

Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium
Spring Technical and Policy Quarterly Meeting Report
March 18, 2010

Technical Meeting:

Each attendee gave a brief overview of food safety risk analysis issues in their agencies that may be of interest to other agencies.

Presentations:

There were two presentations at the meeting. Slides from the presentations are attached.

- International Health Regulations. Jose Fernandez, Leader, International Health Regulations, Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Response and Preparedness
- Inter-agency retail *Listeria monocytogenes* risk assessment and retail observation study. Sherri Dennis (FDA), Dare Akingbade (FSIS), Dan Gallagher (VA Tech)

Policy Council Meeting

Minutes from the December 2nd meeting

The group reviewed and approved the minutes from the December 2nd meeting. These will be posted on the website.

Annual Report

The group reviewed and approved the Annual Report. This will be posted on the website.

IRAC Work Group Updates and Discussion

Risk-based inspection workshop held December, 2009

Wendy Hall gave an overview of the risk-based inspection workshop held in December, 2009. Wendy will draft a proposed project description for developing a new working group on risk based inspection, with help from Janell Kause. This will be reviewed at the next meeting for approval.

Nanotechnology and Risk Assessment Work Group

An outline for a white paper was sent out for comments prior to January 2010. Comments were received and Villie Flari will prepare a first draft based on the outline. This should be completed by mid April. Once complete, the draft will be sent to IRAC members to provide comments/suggestions for changes. Villie noted that there will be a workshop in the UK on nanotechnology enabled food products, May 27-28, 2010. The workshop will bring together regulators, academics and industry to talk about a risk assessment model for nanotech foods, including how to regulate such foods.

Susceptible populations Work Group

The work group held a workshop on identifying and characterizing susceptible populations in January, 2010. Most of the meeting presentations and the reports from the two working groups (on chemical and microbial hazards) have been posted at the IRAC website on www.foodrisk.org. The group discussed continuing work on this activity. New leadership will be needed for the group due to Steve Gendel changing work responsibilities. An editor is needed to take the draft papers and prepare a document for publication in the journal Risk Analysis.

If you are interested in leading this work group or being a member of the Steering Committee, or if you wish to volunteer to edit the papers, please contact Isabel Walls (iwalls@nifa.usda.gov)

Standardize experimental design and sampling plans to improve data quality for risk assessment

At the meeting, standardize experimental design and sampling plans were identified as an important area that IRAC should be involved in. However, leadership is needed for this group, and a proposal will need to be developed to define the goals of the project and the action steps to achieve the goals. If you are interested in leading this project, or being a member of the Steering Committee, please contact Isabel Walls (iwalls@nifa.usda.gov).

Listeria monocytogenes dose-response

FDA CFSSAN developed a proposal for establishing this new work group, which was approved at the meeting. If you are interested in being a member of the Steering Committee, please contact Isabel Walls (iwalls@nifa.usda.gov).

Updating the IRAC Charter

A steering committee will be established to lead the planning of a “signing ceremony” to update the charter. We propose that the signing ceremony take the form of a food safety risk analysis scientific conference, showcasing the work of the IRAC member agencies in food safety risk analysis. The workshop could be held in Fall, 2010.

Action items:

Please identify who should be the signatory in your agency and report this to Isabel Walls (iwalls@nifa.usda.gov) by **April 30th**. The previous Charter is attached to provide guidance of the level of individual who should be signing the Charter.

Please discuss the concept of a “signing ceremony” conference with your agency to obtain approval for their participation and identify a speaker to represent the agency at the meeting. We will also need to identify a venue.

If you would like to be on the Steering Committee for this project, please contact Isabel Walls (iwalls@nifa.usda.gov)

In attendance (* participated by phone):

Dare Akingbade, USDA /FSIS

Kristi Barlow, FSIS

Patty Bennett, USDA/FSIS
Mike Broder, EPA*
Cecilia Crowley, DHHS/ FDA/ CFSAN
Kerry Dearfield, USDA/FSIS
Sherri Dennis, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN
Manashi Dey, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN
Denise Eblen, USDA/FSIS
Sharon Edelson-Mammel, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN
Wendy Fanaselle, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN
Villie Flari, Food and Environment Research Agency, UK*
Dan Gallagher, VA Tech*
Steve Gendel, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN
Wendy Hall, USDA/ APHIS
Barry Hooberman, DHHS/FDA/CFSAN
Sue Makris, EPA*
Andrew MacCabe, DHHS/CDC
Robert McDowell, USDA APHIS
Stephanie Mickelson, USDA FNS*
Kathleen Raffaele, EPA
Angela Ruple, NOAA*
Sarah Taft, EPA*
Isabel Walls, USDA NIFA
Jodi Williams, USDA NIFA
Cynthia Yund, EPA*
Wen Zou, DHHS/FDA/NCTR*