



ERS

NCTR
National Center for Toxicological Research
U.S. Food and Drug Administration



U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Office of Women's Health



Annual Report



December 31, 2008



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Office of Prevention, Pesticides,
and Toxic Substances

Office of Research & Development

INTERAGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

The IRAC, which consists of federal agencies with food safety responsibilities and/or interest, was formed in response to the 1997 Food Safety Initiative (FSI). Currently membership includes 19 Federal agencies or sub-agencies. Each agency is represented by a technical and a policy council representative. The IRAC serves as an interagency collaborative network and accomplishes much of its goals through work groups. These work groups have goals and deliverables realized in forms of workshops and meetings. The IRAC has expanded its range of issues addressed from microbial risk assessment in food, to chemical risk assessment, including water and the environment, and to ideas related to nutrients, nanotechnology, susceptible subpopulations, genomics and proteomics.

Member Agencies

Department of Commerce

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Department of Defense

U.S. Army Veterinary Services (DOD/VSA)

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM)

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (EPA/OPPTS)

Office of Research and Development (EPA/ORD)

Office of Water (EPA/OW)

Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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

FDA/Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA/CVM)

FDA/National Center for Toxicological Research (FDA/NCTR)

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS)

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS)

Cooperative State Research, Education, & Extension Service (USDA/CSREES)

Economic Research Service (USDA/ERS)

Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA/FSIS)

Food and Nutrition Service (USDA/FNS)

Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA/FAS) (new member since September 2008)

Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis (USDA/ORACBA)

Policy Council Members

Robert Buchanan, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN (Co-chair, Policy Council) (Retired June 2008)

Kerry Dearfield, USDA/FSIS (Co-chair, Policy Council)

Sherri Dennis, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN (Co-chair, Policy Council) (July 2008 – present)

James Chen, FDA/NCTR

Richard Fite, USDA/APHIS

Spencer Garrett, NOAA Marine Fisheries Services

Brenda Halbrook, USDA/FNS
Arthur Liang, CDC/CCID
James Lindsay, USDA/ARS
Michael McElvaine, USDA/ORACBA
Jacqueline McQueen, EPA/ORD
Michael Ollinger (USDA/ERS) (new representative September 2008 to present: replaced Tanya Roberts)
Tanya Roberts, USDA/ERS (Retired March 2008)
Stephen Schaub, EPA/OW
Mary Torrence, USDA/CSREES
Gary Vroegindewey, DOD/VSA

Technical Member Representatives

James Chen, FDA/NCTR
Sharon Edelson Mammel, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN (Executive Secretary)
Steven Gendel (new representative September 2008 – present: replaced Richard Whiting)
Eric Grant, USDA/APHIS (new representative September 2008 to present: replaced David Oryang)
Brenda Halbrook, USDA/FNS
Robert Hall, NIH/NIAID
Wendy Hall, USDA/APHIS (new representative September 2008 to present: replaced David Oryang)
Bradford Hildebrand, DOD/VMS
Barry Hooberman, FDA/CVM
Andy Hwang, USDA/ARS
Janell Kause, USDA/FSIS
Wesley Long, FDA/CFSAN (Past Chair, Technical Committee)
Michael McElvaine, USDA/ORACBA
Marianne Miliotis, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN (Chair, Technical Committee)
Michael Ollinger (USDA/ERS) (new representative September 2008 to present: replaced Tanya Roberts)
David Oryang, USDA/APHIS (October 2007- July 2008)
Cynthia Roberts, EPA/ORD
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/ARS
Isabel Walls, USDA/FAS (new representative: September 2008 to present)
Richard Whiting, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN (retired September 2008)

INTERAGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY08

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) “Health Canada: Potential Opportunities for Collaboration” by Wendy Sexsmith, Acting Chief Scientist, Health Canada.
- b) “Update on the Interagency Microbial Risk Assessment Guidelines by Kerry Dearfield, USDA/FSIS.
- c) “Exercising a Panel Peer Review Process for Microbial Risk Assessments” by Peg Coleman, Syracuse Research Corp., NY.
- d) “Developing Rapid Risk Assessments” by Villie Flari, Central Science Laboratory, York, UK, currently an ORISE fellow at FDA/CFSAN/OFDCER/RACT.

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 FY08.

Data Utility

The Data Utility group sponsored a symposium at the SRA Annual Meeting in December, 2008 titled: Practicing the Science and the Art: Real World Case Studies in Sample Collection for Chemical and Microbial Risk Assessment.

The paper based on the 2005 workshop and 2006 SRA symposium was published in the December issue of Human and Ecological Risk Assessment. Citation: Thran, B.H. and L.V. Tannenbaum. 2008. The Concept of Data Utility in Health Risk Assessment: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective. Human and Ecological Risk Assessment 14(6)1104-1117.

Produce Safety

IRAC co-sponsored a workshop on “Research Needs Prioritization for Conducting a Quantitative Risk Assessment of *E. coli* O157:H7 in Leafy Greens” jointly with the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) at the Holiday Inn in College Park, MD. The purpose of the workshop was to identify and prioritize research data gaps for conducting a quantitative risk assessment on *E. coli* O157:H7 foodborne illness from the consumption of leafy green vegetables. The workshop brought together over 70 experts in a variety of scientific disciplines and practical applications from academia, industry, and government. Government representation included NIH, CDC, FDA (CFSAN, ORA, NCTR), and USDA (FSIS, AMS, ARS, ERS, APHIS). A model based on the analytical hierarchy process (AHP) was pilot tested.

4. Annual Meetings/Workshops/Symposia/Presentations

These are described above under the relevant workgroups.

5. Reports Reviewed

The IRAC representatives also received several risk assessment-related reports from member agencies to review. These are listed below:

- Risk Profile on Hepatitis A Virus Infection Associated with Consumption of Fresh and Fresh-Cut Produce developed by DHHS/FDA/CFSAN.
- Microbiological Risk Assessment Guideline developed by the Interagency Microbiological Risk Assessment Guideline Work Group.

In addition, IRAC representatives participated as "experts" in an on-line elicitation exercise regarding "ranking preferences of burden of disease" (within the framework of the QALIBRA project).