

Benzene Health Research Consortium Shanghai Health Study

As you are aware, the purpose of the Shanghai Health Study is to gain a more refined understanding of the relationship between benzene exposure and associated cancer risks. The studies are utilizing cutting-edge, 21st century technologies to advance the understanding of benzene-induced disease and identify potential prevention strategies.

Recently, the BHRC Business Oversight Committee has received guidance that the five current sponsoring companies will provide funding of \$20,884,000 as described in the attachment. (Marathon has also committed \$200,000.) After deliberation and consultation with the contractors, **the Business Oversight Committee has unanimously agreed that a scientifically rigorous, unique research project to further the current understanding of the human health effects of benzene could be executed at this funding level without sacrificing the integrity of program results.**

Of course, changes are needed in the \$22,800,000 program that was previously designed, the details of which are still being worked out. The Business Oversight Committee anticipates that the cost savings will be achieved through efficiencies in program management, as well as a reduction in some aspects of the research program. The following cost savings anticipated:

[One sentence regrets to be added as indicated.]

Program management savings (\$x,x00,000)

- ☐ Reduce the external communications budget designed to deal with target audience comprehension and ultimate acceptance of the study and its results. Replace this with additional "sweat-equity." This will *weaken our ability to*
- ☐ Better cash flow management.
- ☐

Research program reductions (\$x,x00,000)

- ☐ Reduce the number of patients studied in the molecular epidemiology study. This will *weaken the statistics*
- ☐ Reduce travel expenses of the principal investigators.
- ☐ Realize savings in the case control study.
- ☐

The details of the revised program are still being developed by the Oversight, Technical, and Communications Committees and are being vetted with the external reviewers. It is anticipated that the revised program will be finalized in November 2003.

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Subject: Shanghai SRP... Memo to the Consortium

Benzene Health Research Consortium (BHRC) Technical and Oversight Committees -

Attached for your review and consideration is a "Memo to the Consortium" from the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) chair, Dr. Jerry Rice, which documents SRP review of Shanghai Health Study research following the 2003 Asilomar annual conference.

By copy to Matt, please post a pdf copy of the Memo to the SHS website, Panel Info page, in SRP Member Doc's... thanks!

Best Regards - Bruce.

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Attachments:

SRP Memo to Consortium 20 Oct 2003.doc
SRP Memo to Consortium 20 Oct 2003.pdf