disease processes) from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He subsequently worked for 12 years

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as a corporate toxicologist with the Shell Oil Company, where he provided primary toxicological support for a wide range of product/process areas including petroleum exploration and production, refinery operations, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuels, lubricants, asphalts, aromatics, olefins, solvents, metals, catalysts, radiation, solar technology, mining and synfuels. During that time, he was active in various trade associations and committees and served as Chairman of the American Petroleum Institute's (API) Toxicology Committee,

Chairman of the API Benzene Toxicology Task Force, Chairman of the API Solvent Neurotoxicity Task Force, Chairman of the Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA) Butadiene Toxicology Research Task Group, Chairman of the Asphalt Institute's Toxicology Work Group. Dr. Thomas serves as the Principal Toxicologist for Environmental Litigation Associates and Lecturer, Institute of Environmental Technology (<http://www.ela-iet.com>). Dr. Thomas joined the consulting industry in 1990 and presently serves as a Principal and Vice President of the RAM Group in Houston, Texas (<http://www.ramgp.com>). ■