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Subject: Progress report

Dear George:

Attached is our quarterly progress report of the AML and NHL case-control study. It summarizes our activities from September to December 2001. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,

Otto

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Attachments:

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AML and NHL Case-control Studies

Quarterly Progress Report
September – December 2001

Prepared by:
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Review of draft protocol by the Ethics Review Panel:

- The draft protocol of the AML and NHL case-control study (with consent forms and questionnaires) was revised according to previous comments from Dr. Baruch Brody and Dr. Xu Zongliang.
- The revised protocol was submitted to Dr. Brody and Dr. Xu for approval.
- A teleconference was held on September 26, 2001 between Dr. Brody, Dr. Woodall, Dr. Irons and Dr. Wong to discuss remaining issues.
- Both Dr. Brody and Dr. Xu accepted the revised protocol.

Review of draft protocol by the Scientific Review Panel:

- The revised draft protocol of the AML and NHL case-control study was submitted to the Scientific Review Panel for review and comment.
- Written comments were received from members of the Scientific Review Panel.
- A meeting was held in Chicago on September 26, 2001 to discuss the protocols, comments on the protocols, and responses to comments. In attendance were Dr. Patrick Beatty (Chair, Technical Committee), Dr. Shan Tsai (Technical Committee), Dr. George Woodall (API), Dr. Richard Irons (Investigator), Mr. Thomas Armstrong (Investigator) and Dr. Otto Wong (Investigator).
- A meeting/teleconference was held in Chicago on September 27, 2001 between the investigators and members of the Scientific Review Panel to discuss comments on the protocols.

- A revised protocol and point-by-point responses to reviewers' comments on the AML and NHL case-control study were submitted to Dr. Jerry Rice, Chair of the Scientific Review Panel, on December 18, 2001.

Exposure assessment:

- Based on comments from the Scientific Review Committee, the level of effort in exposure assessment in the AML and NHL case-control study was expanded.
- We have agreed to harmonize the methods and procedures of exposure assessment in all three research projects. Specifically, we have agreed to use the same approach of exposure assessment in our AML and NHL case-control study as in Dr. Irons' disease progression study. The protocol has been revised accordingly.
- Mr. Thomas Armstrong, who is responsible for exposure assessment in Dr. Irons' studies, has agreed to assist us in exposure assessment.
- Professor Roy Rando (Tulane University) has agreed to increase his participation in exposure assessment.
- A meeting was held at Tulane University in New Orleans on October 29, 2001 between Dr. Rando, Mr. Armstrong and Dr. Wong to discuss exposure assessment issues.
- To supplement benzene exposure measurements maintained at the Shanghai Municipal CDCP, a literature search of Chinese occupational medical journals was conducted to identify articles that might contain benzene exposure information. Approximately 20 papers were identified. Copies are available upon request.

Hiring of research assistants in Shanghai:

- In October we hired Miao Lizhuang (Julia). Ms. Miao received her medical degree from China Medical University in 1993, and worked as an occupational physician at the Institute of Occupational Health, Anshan Iron & Steel Corporation between 1993 and 1998. She received an MPH from Fudan University School of Public Health in 2001. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Fudan. Ms. Miao will be working full-time on the AML and NHL case-control study.
- In November we hired Xu Xiang. Ms. Xu received her degree in preventive medicine from North China Coal Medical University in 2000. She is currently an MPH student at Fudan University School of Public Health. Ms. Xu will be working full-time on the AML and NHL case-control study.