



THE LIFELINE GROUP

Dr. Christine F. Chaisson
Director, The LifeLine Group
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Disciplinary and Specific Areas of Expertise:

Trained in cellular biochemistry and toxicology. Professional career expertise in Exposure and Risk Assessment for Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Exposure and Risk Modeling, Community Focused Activity and Dietary Profiling, Food Chain Factors in Dietary Exposure to Toxic Substances, and Unique Community Factors in Dietary and Non-Dietary Exposure and Risk to Toxic Chemicals.

Biosketch:

The underpinnings of Dr. Chaisson's scientific training are biochemistry and regulatory toxicology [BA, Boston University and PhD George Washington University 1982] which were applied to chemical exposure and risk assessment approaches and models. For almost four decades Dr. Chaisson led the design of multiple assessment models addressing aggregate and cumulative risk concepts, exposure-based chemical prioritization, dietary and activity profiling for unique communities (including tribal and ethnically defined communities) and post-disaster chemical hazard profiling for communities.

Dr. Chaisson earned a doctorate in cellular biochemistry/biology from George Washington University. She began her career in risk assessment in the US Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances. At EPA Dr. Chaisson designed a probabilistic dietary exposure assessment model to aid pesticide regulatory decision-making. She was also the liaison to international regulatory agencies such as AID and WHO. In 1985, Dr. Chaisson co-founded Technical Assessment Systems (TAS), which became a premier exposure/risk assessment consulting firm internationally. Through TAS, she introduced concepts such as

THE LIFELINE GROUP

population subgroup specificity, better definition of residues in forms of foods and sources of drinking water, use of human activity patterns and actual chemical usage patterns for more accuracy and relevance in risk assessment models. Through these experiences, Dr. Chaisson has become well versed in the expectations of regulators in the US, UK, Canada, Germany and European Union.

Dr. Chaisson co-founded The LifeLine Group in 2000, a not-for-profit organization developing publicly available state-of-the-art exposure and risk assessment models with applications to contemporary issues. Focus for model development has evolved from nationally-characterized regulatory assessments based on predictable chemical use and people's exposure opportunities under normal circumstances to that of community-specific exposure scenarios defined by unique diets, activities, living conditions and normal or post-disaster circumstances. The resulting suite of community-based risk assessment models permit the application of population-specific and community-specific information for multi-source exposure and risk assessments. These are particularly important for unique populations, occupational and local contaminant situations. These population/community specific risk assessments have been successfully employed to consider chemical risk scenarios in Tribal, Arctic and ethnically defined communities as well as recent applications for risks encountered by recovery workers in storm damaged communities as they are exposed to fugitive chemicals. Current applications of these models include exposure/risk assessment for residents returning to homes after flooding events and long term exposures to flame retardants, molds, and chemicals in households where occupational activities also take place. Dr. Chaisson led research for Smithsonian curators at the Museum of the American Indian to assess potential exposures resulting from their work with artifacts made with toxic paints or stored in containers with very toxic pesticides. That work was used to develop appropriate protective practices for curators and museum workers. These research activities have been supported and funded by NIH, NIEHS, NIOSH, CDC, US EPA, The Smithsonian Institute, PMRA-Canada, as well as states such as California and Alaska, and private organizations and industries.

Dr. Chaisson has been a Councilor in the International Society of Exposure Assessment, a member of Society of Risk Assessment [past President of its DC chapter], the Toxicology Forum, The United Agribusiness League and the Institute of Food Technologists. She also served on the National Council for Arts and Sciences of the George Washington University and the Dean's Advisory Board for the GWU Graduate School of Political Management. Dr. Chaisson serves as a member of the External Advisory Board of the Center for Indigenous Environmental Health Research at the Zuckerman College of Public Health / University of Arizona. She is an advisor to Food Quality magazine. She has published extensively in the fields of exposure and risk assessment. In 2011 Dr. Chaisson was the invited Co-Chair of the Milan ISES/SETAC special conference on exposure science challenges presented by global legislative initiatives on consumer products and chemicals in trade.

THE LIFELINE GROUP

Career activity in additional organizations include Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, and the Institute of Food Technology. Dr. Chaisson mentored several doctoral students' thesis projects (including Boston University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, University of Arizona).

Currently Dr. Chaisson is a Director and Senior Scientist of The LifeLine Group, directing research including serving as Co-PI on projects funded by NIEHS. She is currently active in the Society of Risk Analysis, International Society of Exposure Science and serve advisory roles with The University of Arizona [Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health] and Alliance for Risk Assessment and also serves as a research publication reviewer for scientific journals.