



September Insights

RISK21 in China

Dr. Michelle Embry, HESI Associate Director, Environmental Science, recently returned from China where she, along with Dr. Douglas Wolf (RISK21 Science Advisory Board), led a 1.5-day hands-on training course on RISK21 in Hangzhou, organized by the China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA) and co-sponsored by RISK21 and the ILSI Focal Point in China. The course was attended by over 80 toxicologists and risk assessors representing 30 of the 31 provinces in China. The level of engagement was phenomenal, with extremely thoughtful and detailed questions and a high level of interest and enthusiasm for the RISK21 approach. CFSA organized simultaneous translation on-site, and the workshop attendees presented the results of their case study work in Mandarin, complete with full web-tool generated reports.

While in China, Michelle and Doug attended meetings with the Institute for the Control of Agrichemicals (ICAMA) (under the Ministry of Agriculture) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center (MEPSCC). The meetings allowed Michelle to introduce HESI and RISK21 to both agencies and to learn about some of their key challenges, with an eye toward how RISK21 might be useful to both groups. A summary of the visit at ICAMA is available (in Chinese) [here](#).

For more information about RISK21, visit the new website: <http://risk21.org/>.



(Left top and bottom) RISK21 training course in Hangzhou. (Top right) Meeting at MEPSCC. (Middle right) Meeting at ICAMA. (Bottom right) RISK21 training course in Hangzhou.

DART Committee at European Teratology Society

On Monday, **4 September 2017**, over 65 scientists met in Budapest, Hungary, for a satellite workshop to the European Teratology Society Meeting on “Interpreting Developmental Toxicity Data for Classification and Labeling,” organized and sponsored by the DART committee. Participants were presented with three case studies—boric acid, azoles, and phthalates—in which to consider best practices under the current hazard classification process. The plenary and panel discussion covered key elements of weight of evidence for a developmental toxicity assessment, including consistency of data, maternal toxicity, and mode of action. A workshop report is currently in progress and will include discussion highlights and additional recommendations. For questions in the interim, please contact Connie Chen (cchen@hesiglobal.org).



Workshop co-chair, George Daston (P&G), moderates the panel discussion in Budapest, Hungary.

Michelle Embry Appointed to Canadian Science Committee

Michelle Embry was recently appointed to Health Canada (HC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) Science Committee as a core member for a 3-year term. The committee was established by both departments, through HC’s Safe Environments Directorate. Its purpose is to contribute scientific expertise to issues pertaining to the CMP. Information about the CMP Science Committee can be found [here](#).



From the Executive Director

Visits to HESI Partners in Japan

Last week, I had the great privilege of spending time with many of HESI’s Japanese partner organizations around Tokyo and Osaka. In a period of 5 days, I met with dozens of scientists from 13 different organizations, including scientific societies, universities, nonprofits, government agencies, and business sector partners. We covered topics including food safety risk assessment, drug safety, non-animal testing, data quality standards, environmental sustainability, and more. The meetings provided wonderful opportunities to meet with our current collaborative partners as well as explore new topics and meet new potential partners. Some highlights

are as follows:

- First HESI meeting with the Japanese Food Safety Commission. This presentation described HESI's operating model and detailed the relevance of the RISK21 and COMPARE food allergen database programs for the commission.
- First HESI meeting with the International Council on Scientific Union's World Data Systems (WDS) program based in Tokyo. We identified several opportunities to synergize the WDS transparency standards for data repositories with HESI's mission of improving access to rigorous and well-validated science.
- Well-attended lecture on drug safety and patient quality of life at the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA). As a result of the discussion following the seminar, two PMDA scientists previously unengaged with HESI have now signed on to participate with HESI's developmental reprotox program.
- Lively meetings with ~10 faculty from the University of Tokyo's Schools of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Agricultural and Life Sciences. We anticipate one or more new emerging issues topics to be submitted to HESI as a result!
- Enthusiastic meetings with many of our business sector partners in Tokyo and Osaka. The enthusiasm for the quality, scope, and impact of HESI's work was evident. Many new ideas for future work were also identified.



Highlights from Syril's trip to Japan.

Thanks to all for taking the time to meet with me. I also give special thanks to HESI's liaison in Japan, Ms. Ayako Takei, for all of her expert organization and active support in this effort.

Syril D. Pettit

ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI)

1156 Fifteenth Street, NW

2nd Floor

Washington, DC 20005-1743

| 202.659.3306 | 202.659.3617 | HESI@hesiglobal.org | www.hesiglobal.org

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