

Bince Russo A. Crieta | D13854005

Global Health Program, College of Public Health

The Society for Risk Analysis was founded in 1980 and has hosted an annual meeting every year since 1981 to discuss and present various risk assessment topics ranging from advanced materials and technologies to security and defense. Currently, the society has 16 specialty subgroups. The Annual Meeting for 2025 took place in Washington, D.C., from December 7 to 10, with the theme "What Comes Next," exploring opportunities for risk analysis to guide decisions in today's uncertain environment. The meeting successfully brought together approximately 500 researchers and practitioners from various fields, including risk assessment, characterization, communication, management, and policy.

I attended the meeting to orally present my first PhD study titled "Probabilistic Dietary Risk Assessment of Ochratoxin A in Major Food Groups using Bayesian-based and Cohen's Methods". Following that, there was a follow-up discussion in which risk analysis experts provided me with direct feedback. I received targeted guidance on study framing and decision use. I will add a decision context section to state the decision, supported by the assessment, the target population, the probability of exceeding health-based guidance values, and the food groups driving exposure. I also received guidance on uncertainty reporting, where they suggested separating the population variability across multi-country body weight and dietary intake inputs. Hence, I will report a distribution of variability for daily intake, and then provide uncertainty intervals for key summaries, such as the mean intake and the 95th percentile. They suggested adding sensitivity analyses for priors and handling left-censored data, as well as a clear comparison table for Bayesian-based results and Cohen's method. However, this must be discussed further with my research advisor, Professor Kuen-Yuh Wu of the Institute of Food Safety and Health. A day before my presentation, I attended a pre-workshop on Comprehensive Bayesian Dose-Response Modeling facilitated by Professor Kan Shao from Indiana University School of Public Health. This workshop focused on complete posterior reporting, model checking, and model averaging, which were ideal for strengthening my uncertainty narrative and assumption testing in my dietary risk work. Additionally, I was able to attend sessions on risk under limited data in space exploration, autonomous vehicles, and emerging materials. I also met Professor Felicia A. Wu and Jacqueline MacDonald Gibson, who are among the prominent researchers in the field, will seek insights on exposure assessment inputs, uncertainty communication, and positioning within broader risk analysis topics. Furthermore, I was able to bag the Student Merit Award from the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group, which aligned with the group's focus on student recognition. Yey!

The meeting broadened my understanding of probabilistic modeling and uncertainty identification, and provided ideas on how to frame a decision-focused interpretation. I was fortunate to meet some researchers within the field of my interest. I was able to send appreciation emails and request suggested references to further my understanding of dietary risk analysis. I was also able to finalize my manuscript revisions and submit it to my research adviser for further review. Aside from attending the Annual Meeting, I also visited the United States Capitol, the White House Visitor Center, and the Washington Monument, which enhanced my understanding of the policy setting related to risk governance. I will apply these lessons to improve my manuscript and future exposure assessment research after returning to Taiwan and the Philippines.

