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2. Industrial BIO-TEST Oral Progress Report

As copies of the detailed quarterly progress report had been earlier distributed to members of the Technical Task Group on Vinyl Chloride Research, the oral presentation was primarily a summary report, augmented by slides illustrating the physical

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facilities set up for this project. The tabular data presented by Mr. Schadeberg on his slides is reproduced in Appendix A to these minutes.

It was suggested that, in future progress reports, the summary tables, as exemplified by this appendix, be furnished in the copies provided for general distribution to the group, and that the detailed data be filed with MCA for the record, but not included in the general reports. Mr. Schadeberg agreed to follow this format in the future.

The mortality revealed in Table I was discussed at some length. Members were somewhat relieved to note the improving picture, particularly with respect to losses from hamster cannibalism. It was agreed not to try to replace any animals lost to date, on the grounds that the stresses introduced by such disturbances to established orders of social dominance in the populations in any given cage would tend to perpetuate the earlier situation.

The reduced weight gain of the TE-IV Group rats (those with bedding and food in the cages during exposures) was noted, but the significance of this observation, if any, could not be determined. This group will be observed carefully for evidence of systemic toxicity.

3. Report of European Research

Dr. Maltoni repeated his presentation of the results of the European research programs, and the description of ongoing experiments, that he had earlier presented to the OSHA hearing on February 15 in Washington. An updated version of his report, with the inclusion of the tabular data that appeared on his slides, will, upon receipt, be distributed as a separate mailing.

The only experiment that is now essentially complete is the initial series of exposures of Sprague-Dawley rats to levels of 10,000 ppm VCM down to 50 ppm. With the exception of the highest exposure group for which early mortality limited the incidence of such cancers, the rats showed a dose-related incidence of angiosarcomas of the liver, as shown in the following table:

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Exposure levels ^a (p.p.m.)	Rats with liver angio- sarcomas	Number of rats exposed
10,000	6	69
6,000	11	72
2,500	9	74
500	7	67
250	2	67
50	0	64

^a Atmospheric exposure of Sprague-Dawley rats to vinyl chloride, four hours daily, five days a week, for 12 months.
Note: No liver angiosarcomas were observed in controls or rats exposed similarly to 2500 p.p.m. vinyl acetate.

4. Support of Dow Proposals

The TTGVCR voted to request their managements to provide \$80,000 for the support of the Dow research as described in their proposal distributed to the group in the MCA mailing of January 29, 1974.

5. Support for Other Research

The TTGVCR endorsed the position of the Research Coordinators with respect to current support of research in the areas of mutagenicity, three-generation feeding studies, and 90-day feeding studies, recommending that these be deferred for the present.

6. Revision of SD-56 - Vinyl Chloride

This matter will be attended to after completion of the sub-task groups of their tasks of the development of work practices standards, medical surveillance, and industrial hygiene monitoring and analysis.

7. Progress Report from Tabershaw-Cooper Association on the Epidemiology Study

The staff of TCA distributed copies of an updated progress report (copy attached to these minutes as Appendix B). They pointed out that, in its present format and state, their tabulation merely reflects a distribution of death and is not

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intended to indicate the existence or non-existence of any specific risk or excess mortality in any category.

8. Tabershaw-Cooper Associates Proposals for Expanded Epidemiological Research

Dr. Tabershaw summarized his pending proposals for new studies involving (1) intensifying their efforts to trace missing cases, (2) clinical study of suspect deaths in the mortality study, and (3) undertaking a prospective epidemiology study among high-risk segments of the worker population. He indicated that he would soon be submitting formal proposals for these projects. (Prior to the publication of the present minutes, these proposals were received and distributed to the Technical Task Group by MCA under date of March 12, 1974.)

9. Establishment of a Vinyl Chloride Pathology Register

The full task group endorsed the recommendations of the Research Coordinators that the University of Michigan be requested to reactivate and expand their acro-osteolysis registry program to include all categories of occupational illnesses specifically related to vinyl chloride exposure. They requested that MCA pursue this matter with the University, and if necessary, to seek other agencies willing to perform such a service.

10. Report of the Working Group on Analysis and Monitoring

The report of the group, in the absence of its chairman, was read, and is attached to these minutes as Appendix C. The tenor of the resulting discussion was that member companies should submit their candidate analytical and monitoring methods for consideration by the working group as soon as possible. The latter should attempt to draft its recommendations in format that provided the maximum flexibility of implementation, as long as the methods employed met appropriate standards of sensitivity, selectivity, and precision.

11. Report of the Working Group on Medical Surveillance

The recommendations of this group have been incorporated in the work practices draft submitted by that group (see the following item in these minutes). It was pointed out that the recommended surveillance is required to document the effectiveness

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of the environmental controls programs. It was the opinion of the working group that liver function tests are of borderline significance and value as a predictor of the development of angiosarcomata.

12. Report of the Work Practices Working Group

The interim draft of their report was presented, with requests for suggestions as to its improvement. It was recommended that this draft (distributed to the Task Group on March 11, 1974), after review and discussion and possible revision, be presented informally to NIOSH as the personal recommendations of members of the working group now on the NIOSH consultants panel.

13. Future Meeting Schedule

In view of the uncertainties surrounding the timing of future federal agency activities relating to the vinyl chlorid problem, the Task Group left the time of the next meeting subject to the call of the chairman.

Respectfully submitted,


Kenneth D. Johnson, Ph.D.
Secretary
Technical Task Group on Vinyl
Chloride Research

KJD:mb
Minutes Subject to Approval
April 8, 1974

Distribution:

- Technical Task Group on Vinyl Chloride Research
- Attendees
- Dr. Tiziano Garlanda