

Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium

Annual Report



October 12, 2004

**INTERAGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM
AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES**

Policy Council Members

Robert Buchanan, FDA/CFSAN (Co-chair, Policy Council)
Nicole Ballenger, USDA/ERS
Gregg Claycamp, FDA/CVM
Spencer Garrett, NOAA Marine Fisheries Services
Chester Gipson, USDA/APHIS
William James, USDA/FSIS
Ralph Kodell, FDA/NCTR
Arthur Liang, CDC
James Lindsay, USDA/ARS
Michael McElvaine, USDA/ORACBA
Jacqueline McQueen, EPA/ORD
Margaret Miller, FDA/OWH
Judy Nelson, EPA/OPPTS
Stephen Schaub, EPA/OW
Scott Severin, DOD
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Technical Member Representatives

Marianne Miliotis, FDA/CFSAN (Chair, Technical Committee)
Sharon Edelson Mammel, FDA/CFSAN (Executive Secretary)
Mary Bartholomew, FDA/CVM
Robert Hall, NIH/NIAID
Heather Hicks Quesenberry, USDA/FSIS
Bradford Hildebrand, DOD
Katherine Hollinger, FDA/OWH
Robert McDowell, USDA/APHIS
Tanya Roberts, USDA/ERS
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Richard Whiting, FDA/CFSAN

INTERAGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (RAC) was established in 1997. Through the RAC, federal agencies with risk analysis responsibilities collectively work together to enhance communication and coordination to promote the conduct of scientific research that will facilitate risk assessments.

Below is a list of the RAC accomplishments for FY04 and planned activities for FY05. Additional information about the RAC activities and meeting minutes are available on the web at http://www.foodriskclearinghouse.umd.edu/Risk_Assessment_Consortium.htm.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY04

Each year the RAC develops an annual plan of activities and specific topic areas related to food safety risk assessments. The activities are designed to meet the charter goals. Below are the RAC accomplishments for FY04, which include sponsoring symposia, information sharing and networking, and other specific working group projects.

Symposia

- Peer Review of Risk Assessments and Related Activities. The public meeting was held September 30, 2003, at USDA/APHIS, Riverdale, and was co-hosted with the Joint Institute for Food Safety and the Society for Risk Analysis. The meeting serves as the starting point for gathering information on peer review conducted by regulatory agencies. Speakers from various agencies and academia presented information on current practices/current thinking regarding peer review of risk assessments and other regulatory analyses.
- Data Collection and Utilization in Risk Assessments and Management Decisions. The invitation-only meeting was held on September 14, 2004, at the College Park Aviation Museum. Speakers from government, academic and industry covered topics on how researchers have designed data collection strategies for risk assessment and how risk assessors and risk managers have utilized data to support decision making.

Information Sharing/ Networking

Each quarterly meeting includes technical presentations on a variety of topics related to risk assessment and food safety. The presentations made in FY04 included the following diverse topics.

- “The USDA Food Safety Risk Assessment Committee” by Carol Maczka, USDA/FSIS.
- “Allocating the Burden of Foodborne Illness by Food Commodity- the Role of Outbreak Reports” by John Painter, CDC.

- “FoodNet: Documenting Important Declines in Several Foodborne Diseases” by Jennifer Nelson, CDC.
- “FoodNet CID Supplement Highlights” and “Attributing the Burden of Foodborne Diseases to Specific Foods” by Fred Angulo, CDC.
- “FoodNet *Listeria* Case-control Study” by Cindi Snider, CDC.
- “Economic Incentives for Food Safety Innovation: Case Studies in the U.S. Meat Industry” by Tanya Roberts, USDA/ERS.
- “Folic Acid Fortification: Making the Decisions” by Jeanne Rader, FDA/CFSAN.
- “Tissue Culture and Dose-Response” by Marianne Miliotis, FDA/CFSAN.

Specific Projects

The RAC accomplishes much of its work through working groups formed to address specific topics or issues. Below are the accomplishments and activities of these working groups from FY04.

1. Data Gaps Analysis. A list of data gaps for selected microbial risk assessments was developed and posted on the RAC website.
2. Dose-Response. The working group continues to advance the understanding of mechanistic dose-response using a broad range of food and water-borne pathogen as examples. This year, a working group member presented concepts of using tissue culture data for dose-response modeling during a RAC quarterly meeting. The working group meets regularly during the year and held two meetings to discuss mechanistic considerations of *Campylobacter* pathogenesis and data from human vaccine trials for campylobacteriosis.
3. Peer Review. A discussion paper is being developed and will include topics introduced during the September 2003 public meeting and will include case studies provided by various federal agencies.
4. Data Information and Quality. A draft document was developed that compiled publicly available procedures for how various government agencies ensure quality of risk assessments. In particular information and links to OMB and various federal agency Data Quality Guidelines were made available. A questionnaire was developed and sent to the RAC member agencies to obtain additional information on data quality issues specific to risk assessments. The results of the survey will be the basis of a discussion paper to be prepared in FY05.
5. Data Utility. This group was formed to organize a symposium on sampling plans. The symposium, “Data Collection and Utilization in Risk Assessments and Management Decisions,” was held on 14 September 2004.

6. International Microbial Risk Assessment Conference. The Proceedings from the First International Conference on Microbial Risk Assessment was published as a supplement in the September 2004 issue of the Journal of Food Protection, **67**:1965-2074. The thirteen manuscripts included in this supplement represent many of the widespread topic areas presented during the conference.

ANNUAL PLAN FY05

| Project/ Topic | Activity |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Quarterly meetings | Provide an opportunity for risk assessors to network with counterparts in other agencies |
| Dose-Response Work Group | The working group will develop a discussion paper about mechanistic dose-response data to describe variability in hosts, pathogens and the environment. |
| Data Gaps Analysis Work Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to update/expand the Data Gaps Analysis worksheet as data gaps are filled and new gaps are identified. • Rank the data gaps (prioritize the "specific need"). Specify pertinent elements, e.g., products, parameters and ranges, to be investigated in research that addresses specific data gaps. |
| Data Quality Work Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a discussion paper on issues in data quality, including methods to ensure quality, potential drawbacks, lessons learned, etc. This document will be based on the response to the survey conducted in FY04. • Possibly hold a joint symposium with Data Utility and/or Peer Review work group(s). |
| Peer Review Work Group | Complete discussion paper on regulatory peer review of risk assessments, have it published, and, subsequently, posting it on the RAC clearinghouse website. |
| Risk-Risk Work Group | Support presentations at upcoming RAC meetings on the topic of risk-risk assessments to: (1) learn about important risk-risk issues that member agencies have previously dealt with, and, (2) determine how the risk-risk workgroup can help their agencies and whether there are specific needs or questions the agencies have regarding risk-risk issues. |
| Data Utility Work Group | Develop a discussion paper on useful sampling strategies to serve as a reference for member agencies. Possibly host a workshop with a focus on statistical sampling. |
| Microbiological Criteria | A working group on risk-based approach to establishing microbiological criteria has been proposed but not yet formed. |