

# Considerations for Aerosol Risk Assessment

---

**EPA Exposure Workshop**

**May 14 to 16, 2024**

**Andrew Maier, PhD, CIH, DABT**

**Integral Consulting Inc**

**[amaier@integral-corp.com](mailto:amaier@integral-corp.com)**

integral



# Objective

---

- › Work together on a list of key considerations for addressing aerosols in the risk evaluations
- › Work toward a methods guide to ensure consistency in addressing considerations across chemicals using the best available science

# Aerosol Characteristics Impact all Aspects of RA/RM

- › Mode of action and nature of effects
- › Determination of the point of departure and health benchmarks
- › Sampling approach and generalizability of data
- › Interpretation of the risk characterization (e.g., MOE)
- › Assessment of exposure controls



# Aerosol Characteristics and Why They Matter

---

## › Particle Chemistry

- Molecular composition – analytical method determination, biological mode of action
- Reactivity – potential for direct respiratory effects and tissue interactions
- Solubility – respiratory tract clearance and potential for systemic effects

## › Particle Form (shape and physical state)

- Potential for enhanced surface reactivity – surface area
- Aerodynamic characteristics – fiber vs spherical particle
- Phase changes with duration – evaporation of liquid aerosols

## › Particle Size Distribution

- MMAD and GSD – impact on near-field exposure and respiratory deposition modeling
- Considerations for nanoscale particles – extrapolating effect data

# Some Considerations from Recent Risk Evaluations

- › Analytical detection of specific fibers at needed LOD in mixed fiber matrix
  - Required LOQ might not be achievable
- › Sampling for a very low ECEL in a high-dust work environment
  - Potential for collection filter particle overload
- › In most cases sampling method (total aerosol)
  - May not align with inhalable fraction, requiring conversion
  - Many chemicals also have a separate benchmark for respirable fraction



# Some Considerations from Recent Risk Evaluations

- › Emission sources and control assumptions
  - Empirical data often high variability
  - Performance based on design characteristics and use – achieve adequate capture velocity?
- › Sampling for phase changes
  - Semi-volatiles may need additional method development
- › Modeling can be done but added complexity
  - MMAD changes with time – particle condensation, agglomeration, evaporation
  - Settling characteristics affected by microenvironment
  - No optimum off-the-shelf model – benefit from additional research!



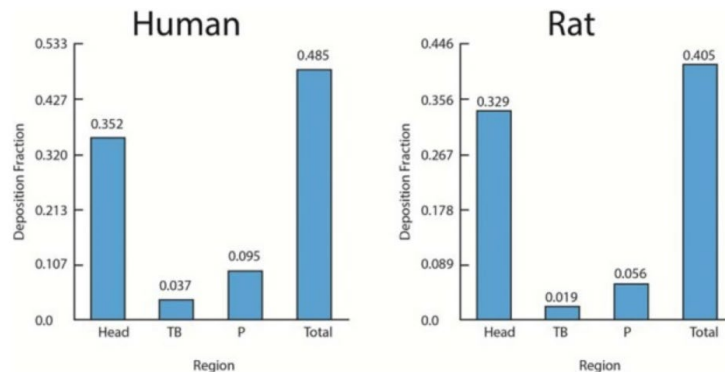
# Some Considerations from Recent Risk Evaluations

- › Assessing the basis and consideration of particle overload in the lungs
    - Determines need for both inhalable and respirable sampling
  - › Uncertainties in identifying appropriate read across compound for data poor particulates
    - Impacts selected ECEL (or POD)
  - › Dose response for semi-volatiles
    - What is the most appropriate dose metric?
    - Translating toxicology from one form to another form
- Impact of local dose density vs total mass

# Particle Lung Dosimetry Modeling

## › Standardized application of inhalation dosimetry for estimating human equivalent POD

- Modeling approach and inputs
- EPA Multi-path Particle Dosimetry (MPPD) Model?
- Use of workplace exertion and particle characteristics in MPPD?



Kuempel, E. D., Sweeney, L. M., Morris, J. B., & Jarabek, A. M. (2015). Advances in Inhalation Dosimetry Models and Methods for Occupational Risk Assessment and Exposure Limit Derivation. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 12(sup1), S18–S40. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15459624.2015.1060328>



---

## › Thank You and Please Share Ideas or Thoughts

- Other key issues you have identified
- Key guidance's or resources to harmonize methods

