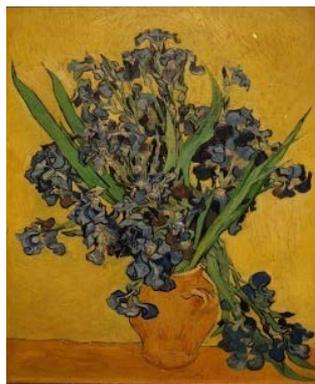




*Welcome! . . . to the June 2015
IRIS Bimonthly Public Science
Meeting*

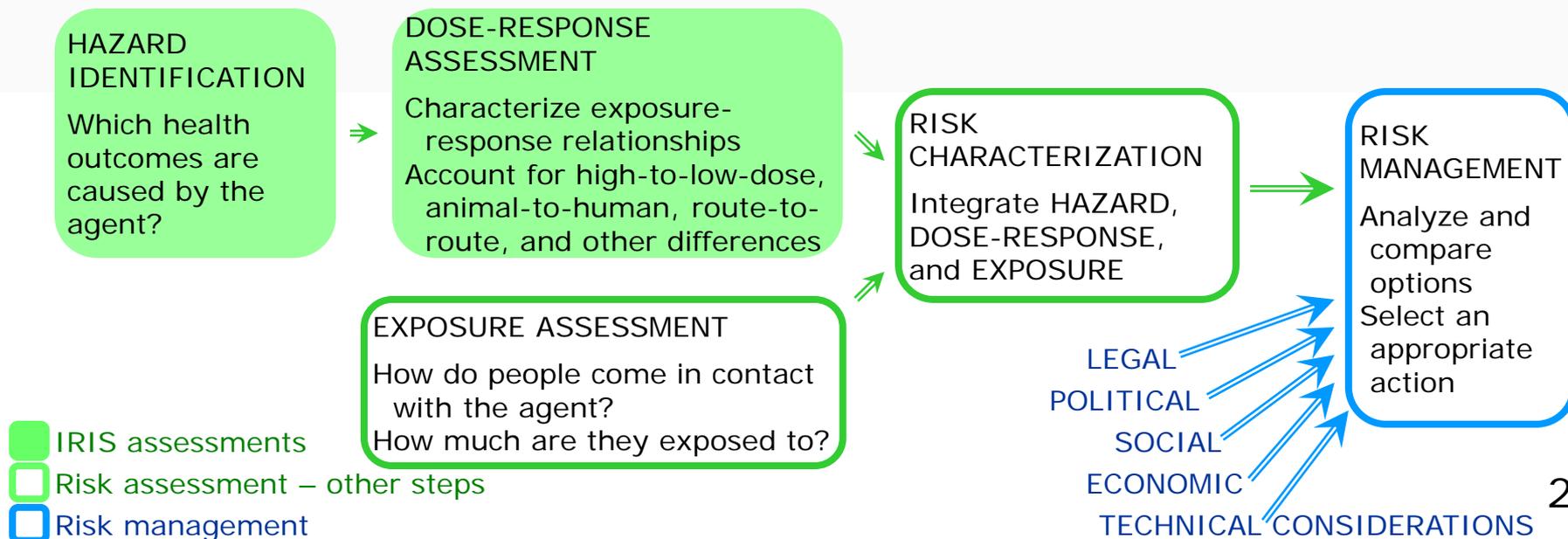




About IRIS

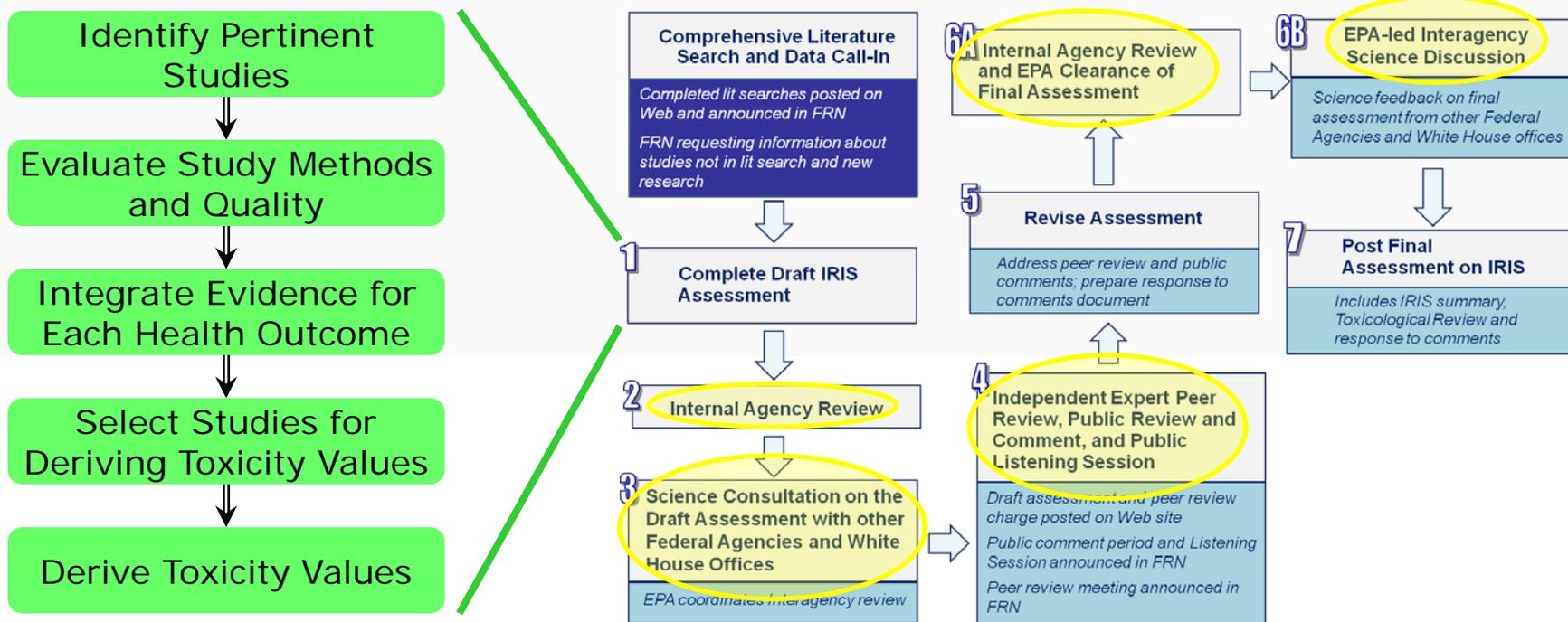
IRIS assessments systematically review the publicly-available peer-reviewed studies to

- Identify adverse health outcomes
- Characterize exposure-response relationships



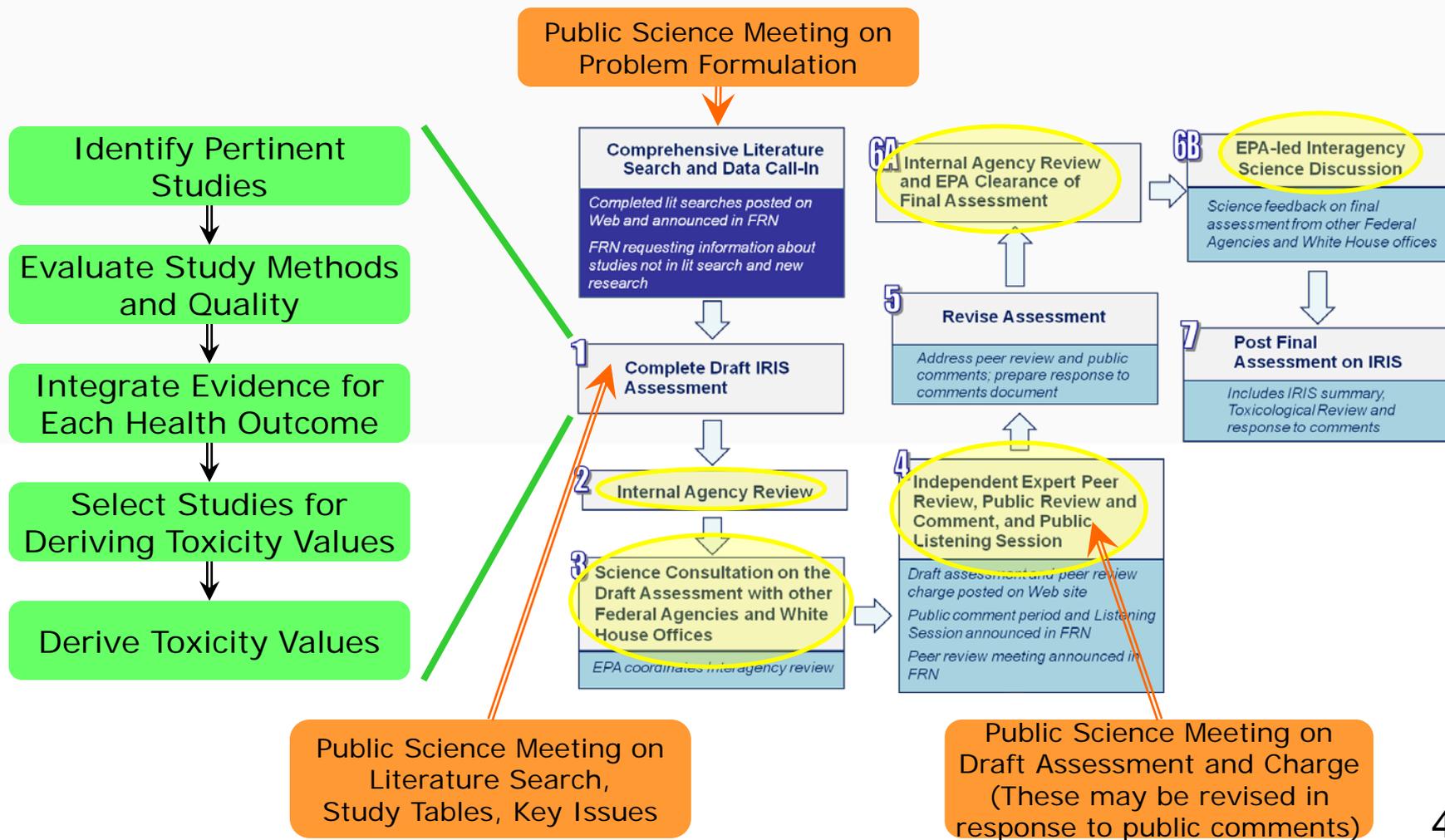


IRIS Has Embraced and Is Acting To Implement Systematic Review





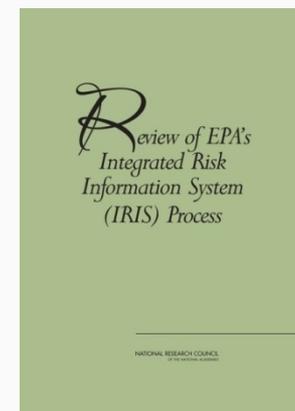
IRIS Has Increased Opportunities for Public Engagement





IRIS Was Recently Reviewed by the National Research Council

“ . . . The NRC formaldehyde committee recognized that its suggested changes would take several years and an extensive effort by EPA staff to implement. Substantial progress, however, has been made in a short time, . . .” [NRC 2014, p 9]



“ . . . the IRIS program has moved forward steadily in planning for and implementing changes in each element of the assessment process. The committee is confident that there is an institutional commitment to completing the revisions of the process even as the program continues through the current transition phase . . .” [NRC 2014, p 135]



Agenda for Today's Public Science Meeting

For each science question . . .

- Introduction by the IRIS assessment manager
- Opening remarks by the registered discussants
- Continued discussion involving all attendees – including people participating via webinar

General Open Forum at the end of the meeting



Some Things to Keep in Mind

We are here to discuss key science questions

- We have not yet drawn conclusions
- We want to hear all scientific perspectives

The preliminary materials are intended to

- Facilitate subsequent assessment development
- Promote constructive public discussion
- Make efficient use of program resources

The content of future preliminary materials may change to better further these objectives



IRIS Strives for Broad Participation at These Meetings

All meetings by webinar – no travel needed

Telephone access for webinar participants

Advance notice

- Agenda and materials: ~2 months
- Timetable: ~3-4 weeks

The IRIS listserv is sent to 1000s of people

***IRIS will continue to improve the format
to achieve meaningful scientific discussion
that reflects all scientific perspectives***



Discussants Identified by the NRC

How it works

- IRIS informs the NRC and the public of the assessments/questions for discussion
- NRC identifies candidate experts
- NRC screens for availability, conflicts, biases
- NRC proposes a list of experts who represent a range of views for EPA concurrence
- NRC selects whom to invite and makes travel arrangements

Otherwise, public participation is as before



Requested Disclosures

For all participants

- Financial relationships, consulting agreements, expert witness support, research funding
- Extent to which comments were reviewed by an interested party

For research in progress and new results

- Funding source
- Extent to which findings were reviewed by an interested party
- Financial, consulting, witnessing, research support



Some Updates . . .