



## **Technical Representatives and Policy Council Quarterly Meeting**

June 23, 2016; *Meeting Minutes*

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) held its June 2016 quarterly meeting of the Technical Committee and Policy Council on June 23, 2016. The meeting was hosted by USDA/APHIS in Riverdale, MD. Technical and policy representatives participated in person and by phone (Table 1).

### **Main Presentation**

#### **Animal Feed Safety System Risk Ranking Model**

Phares Okelo, Division of Animal Feeds, Mary Bartholomew, Science Policy Team, Office of Surveillance and Compliance; FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine.

The Animal Feed Safety System Risk Ranking Model concept was developed as means to provide a tool to inform the resource allocation process for the Division of Animal Feeds at the Center. We will present our model which we consider to be in draft form, having worked through several example exercises using chemical hazards and considering health consequences for three species of food-producing animals. In the future, it is intended that the model will be expanded to include biological hazards to animals and health consequences to humans consuming food from animals who have been exposed to hazards in animal food.

### **“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.

### **Work Group Updates**

Judi Spungen, FDA CFSAN, provided an update on the **IRAC Dietary Exposure Assessment Working Group**:

- The current working group has met three times. Each time, a different agency has given a presentation on agency approaches to dietary exposure assessment:
  - February: CFSAN-OAO
  - March: USDA-FSIS
  - April: CVM
- The next meeting will be held on June 28, when CFSAN-OFAS and EPA-OPP will give presentations on exposure assessment at their agencies.
- Work on the dietary exposure assessment white paper is underway. Currently, each agency is working to prepare a draft section on agency approaches to exposure assessment. Hopefully, those sections will be submitted in the next few weeks. The next step will be to combine the different agency sections into one document.

Janell Kause, USDA FSIS, provided an update on the **IRAC Food Access, Nutrition, and Risk of Foodborne Illness Workgroup**:

The IRAC Workgroup on Food Access, Nutrition, and Food Safety Risk held a 1-day, invitation-only workshop on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Jamie Whitten Building. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for Federal Agencies to discuss the interrelationships among food access, nutrition, and the risk of foodborne illness, based on current studies and the emerging science of the microbiome. Over 57 participants represented USDA agencies, Department of Health and Human Services agencies, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and included scientists, policy makers, researchers and educators. Three broad areas were addressed:

- **Relationships among Socioeconomic Status, Nutrition, and Susceptibility to Foodborne Illness:** This session explored national and international studies on lower socioeconomic status, the link to nutrition and risk of infection from foodborne pathogens
- **Emerging Science: Microbiome – a Link between Nutrition and Health:** This session explored the role that diet, including pre- and probiotics, plays in influencing the microbiome, and the subsequent impact on obesity, chronic diseases and foodborne diseases
- **Use of Food-Nutrition and Food-Safety Information – Opportunities in Community Outreach:** This session addressed current efforts to better understand and address complex challenges of improving the health of underserved communities through federal programs. This session also addressed the current data and information needed to better target federal public health resources to improve community health.

**Key findings from the workshop include:**

- Improving our understanding of the microbiome and nutritional biomarkers will be important to elucidate the relationships among nutrition status, food safety and health
- Better data are needed on the relationship between socioeconomic status and food safety to make meaningful conclusions to improve health
- We need to communicate nutrition and food safety messages more effectively with the public, to achieve desired behavior changes
- Greater collaboration among USDA, HHS and USAID will help improve public health
- Future research should integrate the individual, environmental, community, and policy levels of public health to maximize outcomes

Several agencies have requested that there be an annual IRAC workshop with participants to monitor progress on interagency collaboration on these topics, discuss future directions, and identify evolving opportunities for further research and collaboration.

Attached is the workshop agenda, participant list, and summary. These will be posted along with presentation on the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition-managed IRAC website (<http://foodrisk.org/irac/>).



IRAC Workshop  
Final Agenda\_Food



IRAC Workshop  
Final Participant List



IRAC Workshop  
Summary\_Food Acce

## **Discussion of 2016 Activities**

IRAC representatives discussed the creation of an FY17 IRAC Annual Strategic Plan. All representatives should think about ideas, initiatives, activities and events for next year. Suggestions can be submitted to Alex Domesle and Sandy Hoffmann, or can be brought to the next meeting in September. At that meeting, the plan will be discussed further.

Representatives should also submit any proposals for new IRAC workgroups.

Wendy Hall, USDA APHIS, expressed interest in an IRAC brochure that could be used to advertise IRAC within the Federal Government. An IRAC brochure currently exists, but it may need to be updated for a Federal Government audience. The current brochure will be sent around and feedback is requested on how to make it as useful as possible.

September 15, 2016 will be the next IRAC Quarterly Meeting.

**Table 1. Attendance**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Akhter	Shamima	EPA OW
Bartholomew	Mary	HHS FDA CVM
Bayha	Keith	DHS S&T
Dennis	Sherri	HHS FDA CFSAN
Domesle	Alexander	USDA OPMP
Garcia	Kristin	USDA FNS
Hall	Wendy	USDA APHIS
Hearl	Frank	HHS CDC NIOSH
Hoffmann	Sandy	USDA ERS
Kause	Janell	USDA FSIS
Miller	David	EPA OPP
Muñiz Ortiz	Jorge	USDA FSIS
Okelo	Phares	HHS FDA CVM
Pappaioanou	Marguerite	HHS CDC
Payne	Tamika	USDA FSIS
Powell	Mark	USDA ORACBA
Rogers	Jim	USDA OCS
Smith	Donald	DOD
Spungen	Judi	HHS FDA CFSAN
Weil	Roxana	HHS FDA CTP
Yeager	Phil	HHS FDA CTP