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Office of Women's Health



Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium

Annual Report

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USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Office of Prevention, Pesticides,
and Toxic Substances

Office of Research & Development

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Michael McElvaine, USDA/ORACBA
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Tanya Roberts, USDA/ERS
Angela Ruple, NOAA Marine Fisheries Services
Stephen Schaub, EPA/OW
Donald Sharp, CDC/CCID
Brandolyn Thran, DOD/CHPPM
Mary Torrence, USDA/CSREES
Richard Whiting, FDA/CFSAN

INTERAGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY07

1. Information Sharing/ Networking

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) continued having its technical quarterly meetings, where the technical representatives of the member agencies exchange risk assessment and risk assessment–related research information.

2. Quarterly Meeting Presentations

The IRAC has continued to include technical presentations on a variety of topics related to risk assessment and food safety during each quarterly meeting. These topics include:

- a) "Foodrisk.org" by Steve Gendel, FDA/CFSAN
- b) "Application of the Microbial Risk Assessment Framework for Aerosolized Microorganisms: Military Personnel in Garrison Exposed to *Bacillus anthracis*" by Brandolyn Thran
- c) "Protocol for Microbial Risk Assessment, Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by Steve Schaub, EPA/OW and Audrey Ischida, ICF.
- d) "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus Risk Assessment for Poultry and Eggs" by Neal Golden and Wayne Schlosser, USDA/FSIS.
- e) "Quantitative Risk Assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in Smoked Finfish" by Richard Whiting and Clark Carrington, FDA/CFSAN.
- f) "FSIS Comparative Risk Assessment for *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products" by Janell Kause, USDA/FSIS/OPPHS/RAD, Ann Draughn, University of Tennessee, and Dan Gallagher, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

3. Work Group Projects

The IRAC 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 for FY07.

Nutrition Risk Assessment

The work group provided the background and need for the workshop discussed below.

Data Utility

The Data Utility paper based on the workshop and SRA symposium was submitted to Risk Analysis. Brandolyn Thran (DOD/CHPPM) and Tonya Nichols (EPA/ORD/HS) met at the SRA annual meeting, December 9-12, and discussed the possibility of submitting a symposium on Data Collection for the SRA 2008 annual meeting.

Produce Safety

A work group was formed, including representatives from USDA/ARS/BARC, USDA/FSIS, FDA/CFSAN, and FDA/NCTR. A conceptual model was developed for a farm to table risk assessment for a specific food (e. g, green leafy vegetables) and a specific pathogen (*E. coli* O157). This model will serve as a framework to identify and prioritize research needs for conducting a quantitative risk assessment.

4. Annual Meetings/Workshops/Symposia

1. Co-sponsored a workshop on "Nutritional Risk Assessment: Bridging Perspectives, Sharing Methodologies, Identifying Data Challenges", February 28 – March 1, 2007, National Academies building, Washington DC in collaboration with IOM Food Forum and ILSI, ASPE. The workshop served as a forum for experts on various disciplines to discuss the use of risk assessment

tools to establish nutritional recommendations to prevent disease and maintain health and identified next steps necessary to advance in this area. A summary of the report can be found at www.iom.edu/fnb.

2. Sponsored a conference on "Risk Assessment, Economic Analysis, and Foodborne Illness Regulations", November 16, 2007, USDA/ERS, Washington, DC to introduce the concept of integrating risk assessment and cost benefit analysis, and using this to look at recent advances in valuation of food risks, and examine economic incentives for producing safer food. Presentations can be found at: www.fsn-aaea.org and www.foodrisk.org.