



## Meeting of Officials of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment / May 9, 2022

Officials from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration met in Berlin today with the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung or BfR) to officially launch the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two agencies last year.

The [MOU to Share information and Facilitate Collaborative Research Projects](#) was signed in late August of 2021. Since then, staff from the FDA's Europe Office, the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and the Office of Food Policy and Response have been working with BfR to identify common areas of interest and determine the scope of specific workstreams.

Most of the meeting was devoted to two topics:

- Food Outbreaks – including the use and enhancement of BfR's open-source visual traceback tool Food Chain Lab and potential ways to share data and algorithms; and
- Whole Genome Sequencing technology – including GenomeTrackr, the first distributed network of laboratories to utilize whole genome sequencing for pathogen identification.

In addition, the two agencies also discussed new risk assessment methodologies and BfR's upcoming public meetings on tattoo inks.

As a result of the meeting, FDA and BfR agreed to set up technical working groups to continue to explore how they might work together on traceability and whole genome sequencing.

The FDA delegation, led by Steve Musser, CFSAN's deputy director for scientific operations and Ritu Nalubola, director of the FDA's Europe Office, included technical experts and staff from CFSAN, OFPR, and FDA's Europe Office.

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