RAC Meeting Minutes (September 6, 2001)

September 6, 2001
9:30am - 1pm ET
ERS 1800 M St. NW, Food Safety Room S3032

In Attendance:
Mary Bartholomew (CVM)
Audrey Ichida (JIFSAN)
Ivor Knight (USAID)
Wes Long (JIFSAN)
Carol Maczka (phone) (FSIS)
Robert McDowell (phone) (APHIS)
Michael McElvaine (ORACBA)
Tom Oscar (phone) (ARS)
Angela Ruple (phone) (NMFS)
Vivian Turner (ORD)
Angelo Turturro (phone) (NCTR)
Richard Whiting (CFSAN)
Nicole Ballenger (ERS)
John Cicmanec (ORD)
Peg Coleman (ARS)
Michael Cooper (FSIS)
Kathrine Hollinger (phone) (OWH)
Tami Lasky (FSIS)
Jacqueline McQueen (ORD)
Marianne Milliotis (CFSAN)
Mark Tamplin (ARS)

Updates from members and other attendees:

Peg Coleman (USDA)- She will back in DC in a few months. She has been working on growth modeling for 0157:H7.

Mary Bartholomew (CVM)- *E. faecium* RA is ongoing. CVM is funding some studies. Mary Torrence helped them add *E. faecium* onto a produce study. They are looking for expert elicitations to fill some data gaps.
RAC policy council representative, Gregg Claycamp is working on risk issues concerning genetically engineered animals (current issue is fish). CVM has formed one team to deal with policy and another team to deal with scientific considerations related to regulation of genetically modified animals and clones.

Dick Whiting (CFSAN)- The CFSAN *Listeria* team is working on updating the *Listeria* RA based on the public comments.

John Cicmanec-(EPA) Visiting from Cincinnati, Ohio. He works on *Cryptosporidium* and O157:H7 and is interested in dose-response.

Marianne Milliotis (CFSAN)- no major remodeling comments were received on the *Vibrio* RA. Team hopes to be done by the end of the year.

Nicole Ballenger (ERS)- Nicole is taking Steve Crutchfield's place as the policy council representative.
She passed out Product Liability and Microbial Foodborne Illness Report
http://www.ers.usda.gov/catalog/OneProductAtATime.asp?PDT=2&PID=1196

Ivor Knight (USAID)- AID sponsored a group of Guatemalan food safety experts to take the Michigan State food safety course. They also met with FDA and APHIS folks.

Mark Tamplin (ARS)-ARS is interested in research priorities for risk assessments. ARS hotdog study is ongoing, may be completed next year.

Tami Lasky (FSIS)- human health sciences division at FSIS. Tammi is interested in epidemiology, data quality, data handing, and meta analysis (integrating findings from multiple studies).

Michael Cooper- New at FSIS, just listening today.

Wes Long- (JIFSAN) The JIFSAN liaison staff and UMD faculty are recipients of a CSREES grant for developing distance learning courses in food safety risk analysis.

Audrey Ichida (JIFSAN) has renewed her fellowship for a second year and will continue to support RAC activities among other things. She is working on short paragraphs for each member agency to describe their role in risk assessment and in the RAC.

Rob McDowell- Busy with writing annual accomplishments at APHIS. Also working on a draft document for policy for preharvest food safety. The draft is on microbial issues only.

Angelo Turturro (NCTR)- NCTR has their *Cryptosporidium* project approved. Angelo will invite Jimmy Chang (NCTR project on dose-response-for a mix of chemicals) to present at the Dec. RAC quarterly meeting.

Carol Maczka- (FSIS- acting director of risk assessment group) The draft *E. coli* O157:H7 risk assessment was submitted to the National Academies of Science (NAS) for review. FSIS will also announce its public availability in the federal register and invite public comment. FSIS will revise the *E. coli* RA in response to NAS comments. NAS has promised a turn around time of 8 months. Mike Doyle is chair of the committee. Check the website for committee members and public meeting information.

In Dec. someone from FSIS will present the BSE RA. (Allen Hogue had to cancel for this meeting.) FSIS is also undertaking RA on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in poultry.

Angela Ruple- (NMFS) in Mississippi. NMFS is following the Vibrio RA. NMFS is also developing a risk management plan for *Vibrio v.* and *Vibrio p.*

Tom Oscar- (ARS-eastern shore) They are working on predictive models for informing risk assessments on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in chickens. They are also developing GFP-labeled strains for looking at microbes in food matrix.

Katherine Hollinger (OWH)- The Institute of Medicine recently published a report entitled "Exploring the Biological Contributions to Human Health: Does Sex matter?" This report clarifies the difference between the definitions of sex and gender and provides an excellent review of the recent scientific literature identifying biological and physiological differences between the sexes. The report showed that sex makes a difference in several areas that include; immune function, cardiovascular disease presentation, drug metabolism nociception, behavior, brain organization among others. Also, sex-based differences in exposure are likely to result from some of these sex-based differences in behavior, biology and physiology. To read the IOM summary report visit:
http://www.iom.edu/IOM/IOMHome.nsf/Pages/does+sex+matter+summary
OR read the report in its entirety online at:
http://www.nap.edu/books/0309072816/html/
OWH is planning the development of a demographic database that would contain clinical trial data for medical products that are evaluated by the agency. The database will be designed to

track participation of sub-groups of the population in clinical trials and determine whether the data were analyzed for differences in sex, race/ethnicity and age as well as for other sub-groups of the population that may have a greater risk of adverse events. The development of the database will be aligned with concurrent developments in electronic submissions that are currently underway at the Agency. Once developed, this database will collect electronic data from all human product Centers within the FDA and will help ensure the safety of medical products for all segments of the population.

Vivian Turner (EPA/ORD)- Jackie McQueen will be taking over for Vivian for interim.
ORD is working to get input from scientists in the Antimicrobials Division/ OPPTS involved with RAC. Additionally, more ORD scientists in this discipline are being recruited to assist with the MRA.

Discuss the International Conference planning committee progress (Wes Long)

Each agency should have received a letter requesting funding.
Conference will try to have 50% international speakers, also target women in science.
This meeting requires registration fee.

The meeting will be in late July 2002.
(AVMA meeting is July 13-17)

There is a steering committee and a program planning committee.

PLENARY session: Microbiological risk assessments (presentations on food safety microbial risk assessments underway throughout the world.) 6 hours, 8 speakers
Organizers: Sharon Thompson and Carol Maczka

Concurrent session: Resources for risk assessors (presentations on risk assessment software and databases that risk assessors might find helpful) 4 ½ hours, 10 speakers
Organizers: Audrey Ichida and Mary Bender

Concurrent session: Challenges in Modeling (This session will explore current limitations and barriers to the development of effective models for both exposure and dose-response for microbiological agents.) 4 ½ hours, 9 speakers
Organizers: Dick Whiting, Peg Coleman, Kathrine Hollinger

Concurrent session: Assessing Food Safety Risks Associated with Non-bacterial Microorganisms (This session will consider approaches to conducting microbial food safety risk assessments involving non-bacterial microorganisms such as viruses, protozoa, and various parasites.) 6 hours, 12 speakers
Organizers: Steve Schaub and Angelo Turturro

Concurrent session: Intervention strategies for pathogen control (presentations on how various interventions can be modeled in risk assessments.) 3 hours, 6 speakers
Organizers: Dick Whiting and Tanya Roberts

Concurrent session: Communication at the Interface between risk assessors and risk managers. 3 hours, 6 speakers
Organizers: Sherri Dennis and Wes Long

MRAF work group project update (Audrey Ichida)

A contractor will be hired to interview 9 federal risk assessors to ask questions about 5 of the US risk assessments in the context of a general microbiological risk assessment framework. 96 unique "elements" were identified between the Codex and ILSI frameworks. Sample matches between Codex and ILSI were presented.

8 general questions for each element were discussed and 5 general questions.
Clarifying language was suggested by a number of RAC members.

July 2002 RAC public meeting (Wes Long)

A draft proposal was presented based on ideas generated at the May 2001 RAC quarterly meeting.
Each agency was asked if they would be willing to develop a poster on the different risks they assess. The posters should showcase each agency and how they are involved with risk assessment.
The meeting might be a "meet the risk assessors" showcase.
One question was, how to we document the ideas that come out of the meeting?

Agencies represented:

Office of Research and Development (EPA/ORD)
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (DHHS/FDA/CFSAN)
Center for Veterinary Medicine (DHHS/FDA/CVM)
National Center for Toxicological Research (DHHS/FDA/NCTR)
Office of Women's Health (DHHS/FDA/OWH)
Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN)
National Marine Fisheries Service (DOC/NMFS)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID/G/EGAD/AFS)
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS)
Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS)
Economic Research Service (USDA/ERS)
Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA/FSIS)
Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis (USDA/ORACBA)