

Benzene Health Research Consortium
Summary – Oversight Committee Conference Call
5/2/02

Present:

Don Burnett, BP
Carol Fairbrother, ExxonMobil
Paula Podhasky, API
Matt Todd, API
George Woodall, API
Lorraine Twerdok, API

Absent:

Patrick Beatty, ChevronTexaco
Bill Broddle, Conoco
Patsy Clegg, Shell

Review of Action Items from 3/14/02 Call:

Planning for First Annual Research Review Meeting:

3/14 Action item and status: Availability of PIs, SRP members and Ethics Committee members for first Annual Research Review Meeting in January, 2003 (George Woodall)

- In progress – see attached list of responses
- Second half of January (3rd week?) appears to be best date; will continue to poll in order to set date ASAP

Further Discussion on issue:

Venue – OC had previously decided on West Coast but

- SRP chair, Jerry Rice, has suggested Hawaii as a reasonable half-way point;
- Richard Albertini (SRP member) will be in Hawaii January 18-23 to attend a joint AACR/SOT symposium on “Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology of Cancer” – this topic is highly relevant to the BHRC program

Attendees

- Otto Wong has recommended that Professor Liang You-xin be invited to meeting: Dr. Liang is Chair of the National Standards Setting Committee in China. His department is working with Otto Wong and Tom Armstrong on exposure assessment.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Oversight, Technical and Communications Committees** – Review attached list of investigator and review panel attendee; suggest others to invite including Professor Liang (per O. Wong’s recommendation), government representatives (EPA), WHO, NGOs, sponsor company members, etc.
2. **Oversight, Technical and Communications Committees** – Put a place holder on your calendars for this event, and contact PAULA (podhaskyp@api.org) ASAP with dates in the second half of January, 2003, you are NOT AVAILABLE
3. **Communications Committee** – Develop list of Chinese officials to invite
4. **G. Woodall** - Explore feasibility of piggy-backing our meeting onto AACR/SOT meeting; get ballpark cost estimates for holding meeting on West Coast vs Hawaii

3/14 Action item and status: Obtain legal review of marketing material & presentations (L. Twerdok)

- IPIECA presentation reviewed
- Review of other items ongoing

Further Discussion on issue:

Outside legal council needs to be briefed and requested to advise/participate in document review.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

1. **L. Twerdok** – Arrange meeting/conference call to provide overview of program to outside council
2. **J. Wagner** – arrange conference call with sponsor company attorneys and outside council (after background briefing) to discuss legal issues with outside council

3/14 Action item and status: Keep track of companies/entities approached for membership and their decision (include reason to join/decline) – all

- Ongoing

NEW ACTION ITEM:

3. **L. Twerdok/Recruitment WG** – develop spreadsheet (website?) to keep track of recruitment activities

3/14 Action item and status: Develop research program that can be accomplished with committed funding (\$16.5M) (Technical Committee)

- No progress

NEW ACTION ITEM:

4. **G. Woodall** – take action to technical committee

Ethics Panel Recruitment Issues:

- OC was informed of the need to recruit additional members for the Ethics Panel. Myron Harrison has a candidate from WHO.

NEW ACTION ITEM:

5. **Myron Harrison** – follow up with WHO candidate for membership

Recruitment WG Update:

- Petronas is very interested in consortium – Myron Harrison is following up from IPIECA mtg contact
- TotalFinaElf and Statoil were less enthusiastic at IPIECA mtg – Bill Frick will follow up with recruitment efforts
- A recruitment presentation will be given (C. Faribrother; L. Twerdok if Carol is unavailable) to the ACC BTX Children's Health Chemstar Panel on May 8. Chemical companies expected to be present include Dow and Dupont
- EPA has provided lead within US State Department of potential funding via a new US/China Science and Technology Agreement. OC committee

observed that type of funds involved (hard funds vs soft funds requiring congressional approval: hard \$ OK; soft \$ requiring debate, probably not) would determine course of action in pursuing issue.

- It was observed that discussion of SRP and SRP membership is a good recruitment tool.
- Involvement of member attorneys for recruitment efforts was discussed. It was decided that it would only be appropriate once a company has expressed interest (e.g. Marathon Ashland)
- Suggestion of WG to approach API Board to “take over study” was discussed. It is too early to do this; need to pursue all recruitment strategies first.
- Mechanism for NGO/Gov’t participation in consortium was discussed. One suggestion is to set up a large “Advisory Board” to include SRP, Ethics Committee and NGO/Gov’t participants. Membership of SRP and Ethics Panel would be indicated by footnote.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

6. **Recruitment Committee** – find out more information on State Department option, including type of funding
7. **L. Twerdok** – circulate SRP roster to all consortium members (attached)
8. **Oversight, Technical and Communications Committees** – comment on Advisory Board suggestion for NGO/Gov’t involvement; propose other options for NGO/Gov’t involvement

Communication Committee Update:

- Planning for May 15/16 China Strategy Summit in Shanghai is in full swing
 - Attendees to date include
 - Investigators – Irons, Wong, Schnatter, Armstrong (Dr. Fu will not attend)
 - Company reps
 - BP – none to date; awaiting notification
 - Chevron Texaco – Patrick Beatty
 - Conoco – will not attend
 - ExxonMobil – 3 attendees (Lynn Russo and 2 – China-based)
 - Shell – 1 China-based attendee
 - APCO reps – up to 5
 - OC approved Matt Todd’s participation in the China Strategy Summit as API’s representative.
 - OC Chair, Don Burnett, expressed concern and disappointment in API for such late OC notification of the date for this important event. Keeping OC informed of all consortium activities needs to improve.
- Work on development of recruitment materials tailored to specific audiences continues

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

1. **L. Twerdok, M. Todd, G. Woodall, P. Podhasky** – improve information sharing between all committees
2. **L. Twerdok, M. Todd, G. Woodall, P. Podhasky** – add committee chairs to all consortia committee listserves AND indicate early in email if message contains information of importance to other committee

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL tentatively scheduled for:

Date: Thursday, May 23

Time: 2:00 PM (EDT)

Dial in: 1-866-262-1780 (US domestic)
+205-354-0101 (international)

Mtg. #: *3764204* (stars required)

If operator assistance is needed, key in *10*