

TECHNICAL REPORT
for the period of 1 October 1998 to 30 April 1999

“Study of Leukemia and Other Hematologic Deceases Among Clean-up Workers in Ukraine Following the Chornobyl Accident (UkrAm Leukemia Project)”

Submitted by: Ihor J. Masnyk, Ph.D.
U.S. Project Director
CRU, REB, DCEG, NCI

Submission date: 24 May 1999

Three events mark the past six months in this project. First, Dr. Howe organized a workshop on computer linkage based in the computer center with participation of DCC personnel from the thyroid projects in Ukraine and Belarus. It was well received and hopefully will assist the participants in their efforts to identify the cohort members using various sources available to them.

Next, Dr. Finch carried our an international hematology review program using clinical records and histological slides of general population from Kyiv and several other oblasts to assess the state of the art as practiced in Ukraine. This was to do evaluate the yield of these materials for the clean-up workers who would be examined if the project goes into Phase II. The project was a great success.

The third event was the training organized by Dr. McFee for the cytology staff in FISHT analyses; the necessary equipment and the probes were finally delivered to Kyiv and the work could now begin. Dr. McFee’s report was very positive and later information from Kyiv noted increased activity in analyzing the already available material.

The complicated equipment for Dr. Chumak’s EPR work has also arrived and cleared customs. However, some of the parts were missing and an effort was initiated to bring the manufacturer’s engineer to come to Kyiv to set up the equipment and give instructions to the staff.

A meeting was held with the French representatives in Paris and Dr. Tirmarche then attended a session in Kyiv during our site visit. The French are looking forward to Phase II and expect a more proactive participation (if this phase will come to be).

The project was supposed to end in June this year. However because of the difficulties in getting the equipment and probes to Drs. Chumak and Pilinska, much of the anticipated

dosimetry work was not done. A six months extension was requested and granted. At this time we expect the Phase I of the project to be terminated in December. A meeting of the old Leukemia Working Group is being planned in Bethesda in late July to review to progress of the work. Based on this evaluation plans for Phase II may be made or a decision reached to terminate the project.

Internally a review of possible participating Oblast centers was made and the final decision included the following Oblasts: Dnipropetrivsk, Cherkassy, Chernyhiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv City and Kyiv Oblast. This was based on the availability of past records, distance from Kyiv and agreement to cooperate in the study should it be initiated.