

Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium Technical Committee and Policy Council Spring Meeting Report

June 14, 2012

Welcome and Introductions

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its 2012 summer quarterly meeting of the Technical Committee on June 14 at the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in College Park, MD. Chair of Technical Committee Isabel Walls welcomed the group and asked for self introductions. Technical and policy representatives and guests from various agencies (Table 1) participated on site or by phone.

“5 minute” Agency Updates

Technical representatives in attendance gave a brief overview of food safety risk analysis projects and issues in their agencies that may be of interest to other agencies.

IRAC Work Group Updates

L. monocytogenes Dose Response Workgroup

Sherri Dennis reported that a very dedicated workgroup has completed a draft a manuscript based on the outcomes of the joint IRAC/JIFSAN Lm Dose-Response Workshop. After the spring meeting, the manuscript was sent to IRAC members for review. Two sets of comments were received. Dennis thanked IRAC members for providing comments. The workgroup has revised the manuscript taking into consideration the comments. The manuscript is being cleared by agencies that have co-authors. Dennis in particular acknowledged Karin Hoelzer from FDA for taking the lead on developing the manuscript and pulling together key points from a broad and long draft based on the workshop outcomes.

IRAC-IFSAC Risk Assessment as a Method for Determining Attribution to Foodborne Illness

Sandy Hoffmann reported that an IRAC/IFSAC workgroup is developing a white paper based on the outcomes of the workshop on attribution and risk assessment that took place February 2-3 in Washington, DC. There will be a short version intended for policy makers and a longer version intended as a manuscript for publication. Hoffmann noted that the workgroup included members from FDA, FSIS, CDC, ERS, NIFA and others, and the white paper will hopefully help open doors to do more research and leveraging epidemiological and risk assessment methods to improve data quality.

Clarification of the Various Approaches for Assessing Risk

Kerry Dearfield reported the workgroup had made progress drafting a second version of the white paper based on the previously compiled ideas and different pieces of information. The basic concept remains the same: risk assessment should fit for purpose and commensurate to the

importance of the decision in intended to support. Various approaches (qualitative or quantitative) can be useful and may be adequate to inform decisions, depending on the risk management questions. The main target audience for the white paper would be agencies such as FAS, USTR and OMB. There were several suggestions raised during the discussion, including potential issues with regard whether some type of risk assessment might be prone to litigation, and the framing of risk management questions. Dearfield indicated that comments and suggestion are helpful and requested that comments be sent to him along with specific language for the white paper.

Discussions on Annual Plan for FY12

Review IRAC Strategic Plan

Isabel Walls provided a brief overview of the existing strategic plan and asked for comments on whether items in the plan are still relevant and whether any changes need to be made. IRAC members at the meeting made several suggestions for revision, including 1) under “GOALS”, add outreach and collaboration with other Federal partners; 2) change “quantitative risk assessment” to “risk assessment” for GOAL 3; and 3) under “Strategies”, remove “Annual” from the bullet “Annual public meeting to share information...”.

Subsequently, members at the meeting reviewed the FY12 Annual Plan and generated several ideas and made several suggestions. Kerry Dearfield indicated that IOM is interested in developing a symposium on risk ranking and prioritization tools (possibly next year). Of interest include the tools as well as how to implement the tools for decision-making. Sherri Dennis indicated that CFSAN had commissioned a study on an inventory of risk ranking and prioritization and can share the results. Another suggestion was to hold an IRAC/JIFSAN symposium on risk ranking. Further exploratory efforts are needed to outreach to IOM to find out more information and to discuss with JIFSAN about their interest in applying for a conference grant. A suggestion was made to develop a 1-pager for IRAC (tri-fold format) with a new logo. Sherri Dennis volunteered to have CFSAN staff develop a draft and circulate it for comments. Under “Workshops/Meeting/Mini Symposia” in the FY12 Annual Plan, it was suggested that a new bullet “SRA symposium proposal” be added, and that the IRAC co-organized symposium on data collection for risk assessment through innovative approaches (accepted for 2012 IAFP annual meeting) be posted on the IRAC website (<http://foodrisk.org/irac/events/>). It was also suggested that IRAC outreach to Dr. Clare Narrad at JIFSAN for giving a presentation and for holding a future IRAC meeting at JIFSAN.

Workshop for Chemical Food Safety Risk Assessment

Following this quarterly meeting, IRAC held a Workshop on Chemical Food Safety Risk Assessment. The planned workshop included six speakers from CFSAN, FSIS, CDC, FNS, EPA and NIFA. More than 30 attendees participated at the workshop. The agenda of the workshop and presentation slides are posted on the IRAC website <http://foodrisk.org/irac/events/>.

Joint meeting with Capital Area Food Protection Association

We discussed collaboration and outreach to the Capital Area Food Protection Association (CAFPA), the DC section affiliate of IAFP. A suggestion was made to hold a joint IRAC

CAFPA meeting in the fall. Several topics ideas were raised. Isabel Walls and others will meet with CAFPA in July to discuss interest and topics.

Succession Planning

Sherri Dennis noted that as host agency CFSAN is responsible for ensuring the selection of a chair for the Technical Committee and an executive secretary to provide support for the chair. Succession planning facilitates a more open process, which allows for greater participation among IRAC members and an opportunity for the new person to become familiar with the work and objective of the Technical Committee. The plan is that an annual request be made for nomination for someone to serve as executive secretary who will transition to be chair of the Technical Committee the following year. Sherri Dennis suggested that for this year, succeeding Isabel Walls, Yuhuan Chen would transition to be chair at the winter 2012 meeting. There were no objections to the suggestion. A call for nomination will be sent out prior to the fall meeting for a new executive secretary. Sherri Dennis will provide a blurb with a formal request for nomination.

Table 1. Attendance (* participated by phone)

Aaron Niman	EPA OPP
David LaBarre*	USDA FSIS
Drew Nickels	DHS Policy
Isabel Walls	USDA NIFA
Jane van Doren	FDA CFSAN
Julie Callahan	FDA CFSAN
Karin Hoelzer*	FDA CFSAN
Kerry Dearfield	USDA FSIS
Mark Powell	USDA ORACBA
Mary Bartholomew *	FDA CVM
Patty Bennett	USDA FSIS
Sandra Hoffmann	USDA ERS
Sharon Edelson-Mammel	FDA CFSAN
Sherri Dennis	FDA CFSAN
Stephanie Mickelson	USDA FNS
Wendy Hall	USDA APHIS
Yuhuan Chen	FDA CFSAN