



Technical and Policy Representatives Quarterly Meeting

September 24, 2015

FDA/CFSAN Wiley Building, Silver Spring, MD

Welcome and Introduction: The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its 2015 fall quarterly meeting of the Technical Committee and annual meeting of the Policy council September 24, 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:

Janell.Kause introduced and welcomed five new IRAC signatory agencies that have joined since June 2015:

1 – USDA’s Office of the Chief Scientist

- Signatory: Dr. Catherine Woteki, Chief Scientist & Under Secretary for USDA’s Research, Education and Economics mission area
- IRAC Policy Representative: Ms. Kim Green, Director, Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), USDA
- IRAC Technical Representative: Dr. Robert Gravani, Senior Advisor for Food Safety, OCS, USDA

2 – USDA’s Office of Pesticide Management Policy

- Signatory: Dr. Sheryl Kunickis, Director of USDA’s Office of Pesticide Management Policy (OPMP)
- IRAC Policy & Technical Representative: Mr. Alexander Domesle, Regulatory Risk Analyst, OPMP

3 – USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service

- Signatory: Ms. Anne Alonzo, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service
- IRAC Policy Representative: Dr. Diana Haynes, Director, Science & Technology, AMS, USDA.

- IRAC Technical Representative: Dr. Shanker Reddy, Senior Interdisciplinary Scientist, Science & Technology, AMS, USDA

4 – USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service

- Signatory: Ms. Diane Kriviski, Deputy Administrator, Special Nutrition and Safety Programs, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- IRAC Policy & Technical Representative: Ms. Brenda Halbrook, Director, Office of Food Safety, Special Nutrition Programs, FNS, USDA

5 – National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- Signatory: Mr. Alan Risenhoover, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA
- IRAC Policy & Technical Representative: Dr. Jon Bell, Director of the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory, NOAA

Ms. Kause also introduced new IRAC agency representatives:

Dr. Scott Shimmin who replaced Dr. Dale Hawkins as USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service IRAC policy representative.

Dr. Omar Dary, Health Science (Nutrition) Specialist, Bureau for Global Health, U.S .Agency for International Development (USAID), will serve as a new IRAC Technical Representative

Dr. John Bowman, Senior Agricultural Advisor, Bureau for Food Security, USAID, will serve as a new IRAC Policy Representative

Dr. Rufino Perez, Food Technologist, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, USAID, will serve as a new IRAC Technical Representative

Presentations:

Presentations by Signatory Agencies: Presentations were given by several new IRAC signatory agencies whose representatives spoke about their agency’s role in food safety.

Dr. Diana Haynes, Director of Science & Technology at USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, gave a presentation on “USDA’s Pesticide Data Program”

Dr. Bob Gravani, Senior Advisor for Food Safety at USDA’s Office of the Chief Scientist gave the following presentation: “USDA Science Informs Policy: USDA Office of the Chief Scientist”

Dr. Jon Bell, Director of the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory gave an overview of the mission of his organization and role in food safety risk assessment. Mr. Alexander Domesle, Regulatory Risk Analyst with USDA’s Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) provided an overview of OPMP: “Introduction to the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)”

IRAC Quarterly Meeting Presentation: Dr. Lyle Canida (FDA-CFSAN) gave a presentation: “Identifying Emerging Chemical Hazards”. The presentation focused on new data and text-mining tools that are being developed to support the identification of new and emerging chemical hazards in foods regulated by FDA.

WorkGroup Updates:

Food Access, Nutrition, and Risk of Foodborne Illness Working Group.

Janell Kause and Isabel Walls reported. A Workshop is planned for Spring 2016. The workshop will address three issues: 1) Socioeconomics and Diet; 2) the Microbiome, Diet and Susceptibility; 3) Susceptibility and Foodborne Illness. Work Group Members include: Janell Kause (USDA-FSIS; co-lead), Isabel Walls (USDA-NIFA; co-lead), Sherri Dennis (FDA-CFSAN), Sandra Hofmann (USDA-ERS), Alanna Moshfegh (USDA-ARS), Brenda Halbrook (USDA-FNS), Bob Gravani (USDA-OCS), Michelle Catlin (USDA-FSIS), Jane VanDoren (FDA-CFSAN), Marguerite Pappaioanou (CDC)

Exposure Work Group.

Judy Spungen (FDA-CFSAN) reported. This work group has come to a point to close out old work and has interested in starting new work. Judy Spungen (FDA-CFSAN) will develop a proposal for the new work.

Planning Activities and Administrative Matters:

June meeting minutes were approved without further revision

An announcement was made that the one-year term of the Chair and Executive Secretary is ending and that, under the IRAC by-laws, the IRAC Executive Secretary will become the Chair. Dr. Jan Van Doren will step down as the IRAC Chair with Dr. Sandra Hoffmann taking over this role. The IRAC will be seeking nomination for a new IRAC Executive Secretary and will send out a request to all IRAC representatives.

Upcoming IRAC quarterly meetings have been scheduled for:

December 15, 2015 at FDA/CFSAN (Wiley Building, College, Park, MD). A presentation will be given by Dr. Clare Narrod, Research Scientist and Manager for the Risk Analysis Program at the University of Maryland, Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, on updates to Foodrisk.org based on IRAC input. A second presentation will be given by Mr. David Schmidt, President and CEO of the International Food Information Council (IFIC) & Foundation on consumer perception and relationship to food safety.

March 31, 2016 hosted by EPA (per Dr. David Miller, EPA-OPP).

June 23, 2016 hosted by USDA-FSIS (per Ms. Janell Kause).

September 15, 2016 (host TBD).

IRAC Workshops & Symposia at Scientific Meetings

International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). Symposia proposals are due October 6, 2015. Dr. Yuhuan Chen is interested in organizing a session proposal for IAFP.

SRA: Call for abstract proposals are due in Spring 2016. Ms. Janell Kause is planning two proposals: "Risk Analysis 2.0 – Modernized Approaches for Food Safety Decision-Making" and "Stakeholder Engagement, Collaboration, and Public-Private Partnerships".

Discussion of 2016 Activities Strategic Planning: Goals, Objectives, and Logistics

1. Training

Webinars Cumulative and Aggregative Risk Webinar series (Deborah Burgin). There was a discussion of planning for a workshop on cumulative and aggregative risk assessment. There is continued interest in this topic. The consensus of the discussion was that it would be useful to have a workshop to discuss differences in agencies approaches to handling cumulative and aggregative risk. There also was consensus that there was a need for training prior to the workshop so people understood different ways these concepts are being used. The Working Group has organized a series of webinars to meet this training need. The webinars can be viewed online at people's convenience and the Working Group is also organizing viewings followed by a questions and answers session with an expert in the area. The workshop will be scheduled to take place after the webinar meetings have been completed.

IRAC members plan to identify other types of training of interest to representatives. Past trainings have included how to utilize FDA-iRisk for ranking-ranking, facilitated by the University of Maryland's Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN).

Communication & Outreach

Foodrisk.org (Data Sharing & Tools). There was a discussion of the results from a survey of IRAC representatives about the FoodRisk.org website. Revisions will be settled on and recommendations provided to JIFSAN after the December IRAC meeting. Broad comments included, the website should not focus narrowly on federal government needs, but rather be a resources for professional interested in food safety related risk analysis. There was also some discussion that JIFSAN's module on the regulatory process with several IRAC representatives noting that JIFSAN should utilize existing training material. Dr. Mark Powell (USDA-ORACE) provided the following web link:

https://www.federalregister.gov/uploads/2011/01/the_rulemaking_process.pdf

Where possible, e.g., on calendar of events or in providing information administrative law processes, links to outside sites should be provided rather than trying to create and maintain new content. That is, the website should serve as a clearing house for food safety scientists and analysts in and outside government.

Meeting was adjourned at 3PM

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

Attendees IRAC September 24, 2015 Quarterly Meeting

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Bartholomew	Mary	FDA/CVM
Bell	Jon	NOOA/NIMFS
Bluhm	Louis	USDA/FSIS
Broder	Mike	EPA/ORD (EPA/OSA)
Canida	Lyle	FDA/CFSAN
Catlin	Michelle	USDA/FSIS)
Chen	James	FDA/NCTR)
Chen	Yuhuan	FDA/CFSAN
Claycamp	Gregg	FDA/CVM)
Dary	Omar	USAID
Dennis	Sherri	FDA/CFSAN
Haynes	Diana	USDA-AMS
Domesle	Alexander	USDA/OPMP
Duverna	Randolph	USDA FSIS
Gravani	Robert	USDA/OCS
Hoffmann	Sandra	USDA/ERS
Kause	Janell	USDA/FSIS
Miller	David	EPA/OPP
Powell	Mark	USDA/OCE/ORACBA
Reddy	Shanker	USDA/AMS
Robertson	Kis	USDA/FSIS
Ruple	Angela	NOOA/NIMFS
Shimmin	Scott	USDA/NASS
Spungen	Judith	FDA/CFSAN
Van Doren	Jane	FDA/CFSAN
Walls	Isabel	USDA/NIFA
Wang-Cahill	Fan	
Ward	Lindsay	USDA/FSIS
Weil	Roxana	FDA/CTP
Yeager	Phil	FDA/CTP
Shamima	Akhter	EPA
Bohm	Shirley	FDA