

Benzene Health Research Consortium Technical Committee

Draft Minutes

Conference Call – 18 Nov 2004

Participants

Patrick Beatty (ChevronTexaco)

Jennifer Galvin (ConocoPhillips)

Steve Bose (ExxonMobil)

Howard Feldman (API; part-time)

Don Burnett (BP)

Bruce Jarnot (API)

Stuart Cagen (Shell)

Administrative Items

- Call was conducted in accordance with API antitrust guidelines
- Agenda: discuss / review “action items” generated at early-November OC meeting in Houston
 - Expectation to provide update(s) by 10 December 2004

Background

- Most Action Items can likely be met by PI discussion(s)
- \$3.3MM gap identified by PIs has led to sense of urgency
 - OC deferred most action items to the TC
 - Funding required to carry the studies to completion
 - Approx 2x of Rich Irons Oct 2004 estimate
 - Possible BP \$1.7MM added contribution?
 - May not include Richard's T&E increase, post-2007

General Discussion Items

- Action – Prioritization under current funding? (Alternate approach, still pending...)
 - Prioritization by SRP/ERP
 - Prioritization by PIs?
 - Consequences & implications noted if studies re-scoped by prioritization

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- OC has ID'ed ~\$600K possible cost savings ("sweat equity" approach)
- Added cost of exposure assessment
 - How much of Yimei's costs embedded in Richard's re-analysis?
- 2-month (longer?) replacement for Patrick not ID'ed (ChevronTexaco)
 - Patrick will be on short term disability starting end-of-December
- **Proposal**: Discuss "Action Items" in-person with Richard
 - Benefit seen of having Denver meeting with Richard & -TC
 - Invite Otto to attend/participate?
 - **Action**: Patrick/Stuart to call or email regarding possible meeting

Long-standing Action Items

- **Action**: Review Munich attendee list for possible scientific involvement follow-up
 - Defer to 2005, pending resolution of scope scale-back & budget reanalysis
 - Might this miss a window of opportunity (risk of becoming a "stale issue"?)
- **Action**: Do we need a formal QA/QC audit of Shanghai?
 - **Proposal**: affirm recommendation that this ~\$100K line-item be dropped
 - QA/QC will be internally covered by JCML lab accreditation
 - **Co-proposal**: TC delegation to visit & "spot check" lab operations
 - Goes toward demonstrating sponsor due diligence

New Action Items

- Nat Rothman (NCI Investigator) proposed NCI/Consortium collaboration
 - NCI China CC Study proposed, beginning 2007
 - **Action**: TC to discuss NCI's offer with PI's
 - **Proposal**: include in PI discussions
- **Action**: options for JCML continuation, via outside funding?
 - Contingent upon Fudan plans...

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- Continue within School of Public Health (i.e., likely to be shut down)
- Or establish JCML as separate, free-standing department
- Fudan decision possible by end-of-year
- **Proposal**: Ask Richard if he sees value in having Company rep's meeting with Fudan (risk of sponsors "taking sides" with internal Fudan politics?)
- **Proposal**: include in PI discussions
- **Action**: confirm Budget Re-analyses as being complete & comprehensive
 - Anything overlooked (e.g., Richard T&E cost increase)
 - Any "cost overlap" (e.g., Yimei's time-in-field in Richard's re-analysis vs. EMBSI funding her effort)
 - **Proposal**: include in PI discussions
- **Action**: reality check of exposure assessment
 - Do we need more than a yes/no for CC exposures?
 - Is there an association between Bz and NHL? AML?
 - CC dose-response may be "nice to have", but not critical to study
 - **Proposal**: check w/ SRP & PIs... can we cut back on level of assessment?
 - *don't need to hit a home run each time to win the game*
 - **Proposal**: include in PI discussion
 1. PIs to reconsider "what can really be done" in exposure assessment?"
 2. Will this provide some of the answers (may be an ethics consideration)