



June Insights

HESI 2017 Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

This year's annual meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland. Nearly 100 partners from around the globe attended the event. The **Science Forward** theme was evident throughout the meeting. The preliminary results of the Science Foresight exercise, exciting new scientific developments in mathematical modeling, large-scale healthcare data analysis, CRISPR technology, and synthetic biology provided compelling looks at hot new arenas. HESI's scientific portfolio was featured prominently, with input from many of our expert scientific committee leaders describing completed and pending research. A concluding panel of senior directors from a range of national and international scientific foundations and agencies shared novel insights on the practice of "Science Without Borders." Check our [website](#) for presentations and more details!



HESI 2017 Emerging Issues Prioritization Survey Now Open!

The [Emerging Issues \(EI\) Proposal Solicitation Process](#) is HESI's longest-standing project recruitment and adoption process. The EI Committee, comprising representatives from both the public and private sectors, recently reviewed the 2017 proposals and selected two, which were presented at the June 2017 HESI Annual Meeting. We now invite all HESI stakeholders to submit a survey to help us prioritize the two topics below:

1. Improving fate and ecotoxicity assessment tools to advance the ecological risk assessment of difficult to test multi-component substances

2. Development and application of a generic tool for performing ecological risk assessments of multiple stressors

Presentations from the meeting and full proposals are available for [review online](#). [Submit your survey](#) by **7 July 2017!** Questions? Contact Jennifer Pierson (jpierson@hesiglobal.org).

HESI COMPARE Database Process Development: New Web Content Now Available!

HESI is pleased to make available a description of the [process development](#) for the Comprehensive Protein Allergen Resource, or COMPARE database. Authored by public and private-sector scientists from the COMPARE steering team, this section of the website transparently documents the novelty, objectives, and development of the COMPARE approach during a year-long public-private collaboration of scientists with a shared interest in developing a tool of excellence for the assessment of potential protein allergenicity, in the context of safety evaluation of novel food and the feed proteins. The steering team used cutting-edge, high-throughput, automated sequence sorting algorithms to screen the exponentially growing number of new protein sequences being added annually to public repositories. Members included academic experts from the field of allergology, the agriculture industry, the US FDA, the US EPA, and the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), a joint venture between the US FDA and University of Maryland.

The 2017 process included the development of a validated automated sorting algorithm tool with keyword filtering, combined with a review of the literature associated with the identified sequences. An independent peer-review panel of allergy experts exclusively from the public sector decided on the final content of the database. The complete steps of the entire process and filtering algorithm are documented transparently on the website, and the database will be updated annually through a peer-review process to provide information that may be useful in food safety evaluations.

To learn more, please visit www.comparedatabase.org.



The screenshot shows the COMPARE Database website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT, DATABASE, PROCESS DEVELOPMENT, TIMELINE, FAQ, and CONTACT US. Below the menu is a large image of a green seedling with the text "Process Development" overlaid. Underneath the image is a list of expandable menu items:

- Why an allergen database?
- How the database is used for safety
- Who will use the database?
- Benefits offered by COMPARE
- PKT searches and automatic screening filter development
- Peer review of candidate entries
- Construction of the 2017 COMPARE database
- Maintenance and updates of the COMPARE database
- Future plans for the COMPARE database

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Welcome to New HESI Members

HESI formally welcomes our newest members who joined in 2017: Abcam Inc., Alpha MED Scientific Inc., Angus Chemical Company, and Taconic Biosciences.

Upcoming Events

ITC Webinar

The Immunotoxicology Technical Committee (ITC) Clinical and Translational Immunotoxicology Working Group is hosting a webinar on "Checkpoint Immunotherapy: Good for Cancer Therapy, Bad for Rheumatic Diseases" on **28 June 2017** from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM (EST). For more information or to register, click [here](#) or contact Stan Parish (sparish@hesiglobal.org).

Congrats to HESI Staffer, Brianna Farr

Congratulations to HESI Scientific Program Associate, Brianna Farr, on her recent graduation from the Johns Hopkins University Master's Program in Environmental Sciences and Policy. Brianna has been with HESI for 4 years and supports the technical committees on Bioaccumulation of Chemicals, Sustainable Chemical Alternatives, RISK21, Animal Alternatives in Environmental Risk Assessment, and the COMPARE database. Congrats, Brianna!



HESI staff Brianna Farr (left) and Michelle Embry (right)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Science did indeed move **FORWARD** at our 2017 meeting in Dublin! We extend many thanks to all of our fantastic speakers, panelists, and participants for making this such a vibrant event. After 17 years (this month!) with the organization, I continue to be impressed with the diversity of ways that public-private collaborations can enrich scientific progress. Our new Science Foresight effort (available [here](#)) also kicked off many excellent discussions around future research, resource, and training needs to improve human and environmental health. I look forward to working with you to transition these discussions into exciting new initiatives at HESI.

Sybil Pettit, HESI Executive Director

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