

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 10, 2001

**TO:** Frank Hawkins, Claudia Beach, Mohandas Bhat, and Ruth Neta

**FROM:** Barrett Fountos *BF*

**SUBJECT:** Summary of the May 7, 2001 Meeting of the Chernobyl Oversight Panel

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The Chernobyl Oversight Panel (COP) of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG) met at NCI to review the status of the Chernobyl thyroid and leukemia studies. Dr. Shelia Zahm, Deputy Director, chaired the meeting. In attendance were Dr. André Bouville, Dr. Alina Brenner, Dr. Gil Beebe, Ms. Betsy Duane, Dr. Patricia Hartge, Dr. Robert Hoover, Dr. Geoffrey Howe, Dr. Charles Land, Dr. Jay Lubin, Dr. Nick Luckyanov, Dr. Ihor Masnyk, Ms. Sharon Miller, Dr. Jacob Robbins, Ms. Kathi Stine, Dr. Terry Thomas, Dr. Bruce Wachholz, and I.

Most of the discussion focused on redefining COP's meeting schedule and the draft revised thyroid study protocol, and the reporting requirements for the renewal Funds Out Interagency Agreement (FOIA) between DOE and NCI.

NCI and Columbia staff plan to conduct quarterly oversight meetings in Belarus and Ukraine in June 2001. Dr. Masnyk recently informed me of the dates of travel and I am coordinate my travel with the team's itinerary.

Because COP members better understand the thyroid and leukemia studies and the thyroid study protocols have been revised, COP members decided to reduce the frequency of meetings from bimonthly to quarterly, with fewer meetings during the summer and more frequent meetings before the Trinational Thyroid Study Collaborators Meeting in November.

The NIH Institutional Review Board requested that NCI update the thyroid study protocols. Dr. Beebe prepared and Dr. Thomas revised a working description of the design and methods of the thyroid study protocols. COP members discussed comments on the revision, which will be given to the Thyroid Advisory Group (TAG) for review. NCI plans to invite me to this meeting. The revised draft protocol included language containing decision criteria for continuing or terminating the studies be developed and inserted into the revised thyroid study protocols.

Dr. Howe described the cohort which consist of individuals on the dose file. From the dose file, a subgroup called the target cohort, was chosen to be included in the study. The target cohort consists of all individuals living in Belarus at the time of the accident in the dose file and about half in Ukraine in the dose file. The examined cohort is the subgroup of the target cohort who were recruited in the study.

The leukemia study will have a Leukemia Advisory Group (LAG). It will consist of four Americans. However, there will be no chair nor Ukrainian counterparts. NCI plans to schedule the first meeting of the LAG in September in Bethesda. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Masnyk are preparing the OMB Clearance for Phase II. Dr. Masnyk reported that he expects the costs of the study to increase due to peripheral costs.

There were no comments about the draft language in the Statement of Work for the renewal FOIA. COP members suggested alternative due dates for the reporting requirements and I agreed to incorporate their suggestions and send them the revised draft.

On September 10-11, 2001, NCI will host a meeting of other international organizations conducting thyroid cancer research in Chernobyl populations in Bethesda.

The COP's next meeting will be on October 1, 2001, at 10:30 a.m. at NCI.

Attachment: Meeting Agenda

**Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics  
Chornobyl Oversight Panel**

**May 7, 2001**

**10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., EPS 7107**

**AGENDA**

- I. Redefine COP's role, membership, and schedule for 2001-2002 Zahm
- II. Thyroid Study
- Thyroid Advisory Group: Orientation, protocol review, meeting Masnyk
- Drafts: Protocol (Attachment) Beebe, Thomas  
Methods Paper
- III. Leukemia Study
- Leukemia Advisory Group: Orientation, protocol review, meeting Masnyk
- Update on epidemiology, OMB, and other issues Beebe, Thomas
- IV. Budget Masnyk
- V. FYI - Attachments
- Robbins J, et al. Iodine nutrition and the risk from radioactive iodine. Thyroid
- Moysich K, et al. Chernobyl-Related Radiation Exposure and Leukemia Risk in Ukraine. AACR Presentation, March 2001
- Stone, R. Living in the shadow of Chornobyl. Science 292:420-426, 2001

Future Meetings:

September 10-11, Meeting with Other International Chornobyl Research Teams

October 1, COP

November 5, COP

Nov. 14-16 (tentative dates), Tri-National Thyroid Study Collaborators Meeting

*13, 14, 15, + 16 -> workshops*

*Bob Wood*