Initial Meeting of SC 1-21; Multiplatform National Approach for Providing Guidance on Integrating Basic Science and Epidemiological Studies on Low-Dose Radiation Biological and Health Effects

NCRP Headquarters
7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 400
Bethesda, Maryland

AGENDA

Goal: The Scientific Committee 1-21 will prepare a Commentary on critical research needs for evaluation of low-dose radiation biological and health effects. The focus of the Commentary will be on the integration of results of basic science studies, including biomarkers of cancer and other diseases, with epidemiological studies on health effects of low-dose radiation exposures.

Committee Membership: S.A. Amundson (Co-Chair), J.L. Bernstein (Co-Chair), K.F. Eckerman, R.A. Guilmette, A. Kronenberg, M.P. Little, J.A. Nickoloff, S.N. Powell, D.O. Stram, J. Preston (Advisor to the President), T. Pellmar (Staff Consultant)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2012

8:00  CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST available at NCRP

8:30-8:40  Welcome – NCRP President and Co-Chairs of SC 1-21

8:40-9:10  Introductions - Committee

9:10-9:25  Committee charge and discussion of NCRP Policies/Procedures pertaining to task - J. Boice

9:25-9:45  Overview of how the Committee will proceed - Co-Chairs
Discussion of SharePoint site – T. Pellmar

9:45-10:15  Presentation: Integrating Basic Biology and Epidemiology – J. Preston

10:15-10:35  BREAK

10:35–12:00  Discussion of Outline

Section 1: Introduction

Section 4: Methodological issues and underlying assumptions

(Part a: General issues, including: Can risks following low dose exposure be inferred from studies of high dose exposure? Key issues in extrapolating risk from animal models to human populations? Use of simulated data-how good are the estimates? Etc.)
12:00-1:00  LUNCH at NCRP

1:00-2:00  Section 4: Methodological issues and underlying assumptions
  (Part b: Examples integrating biology and epidemiology)

2:00-2:45  Section 5: Closing the gaps toward an integrated approach
  (Long-term markers, transgenerational effects, individual susceptibility, systems
  biology and predictive mechanistic methods, etc.)

2:45-3:00  BREAK

3:00-3:30  Break-out sessions focused on subsections of outline and on developing
  guidelines

3:30-4:00  Report back from break-out sessions. Discussion of each sub-Section

4:00-4:30  Sections 2 and 3:
  (Brief reviews of epidemiologic methods and biologic measurements supporting
  Sections 4 and 5.)

4:30-5:00  Revise Outline. Assign writing responsibilities.

5:00-5:30  General discussion on moving ahead. Potential problems and requirements
  for additional information. Committee composition appropriate? Discussion of
  guidelines. What are we missing and what else to include?

5:30  Adjourn for the Day

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012

8:30 -9:00  Review outline and writing assignments. Discuss any additional concerns.
  What are we missing and what else to include?

9:00-11:00  Break-out sessions (or group discussion) of each section in greater detail

11:00-11:30  Additional Comments

11:30  Adjourn (LUNCH will be available at NCRP)
PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE: Sally Amundson and Jonine Bernstein (Co-Chairs), Mark Little, Jack Nickoloff, Simon Powell, and Daniel Stram. Keith Eckerman, Ray Guilmette, and Amy Kronenberg participated by telephone. Also attending the meeting were NCRP President John Boice, Advisor to the President Julian Preston, and NCRP Staff Consultant Terry C. Pellmar.

Prior to the meeting the Committee was sent information about the general scope of the Committee’s charge: to provide guidance on integrating basic science and epidemiological studies on low-dose radiation biological and health effects. At the meeting Dr. Boice led a discussion of the charge to the committee and described the history of the effort, the funding for the study, and time frame for producing a Commentary. Dr. Boice also informed the committee of NCRP policy on confidentiality and conflict of interest.

The meeting began with each participant introducing himself and discussing his area of expertise in relation to the overall charge to the Committee. Dr. Julian Preston presented an overview of his perspectives on integrating basic biology and epidemiology. Next, the Co-Chairs, Sally Amundson and Jonine Bernstein led the Committee in considering the potential topic areas to be addressed in the report. The ensuing discussion through the remainder of the day resulted in an initial outline for the report. Committee members volunteered for the topics they were best suited to address. The Committee-generated report outline, including writing assignments, is available on the SC1-21 Sharepoint site.

The tentative schedule adopted by the Committee was 1) to complete the initial writing assignments by mid-January 2013, with a subsequent teleconference to address progress, identify gaps, and determine next steps; 2) to have an integrated first draft ready for discussion at a meeting in June/July 2013; and 3) to submit the draft report within two years of the Committee’s first meeting.