



Technical Representatives Quarterly Meeting
June 17, 2013; *Meeting Minutes*

Welcome and Introductions

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its 2013 summer quarterly meeting of the Technical Committee June 17, 2013. The meeting was hosted by FDA. Technical and policy representatives and guests from various agencies (Table 1) participated on site or by phone.

“5 minute” Agency Updates

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.

Department of Health and Human Services

Food and Drug Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FDA/CFSAN)

Jane Van Doren reported on a number of risk assessment projects underway.

Food and Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products

Phil Yeager briefly discussed some CTP initiatives.

National Center for Toxicological Research

Wen Zou reported on ongoing work.

National Institutes of Health

Robert Hall reported on some ongoing projects.

United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA/FSIS)

Janell Kause reported on a number of ongoing projects.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS)

Wendy Hall reported on a number of initiatives at APHIS.

Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS)

Martha Lamont reported on risk assessment related developments in AMS.

Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS)
Andy Hwang reported on ongoing work.

Food and Nutrition Service (USDA/FNS)
Margaret Venuto reported on ongoing work.

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis (USDA/OCE/ORACBA)
Mark Powell discussed an upcoming workshop sponsored in part by ORACBA.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Marguerite Pappaioanou reported some CDC activities.

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water
Shamima Akhter reported on EPA initiatives.

Department of Defense

Veterinary Service Activity
Derron Alves reported on a number of risk assessment projects and activities.

CODEX Update

Kerry Dearfield reported on the recent and upcoming meetings.

IRAC Activities and Work Group Updates

Risk Analysis: Advancing Analysis Workshop co-sponsored by the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC), the National Capitol Area Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis (NCAC-SRA) and the USDA Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis (ORACBA) will be held June 18, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the USDA South Building located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC. A wide variety of topics will be covered, including cross-contamination modeling at retail, rapid risk assessment methods with iRisk, systems approach to regulatory review, dietary exposure modeling for pesticides, and cholera transmission models to guide decision making.

IRAC-IFSAC Risk Assessment as a Method for Determining Attribution to Foodborne Illness
Kara Morgan reported that a short paper is being developed to identify ideas for projects moving forward; it will be forwarded to agency leadership when complete. Sandy Hoffmann is spearheading the peer-reviewed paper on the workshop.

Clarification of the Various Approaches for Assessing Risk
Kerry Dearfield reported the workgroup has completed a draft manuscript titled "Clarification of the various approaches for assessing risk", which describes the tools available for risk assessment and what each tool can provide. The document was written primarily by Kerry Dearfield, Janell

Kause, and Karin Hoelzer, and was sent to IRAC for review. The draft is in the final stages of clearance at FSIS and CFSAN at the time.

IRAC Organization and Website

- Website has been updated to include new agency representatives from FSIS, CDC, FNS and ARS recent workgroup/workshop summaries, latest annual report, minutes, and information about the *Risk Analysis: Advancing Analysis Workshop* described above, including presentation abstracts.

Discussions of Strategic Plan and New Activities

Strategic Plan

The IRAC Strategic Plan, revised in the last meeting, was accepted.

Activities for 2014 – New workgroups

Three new workgroup proposals were discussed. Based on these discussions, it was decided that each of the three workgroup proposals will be revised and then sent to the IRAC Policy Council for approval.

- A. *Risk Communication Metrics* – the proposed workgroup would (1) identify the characteristics of effective risk communication (2) develop a set of metrics for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of risk communication initiatives (3) investigate how these metrics may differ with target audience of the communication and (4) identify the “best practices” for risk communication in government agencies.

The proposal developers (Alex Domesle and Rachel Johnson, FSIS) discussed their primary motivation for the project, emphasizing the need to provide information and tools for risk assessors to improve effectively communication with risk managers. Meeting participants discussed the proposal, provided ideas for improvements/extensions (e.g., discussion of unintended consequences), and indicated level of interest in participating in the workgroup.

- B. *Food Access, Nutrition, and Risk of Foodborne Illness* – the proposed workshop would (1) develop a white paper describing the relationships between socioeconomic factors, nutritional status and susceptibility to foodborne illness and providing an increased understanding of the relationships between nutrition, physiological changes and mechanisms of foodborne illness and (2) develop symposia for the 2014 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting on these topics.

The proposal developers (FSIS, NIH, ARS, ERS, FNS, ORACBA, FDA, and USDA/OSEC) provided additional background on these topics, including recent research findings. Meeting participants discussed the proposal, provided ideas for improvements/extensions (e.g., clarifying the scope), and indicated level of interest in participating in the workgroup.

- C. *Evaluation of Dietary Assessment Tools* – – the proposed workgroup would (1) identify required features and capabilities of an “ideal” dietary assessment tool (2) research, summarize, and compare existing dietary assessment software packages and (3) determine whether U.S. Government needs for dietary assessment can be met by existing packages and if necessary, outline a proposal for addressing unmet needs.

The proposal developer (Alex Domesle, FSIS) discussed their primary motivation for the project, which includes increased transparency and a unified approach to exposure assessment within and possibly across federal agencies. Meeting participants discussed the proposal, provided ideas for improvements/extensions, and indicated level of interest in participating in the workgroup.

Presentation

David G. White, Ph.D. from FDA Office of Food and Veterinary Medicine (OFVM) presented “FDA Food and Veterinary Medicine Research Initiatives” describing the unified and structured approach being taken by OFVM to develop the science and research plan to strengthen the food safety system. The OFVM research prioritization process takes into consideration the impact on public health, linkage to Agency responsibility, and linkage between regulatory science research and regulatory need. Dr. White indicated that across OFVM expected research outcomes and approaches to achieve them are aligned, so that the outcomes are not just publications but also how to translate data into risk assessments and regulatory guidance. He welcomed further interactions with IRAC.

Table 1. Attendance (participated onsite or by phone)

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Akhter	Shamima	EPA OW
Alves	Derron	DOD VSA
Briguglio	Stephanie	FDA CFSAN
Broder	Mike	EPA
Calvey	Beth	FDA CFSAN
Chen	Yuhuan	FDA CFSAN
Chumley	Perry R	DOD USARMY MEDCOM OTSG
Davidson	Marjorie	FDA CFSAN
Dearfield	Kerry	USDA FSIS
Domesle	Alexander	USDA FSIS
Hall	Robert	NIH NIAID
Hall	Wendy	USDA FSIS
Harper	Ashley	USDA FSIS
Hooberman	Barry	OFVM
Hwang	Andy	USDA ARS
Kause	Janell	USDA FSIS
Lamont	Martha	USDA AMS
Morgan	Kara	OFVM
Naugle	Alecia	USDA OSEC
Niman	Aaron	EPA OPP
Pappaioanou	Marguerite	FDA CFSAN
Pouillot	Régis	FDA CFSAN
Powell	Mark	USDA ORACBA
Same	Mary	FDA CFSAN (JIFSAN intern)
Simmons	Courtney	USDA FNS (Cornell student intern)
Solomotis	Marianne	FDA CFSAN
Torrence	Mary	FDA CSFAN
Van Doren	Jane	FDA CFSAN
Venuto	Margaret	USDA FNS
Walls	Isabel	USDA OSEC
White	David G	OFVM
Yaeger	Phil	FDA CTP
Zhou	Wen	FDA NCTR