



# Interagency Microbial Risk Assessment Guidance Document

*Co-chairs:*            *Stephen Schaub, EPA*  
                              *Kerry Dearfield, USDA*

*RAF staff:*            *Michael Broder, EPA*





## Objectives

- Provide a framework for conducting microbial risk assessment
- Leverage limited experience in MRA across the government
- Foster broader communication among government scientists
- Improve consistency
- Improve transparency



## **Microbial Risk Assessment Guidance Milestones**

- 2002 Interagency colloquium on MRA
- 2003 Formation of an EPA RAF technical panel
- 2004 Brief CENR, SPC, IRAC
- 2005 Discussions with USDA/FSIS and other agencies
- 2006 SRA colloquium: first steps
- 2007 SRA colloquium: discussion of draft chapters



## MRA Products

- MRA Thesaurus (2006)
- “Nexus” workshop (2007)
- Comparison of frameworks (2007)
- MRA risk communication (2007)
- MRA workshop (2008)



## MRA Guidance Issues

- Availability of data
  - Utility of animal data
  - Dearth of quality human data
- Host
  - Immune status
  - Life stage (newborn, elderly, pregnant)
- Exposure scenarios
- Endpoints (Infection, disease, QALYs/DALYs, morbidity, mortality)
- Media and exposure scenarios



## MRA Guidance Chapters

1. Introduction
2. Planning and Scoping
3. Hazard Identification
4. Hazard Characterization / Dose-Response
5. Exposure
6. Risk Characterization
7. Risk Management
8. Risk Communication