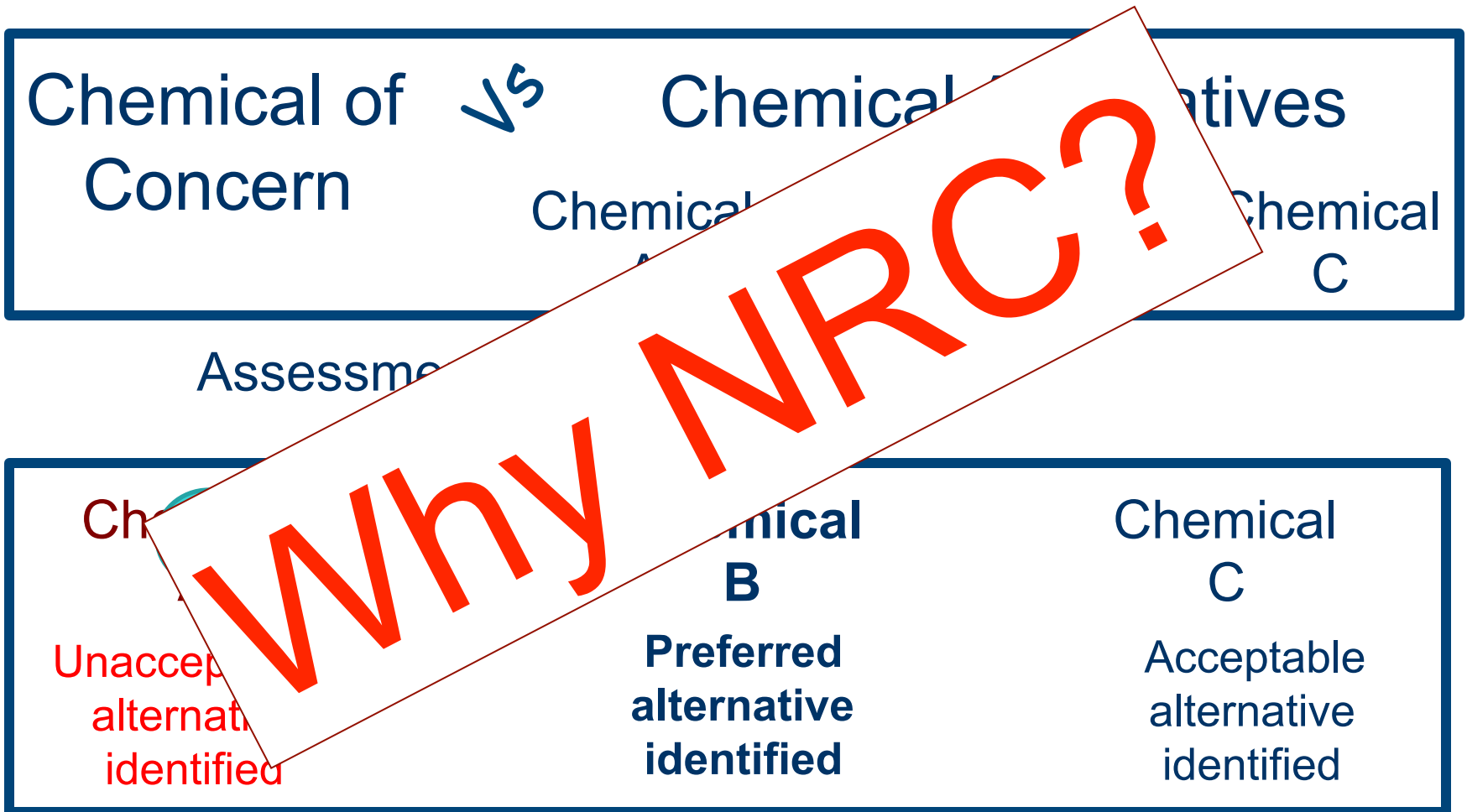


# **National Academies’ Framework on Alternatives Assessment, “Design of Safer Substitutes”**

David Dorman, DVM, PhD  
North Carolina State University

# Chemical Alternative Assessments: The Basics

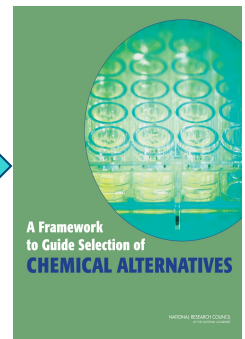


# NRC Process “Simplified”

NRC forms  
committee

Committee  
drafts a  
report

Draft  
report  
undergoes  
peer review



Sponsor and  
NRC agree  
to a project  
and  
statement  
of task

Committee  
holds open  
and closed  
sessions



# Committee's Statement of Task

Focused on:

- Substitute chemicals
- Consider both human health and ecological risks
- Evaluate tradeoffs
- Demonstrate the use of high throughput/content data streams

# Committee Members

**Dr. David C. Dorman, (Chair),** North Carolina State University

**Dr. Peter Beak,** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Dr. Eric J. Beckman,** University of Pittsburgh

**Dr. Jerome J. Cura,** The Science Collaborative

**Dr. Anne Fairbrother,** Exponent, Inc.

**Dr. Nigel Greene,** Pfizer, Inc.

**Dr. Carol J. Henry,** The George Washington University

**Ms. Helen Holder,** Hewlett-Packard Company

**Dr. James E. Huchison,** University of Oregon

**Mr. Gregory M. Paoli,** Risk Sciences International

**Dr. Julia B. Quint,** California Department of Public Health (Retired)

**Dr. Ivan Rusyn,** The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Dr. Kathleen A. Shelton,** DuPont Haskell Global Centers for Health and Environmental Sciences

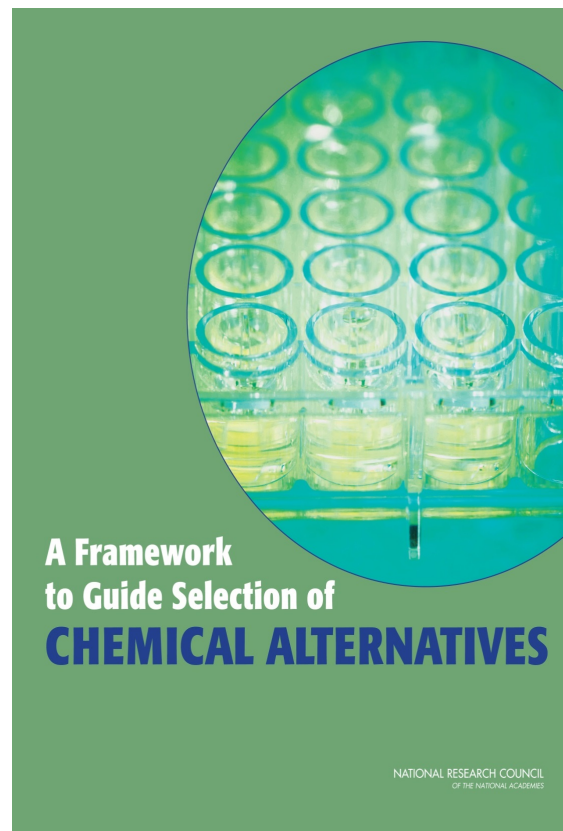
**Dr. Joel A. Tickner,** University of Massachusetts

**Dr. Adelina Voutchkova,** The George Washington University

**Mr. Martin H. Wolf,** Seventh Generation, Inc.

# Report Overview

- Existing Frameworks and Tools
- Framework
- Details on each step, including how it is conducted in other frameworks
- Case studies to illustrate different alternative assessment situations



# Alternatives Assessment (NRC)

- Is a process for identifying, comparing and selecting safer alternatives to chemicals of concern.
- NOT a *safety, sustainability, or risk assessment*

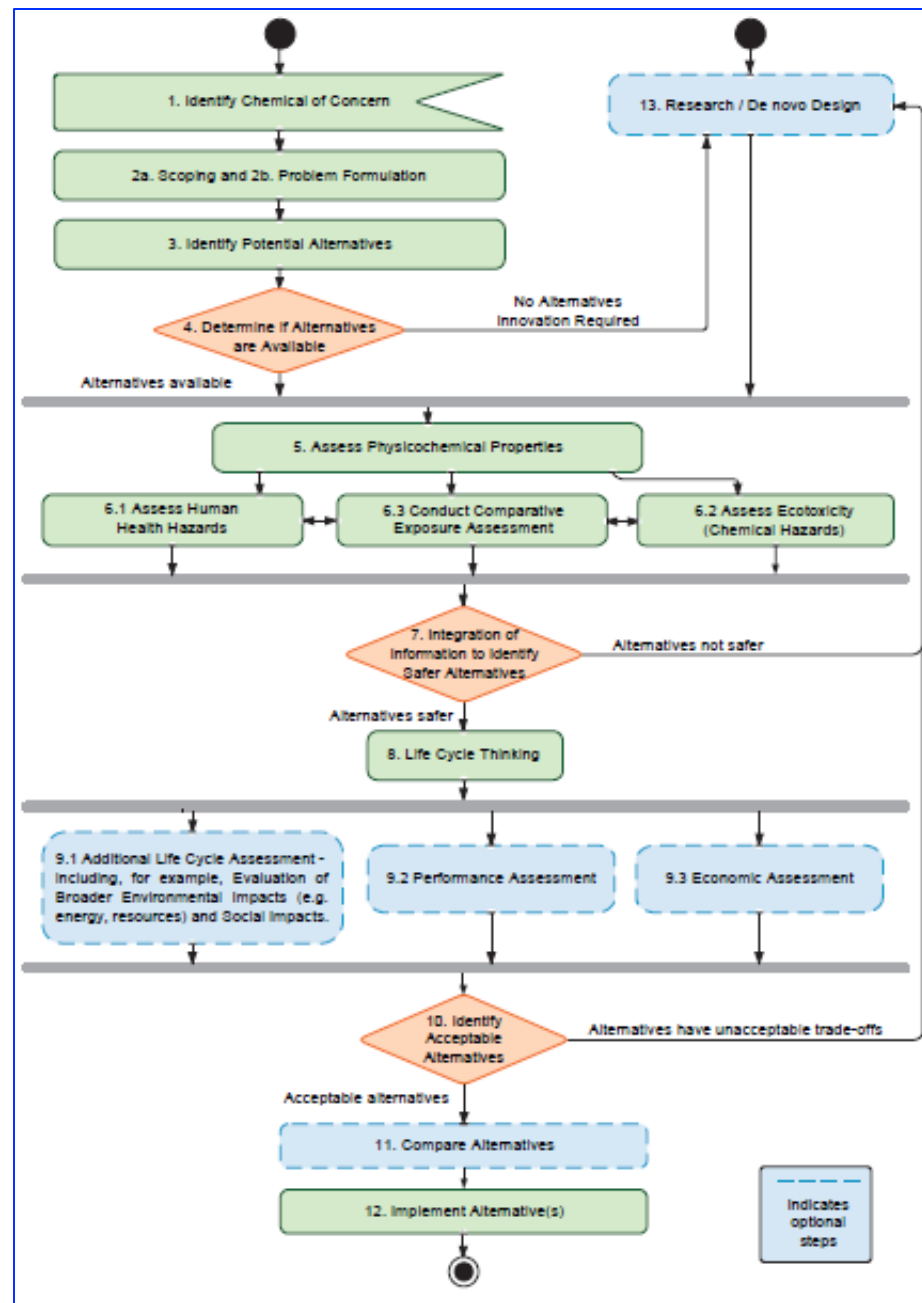
# Key Issues the Committee Considered

- Hazard vs. exposure
- Data gaps and uncertainty
- Integration of different types of information
- New data streams (e.g., high throughput screens)
- Role of R&D



# 13-Step Framework

- Required steps evaluating:
  - Physicochemical properties
  - Human health hazards
  - Ecotoxicity
  - Comparative exposure
  - Life cycle thinking
- Optional steps
  - Life cycle analysis
- Acknowledges the need for R&D



# Scientific Information and Tools Required to Support the Committee's Framework

- Critical that the scientific community embrace the challenge and advantages of using novel data streams in the alternatives assessment process.
  - Need to develop principles or tools that support the benchmarking and integration of high throughput data.
- Multidisciplinary teams needed

# Acknowledgments

- **Sponsor:**
  - EPA, Office of Research and Development (with support from Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP))
- **NRC Oversight:**
  - National Research Council's Division on Earth and Life Studies
    - Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology
    - Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology