

USEPA EXTEND ABSTRACTS

BOSC Workshop on USEPA's Risk Assessment Principles and Practices

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The Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) was established to provide advice, information, and recommendations to ORD concerning the management and scientific approaches used in their research program. When a staff paper on the USEPA's Risk Assessment Principles and Practices was completed by the Office of the Science Advisor, the BOSC was asked to host a workshop to present a portion of the staff paper to the public and interested stakeholders. The BOSC was asked to address issues in chapter 4 of the staff paper, "Use of Default and Extrapolation Assumptions." Other professional societies were asked to provide feedback on the staff paper in the areas of probabilistic methods in risk assessment, methods of uncertainty analysis, and ecological risk assessment.

The staff paper described the current practices of the USEPA. The purpose of the BOSC workshop was to first present the current practices of the USEPA and then to have speakers provide constructive feedback for refining EPA's current practices or suggesting alternative approaches for default and extrapolation assumptions that might be used in the future. Three topics were covered in detail: (1) Use of default assumptions and uncertainty factors, (2) Extrapolation from high to low doses, and (3) Extrapolation between species. In each case, a speaker from the EPA described the current practices and this was followed by three speakers who suggested alternative approaches that might be used in the future. Lively discussions were held at the end of each of the three sections.

The following articles are extended abstracts of the talks that were given with a short summary of the main points of the discussion. The viewgraphs of the presentations may be seen at the website for the workshop: www.epa.gov/osp/bosc/ra_work.htm

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