



## **Technical Representatives Quarterly Meeting**

### **Minutes**

April 2, 2015

FDA/CFSAN Wiley Building, Silver Spring, MD

**Welcome and Introduction:** The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its 2015 spring quarterly meeting of the Technical Committee April 2, 2015. The meeting was hosted by the FDA Center for Food Safety and Nutrition (CFSAN) in College Park, Maryland. 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.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Clare Narrod and Kyle McKillop of the Joint Center for Food Safety and Nutrition at the U. of Maryland gave presentations. Clare presented on JFSAN’s risk analysis teaching program and focused on its contribution to building capacity to use and conduct food safety related risk analysis in the U.S. and abroad. Kyle McKillop presented on efforts to improve FoodRisk.org including addition of:

- Produce Point of Origin Database. Searchable database that provides selected commodity-specific information on movement of produce in the US. Compiled from AMS Market Reports. Improves useability of AMS reports. Used in produce outbreak investigations. Can choose a location, country, year and month. Has data on imports and on interstate movement of produce. Exportable in Excel format. Can link to “Positive Findings for Pathogens in Produce” database from CDC (reported verified findings from labs).
- What We Eat in America – Food Commodity Intake Database (Currently 2003-2008) developed in collaboration with EPA OPP. Uses a recipe database (EPA modification of ARS recipe database). Will provide estimates of things like, how much beef does an average person in the U.S. consume in a year? Adding functionality to supplement/replace parts of EPA’s Exposure Factors Handbook.
- FDA iRisk Webinar on iRisk is now on YouTube.
- ICRA (with RIVM in the Netherlands) Interactive online Catalog of Risk Assessment. Used to compare model components. Gives you a side-by-side comparison of risk assessment models. Data is entered by user, but it moderated by RIVM

Future plans include adding:

NoroDB Norovirus literature database.

Analyses supporting rulemaking (target audience is analysts in other countries):

- Risk assessments
- Economic analysis
- Rules

Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnership (ATIP) Branded Food Products Database for Public Health

Industry will provide data (GS1 (UPC code provider), ILSI, USDA/ARS,

- People would be able to take a barcode and get a complete nutrition profile

The Presentation period closed with a discussion about planned revisions to the FoodRisk.org website.

It was decided that we should have a listening session on the direction and purpose of FoodRisk.org at the next IRAC meeting.

- JFSAN and IRAC leadership will prepare a set of questions for people to think about prior to the next IRAC meeting
- The June IRAC meeting will include substantial time for discussion on FoodRisk.org revision

### **Work Group Updates:**

**Risk Communication:** Improving Internal Processes Work Group (Rachael Johnson (chair), Michelle Catlin (FSIS)) provided a final report on activities – in the form of a presentation by Susan. The work group looked at risk assessment processes across agencies. It focused on the question of how risk communication can be better woven into the risk assessment process and identified practices and challenges that were common to all agencies. It developed a Communications Concept Map to help risk assessors, risk managers and risk communications to address the challenges with risk communication related to agency risk assessments

Major concerns: communication is both external and internal. Often it is thought of only in terms of external audience, but internal communication is also quite critical. For internal communication there is a balance to be struck between making certain risk assessments meet management needs without management affecting the substantive results.

A presentation was also given in December 2014 at the Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. This presentation closes out the activities of the work group. IRAC members suggested that the Work Group consider further ways to disseminate the materials developed in the presentation. Suggestions included posting the slides or the Communications Concept Map plus a 1 page summary on FoodRisk.org and preparing a short “Perspectives” essay for a journal like *Risk Analysis*.

**Cummulative and Aggregative Risk Workshop.** Susan Burgin led a discussion focused on what IRAC wants out of the workshop. This is an internal effort focused on professional development and identification of research needs. There was consensus around having a series of internal professional

education webinars prior to holding a workshop to help assure that participants come to the workshop with similar grounding. This model was used effectively with the work group on synergies between epidemiology and risk assessment in foodborne illness source attribution.

**Dietary Consumption Work Group.** Alex Domesle reported on the activities of this FY 2014 work group. The work group's deliverable was a list of questions to explore further. Alex is moving to EPA Office of Pest Management. Members were asked if anyone would be interested in assuming the lead on this work group.

**Food Access, Nutrition and Foodborne Illness Work Group** (Janell Kause reporting). After a hiatus resulting from Janell Kause's being on an extended detail, the Work Group is being reactivated. Isabel Walls will co-lead future work with Janell. The Work Group plans on holding a workshop rather than developing a manuscript. The focus of the Work Group has changed slightly toward looking at the impact of diet on gut health. This involves the emerging area of epigenetics which examines the impact of environment on genes in developing fetus. A goal for the workshop is to bring nutrition community and the food safety community together for discussion.

Compiled by: Sandra Hoffmann, IRAC Executive Secretary. USDA Economic Research Service

### IRAC April 2, 2015 Quarterly Meeting

Last Name	First Name	Agency	Attended
Alves	Derron	DOD VSA	X
Burgin	Deborah	ATDR	X
Calvey	Beth	FDA CFSAN	X
Catlin	Michelle	USDA FSIS	X
Chen	Yuhuan	FDA CFSAN	X
Claycamp	Gregg	FDA CVM	X
Dennis	Sherri	FDA CFSAN	X
Domesle	Alexander	USDA FSIS	X
Hall	Wendy	USDA APHIS	X
Hanfelt	Margery	DOD USARMY OTSG	X
Hoffmann	Sandra	USDA ERS	X
Kause	Janell	USDA FSIS	X
Pappas	Chris	USDA AMS PDP	x
Powell	Mark	USDA ORACBA	X
Prescod	Lindsay	USDA, FSIS	x
Reddy	Shanker	USDA AMS	X
Spungen	Judy	FDA CVM	X
Van Doren	Jane	FDA CFSAN	X
Walls	Isabel	USDA NIFA	X