

Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium Technical Committee and Policy Council Fall Meeting Report

September 19, 2012

Welcome and Introductions

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its 2012 fall quarterly meeting of the Technical Committee and Policy Council September 19 at the EPA offices at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington DC. Chair of Technical Committee Isabel Walls welcomed the group and asked for self introductions. Technical and policy representatives and guests from various agencies (Table 1) participated on site or by phone.

“5 minute” Agency Updates

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

L. monocytogenes Dose Response Workgroup

Sherrri Dennis reported that a very dedicated workgroup completed a manuscript based on the outcomes of the joint IRAC/JIFSAN Lm Dose-Response Workshop. The manuscript had been submitted to the Risk Analysis Journal. Dennis acknowledged the workgroup members especially Karin Hoelzer from FDA for taking the lead on developing the manuscript and pulling together key points from a broad and long draft based on the workshop outcomes.

IRAC-IFSAC Risk Assessment as a Method for Determining Attribution to Foodborne Illness

Sandy Hoffmann reported that an IRAC/IFSAC workgroup completed a draft 10-page white paper based on the outcomes of the workshop on attribution and risk assessment that took place February 2-3 in Washington, DC. This was a short version intended for policy makers. A longer version would be developed next as a manuscript for publication. Hoffmann noted the 10-page white paper aimed to help open doors to do more research and leveraging epidemiological and risk assessment methods for attribution of foodborne illnesses in foods. The draft was under review in participating agencies. Hoffmann indicated that the workgroup planned to send the draft to IRAC members for courtesy review in the near future.

Clarification of the Various Approaches for Assessing Risk

Kerry Dearfield reported the workgroup had made progress drafting a third version of the white paper based on previously compiled ideas and different pieces of information. The workgroup is waiting for more comments from Janell Kause from FSIS. Dearfield indicated that he had been invited to give several invited presentations at the State Department and USTR, which were well

received. Other potential outreach would be to use the white paper in risk analysis training, and to present it to other audiences such as USAID and IAFP.

Presentation

Rita Schoeny, Senior Advisor in the EPA Office of Research and Development gave a presentation on “Framework for Human Risk Assessment to Inform Decision Making.” The Framework does not discuss how to conduct a risk assessment (it provides links to existing EPA guidance documents), but rather, discusses and places emphasis on scoping and utility (e.g., a risk assessment should not be carried out unless it is to inform decisions). IRAC members in attendance provided some input on the framework. Isabel Walls encouraged members to share further comments if there are any.

Policy Council Meeting

Discussions on Annual Plan for FY12

IRAC/IFSAC Activities

Sandy Hoffmann indicated that the IFSAC/IRAC workgroup has completed a draft 10-page white paper based on the outcomes of the workshop on attribution and risk assessment that took place in February 2012. This is a short version intended for policy makers and it includes concrete recommendations for next steps. Once it is completed the short version will be posted on the IRAC website. The draft is under review at participating agencies. Next step is to send the draft to IRAC members for review in October/November. The workgroup will work on a longer version manuscript intended as a journal article.

IAFP Symposium

Yuhuan Chen reported that the IRAC co-organized symposium “Making a Difference: Data Collection for Risk Assessments through Innovative Approaches” was well attended and well received at the IAFP annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. Information about IRAC was also shared at the meeting of the IAFP Microbial Modelling and Risk Analysis Professional Development Group. Thanks to Susan Cahill from the CFSAN risk staff we developed a tri-fold brochure about IRAC (its role, its roots and examples of how IRAC advances risk assessment, and IRAC members) and we gave the brochure to the MMRA PDG members at the meeting. Isabel Walls indicated that building on the initial success of collaborating with IAFP, IRAC has been working with the local IAFP chapter to co-sponsor a symposium in September. IRAC also plans to co-sponsor another symposium proposal for IAFP 2013 annual meeting. IRAC members suggested and discussed several ideas for topics for the 2013 IAFP symposium proposal.

Joint Meeting with Capital Area Food Protection Association

Isabel Walls indicated that IRAC and the CAFPA would hold a joint meeting September 27, and co-sponsor a symposium “The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium's Role in Federal

Government Risk Assessment and Related Activities.” The agenda (see appendix below) was developed by IRAC with CAFPA input through several meetings/conference calls.

White paper on Various Approaches for Assessing Risk

Kerry Dearfield indicated that the IRAC workgroup has revised version 2 of the draft white paper based on comments and suggestions received since the summer IRAC meeting. The key message of the paper remains, that is various approaches (qualitative or quantitative) can be useful and may be adequate to inform decisions depending on the risk management questions. The workgroup anticipates having version 3 completed and plans to circulate the draft to IRAC members for review by the end of December.

Table 1. Attendance (* participated by phone)

Caroline Toffoli	DOD OSD
Derron Alves	DOD VSA
Gregg Claycamp *	FDA CVM
Isabel Walls	USDA NIFA
Karin Hoelzer*	FDA CFSAN
Kevin Garrahan	EPA
Mark Powell*	USDA ORACBA
Mike Broder	EPA
Patty Bennett	USDA FSIS
Phil Yaeger *	FDA CTP
Sandra Hoffmann	USDA ERS
Sarah Edwards	USDA FSIS
Sarah Taft	EPA
Sharon Edelson-Mammel*	FDA CFSAN
Sherri Dennis	FDA CFSAN
Stephanie Mickelson	USDA FNS
Wen Zhou*	FDA NCTR
Yuhuan Chen	FDA CFSAN

Appendix:

Joint CAFPA/IRAC Symposium

**The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium's Role in
Federal Government Risk Assessment and Related Activities**

FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Wiley Building Auditorium
5100 Paint Branch Parkway College Park, Maryland 20740
College Park, MD

Agenda

September 27, 2012; 8.30 – 12.00

- 8.30 – 8.45 Overview of the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC)
Isabel Walls, USDA NIFA
- 8.45 – 9.15 IRAC work on *L. monocytogenes*
Karin Hoelzer, FDA CFSAN
- 9.15 – 9.45 Clarification of the Various Approaches for Assessing Risk
Kerry Dearfield, USDA FSIS
- 9.45 – 10.00 Break
- 10.00 – 10.30 Chemical Hazard Assessment at FDA
Allen Rudman, FDA CFSAN
- 10.30 – 11.00 Dietary exposure assessment activities at EPA OPP
Aaron Niman, EPA
- 11.00 – 11.30 Chemical Contaminants and Allergens: NIFA Funded Projects, Priorities and
Statistics.
Jodi Williams, USDA NIFA
- 11.30 -12.00 The Challenge of Communicating Food Safety Risks to Schools
Stephanie Mickelson, USDA FNS