December 2024

Alumni Association

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Message from Archives Chairman Don Nielson

Don Nielson

Well, chalk up another year in a number of ways. SRI is easing toward the octogenarian class, and for Silicon Valley that's notable. At the Menlo Park Reunion in October, CEO David Parekh portrayed SRI as the vital place it has always been with hope and promise for the future. That's in spite of churning organizational changes and the campus redevelopment plans that lie somewhere ahead. From the PARC researcher's talk at the reunion and from Caren Rickhoff's splendid account of some current SRI projects that follow, the excitement of SRI research seems undiminished.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending Jake Feinler's induction as a Fellow of the Computer History Museum. You will read how that recognition underscores SRI's significant involvement in the opening of interactive computing, computer networking, and the internet.

Thanks to David Gibby for keeping us abreast of our European colleagues via news of their annual gathering. You may wish to visit London Museum Docklands on your next trip.

Regarding the transition afoot on the Menlo Park campus, there is one change that I'm reluctant to mention. When you approach the main entrance today, you will be met by a locked front door that can be opened only with a badge or by the person at the front desk. That Building A is mostly vacant may be understandable, with redevelopment sometime in the distant future, but gone is the bustling, welcoming entrance so full of the life I recall. It is indeed painful for these old eyes!

Now this issue of your Alumni Newsletter marks not only the close of the year, but also an end to the contributions of many of us on the newsletter and leadership team. Our call for new volunteers has thankfully led to outstanding alums stepping up to keep our organization going. Their exact roles are still being defined, and you will learn who they are and their roles in the next issue.

As this transition occurs, it is only proper that we acknowledge those who have contributed so well in the roles they have had in our Alumni Association, many for untold, devoted years with willingness and total reliability. First, we are justly proud of this missive before you, and it has been the result of the outstanding, heartfelt work of Linda Hawke-Gerrans, Caren Rickhoff, and Mimi Campbell. We appreciate Dave Harvey's flawless planning of our two yearly events. Augustina Biosic has led our membership tasks and so many others graciously, quietly, and conscientiously. Photographer Gary Bridges recorded our get-togethers, always showing us in the best light. And, as they say, "just one more thing." Other than perhaps dangling a bit of SRI's noteworthy past before you, other critical demands now curtail my own devotion to all this. But, speaking for all, including members of the Steering Committee who will continue their roles and assure a good transition, it has been our pleasure. Of course, we will all remain members.

Now, befittingly, may you all safely gather with those you love over the remainder of the holidays and then find before you a healthy and engaging new year!

Our annual reunion was held on October 3 in SRI's International Building. While most attendees were local, others came from afar. In addition to the camaraderie and tasty food, we heard from SRI's CEO David Parekh about the status of SRI. To expose alumni to SRI's acquisition of PARC, we had invited Morad Behandis, a PARC researcher, to give a talk about his research. His long-term advanced metal alloy design project for DARPA sounded very much like other highly technical projects that over the years have done SRI proud. We trust that the integration of PARC into SRI will bring prosperity to both. Morad said he enjoyed being at the Menlo Park campus and meeting new people. He also enjoyed winning one of the numerous raffle prizes generously donated by the SRI Credit Union!

As always, our reunion wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of devoted Alumni Association volunteers. Thanks go to event chairman Dave Harvey for coordinating the date and arranging for food and the chocolate fountain, Linda Jansen for nametags, Don Nielson who served as master of ceremonies, and Jim Colton for the great photographs you see here. We also thank SRI's event manager, Catherine Yee, for her help in bringing the reunion about.

SRI Selected as Regional Commercial Accelerator

In selecting SRI as its Silicon Valley-based Commercial Accelerator, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will harness SRI's expertise to accelerate technology transition from the lab to the real world and rapidly scale DARPA-funded technologies for US national and economic security outcomes. The DARPA Commercial Accelerators initiative is a strategic effort to bring business expertise and entrepreneurial talent to scale DARPA technologies faster for maximum national, economic, and societal impact.

"This strategic partnership with DARPA reaffirms SRI's commitment to advancing technology that not only meets today's critical challenges, but also drives economic growth," said David Parekh, Chief Executive Officer of SRI. "We are excited to be recognized by DARPA for our commercialization expertise and successful track record and are eager to help DARPA performers commercialize transformative technologies."

As one of five premier accelerators located throughout the United States, SRI will leverage its expertise to help DARPA-funded companies develop and scale technologies rapidly, also addressing the broader Department of Defense needs and those of commercial markets. SRI is teaming with Newlab and the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation to create a comprehensive commercial accelerator team to guide DARPA performers on their journey to market.

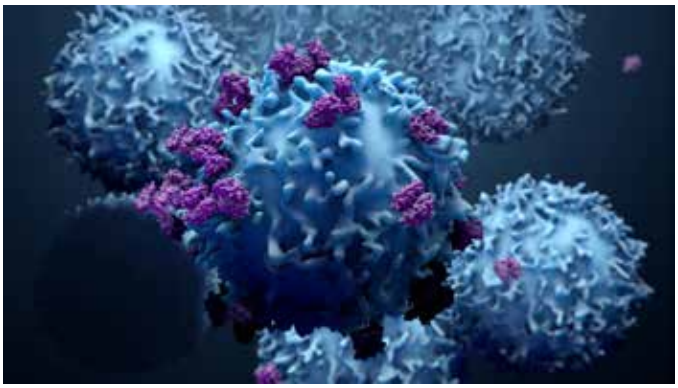
DARPA remains steadfast in pushing the boundaries of science and technology to prevent and create technological surprise. These five regional accelerators will advance DARPA's Commercial Strategy Office mission of helping eligible DARPA research teams to recruit top talent, develop robust go-to-market strategies, raise capital, and scale operations, turning their groundbreaking technology into high-value products, services, and capabilities for national, economic, and societal impact.

Sources:

SRI News. October 30, 2024. https://www.sri.com/press/story/sri-selected-as-darpas-regional-commercial-accelerator/

DARPA Launches Regional Commercial Accelerators. https://www.darpa.mil/news-events/2024-08-22

Engineered Helper T Cell Could Become a Cancer Killer



Proteins with T cells and cancer cells.

Today's advanced drug delivery platforms rely on synthesized carriers, such as liposomes, nanoparticles, hydrogels, or pegylated proteins, that are not adapted to individual patient variability. The result is that they can often harm healthy tissues. What's more, these medicines are often limited in availability and, because they have short half-lives, may require multiple doses.

As described in a new paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, SRI researchers have transformed an overlooked helper CD4 T cell into a cell-based platform for delivering potent antitumor proteins for solid tumors with the possibility of overcoming dose-related toxicities.

For nearly a decade, initially supported by the National Institutes of Health Director's New Innovator Award and multiple grants from the National Cancer Institute's Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT) Program, Parijat Bhatnagar, senior program director of Cell-based Medicine at SRI and senior author of the paper, has been leading a cross-disciplinary team of scientists to develop this breakthrough precision medicine technology.

Finding a direct pathway to a cure

"Most T cell therapies focus on CD8 killer T cells, which can destroy cancer cells that overexpress cancer-associated biomarkers, which is where we initially focused," explained team member Harikrishnan Radhakrishnan, lead author of the paper. "We discovered that while our process was designed to generate CD8 killer T cells as a delivery system, the pathway we aimed to harness for in situ protein production was far more active in the helper CD4 T cells."

The team first developed a process for engineering and expanding primary T cells. They applied this process to create three CD4 and CD8 T cell types, each with a distinct intracellular domain of the chimeric antigen receptors (CAR). They studied the cells' ability to deliver desired proteins to the tumor cells. Findings revealed that CD4 T cells engineered with a CAR containing the 4-1BB intracellular domain, not CD28, were the most effective in mobilizing the pathway for delivery—outperforming CD8 T cells. In fact, including the CD28 domain alongside 4-1BB reduced the delivery function in both CD4 and CD8 T cells.

"Because CD4 T cells remain in the body for decades and modulate their response to stimuli, we anticipate that our delivery platform will be able to synthesize therapeutic proteins specifically at disease sites, in proportion to the disease burden, without impacting healthy tissues, and sustain for extended periods," said Bhatnagar.

Targeting ovarian cancer cells

In a series of mouse studies, the team directed the platform to express interferon-beta (IFNβ), a therapeutic protein with strong antitumor effects that can be lethal if delivered in excess, for specifically targeting ovarian cancer. The results were striking: When stimulated by cancer cells, IFNβ delivered via CD4 T cells proved significantly more effective in controlling the tumor compared with much higher amounts of directly injected IFNβ. Bhatnagar and team are now extending these studies to better understand the platform and adapting it to other cancers and possibly other diseases.

"A cell that assembles medicine exactly where and when it's needed, in proportion to the tumor size and without harming healthy tissues, fascinates me. I look forward to seeing it used in clinical settings," said Bhatnagar.

The T-Cell Advantage

When configured for drug delivery, T cells have a distinct biological advantage because of their inherent ability to home in on the disease site. Moreover, they do this with cellular resolution and engage the target diseased cells with molecular specificity. At the cell level, a T cell activates in a binary (on/off) manner when it encounters a threshold antigen density on the surface of the target cell (for example, a cancer cell) and initiates a parallel activity that results in multiplication of genetically identical cells (that is, clonal expansion) of the activated T cells. SRI researchers are exploiting the biology of the T cell to reprogram it into a cell-based platform that activates on engaging diseased cells in an antigen-specific manner, clonally expands, and synthesizes the desired therapeutic proteins proportionately to the disease burden and at the specific disease site.

This research was supported in part by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (DP2EB024245: NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program); the National Cancer Institute (R21CA236640, R33CA247739, R21CA288900, R61CA281785) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) (D19AP00024: DARPA Young Faculty Award).

Sources:

SRI Press Release. September 26, 2024. https://www.sri.com/press/story/engineered-helper-t-cell-could-become-a-cancer-killer/

Radhakrishnan H, Newmyer SL, Javitz HS, Bhatnagar P. Engineered CD4 T cells for in vivo delivery of therapeutic proteins. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2024 Oct; 121(40): e2318687121. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2318687121. Epub 2024 Sep 23.

SRI's Imagers Will Map Jupiter's Moon

Under the icy surface of Jupiter's moon Europa (about 90% the size of Earth's moon), a massive saltwater ocean may hold the necessary conditions for life. NASA's Europa Clipper mission, launched October 14, 2024, is headed to the distant moon to determine whether and where these conditions might exist. As the spacecraft performs 49 flybys of Europa, it will use imagers designed by SRI to map almost the entire surface of the moon.

The Europa Imaging System (EIS) comprises two cameras, both of which rely on an eight-megapixel sensor designed at SRI's Center for Advanced Imaging. The wide-angle camera will capture stereo and color images of the landscape along the ground tracks during the spacecraft's flybys of Europa. The narrow-angle camera will provide more detailed views of specific areas at the meter scale, allow for near-global mapping, and search for potential active plumes. SRI's complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) imagers will convert the light these cameras collect into stereoscopic and color images, revealing valleys and ridges of Europa's surface in greater detail than ever before.

"It takes a small village of engineers, scientists, technicians, and managers to put a camera like EIS into orbit," said David Keller, the program manager on the EIS project and SRI director of space imaging programs. "The SRI team thanks our colleagues at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) for the opportunity to be part of this exciting mission of discovery."

The spacecraft will travel 1.8 billion miles to reach Jupiter in April 2030. Once in orbit, the EIS will map approximately 90% of Europa's surface, at better than 100-meter pixel scale. To date, less than 1% of the surface has been imaged at comparable resolution by the Galileo spacecraft. The goal is to study features across Europa's surface, the unique geology of which might hint at what's happening underneath the ice.

Some surface structures might show signs of recent geologic activity, for example, or locations where plumes from the subsurface ocean are venting material into space. The color images will also help provide insight into the composition of Europa's surface.

In addition to the imagers, SRI researchers also designed and assembled the package that houses them and conducted an extensive battery of tests to ensure that the imagers were ready for their trip across our solar system. The CMOS sensors were radiation-hardened by design, and the spacecraft will protect the sensors from Jupiter's intense radiation by a centimeter-thick aluminum vault that encases all the mission's electronics. SRI also demonstrated that the imagers could survive the extreme heat, cold, and radiation in the vacuum of space and would be able to generate high-quality images for the entire duration of the mission.

The images the EIS collects will complement other data gathered by the spacecraft, including thermal, infrared, and ultraviolet imaging; magnetic field measurements; radar sounding; and chemical analysis.

Together, the data from Europa Clipper's investigations will provide insight into the habitability of this ocean world in the outer solar system and potentially inform further missions exploring the possibility of life beyond the boundaries of Earth.

Sources:

SRI Press Release, May 29, 2024. https://www.sri.com/press/story/sris-imagers-are-headed-to-jupiter-on-a-mission-that-will-help-determine-if-europa-could-support-life/

NASA website, Europa Clipper. Accessed November 12, 2024. https://science.nasa.gov/mission/europa-clipper/ and https://science.nasa.gov/mission/europa-clipper/

Extreme Weather Takes a Toll on Young Children, Too

SRI's examination of how severe weather causes closures of early childhood education program sites while overburdening others has prompted a call to recognize the importance of these critical services and increase support for them.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, SRI researchers released a first-of-its-kind study of the impacts of extreme weather on education-related services for young children. The researchers assessed how severe storms and other major weather events affected enrollment and service delivery at Head Start and Early Head Start sites across the United States. Together, these critical programs are the largest federally funded education and well-being services for young children, offering comprehensive support in education, nutrition, and family assistance.

Important findings included the following:

- About 40% of program sites were in communities where at least one extreme weather event had struck in the past five years.
- Sites in these areas were more likely to be temporarily or permanently closed the following year than sites in nonaffected areas, meaning that even long after a disaster, some hard-hit communities remained cut off from valuable services.
- Head Start sites that remained open in affected areas served a significantly higher number of children over the following year—an average of around 17,000 more. While partly offsetting loss of access due to surrounding site closures, this annual jump sometimes exceeded sites' service capacities. As a result, fewer children at overburdened sites received the developmental screenings that are vital for effective interventions and access to services.

Overall, the study revealed the dramatic negative effect of severe weather on child healthcare service delivery.

"We were surprised by how many program sites experienced closures, as well as by the geographic extent—basically, nowhere in the country was safe from extreme weather," said Todd Grindal, co-director of the SRI Center for Learning & Development and lead author of the study. "This study documents a national problem of extreme weather disrupting critical infrastructure that supports kids and families."

The SRI researchers describe their study as a "call to action" for recognizing the importance of child-centered services and treating them as vital social institutions. Grindal said, "These programs need to have the same level of priority as hospitals, police departments, and emergency services."

With extreme weather projected to surge in frequency and severity, the researchers advocate for greater emphasis on ensuring children and their families regain access to the same vital services that were available to them before a disaster and that are needed even more after disasters abate.

"We're hopeful that this work will help districts understand how extreme weather disasters affect families so that we can prioritize young kids," Grindal continued. "It's not just about getting the schools and businesses back open—it's about standing up for the kids who need these critical health and well-being programs."

Source:

SRI news, November 7, 2024. https://www.sri.com/press/story/extreme-weather-events-take-a-toll-on-critical-educational-services/

UK Annual Reunion

By David Gibby

On Sunday, 13 October, we met for our annual reunion, this time in India Quay, part of the Canary Wharf district of London's former docklands.

I remember the docks well from the early 1960s, when they were full of ships that had come from far and wide, all the way up the River Thames to the heart of London, where dockworkers busily unloaded their cargoes onto processions of lorries. At the time, I was working with Decca Radar's Marine Division, installing and maintaining radar systems on many of these ships. It was an exciting place to be. However, a few years later, as ships got larger and cargoes began to be transported in containers, it became more economical to use other ports, and London Docklands gradually declined and emptied. The land, though, became ripe for redevelopment, and eventually dozens of skyscrapers were built as office blocks and luxury apartments, with stunning views of the river and the historic buildings on the London skyline (such as St. Paul's Cathedral and Tower Bridge). Today, the area is bustling with commercial activity again; many international companies are there, and there are lots of smart (i.e., expensive!) bars and restaurants for the residents, office workers, and visitors.

We visited the London Museum Docklands, which is in a 19th century warehouse that retains many original features, such as timber beams and brickwork. The museum has a number of permanent galleries as well as special exhibitions. One of the permanent galleries has exhibits tracing the port of London's growth over the centuries, partly due to its involvement in the transatlantic slave trade (largely dependent on the booming demand for sugar); another examines the impact of the World Wars on the docklands, including the Blitz (aerial bombing); and yet another chronicles the transformation from a shipping hub into a modern financial district, especially at Canary Wharf. The special exhibitions in the museum hold a variety of artifacts—from navigational instruments, to tools and equipment used by the dockworkers, to items found by "mud-larking" (i.e., retrieved from the River Thames foreshore).

After visiting the museum, we walked to the nearby Obicà Mozzarella Bar and enjoyed an excellent lunch together.

Anne Saunders took this photo of (left to right) Bob Morgen, David Gibby, Peter Weisshuhn, Jeanette Gibby, Gia Campari, Sonia and Andy Shaw, Nick Collin, and Maurizio Petitbon.

Jake Feinler Chosen as a Fellow of the Computer History Museum

By Don Nielson

On November 16, longtime SRI leader in information technology Elizabeth "Jake" Feinler was awarded a prestigious honor, Fellow of the Computer History Museum. The CHM is the world's foremost repository of artifacts and information about the history of computation. To gauge the level of this honor, the two other awardees that night were Nolan Bushnell, inventor of Atari, and Jensen Huang, founder and CEO of Nvidia, the world's most valuable company.

Jake's contributions

A short statement about Jake's honor is shown in Figure 1, but the longer version reads as follows:

> *Elizabeth "Jake" Feinler is a pioneering figure in information science, pivotal in shaping the internet. As head of the Network Information Center at SRI from 1972 to 1989, she managed the central directories for the ARPANET and the Defense Data Network, laying the foundation for the modern internet. Feinler played a key role in establishing the internet domain name system (DNS), revolutionizing how we navigate online. A mentor and advocate for women in technology, she left a legacy as an inspiring trailblazer in the field of computer networking.*

Figure 1. The master of ceremonies introducing the part of the program dedicated to Jake.

The person presenting Jake the award was Steve Crocker, himself one of the earliest leaders of the technology that formed the ARPANET and creator of the humbly labeled RFCs (Request for Comments) that from the outset to the present day have defined the underlying technology of first the ARPANET and then the internet. As Jake mentioned in her remarks that night, the spirit of the RFCs was open, with anyone welcome to pose solutions and upgrades to the evolving network. No one, government or industry, was there to confine the direction computer networking would take. Jake and the Network Information Center (NIC) were responsible for distributing those RFCs to the world of users who, by design, were also the network innovators. For Jake and the SRI NIC, that role lasted for the first two decades of this new world of broad-access computer networking.

Some history

Though already at SRI for some time, Jake first found her calling back in the 1960s when she approached Doug Engelbart to let her become part of his world of emerging information technology. After first refusing her, Doug soon reached out for Jake's information compiling skills, saying he needed someone to build a "resource handbook" to be issued by his brand-new ARPANET Network Information Center. Neither Doug nor Jake seemed to know what it should look like, only that it was needed in six weeks.

Jake brought the handbook to life, along with other publications like the network's *Protocol Handbook* and the RFCs mentioned above. The NIC also compiled the host name tables for all network computers, a dizzying accumulation of all active network hosts that ensured unique names and numeric addresses for ultimately more than a million hosts during the NIC's tenure. A natural fallout of this exponential growth was the building of a structure to help understand and manage this host table or database. That became the Domain Name System (DNS), in which the NIC would have important input (see sidebar).

Another contribution to deal with this burgeoning growth was an online search tool for the database to learn who was on the network and how to reach them. The tool was called WHOIS, and it came at the hands of NIC members Ken Harrenstien and Vic White in RFC 812 submitted in 1982. Over the years, the function of the NIC has been transferred time and again, but the host database and is search engine, of necessity, remain.

The NIC's tenure at SRI ended in 1991 when its sponsor, the Defense Communications Agency, put the project out to bid. After a number of for-profit and nonprofit entities took on the role, the task ultimately fell to ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, where it exists today for the entire internet.

Among other NIC members present at the CHM to honor Jake were associates Mary Stahl, Andy Poggio, and Ken Harrenstien. Taken that night, Figure 2 is of Jake flanked by Ken Harrenstien and his wife, Lori.

Figure 2. Ken Harrenstien, Jake Feinler, and Lori Harrenstien (16 Nov 2024).

Other honors

In addition to this CHM award, Jake has been inducted into the Internet Society's Internet Hall of Fame and honored with its Jon B. Postel Service Award for her early contributions to the development of the internet. Of course, Jake is a member of our own SRI Alumni Hall of Fame.

What's in a Domain Name

Among countless other contributions, the NIC that Jake led was responsible for creating the domain names that are now so ubiquitous in our world: .com, .edu, .org, .gov, .mil, and .net. Hierarchical naming structures were under discussion in the early 1980s, with convergence occurring in 1984 and implementation beginning on January 1, 1985. Just how this set of top-level domains emerged was governed mostly by who was on the network at the time: universities, some nonprofits, and the government. It is safe to say that their use was left open to some interpretation, particularly with .org.

Jake mentioned at her award ceremony that during the discussion about formulating the domains, Ken Harrenstien thought maybe they should include a .com just to round out the set! Ken and Jake were major force in all this, and his understatement needs some historical elaboration. In our next issue, you will learn some of the reasoning behind how the above set was distilled from the discussions of the day and made its way into the future.

There are just two aspects of this story to mention here. First, as you all know, *sri.com* was picked as SRI's domain name instead of *sri.org*. But why? The short version is that it was Ken who chose SRI's domain name principally because he feared the vagueness of the .org name at the time—sort of a catchall—whereas he clearly viewed SRI as a business. Ken thus chose sri.com and, as he wrote, "Nobody disagreed."

Second, it is a bit curious that although the NIC issued the network names, SRI was about the 34th entity to receive one. What categories preceded SRI? Other than a broad, temporary set named ARPA, the first registered host name was assigned to the computer company Symbolics (Symbolics.com) on March 15, 1985. Next, because of their preponderance of DARPA contracts, came 21 universities (.edu) and two nonprofits (.org). Also came two government agencies (.gov) and seven companies (.com). Then came sri.com on January 17, 1986—a year after the process began!

WELCOME

The SRI Alumni Association welcomes new members:

Raymond Perrault
Mark Stefik

We look forward to your participation in the Alumni Association and hope to see you at our next group event.

Alumni Association Membership Renewals Due by December 31, 2024

SRI Alumni Association membership fees for 2025 are due by the end of 2024. If you haven't already done so, please send your $25.00 check, payable to SRI Alumni Association, to the following address:

SRI Alumni Association
333 Ravenswood Avenue, AC-108
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Wanted: Your Submissions

We welcome articles and shorter items from all Alumni Association members to be considered for publication in the newsletter. Have you done something interesting or traveled to interesting places? Received any awards or honors? Your fellow alumni want to know! Please send items to steering-committee-alumni@sri.com.

Credit Union News

John Francis Lehane

John Lehane died peacefully on September 14, 2024, after several years of poor health. John was 88 years old.

John was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1936, the son of Thomas and Alice Lehane, who had come to Chicago from Ireland. He grew up in Chicago and graduated from St. Rita's High School. He proudly served for two years in the US Army in Eastern Germany with a missile battalion during the Cold War. John continued his education at the University of Illinois, earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, and then went to Sunnyvale, California, to work for Lockheed Corporation. While working there, he took classes at Santa Clara University and earned a Master's of Business Administration degree. He then joined SRI and obtained his PhD, also from Santa Clara University.

In 1965, John met his wife, Farelyn, who was living in the same apartment building in Santa Clara, California. He proposed after three weeks, and they were married the following year. In 1967, they joined Queen of Apostles Parish in San Jose, California, which became their spiritual home; they served in many capacities at Queen of Apostles. John taught at Golden Gate University, establishing its program in information sciences. Daughters Anne and Cathie arrived, and John finished his teaching career at San Jose State University.

John and Farelyn traveled to many countries and especially enjoyed a Knights of Columbus pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1999. John had joined the Knights of Columbus in 1997.

This year, John and Farelyn celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in June and his 88th birthday in July. John's anchors were his faith and family. He was so grateful for his long life and the privilege of knowing his grandchildren as adults and following their accomplishments.

John was predeceased by his daughter Anne Margiotta and is survived by daughter Cathie Shermer; grandsons Tomas, Sean, and Ian Shermer; and granddaughter Nicole Margiotta. His legacy will live on through his family, students, and charitable works.

Based on an obituary published in The Mercury News *from October 5–7, 2024.*

Gilles Moutet

Gilles Moutet died on October 27, 2024, after a fight against a rare, incurable disease at the age of 80.

Gilles was an alumnus of the prestigious French École Polytechnique. He had more than 15 years of experience in strategy and organizational consulting in the public sector, banking, insurance, and information technology. He had equivalent experience in managerial functions for leading information and communication technology (ICT) companies.

From 1986 to 1996, Gilles worked at SRI in the field of integrated computational materials engineering, focusing on strategy and organization for banks and financial institutions.

In 1996, he created Captimark Corporation to develop geographic information systems (GIS) and geomarketing applications. In 2000, Captimark was acquired by Electronic Data Systems Corporation, and Gilles joined its executive committee in France and developed the electronic administration division centered on using ICT in government agencies (eGOV).

In 2004, he created eGOV-Solutions, a group of independent consultants whose mission was to help public and local authorities and administrations personalize, improve, and simplify their relationships with their constituents (individuals, professionals, businesses, and agents). The group promoted electronic administration solutions that combined and optimized processes and tools (such as the internet, mobile phones, smart cards, GIS, and biometrics) for territorial communities[1]; in addition, eGOV-Solutions assisted in developing partnership and public-private partnership contracts that met these objectives. In short, the goal was to support the implementation of the third industrial revolution in local authorities.

Gilles enjoyed life until the end, always planning for the future even though he knew it could be limited. He was loved by all, from old to young people, for his generosity and kindness, his hospitality, his endless curiosity, and his willingness to share knowledge.

Gilles is survived and terribly missed by his wife, Elizabeth;

[1]Infrastructures, bodies of people, or constituencies physically situated in a localized exurban area.

his two daughters, Florence and Sabrina, and their husbands; his six grandchildren; his sister, Laure; and his many friends.

Based on an obituary provided by Sabrina Dougados.

Ruth Yamawaki

Ruth Yamawaki died peacefully on October 24, 2024, at the age of 69, after a five-year battle with cancer.

Ruth was raised in a tight-knit Japanese community in Alameda, California, and her siblings fondly remember playing sports and camping together as children.

A series of ear infections left Ruth with complete conductive loss by the time she was five. Hearing aid technology in 1960 was still developing, and Ruth spent much of her youth ensconced in the world of books. Her natural curiosity and commitment to schoolwork earned her a spot and many scholarships at the University of California at Berkeley, where she studied bacteriology. Even with significant advances in hearing aid technology, she remained an avid reader throughout her life.

Ruth was an accomplished electron microscopist. She began her career at SRI and spent decades working at various labs at Stanford, authoring and supporting dozens of published papers and proud to contribute to scientific research and advancement. Initially drawn to the work for its rigor and routine, Ruth, ever evolving, treasured opportunities to learn and share new techniques.

At one with nature, Ruth nurtured houseplants and communed with trees, especially ancient redwoods, with whom she could have long conversations. Animals loved Ruth, and she was a reliable pet sitter for many friends and family—so reliable that a short-term stint caring for a cockatiel, Chirp, became permanent. Experimenting with worm composting, Ruth became focused on the needs and preferences of the worms and fed them only their favorite leftovers.

Ruth was a connoisseur of ice cream, chocolate, and all baked goods, and she consistently updated her scientific ranking of San Francisco's best croissants. Visiting Ruth always entailed a trip to all newly opened confection shops and new menu items at the California Avenue farmer's market. Even more than eating cookies, she loved to bake and share them with anyone she could. During her 14-year tenure as a resident fellow in a dorm on the Stanford University campus, Ruth connected with countless undergraduates, nurturing them in many ways, including through weekly cookie study breaks. Many say her cookies were the best they ever had.

Ruth delighted in trying new things and was determined and adventurous. Once, a nonstop flight from the East Coast was rescheduled to include a six-hour layover in Chicago. Rather than roll her eyes at a setback, she embraced the opportunity to explore a new city on her own. Hair loss from chemotherapy resulted in opportunities for pink wigs and henna designs on her bare head. The end of one treatment involved a dance party at a mountain cabin, showing her kids what she had learned in her disco classes in the '70s.

Ruth radiated joy and was full of life and laughter. Her family and friends will forever cherish memories of her bravery, warmth, and kindness.

Ruth is survived by her children, Naomi and Simon, and siblings, Lynn, Paul, Kent, and Doug, as well as countless cousins, nieces, nephews, colleagues, friends, and longtime Palo Alto neighbors.

Based on obituary published online by Palo Alto Online.

Please consider joining the SRI Alumni Association. The association was founded in 1996 to provide former staff members the opportunity to keep in touch with SRI and their colleagues, to support the institute in a variety of ways, and to help perpetuate SRI's traditions and values.

SRI Alumni Association members enjoy many activities and services:

- **Alumni Association Newsletter**—Published three times a year, giving news about SRI programs, Alumni Association activities, and individual members (see past issues at https://srialumni.org/newsletter.html).
- **Membership Directory**—A regularly updated resource of contact information for association members.
- **Annual Reunion Meeting**—An opportunity for:
  - Socializing with other Alumni Association members.
  - Viewing the Alumni Hall of Fame Induction ceremony.
  - Hearing a prominent SRI speaker describe an important SRI project or organizational development.
- **Spring Fling**—A picnic or visit to a Bay Area point of interest; past trips have been to the Computer History Museum, the Hiller Aviation Museum, NASA-Ames, and the California Academy of Sciences.
- **SRI Archives**—Association members maintain and catalog SRI's photographic and nonproject archives.

We encourage you to participate in the SRI Alumni Association. Your first year's membership is free. Your membership thereafter will be $25 per year. By completing and returning the application below, you will be enrolled and will receive future issues of the newsletter and invitations to all alumni events. Please indicate how you would like your information to appear in the Membership Directory. If you prefer that some or all of your contact information not be published in the directory, please indicate your preference below. Also, please indicate whether you would prefer receiving the newsletter as an electronic copy (PDF, which saves the association printing/mailing costs) or as a hard copy. If you prefer to complete an application online, please do so at https://srialumni.org/join.html.

SRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEW MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT *(Please don't use for renewing your membership)*
First Year's Membership Free!

Date: _____

Publish contact information in the Membership Directory: Yes ☐ No ☐

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Date of retirement or when you left SRI: _____

Mail to: SRI Alumni Association, 333 Ravenswood Avenue, M/S AC-108, Menlo Park, CA 94025

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