Regulatory Toxicology & Risk Assessment in Consulting

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What do regulatory toxicologists do anyway?

- Broadly, regulatory toxicologists and risk assessors provide science-based advice to
  - government
  - industry
  - attorneys
  - health professionals
  - general public
- These “clients” may be different depending on the sector you work in.
What does risk assessment and regulatory toxicology mean working in industry?

- Perform exposure and risk assessment resulting from use of consumer products
- Conducting/contracting out various types of studies in order to comply with regulatory (EPA, FDA) guidelines
- Worked closely with chemists, product developers, other toxicologists, and regulatory oversight (interface with the FDA)
What does risk assessment and regulatory toxicology mean working in consulting?

- Clients are often:
  - Industry (chemical, pharmaceutical, pesticides, consumer products)
  - Trade groups that represent a particular industry
  - Attorneys (litigation support)

- My role:
  - Help industry interface with regulatory agencies
  - Perform exposure and risk assessments
  - Provide attorneys with scientific advice and expert witness statements
Broader impacts/hot topics

- Organophosphate insecticides
- Perfluorinated compounds
- Other environmental chemicals and pharmaceuticals
- Various drugs/pharmaceuticals
What does a typical day look like in consulting?

“Typical” aspects of consulting:
- Variety—lots of it
- Constant learning process
- Always interesting!

There is really no “typical” day. On most days plans/priorities change.

Need to be flexible
Entry level responsibilities and learning on the job

Entry-level responsibilities:

- General toxicology/biology knowledge
- Some knowledge of application of risk assessment principles
- Ability to work on a team

Learning on the job:

- Industry-specific practices in risk assessment
- Industry-specific regulatory guidelines
How can you start preparing yourself for a career in regulatory toxicology?

- If you work in an academic lab, understand how your work contributes to/impacts ecological and/or human health risk assessment.
- Gain practical experience and understand risk assessment.
  - Courses at your school or CE courses at SOT
  - Fellowships such as ORISE
- Consider obtaining board certification as soon as you are eligible.
- Communication skills
Resources for more information

- Participate in the Chat with an Expert Program through SOT
- RSESS website: https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/RSESS/index.asp
- RASS website: https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/RASS/index.asp
- SOT website: https://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/ART/index.asp
- Read through the TOC of Regulatory Toxicology & Pharmacology: https://www.journals.elsevier.com/regulatory-toxicology-and-pharmacology