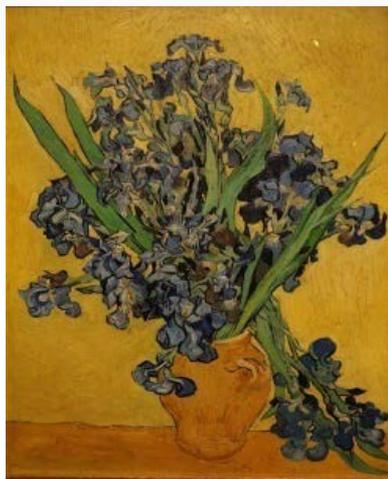




*Welcome! . . . to the October 2014
IRIS Bimonthly Public Science
Meeting*

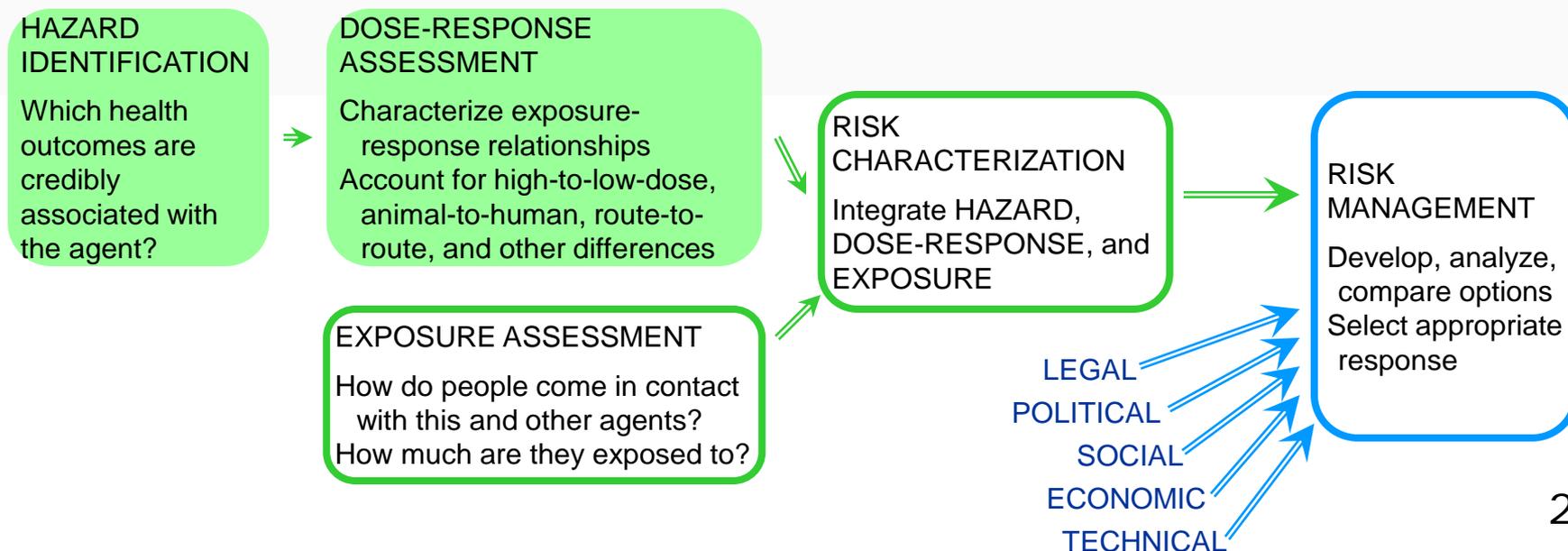




About IRIS

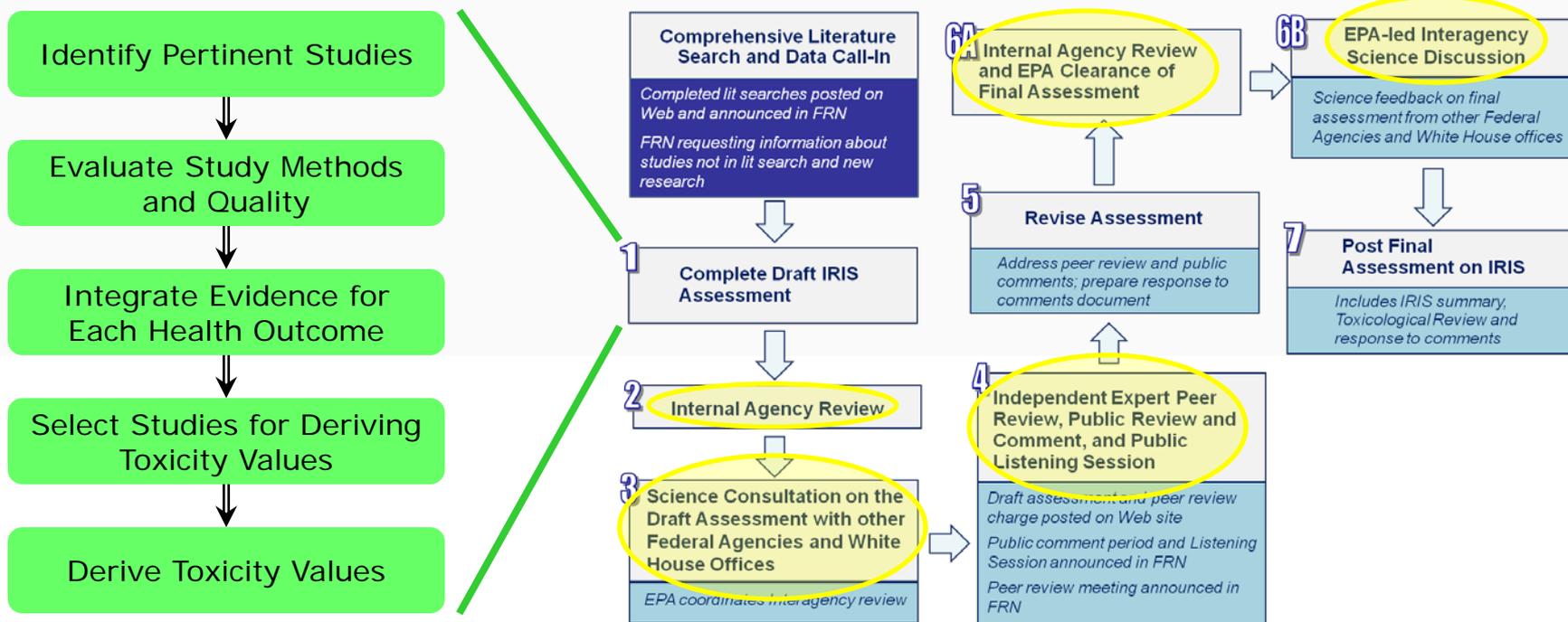
IRIS assessments critically review the publicly-available peer-reviewed studies to

- Identify adverse health outcomes
- Characterize exposure-response relationships





IRIS Has Embraced and Is Acting To Implement Systematic Review





IRIS Was Recently Reviewed by the National Research Council

“Overall, the committee finds that substantial improvements in the IRIS process have been made, and it is clear that EPA has embraced and is acting on the recommendations in the NRC formaldehyde report. 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, and the present committee’s recommendations should be seen as building on the progress that EPA has already made.” [NRC 2014, p 9]



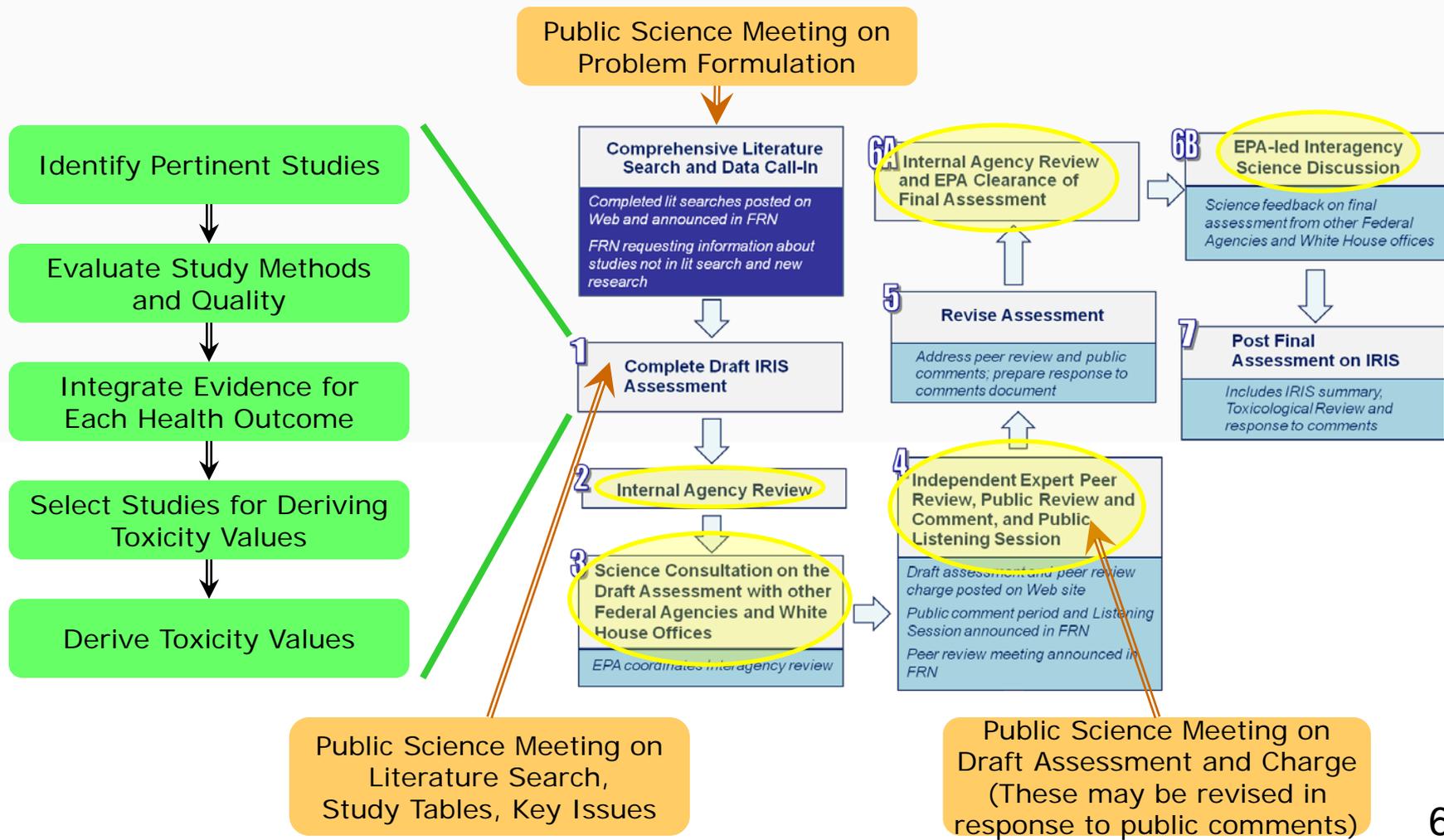
IRIS Was Recently Reviewed by the National Research Council

“ . . . 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]

“Kenneth Olden . . . has made a far-reaching effort to engage the full array of stakeholders, including the general public, in providing input into the changes being made. The revisions embrace stakeholder engagement in all relevant phases of the process.” [p 135]



IRIS Provides Increased Opportunities for Public Engagement





Agenda for Today's Public Science Meeting

For each assessment in step 1 . . .

- Introduction by the IRIS assessment managers
- Science questions – for each question:
 - Opening remarks by the registered discussants
 - Continued discussion involving all attendees
- Open Forum on the assessment

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



IRIS Strives for Broad Participation at These Meetings

All meetings by webinar – no travel needed

All meetings give the public advance notice

- Agenda and materials – 2 months in advance
- Timetable – 3-4 weeks in advance

IRIS reaches out to NGOs and academics

Telephone access for webinar participants

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



New Contract with the NAS to Provide Scientific Experts for IRIS Meetings

How it will work

- 3 months prior: IRIS informs the NAS and the public of the assessments/topics to be discussed
- NAS identifies candidate experts
- NAS screens for availability, conflicts, biases
- NAS proposes a list of experts who represent a range of views for EPA concurrence
- NAS determines who will serve and makes travel arrangements

Other public participation will be as before



Upcoming Public Science Meetings

Dec 15-16

- Butyl benzyl phthalate:
literature search/study tables/key issues
- Di-isobutyl phthalate:
literature search/study tables/key issues

Feb 25-26, 2015



The New, Enhanced IRIS

Improved science

- Systematic review
- Hazard statement and toxicity values for each credible health outcome
- Strengthened peer review

Increased transparency

- Clear, concise, systematic assessments
- Opportunities for public engagement

Increased productivity

We must make the Enhanced IRIS work by completing more assessments in less time

IRIS will continue to evolve as we receive public input and peer review advice . . . Thank you!