COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION OF GLOBAL RISK ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

With limited resources to keep up with a high demand for risk assessment products, it is critical that existing information is rapidly available and that risk assessments collaborate during the risk assessment process. Several global risk assessment tools are available to address these issues. First, the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) is a collaboration of organizations committed to supporting public health by working together on projects to improve the process, efficiency, and quality of risk assessment. Second, the International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (ITER) is a free Internet database of chronic human health risk assessment data from organizations around the world for 600+ chemicals. ITER is available in English, German, and at the National Library of Medicine’s TOXNET system (http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/).

CHEMICAL RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESSES STRUGGLE TO KEEP UP WITH CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS AND USE.

Finally, the Risk Information Exchange (RIEx) is a free Internet database that contains restrictions about a variety of human health risk assessment practices that are contradictory or outdated. RIEx is available at http://www.allianceforrisk.org/RIEx.html and will join ITER on TOXNET. ITER and RIEx provide risk assessment tools for early identifying and comparing available human health risk data for ranking or progress risk assessments and, for enhancing interactions among risk assessment groups to design, develop, and use risk assessment processes to support the mission of the ARA and ITER by tracking up-to-date information on risk assessment activities.

ARA ALLIANCE FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

The Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) is a collaborative effort of organizations dedicated to supporting public health by working together on projects to improve the process, efficiency, and quality of risk assessment. The ARA was formed by a group of leading organizations dedicated to ensuring collective capacity for toxicology research, and advancing the harmonization of the risk assessment process (www.allianceforrisk.org).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

• Promote science-based risk assessment to protect human health
• Enhance harmonization and comparability of risk assessment through open access, multi-stakeholder approaches
• Facilitate access to groups of risk assessment experts, organizations, agencies, and stakeholders
• Share costs, information, and data (Co-operative purchases and the establishment to secure the capacity and quality of risk data)

BENEFITS OF THE ALLIANCE MODEL

CREDIBILITY

Focus on the public sector (e.g., funding, grants, contracts, etc.)

LEADING ORGANIZATIONS

• International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (ITER)
• Risk Information Exchange (RIEx)

EXPOSURE

The risk managers for the international risk assessment community

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• Environmental Protection Agency
• Food and Drug Administration
• Health Canada
• National Library of Medicine
• National Toxicology Program

CONCLUSION

With a growing pool of manmade chemicals and limited resources, responsible public health protection requires the risk assessment community agrees to ensure risk assessment information and collaboration during the risk assessment process to reduce duplication effort. The ITER database (www.iter-tox.net) provides risk assessment users access to peer-reviewed chronic human health risk assessment tools from a variety of organizations worldwide. The RIEx database (www.riskinformationexchange.org) offers a website and the activities of participating organizations, providing a significant tool in the progress of human health risk assessment work to protect public health.