

**KATHLEEN M. THIESSEN, Ph.D.**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Oak Ridge Center for Risk Analysis, Inc.**

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**Education**

- Ph.D. 1986 Genetics, University of Tennessee-Oak Ridge, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Oak Ridge, TN
- B.A. 1981 Biology and Chemistry (*Summa cum laude*), Covenant College, GA

**Capabilities**

- Health Effects Assessment
- Dose and Risk Assessment
- Analysis of Environmental Transport and Exposure Pathways
- Uncertainty and Sensitivity Analysis
- Technical Writing/Editing, Technical and Public Presentations

**Experience Summary**

Dr. Thiessen is experienced in the evaluation of exposures, doses, and risks to human health from trace levels of chemical and radiological contaminants in the environment and in the use of uncertainty analysis for environmental and health risk assessment. Dr. Thiessen led an analysis of human exposures, doses, and health risks to off-site individuals associated with historic releases of radionuclides to the Clinch River from the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge (Tennessee) facilities. She also contributed to the development of a risk-based screening approach to prioritize further investigation of contaminants and exposure situations in various assessment contexts, and she led in the application of risk-based screening techniques for the reconstruction of doses and health risks associated with releases of chemicals and radionuclides from the Oak Ridge facilities. Dr. Thiessen has led several working groups on urban contamination and dose reconstruction for the International Atomic Energy Agency's programs on environmental transport modeling (BIOMASS, EMRAS and EMRAS II, MODARIA and MODARIA II), and she served on the coordinating committees of the programs. Dr. Thiessen has contributed to a number of open literature publications on the use of international data sets to test and improve the accuracy of mathematical models used to assess the environmental fate and consequences of releases of radioactivity. Dr. Thiessen served on a committee for the preparation of a new International Atomic Energy Agency report on modeling the impacts of planned discharges of radioactivity, and she was involved in the preparation of an IAEA guidance document on implementation of remediation strategies following accidental releases of radioactivity. Dr. Thiessen participated in two symposia on reconstruction of internal doses from Fukushima releases organized by Japan's National Institute of Radiological Sciences, and she has served as a consultant on environmental modeling issues to the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute and on uncertainty analysis to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Dr. Thiessen currently serves with a subgroup of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation concerned with past activities and accidents involving ionizing radiation, as part of an UNSCEAR project on Evaluation of Public Exposure to Ionizing Radiation from Natural and Man-made Sources. Dr. Thiessen has also served on two National Research Council subcommittees, one

charged with the review of fluoride exposure and toxicology, and one dealing with guidance levels for air contaminants in submarines. She has also written two reports for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, one on the health effects of hydrogen fluoride and related compounds, and one on the health effects of mercuric chloride. Dr. Thiessen has also been involved in litigation support for several cases involving chemical or radionuclide contaminants.

### **Experience**

- 2019-present President, Oak Ridge Center for Risk Analysis, Inc.
- 1992-present Senior Scientist and Director, Oak Ridge Center for Risk Analysis, Inc. (Formerly *SENES* Oak Ridge, Inc., Center for Risk Analysis), Oak Ridge, TN.
- Review of data on contaminant exposure and toxicology.
  - Analysis of environmental transport and exposure pathways.
  - Screening techniques for environmental assessment.
  - Dose reconstruction.
  - Uncertainty analysis for environmental assessment.
  - International model validation using Chernobyl data sets.
  - Working Group Leader for International Atomic Energy Agency research programs.
  - Project coordination.
  - Technical review.
  - Litigation support.
- 1991-1992 Consultant and Technical Writer. Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN.
- 1987-1992 Lecturer in Genetics. University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.
- 1986-1989 Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Health and Safety Research Division, Chemical Hazard Evaluation Program.
- Assessment of health effects from chemicals.
  - Risk assessment.
  - Technical review.

### **Publications and Technical Reports**

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). 2022. Assessment of Radioactive Contamination and Effectiveness of Remedial Measures in Urban Environments. Report of Working Group 2, Exposures in Contaminated Urban Environments and Effect of Remedial Measures, of MODARIA Topical Heading: Remediation of Contaminated Areas. Modelling and Data for Radiological Impact Assessments (MODARIA) Programme. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, IAEA-TECDOC-2001.

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the IAEA's model testing programmes: Overview from the MODARIA I and MODARIA II programmes. *J. Radiol. Prot.* 42:020502.

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Takahara, S., Charnock, T.W., Silva, K., Hwang, W.T., Lee, J., Yu, C., Kamboj, S., Yankovich, T., and Thiessen, K.M. 2022. Assessment of doses in contaminated urban areas: Modelling exercise based on Fukushima data. *J. Radiol. Prot.* 42:020517.

Božnar, M.Z., Mlakar, P., Grašič, B., Grsic, Z., Hettrick, S., Mancini, F., Patryl, L., and Thiessen, K.M. 2022. Modelling air pollution around nuclear power plants: Validation of dispersion models using tracer data. *J. Radiol. Prot.* 42:020519.

Simon, S.L., Bouville, A., Beck, H.L., Anspaugh, L.R., Thiessen, K.M., Hoffman, H.O., and Shinkarev, S. 2022. Dose estimation for exposure to radioactive fallout from nuclear detonations. *Health Physics* 122(1):1-20.

Beck, H.L., Bouville, A., Simon, S.L., Anspaugh, L.R., Thiessen, K.M., Shinkarev, S., and Gordeev, K. 2022. A method for estimating the deposition density of fallout on the ground and on vegetation from a low-yield, low-altitude nuclear detonation. *Health Physics* 122(1):21-53.

Bouville, A., Beck, H.L., Anspaugh, L.R., Gordeev, K., Shinkarev, S., Thiessen, K.M., Hoffman, F.O., and Simon, S.L. 2022. A methodology for estimating external doses to individuals and populations exposed to radioactive fallout from nuclear detonations. *Health Physics* 122(1):54-83.

Anspaugh, L.R., Bouville, A., Thiessen, K.M., Hoffman, F.O., Beck, H.L., Gordeev, K., and Simon, S.L. 2022. A methodology for calculation of internal dose following exposure to radioactive fallout from the detonation of a nuclear fission device. *Health Physics* 122(1):84-124.

Thiessen, K.M., Hoffman, F.O., Bouville, A., Anspaugh, L.R., Beck, H.L., and Simon, S.L. 2022. Parameter values for estimation of internal doses from ingestion of radioactive fallout from nuclear detonations. *Health Physics* 122(1):236-268.

Apostoaie, A.I., Thomas, B.A., Hoffman, F.O., Kocher, D.C., Thiessen, K.M., Borrego, D., Lee, C., Simon, S.L., and Zablotska, L.B. 2021. Fluoroscopy X-ray Organ-specific Dosimetry System (FLUXOR) for estimation of organ doses and their uncertainties in the Canadian Fluoroscopy Cohort Study. *Radiation Research* 195:385-396.

Thiessen, K.M., Apostoaie, A.I., and Zablotska, L.B. 2021. Estimation of heights and body masses of tuberculosis patients in the Canadian Fluoroscopy Cohort Study for use in individual dosimetry. *Health Physics* 120(3):278-287.

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). In preparation. Assessment of the Impact of Radioactive Discharges to the Environment, Volume 1: Screening Assessment of Public Exposure for Planned Exposure Situations. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna.

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IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). 2021. Assessment of Radioactive Contamination in Urban Areas. Report of Working Group 9, Urban Areas of EMRAS II/ Topical Heading: Approaches for Assessing Emergency Situations. Environmental Modelling for Radiation Safety (EMRAS II) Programme. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, IAEA-TECDOC-1941.

Bouville, A., Beck, H., Thiessen, K.M., Hoffman, O., Potischman, N., Salazar, S., and Simon, S.L. 2020. The methodology used to assess doses from the first nuclear weapons test (Trinity) to the populations of New Mexico. *Health Physics* 119(4): 400-427.

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Thiessen, K.M., Charnock, T.W., Chouhan, S.L., Hwang, W.T., Kamboj, S., Tomás, J., and Yu, C. 2015. Modeling the effectiveness of remediation efforts in contaminated urban areas: An EMRAS II Urban Areas Working Group exercise. In: Proceedings of the WM2015 Conference, March 15-19, 2015, paper #15631.

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Menkes, D.B., Thiessen, K., and Williams, J. 2014. Health effects of water fluoridation—how "effectively settled" is the science? [letter]. *New Zealand Medical Journal* 127(1407):84-86.

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IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). 2012. Environmental Modelling for Radiation Safety (EMRAS). A Summary Report of the Results of the EMRAS programme (2003-2007). International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, IAEA-TECDOC-1678.

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Thiessen, K.M., Napier, B.A., Filistovic, V., Homma, T., Kanyár, B., Krajewski, P., Kryshev, A.I., Nedveckaite, T., Nényei, A., Sazykina, T.G., Tveten, U., Sjöblom, K.-L., and Robinson, C. 2005. Model testing using data on <sup>131</sup>I released from Hanford. *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity* 84(2):211-224.

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Nedveckaite, T., Filistovic, V., Mastauskas, A., and Thiessen, K. 2004. Thyroid dosimetry in the western trace of the Chernobyl accident plume. *Radiation Protection Dosimetry* 108(2):133-141.

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Reed, E.W., Thiessen, K.M., Hoffman, F.O., and Apostoaei, A.I. 2003. Comparison of doses and risks obtained from dose reconstructions for historical operations of federal facilities that supported the development, production, or testing of nuclear weapons. *Health Physics* 84(6):687-697.

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IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). 2001. Generic models for use in assessing the impact of discharges of radioactive substances to the environment. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Safety Report 19.

Apostoaei, A.I., Blaylock, B.G., Caldwell, B., Flack, S., Gouge, J.H., Hoffman, F.O., Lewis, C.J., Nair, S.K., Reed, E.W., Thiessen, K.M., Thomas, B.A., and Widner, T.E. 1999. Radionuclides Released to the Clinch River from White Oak Creek on the Oak Ridge Reservation—An Assessment of Historical Quantities Released, Off-site Radiation Doses, and Health Risks. Reports of the Oak Ridge Dose Reconstruction, Vols. 4 and 4A. The Report of Project Task 4. Tennessee Department of Health, Oak Ridge Health Studies, Oak Ridge Dose Reconstruction.

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radionuclide wash-off from contaminated watersheds using Chernobyl data. *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity* 42:131-141.

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