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Bcc:
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Subject: Shanghai ERP - Baruch Brody has resigned due to ill health

Benzene Health Research Consortium (BHRC) Ethics Review Panel -

Baruch Brody today resigned from the Shanghai Health Study, stating "i have been very ill and have developed esrd [end-stage renal disease] and that precludes extensive out of town work. good luck on the remainder of the project - bab".

I would like to solicit the ERP's preferred course of action, in order to carry your collective opinion forward to the Consortium Oversight Committee...

1) Should a replacement US ethicist be recruited, maintaining original regional balance (Europe, China & US) and panel membership, and vote a new Chair? If so, can you identify a candidate ethicist for recruitment?

2) Or, should the ERP remain an independent, 2-member panel and vote a new Chair?

3) Or, given that the most active phase of ethics review was at the front-end of this study, and now that the work load on both ethics and scientific review panels has moderated, should the external panels integrate under the leadership of Jerry Rice? Both groups worked well together in this fashion at the August Asilomar meeting, and "topic lead" can be deferred to members having that specific expertise - with ethicists working ethics issues, as currently done within the science review panel for issues regarding biostatistics, molecular markers, industrial hygiene and other specialties.

Best Regards - Bruce.

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