



North American  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

NAFTA  
Technical Working Group on Pesticides

## NORTH AMERICAN WORKSHOP ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

19-21 February 2003  
Hotel Fortin Plaza  
Oaxaca, Mexico

### AGENDA

#### WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

8:00-8:45 REGISTRATION

9:00-10:10 SETTING THE STAGE

9:00 Welcome

Victor Shantora, Acting Executive Director, Commission for Environmental Cooperation

9:20 Keynote Address: Assessing the Risk to Children's Health from Chemical Environmental Toxins

Irena Buka, MB, ChB, DCH, FRCPC, Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics  
Chair, Expert Advisory Board on Children's Health and the Environment in North America

9:50 What is Risk Assessment?

John Buccini, PhD, Consultant, Workshop Chair

10:10-5:30 WHERE ARE WE NOW

*This session will provide participants with the opportunity to learn about the current situation and current practices with respect to children's environmental health and risk assessment in North America. A short question period will follow each presentation.*

10:10 The Use of Risk Assessment in COFEPRIS

Dra. Leonor Cedillo Becerril, Directora Ejecutiva, Comision Federal para la Proteccion Contra Riesgos Sanitarios

11:10 Break

11:40 Canadian Approaches to Health Risk Assessment of Chemicals in the Environment: Industrial Chemicals And Pesticides

Anthony W. Myres, PhD, Environment Contaminants Bureau, Health Canada  
Christine Norman, MSc, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada

12:40 Lunch

- 1:40 Children's Environmental Risk Assessment - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
Gary Kimmel, PhD, Developmental Toxicologist, Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA  
Jennifer Seed, PhD, Branch Chief, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, U.S. EPA  
Elizabeth Doyle, Branch Chief, Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA
- 2:40 Policy Interpretation Network on Children's Health and Environment**  
Moniek Zuurbier, MSc, Public Health Services Gelderland Midden, The Netherlands
- 3:00 Evaluating Potential Risks to Children's Health: Tiered Toxicity Testing & Risk Assessment of Industrial Chemicals**  
Richard A. Becker, PhD, DABT, Toxicologist & Senior Director, Public Health Team, American Chemistry Council
- 3:20 The Scientific and Ethical Challenges of Risk Assessment - An NGO Perspective**  
Kathleen Cooper, Researcher, Canadian Environmental Law Association
- 3:40 Break**
- 4:10 Plenary Discussion Period**  
*The plenary discussion period will provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions and to share ideas. A panel composed of the session speakers will be available for questions and to participate in the topics for discussion including: strengths and weaknesses of current use of risk assessment, similarities and differences in country approaches, and opportunities for collaboration.*
- 6:00-7:00 COCKTAIL RECEPTION (Hosted by the CEC)**

## **THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY**

**8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION**

**9:00-10:40 NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN RISK ASSESSMENT: EMERGING SCIENCE, ISSUES, AND CHALLENGES**

*This session will provide the opportunity for participants to learn about new developments in the field of risk assessment and children's environmental health. A short question period will follow each presentation.*

**9:00 Exposure Assessment**

Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH, Director, National Centre for Environmental Health

**9:15 Effects Assessment**

Miriam Levitt, PhD, Vice President of Research, Policy and Programs, Canadian Institute of Child Health

**9:30 Current Research for Children's Health Risk Assessment**

Gail Charnley, PhD, Health Risk Strategies

**9:45 Reducing Risks to Children Near Contaminated Sites in Mexico**

Fernando Diaz-Barriga, PhD, Coordinador de Toxicologia Ambiental, Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi

**10:00 Plenary Discussion Period**

**10:30 Break**

**10:45-12:30 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO FROM HERE**

*This session will allow participants to look forward and begin to examine where we want to go. Government, academic, industry, and non-government speakers will present their perspectives on emerging developments, future plans, opportunities for collaboration, and recommended focus for a path forward. A short question period will follow each presentation.*

**10:45 Developments in Risk Assessment- Children's Health**

Anthony Myres, PhD, Environment Contaminants Bureau, Health Canada

**11:00 How Are We Going to Improve the Use of Risk Assessment in COFEPRIS**

Dra. Leonora Rojas Bracho, Directora Ejecutiva, Comision Federal para la Proteccion Contra Riesgos Sanitarios

**11:15 Where Do We Go From Here - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Joanne Rodman, Acting Office Director, Office of Children's Health Promotion, U.S. EPA

**11:30 Academic Vision of Risk Assessment: Present and Future**

Dr. Irma Rosas, Coordinadora de PUMA, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

**11:45 Current Research and Best Approaches for Childhood Risk Assessment**

George P. Daston, Ph.D, Research Fellow, Miami Valley Laboratories, Procter & Gamble

**12:00 Where Do We Go From Here - An NGO Perspective**

Renee Louise Robin, J.D., California Director, Children's Environmental Health Network

**12:15 Plenary Discussion Period**

**12:45 Lunch**

**1:45-5:30 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION WORKING SESSION**

*This working session will be an important part of the workshop where participants can build on the learning and sharing of information from the first two days, and work in groups to identify concrete recommendations for a path forward. There will be three concurrent break-out groups addressing the following areas for proposed North American cooperation:*

**1. Information Sharing**

*Share information on data sources, methodologies, and new developments  
Determine a path forward to document information sources  
Explore improved information exchange mechanisms  
More...*

**2. Building Capacity**

*Develop a skills profile for children's environmental health risk assessment  
Determine how more risk assessors can be trained  
Explore opportunities for staff exchanges  
More...*

**3. Harmonization Of Risk Assessment Terminology and Concepts**

*Explore the development of common language or an index of terminology  
Determine a path forward to document the different approaches to children's environmental health risk assessment  
More...*

*Participants will then be given the opportunity to present and discuss in plenary the results of the break-out working groups. As an outcome of this session, participants will be expected to develop clear recommendations for a path forward on North American cooperation on children's environmental health and risk assessment.*

**1:45 Work in Break-Out Groups**

**4:45 Report to Plenary and Discussion**

**5:30 End of Day**

## FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

**8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION**

**9:00-11:45 HOW RISK ASSESSMENT IS USED IN DECISION MAKING, TRANSPARENCY, AND RISK COMMUNICATION**

*This session will provide participants with the opportunity to examine the context within which risk assessments are used to inform decision-making, including the role of precaution, transparency, and risk communication. A short question period will follow each presentation, and a plenary discussion period will provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions and to share ideas.*

**9:00 Risk Assessment and the Precautionary Approach: How far should children's health be cradled?**

David VanderZwaag, Mdiv, JD, LL.M, PhD, Professor of Law, Dalhousie Law School

**9:20 Risk assessment implementation in Mexico, the path forward...**

Alejandro Lorea, PhD, Environment, Safety and Hygiene Director, Asociacion Nacional de la Industria Quimica, A.C.

**9:40 NGO Perspective**

Beatriz Barraza Roppe, Director of Health Promotion, Colaborativo SABER, Environmental Health Coalition

**10:00 Commission for Environmental Cooperation Update on Precaution**

Victor Shantora, Acting Executive Director, Commission for Environmental Cooperation

**10:10 Break**

**10:30 Risk Assessment in the Canadian Context: Dioxins and Furans in Pulp and Paper Mill Effluent, A Case Study**

Nicki Sims-Jones, RN, MScN, Office of Children's Environmental Health, Health Impacts Bureau, Health Canada

**10:50 Risk Management and Risk Communication in COFEPRIS**

Lic. Laura Jarque Alonso, Directora de Comunicación de Riesgos, Comision Federal para la Proteccion Contra Riesgos Sanitarios

**11:10 How Risk Assessment Is Used - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Brion Cook, Acting Division Director, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances U.S. EPA

**11:30 Plenary Discussion Period**

**12:00-1:00 WORKSHOP CONCLUSION**

*The final session of the workshop will pull together the workshop outcomes and confirm a recommended path forward for collaborative North American activities. The session will begin with the presentation of draft recommendations based on the working session outcomes from day two and other workshop discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and confirm a set of workshop conclusions and recommendations for publication in the workshop report.*

**12:00 Plenary Discussion Period: Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations**  
Dr. John Buccini, Workshop Chair

**12:50 Closing**  
Victor Shantora, Acting Executive Director, Commission for Environmental Cooperation