

Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium Technical Representatives Quarterly Meeting Report

June 23, 2011

Welcome and Introductions

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its 2011 summer quarterly meeting of the technical committee on June 23rd in Washington, DC. Chair Isabel Walls welcomed the group and asked for self introductions. IRAC technical and policy representatives and guests from various agencies (Table 1) participated on site or by the phone.

“5 minute” Agency Updates

Technical representatives in attendance gave a brief overview of food safety risk analysis projects and issues in their agencies that may be of interest to other agencies.

IRAC Work Group Updates and Discussion

L. monocytogenes Dose Response Workgroup

Sherri Dennis reported that, following a successful IRAC/JIFSAN Lm Dose-Response Workshop held in March, a workgroup has been formed to develop a manuscript based on the outcomes of the workshop. The workgroup has developed an outline and intends to draft the manuscript fairly quickly while the information from the workshop is fresh and relevant. The draft paper will be circulated to the Workshop Steering Committee and IRAC for comments. On a related note, a symposium proposal based on the Lm Dose-Response Workshop has been submitted to SRA 2011.

Susceptible Population Workgroup

Jane van Doren reported that a small work group has been working on a manuscript based on outcomes of the Susceptible Population Workshop. The manuscript is near completion. The plan is to submit it to the *Risk Analysis* journal as a perspective paper.

Annual Plan for FY11

Isabel Walls indicated that a final draft of the IRAC strategic plan has been completed. Walls will send out the document as a final version. Three ideas were discussed in the Spring meeting for 2011 activities. Further development has been made based on these ideas.

Norovirus Workgroup. Sherri Dennis reported that a number of activities and converging efforts have led to the development of a proposal for an IRAC Workgroup on Norovirus. Dennis indicated that the purpose of the workgroup is not to conduct a quantitative risk assessment (QRA), but to develop a farm-to-fork vision for a QRA, develop a framework for research and a list of data needs for the QRA, and develop a plan to engage stakeholders. Many organizations are addressing Norovirus, e.g., FDA, CDC, NACMCF, and Universities with a large NIFA-funded project. IRAC can partner and collaborate with others. The proposal received broad support and will move forward as an FY11 IRAC project. IRAC members interested in participating should inform Isabel Walls.

Gardening Initiative. Debra Bergin provided an overview of a Residential Gardening InterAgency Initiative. ATSDR, EPA and USDA has formed a working group for the initiative. Initial focus was on chemical hazards such as heavy metals and chemicals in residential gardens. The scope could be expanded to include other locations such as roadside stands and other hazards (e.g., microbial pathogens). The working group welcomes IRAC input and participation. Sherri Dennis noted that CFSAN has a produce team that has collected a tremendous amount of data and information on pathogens in produce to support FSMA and CFSAN can be a potentially useful resource for the gardening project. The initiative is related to the cumulative risk project idea discussed at the Spring meeting. IRAC members interested in participating should inform Isabel Walls.

IRAC-IFSAC Workgroup. Sherri Dennis provided background on the interactions between IRAC and Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration (IFSAC), which resulted in the proposal to form an IRAC-IFSAC workgroup and a proposed workshop on "Risk Assessment as a Method for Determining Source Attribution to Foodborne Illness." The IRAC-IFSAC workgroup has developed a list of questions that the workshop could address. Kara Morgan from FDA noted that it is desirable to convene the workshop as soon as possible. A workshop format that can be implemented relatively quickly would be to limit the workshop for government participants by invitation only. IRAC members indicated that the workshop topic is timely and important. IRAC agencies can participate and present their experience and lessons learned on the topic. IRAC members interested in participating should inform Isabel Walls.

Presentations

There were three presentations at the meeting. 1) Spencer Garrett from the NOAA National Seafood Inspection Laboratory/Office of Sustainable Fisheries gave a presentation on "NOAA Fisheries' On-going Efforts in Response to the Gulf Oil Spill"; 2) Kerry Dearfield from FSIS gave a presentation on "PFC Rapid Risk Evaluation"; 3) Mark Powell from ORACBA gave a presentation on "The Contribution of the Progeny of Cloned Cattle to Beef Exports: a rapid risk assessment example".

Table 1. Attendance (* participated by phone)

Amy Sents	DHS OHA
Andrew Maccabe	CDC NCEZID
Angela Ruple*	DC NOAA
David Hrdy	EPA OCSPP OPP
Deborah Bergin	CDC ATSDR
Denise Eblen	USDA FSIS
Frank Hearl	CDC NIOSH
Gregory Smart	EPA OSWER
Hoshing Chang	FDA CFSAN
Isabel Walls	USDA NIFA
Jane van Doren	FDA CFSAN
Kara Morgan*	FDA
Kerry Dearfield	USDA FSIS
Lesley Vazquez-Coriano*	EPA OW
Mark Powell	USDA ORACBA
Mary Bartholomew	FDA CVM
Mike Broder	EPA OSA
Sandra Hoffmann	USDA ERS
Shaniqua Briggs Dubose	USDA NIFA
Sherri Dennis*	FDA CFSAN
Spencer Garrett	NOAA NMFS
Stephanie Mickelson*	USDA FNS
Stic Harris	DHS OHA
Ted Berner	EPA ORD NCEA
Todd Weaver*	USDA APHIS
Wen Zou*	FDA NCTR
Wendy Hall*	USDA APHIS
Yuhuan Chen*	FDA CFSAN
