

Tools for Prioritizing Food Safety Concerns

Charge to Breakout Groups

The objectives of the Workshop are to develop recommendations on the following:

- Approaches or criteria useful for prioritizing potential risks of chemical and microbial contaminants in foods, as potential tools for resource allocation and decision-making.
- Next steps to advance the use of prioritization tools, including identification of critical knowledge gaps and research needs.

To accomplish these objectives, this Workshop brings together representatives of various organizations who are working on tools for risk screening, ranking, and prioritization to:

- Discuss approaches and methodologies for ranking and prioritizing health risks that are currently either in use or in development, and issues associated with their use.
- Develop recommendations for a process that could be used (by government, industry and stakeholders) to prioritize food safety risks associated with chemical and microbial contaminants in food.

Each of you has been specifically invited because of your particular technical expertise and experience in order that the group as a whole represents a range of relevant scientific subject areas (e.g., risk assessment, risk communication, risk management, microbiology, toxicology, dose-response modeling, exposure assessment, decision analysis) and affiliations (government, consumers, industry, academia). Breakout group assignments have been made so that each includes this diversity of disciplines and viewpoints as much as feasible. The Organizing Committee hopes that this diversity will promote lively and provocative discussions and creative, yet pragmatic, recommendations.

Each Breakout Group is asked to maintain a focus on the Workshop objectives during its deliberations, and to address these objectives in a report to the entire group in the Wednesday morning Plenary Session.

Each Breakout Group will have an assigned Facilitator and Rapporteur.

The Attachment contains a list of questions and 3 charts intended to stimulate and help organize Breakout Group discussions.