



## **Technical Representatives Quarterly Meeting**

**June 25, 2015**

FDA/CFSAN Wiley Building, Silver Spring, MD

**Welcome and Introductions:** The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its 2015 summer quarterly meeting of the Technical Committee and Policy Council June 25, 2015. The meeting was hosted by FDA/CFSAN in College Park, MD. Technical and policy representatives and guests from various agencies (Table 1) participated on site or by phone.

**IRAC Status Review:** Two additional USDA offices are interested in joining IRAC: USDA, Office of Pest Management Policy (Sheryl Kunickis, Director) and USDA, Office of Chief Scientist (Bob Gravani and Kim Green). Both explained their role in coordinating with other federal agencies. They were given copies of the charter to review and sign if they decide to join.

Members decided that IRAC communications would be sent to Technical Representatives, Policy Representatives, Policy Council Co-Chairs, and past chairs. The Technical Representatives are responsible for sharing information appropriately in their agency. Presentations can be attended by any federal employee. IRAC business meetings are open to Technical Representatives, Policy Representatives, Policy Council Co-Chairs, and past chairs.

**"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:**

Mark Powell (USDA ORACBA) gave a presentation entitled: "Trends in Reported Foodborne Illness in the United States".

Kis Robertson (USDA, FSIS, OPHS) gave a presentation entitled: "FSIS Coordination of the Hazard Identification Team".

## Work Group Reports:

*Food Access, Nutrition, and Risk of Foodborne Illness Working Group.* Janell Kause reported on workgroup activities. The Workgroup will develop a workshop highlighting the interplay of acute food safety risks (e.g., listeriosis) as a result of underlying medical, immunological or metabolic conditions (e.g., diabetes) stemming from diet and nutrition and how individual nutrition is a function of socioeconomics, including food access and security. The Workgroup is seeking representation from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is dependent upon having a new IRAC representative from NIH. The Workgroup has begun developing a draft agenda for a workshop to be held in Fall or Winter 2016. The Workgroup is also planning a panel at the 2016 IAFP meeting. The workgroup is co-led by Janell Kause (USDA-FSIS) and Isabel Walls (USDA-National Institute for Food and Agriculture) and includes representatives from USDA's Economic Research Service (Sandra Hoffmann), Agricultural Research Service (Alanna Moshfegh), Office of the Chief Scientist (Robert Gravani), and Food Nutrition Service (Brenda Halbrook) and the Department of Health and Human Service's Food and Drug Administration (Sherri Dennis) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Marguerite Pappaioanou).

*Cumulative and Aggregate Risk Assessment Work Group.* Deborah Bergen reported and is chairing this workgroup. The Work group is planning a Workshop on Cumulative and Aggregate Risk Assessment. There will be a series of tutorials leading up to the workshop. These are planned to include an initial tutorial followed by a survey to help identify additional tutorial topics. The purpose of the tutorials and workshop are to provide a professional development opportunity for attendees and a forum for identifying research needs.

## Planning Activities:

Discussion of FoodRisk.org.

- There were technical problems with the Survey Monkey survey set up to gather opinions on future directions for FoodRisk.org. A new version of the survey will be sent to Technical and Policy Representatives.
- Leadership is working on updating the IRAC portion of the FoodRisk.org website.

IRAC Quarterly Meetings.

It would be beneficial to have broader participation across IRAC agencies in planning talks for the IRAC quarterly meetings. Jane Van Doren suggested that we form a planning committee to plan talks further in advance so over time we capture the breath of interests of members over time.

The membership decided that the secretary would send out a request for all representatives to propose talks. She will develop a format for doing this including abstract, time needed, speaker, authors, whether it would be OK to share a pdf of the talk PowerPoint with IRAC, and whether it is alright to post a pdf of the PowerPoint t on FoodRisk.org.

Discussion around this suggested that presentations explaining the function of the member agencies could be quite useful and that there should be flexibility in the length of presentation (20 minutes to 1 hour). It was noted that IRAC provides a great setting for vetting, for getting feedback, for highlighting new developments.

#### Promoting IRAC participation in Academic Meetings:

There was a discussion of how to organize and promote IRAC symposia for national academic meetings.

There was a discussion about representatives' primary professional organizations. Representatives were asked to send Jane or Sandy names of organizations, deadlines for annual meeting presentation proposals to be shared with the larger IRAC membership.

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

