

Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium
Fall Technical and Policy Quarterly Meeting Report
September 13, 2010

Technical meeting

Welcome and Introductions

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its fall quarterly meeting of the technical committee and policy council on September 13th in Washington, DC. Isabel Walls welcomed the group and asked for self introductions. Technical representatives and risk assessors from various agencies (Table 1) participated on site or by the phone.

IRAC Work Group Updates and Discussion

Susceptible Population Workshop

Jane Van Doren reported that a small working group is working on drafting a perspective paper based on outcomes of the workshop held in January 2010. The manuscript will be submitted to the Risk Analysis journal. Jodi Williams and Régis Pouillot volunteered to join the working group. Walls noted that other IRAC members are welcome to join the manuscript drafting working group.

L. monocytogenes Dose Response Workgroup

Sherri Dennis reported that after the Summer IRAC meeting, an interagency Steering Committee was formed and met weekly to plan the workshop. The Steering Committee developed a draft agenda for a one and a half day workshop and invited seven speakers who agreed to participate at the workshop. The Steering Committee cancelled the workshop because of unexpected conflicts in scheduling with other pressing events occurring on the same dates and being close to the end of the government fiscal year meant that many government staff could not attend. IRAC members agreed to hold the workshop in FY 11 given the significance of the topic.

Presentations

There were two presentations at the meeting. (1) David Oryang from FDA/CFSAN gave a presentation on "Linking GIS and Risk Assessment: A Collaboration between FDA and NASA," which also included input from co-author Matthew Smith from NASA. (2) Dana Cole from CDC and Kristin Holt from FSIS gave a joint presentation "Foodborne Disease Attribution and Overview of Interagency Attribution Work Group." Slides are attached.

Policy Council Meeting

The Policy Council discussed specifics of updating the IRAC charter and the possibility of holding a signing ceremony, funding the FoodRisk.org website that hosts IRAC materials, and possible workshops and other activities for FY11.

IRAC Charter

With regard to the new charter signing ceremony, the Policy Council decided to explore the option of requesting the HHS and USDA Secretaries to sign the charter on behalf of the IRAC member agencies, which would give greater visibility to IRAC. The President's Food Safety

Working Group (chaired by the Secretaries of HHS and USDA) recommended the formation of a Risk Assessment Coordinating Council. IRAC is the appropriate venue for this Council.

With regard to the charter, the Policy Council discussed the issue of including a signature from a supporting organization. The Policy Council decided to revise articles II and VII of the charter to make it more general and remove specific reference to JIFSAN as the supporting organization. Language on requesting assistance from professional societies and other organizations will be added to the charter, but they will not be signatories.

The Policy Council recognized the need for maintaining FoodRisk.org as the online repository for IRAC information. The host Agency (FDA CFSAN) will meet with JIFSAN to discuss the issue and identify a mechanism for JIFSAN to continue hosting the IRAC FoodRisk.org website. Isabel Walls will draft a revision of the charter (focus on articles II and VII) and circulate it to Policy Council for review.

Foodrisk.org

With regard to funding the FoodRisk.org website, the Host Agency (FDA CFSAN) has been the primary source of funding. A new agreement letter was developed and circulated to provide a mechanism for other IRAC member agencies to contribute funds to sustain the website maintenance, new document and information uploads, and new web tools.

Future activities

At this time, the priority for IRAC is to complete the projects underway. However, several working group and workshop ideas for the future were discussed, including possibly starting a chemical risk assessment working group. IRAC will reach out to other organizations such as the Institute of Medicine, Society for Risk Analysis, American Chemical Society, and local chapters of the Institute for Food Technology and the International Association for Food Protection and explore opportunities to work together to leverage resources to address risk assessment issues.

Table 1. Attendance (* participated by phone):

*Nick Ashbolt, EPA
*Mike Broder, EPA
*Hoshing Chang, FDA/CFSAN
Yuhuan Chen, FDA/CFSAN
Kerry Dearfield, USDA/FSIS
Sherri Dennis, FDA/CFSAN
Denise Eblen, USDA/FSIS
Neal Golden, USDA/FSIS
Frank Hearl, CDC/NIOSH
*Wendy Fanaselle, FDA/CFSAN
Chuanfa Guo, USDA/FSIS
*Wendy Hall USDA/APHIS
Janell Kause, USDA/FSIS
Andrew Maccabe, CDC
Robert McDowell, USDA/APHIS

*Marianne Miliotis, FDA/CFSAN
David Oryang, FDA/CFSAN
Régis Pouillot, FDA/CFSAN
Steve Schaub, EPA/ OW
*Debra Smegal, EPA/OPP
Jane van Doren, FDA/ CFSAN
Isabel Walls, USDA/NIFA
Jodi Williams, USDA/NIFA
