Though used in various fields of research and study, such as banking and engineering, risk analysis did not become a subject of great interest to food safety experts until the early 1990s. Over the past several years, risk analysis has become recognized as a necessary component for the establishment of public policy, as well as for the identification of voids in information and knowledge. Many food safety practitioners have embraced this perspective and use risk analysis in conducting and applying research.

The three pillars of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication support risk analysis. The National Food Safety and Toxicology Center (NFSTC) at Michigan State University has made a commitment to food safety risk analysis, hosting a conference on the topic during the center’s first year of operation in 1998. In the summer of 2000, the NFSTC held a second conference focusing on risk communication, which is often thought of in terms of communicating risks to stakeholders and the public. However, it is also important to understand the need for communication between risk assessors and risk managers.

As with all aspects of risk analysis, the processes are continuous. The following proceedings should be viewed as a forum for discussion among the various actors involved in risk analysis. It does not constitute policy but represents a beginning for what is hoped to become a continuous dialog.

Two keynote speakers, a panel of communicators and stakeholders, and breakout sessions highlighted the second annual NFSTC conference, *Risk Communication in Food Safety…Motivating and Building Trust*. These proceedings reflect and summarize those discussions.