

“Honorary Biomedical Sciences & Health Information Lecture Series”



HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPOUNDS: INFORMATION RESOURCES

A Distinguished Lecture

By

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Abstract: Human health risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, and others need to know where to look for various types of trustworthy and accurate information. This information helps users access and manage the safety of chemicals, and helps prevent or minimize health risks associated with the various types of uses of chemicals. In addition to hardcopies of books and scientific journals, we now have access to information from Web sites, blogs, news feeds, tweets, etc. Much of the information needed by the various users is free and accessible around-the-clock globally. The (U.S.) National Library of Medicine (NLM) is: a) working to compile, review, and disseminate various types of human health risk assessment and management information as Web portals, databases, as downloadable computer resources, and recently as smartphone apps, b) providing other types of information as tutorials and educational games, and c) disseminating information about new resources and updates and enhancements to existing resources via announcements made to lists of email subscribers, and via news feeds, tweets, etc. As one NLM example, the recently released Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management (CHEMM) tool is available online as a Web-based resource. CHEMM is also downloadable in advance so that it will be available even if the Internet is not accessible. Another example is that NLM is enhancing its Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB®) to include new materials (e.g., nanomaterials), state-of-the science toxicology, exposure, and risk assessment information, and its first sets of images (e.g., chemical structures). Efforts are also continuing to provide access to databases developed by other organizations that will enhance the types of content in NLM's TOXNET® suite of databases, e.g., the recent addition of the Comparative Toxicogenomics Database (CTD). This presentation will also mention key examples of efforts by other governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop and provide free online access to risk assessment and management information.

Key words: Information resources, databases, web sites, smartphone apps. **Disclaimer:** The views expressed are the personal opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of NLM, NIH, or other parts of the U.S. Government.