

Meeting Report

MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION
Vinyl Chloride Technical Panel
Crystal City Marriott Hotel
Arlington, Virginia
April 28, 1976

Subject: Vinyl Chloride Health Research Program
Ethyl Attendee: D. E. Cooper
Other Attendees: See attached
Chairman: Dr. T. J. Torkelson (Dow)
Secretary: Milton Freifeld (MCA)

SUMMARY

This meeting was to review the programs of investigations into the biological effects of vinyl chloride, and to decide on future technical programs.

Five excellent papers were presented by contractors--three from Dow, one from Tabershaw-Cooper, and one from Industrail Bio-Test. These papers covered the following subjects:

- 1) Teratology. The special relevance of this subject is the issue of exposing pregnant or potentially pregnant females.
- 2) Pharmacokinetics. An excellent and very promising look into the mechanisms of metabolizing and detoxifying vinyl chloride. Finding strong indications that there is a threshold for overwhelming the mechanisms protecting animals from carcinogenic action.
- 3) Carcinogenicity studied in large numbers each of rats, mice, and hamsters. Three doses covering wide range. Detailed histologic studies looking at 8-10 types neoplasms. Angiosarcoma was very much in evidence, and there was evident apprehension about the plans for presenting this paper before the AIHA in mid-May.
- 4) Cytogenetic Studies.
- 5) Epidemiologic Studies. Tabershaw-Cooper looked at the records on over 10,000 employees potentially exposed to vinyl chloride over a 30-year period. The results of this study were at best not very conclusive, and perhaps typify the difficulties of retracing the medical histories of industrial chemical exposees.

The program clearly arousing the greatest interest of the group was the one proposed by Dow, which is expected to cost MCA about \$133,000. For the most part this is intended to extend and expand the detoxification and threshold studies which have already turned up some very interesting insights into vinyl chloride toxicology.

The second program is one proposed by the University of Louisville, which would cover many of the human physiological and diagnostic aspects. The panel agreed to support this program to the extent of \$230,000 for its first year. It already has the support of NCI to the extent of 2.7 million dollars.

It was agreed that these two programs would be described in detail and then recommended in a single distribution of information to the executive managements of vinyl chloride producers. The companies will have the option of supporting their shares of either or both programs.



D. E. Cooper

DEC:ws