

**Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium
Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Plan**

Letter from the IRAC Policy Council

We are pleased to release the FY 2018 Annual Plan of the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC). This Annual Plan outlines the ways IRAC will achieve its strategic goals over the next fiscal year. This Plan is aligned with the overarching goals outlined in the [2011 IRAC Charter](#) to strengthen cross-agency coordination and information sharing and advance the conduct and application of food safety risk assessment,

In this Annual Plan, we are holding ourselves accountable to both new and continuing results, actions, and measures designed to ensure we accomplish cross-agency goals. As an operational guide, the Annual Plan tracks our performance in enhancing coordination and information-sharing in risk analysis among federal agencies with responsibilities and interests in food safety. It outlines specific actions and measures that we aim to achieve in FY 2018.

In the coming year, we will continue to make changes to further enhance the governance and operations of the IRAC, strengthen outreach and engagement of federal partners, and explore opportunities to modernize food safety risk assessment, through advances in science and simulation modeling. In FY2018, IRAC will launch an updated website that includes federally-developed tools and model to facilitate the assessment of food safety risks from chemical and microbiological hazards. The public availability of reproducible risk assessment models and related tools are anticipated to support advancements in simulation modeling, research, and public and private decision-making to effectively mitigate food safety risks. Our focus on advancing the use of risk assessment among federal agencies and stakeholders informs this year's planning and operational strategy.

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC), established in response to Executive Order 13100 and re-chartered in 2011¹, is a network of federal agencies with responsibilities and interests in the conduct and use of food safety risk assessment. IRAC provides a forum to support cross-agency information exchange and sharing of data, tools, and models to facilitate efficient use of federal resources and drive innovation in food safety risk assessment.

OVERALL GOAL: Advance the conduct and application of food safety risk assessment across the federal government by enhancing the IRAC governance and operations, strengthening outreach and engagement of federal partners, and facilitating cross-agency communication, data and tool sharing, and making reproducible risk assessment model available to federal partners and the public.

OBJECTIVE 1. Enhanced Governance and Operation of the IRAC

- Strategic Planning
 - Establish and disseminate FY2018 Annual Plan (Technical Committee, Policy Council) (October 2017))
- IRAC Governance and Roles of IRAC Representatives
 - Establish annual quarterly meeting schedule for FY2018 (October 2017)
 - Issue memorandum to clarify the role of the Policy Council representatives to enhance governance of the IRAC (March 2018)

OBJECTIVE 2. Strengthen Outreach and Engagement of New and Existing Federal Agencies

- Outreach/Engagement
 - Workshop showcasing innovation in risk analytics, models, and tools to advance food safety risk analysis (November 2017)
 - Deploy updated IRAC website to reflect focus on risk information & tool sharing (December 2017)
 - Engage one or more federal agencies with interest and responsibilities related to food safety to become signatory members of the IRAC (August 2018)
 - Recognize IRAC member agencies and accomplishments (e.g., recognize new members, modernization of IRAC, and outcomes of enhanced coordination of federal agencies)

OBJECTIVE 3. Facilitate Information Exchange and Sharing Tools, Data, and Models

- Develop an interagency IRAC Action Plan to facilitate application of whole genome sequence data to advances food safety risk assessment² (December 2017)
- Roundtable on federal approaches and use of “Dietary Exposure Assessment” (March 2018)
- Share 10 or more data sets, models, and related tools developed by federal agencies on Foodrisk.org (August 2018)

¹ 2011 IRAC Charter available at: <http://foodrisk.org/irac/charter>

² Based on the findings of the FY2017 IRAC Work Group exploring the “Implications of Whole Genome Sequencing on Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment and Decision-Making” through a review of the current scientific literature, discussions with national and international experts (webinars), and 1-day workshop on the practical application of WGS to assessing food safety risks (FDA-CFSAN Wiley Building, College Park, MD, September 27, 2017).