

Current and emerging tools and approaches for ecosystem-focused chemical assessments involving data gaps.

Session: Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management

Scientists are frequently called to make important decisions about chemicals in the face of serious data gaps. These decisions can include determining which chemicals and chemical properties to devote further research to, which chemical to include in the design of a new product, or which chemical is the best replacement for an existing chemical during an alternatives assessment. While there are multiple tools to help scientists fill in these data gaps, tools or approaches that address ecosystem-focused gaps are limited, especially as compared to their human-focused counterparts. This session aims to provide information for regulators, academics and industry on the best current and emerging tools and approaches to help fill in data gaps in identifying ecosystem hazards for new and little-studied chemicals, comparing the hazards of new chemicals to hazards of well-studied chemicals, as well as provide case studies where these tools have been successfully applied.

This session encourages submissions describing current or emerging tools or approaches for filling data gaps and comparing hazards of data-rich and data-poor chemicals, particularly those that will highlight strengths and weaknesses. Examples where these tools or approaches have been successfully used would be welcomed. Submissions that highlight needed next steps, lessons learned, and how various interested stakeholders can work together to advance the field are encouraged. These subjects ensure that submissions from multiple perspectives will be submitted, including academics, regulators, and industry, but that all submissions will have a similar focus and provide for a well-rounded session with real educational value.