Where the rubber meets the road: A practical methods compendium for risk assessors
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ABSTRACT
The Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) just released a new document entitled the ‘Practical Methods Compendium for Risk Assessors’ which was developed by aMethods Development Team. The ARA Methods Development Team (MDT) was formed to develop a ‘road map’ for practical methods for the non-health and health effects risk assessment community. This group of experienced risk assessors has identified a number of risk assessment methods that have been demonstrated to be effective at the end of the day, and also have the merit of being currently available in draft form.

WORKSHOP GOALS
General Workshop Objectives:
- To develop the content of the ARA 2006 report on identifying and selecting methods for risk assessment.
- To identify the need for specific tools and techniques to support the risk assessment process.
- To develop a roadmap for risk assessment with the potential to support the development of methods that are currently available.

Specific Workshop Objectives:
- Identify and develop methods for specific risk areas.
- Identify the potential for new methods.
- Identify the potential for method development.
- Develop a roadmap for risk assessment with the potential to support the development of methods that are currently available.

SCIENCE PANEL
Michael Begun, LLCP, Food and Drug Administration - Michael Begun has served as a Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Agency for over 20 years. He has been involved in the development of methods for the assessment of human health effects, including the development of methods for the assessment of the risk of cancer from long-term exposure to environmental contaminants. He has also been involved in the development of methods for the assessment of the risk of cancer from long-term exposure to environmental contaminants.

Wayne Schilling, US Environmental Protection Agency - Wayne Schilling has served as a Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Agency for over 20 years. He has been involved in the development of methods for the assessment of human health effects, including the development of methods for the assessment of the risk of cancer from long-term exposure to environmental contaminants. He has also been involved in the development of methods for the assessment of the risk of cancer from long-term exposure to environmental contaminants.

CASE STUDY PROCESS
- Present encouraged engagement from case studies:
  - Prepare in advance or prior to the workshop.
  - Initial interest and review in teams external to the panel.
  - Presentation and discussion at workshop.
  - Additional case studies identified at second workshop.

METHODS REVIEW
- Panel members to provide input on the utility of the case study methods to advance specific problem formulations, and areas to address.
  - This workshop includes a focus on an evaluation of a subset of risk assessment methods.

COLLABORATORS
The ARA Methods Development Team consists of risk assessors from various organizations, including environmental, chemical, and health agencies. The team includes experts in risk assessment, including regulatory and non-regulatory, as well as experts in specific risk assessment techniques. The team is committed to developing methods that are currently available in draft form.

DOE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK
- ARA methods to be used for low-dose risk assessment. The framework includes:
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NEXT STEPS
- A standing group to be formed to bring this work to fruition. This will be updated with additional team members as necessary. The standing group includes:
  - The National Library of Medicine (NLM) is responsible for hosting the framework, and providing support.
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Workshop 4 will be held May 22-24 in Austin, TX, at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Registration is available at www.alarcticforrisk.org.