

February 9, 2010 Meeting of the Scientific Guidance Panel for Biomonitoring California

Summary of Panel Recommendations

The Scientific Guidance Panel (SGP) for the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program (also known as Biomonitoring California) met on February 9, 2010 in Sacramento. The SGP's recommendations and suggestions on various topics are summarized below. Meeting materials, including the agenda, presentations and the transcript, are available on the biomonitoring website (<http://oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/biomon/feb2010agenda.html>).

Program and Laboratory Updates

The new public name for the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program (CECBP) was presented to the Panel. "Biomonitoring California" was chosen as being simpler and more accessible to study participants and other interested parties.

Program staff gave an update on progress toward meeting the objectives of the Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Panel expressed its support and encouragement for the Program's collaborative efforts with Environmental Health Tracking Program in Tulare and Imperial counties; the Cohort of Young Girls' Nutrition, Environment, and Transitions (CYGNET); the Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project (MIEEP); and Kaiser's Research Program on Genes, Environment, and Health. Panel members encouraged Program staff to continue efforts to study exposures in firefighters. Panel members Luderer and Wilson offered assistance in identifying and accessing firefighter cohorts.

The Panel noted excellent progress made by the laboratories in developing analytical methods and encouraged continued development of methods to analyze new brominated flame retardants. The Panel reiterated the need for a biomarker for diesel exhaust exposure. The SGP also provided some input on the quality assessment and quality control efforts of the laboratories.

Designated and Priority Chemicals

The Panel voted unanimously to recommend adding pendimethalin (and its metabolites, biomarkers, and/or relevant indicator chemicals) to the designated chemical list.

The panel voted 6 to 2 to recommend adding the already designated polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (and metabolites, biomarkers, and/or relevant indicator chemicals) to the priority list.

Panel members postponed a decision on benzophenone-3 as a potential priority chemical. They requested that the Program provide additional information on benzophenone-3, consider chemicals in sunscreen as a general category, and also

investigate the possibility of using total estrogenic load as a measure for biomonitoring.

Updated designated and priority chemical lists with the above additions have been posted (see <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/biomon/index.html>).

Proposed New Format for Designated and Priority Chemical Lists

The Program proposed a simpler format for the designated and priority list. The new format would more closely mirror the approach taken by CDC in its Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. Panel members agreed that the new format improved the readability and accessibility of the lists. Any substantive changes to the lists that are required by the new format will be discussed with the Panel during the May 24, 2010 meeting. The new format will be implemented after the May meeting.

Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project

Program staff presented an update on the Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project (MIEEP; also known as Chemicals in Our Bodies Project), which included an overview of the project design, information participants would receive about the study, excerpts from the questionnaire, and an educational handout to be provided to participants. Panel members gave a variety of suggestions for improving the questionnaire, including evaluating the length of the questionnaire, addressing some design issues (e.g., questions that are likely to elicit a response of “no”), and including more questions on dietary history. Panel members appreciated that the Program developed an educational handout for participants. Suggestions on the handout included adding an overview for context, providing information on remodeling, and clarifying statements about ceramic ware. The Program will take the Panel’s input into consideration in modifying the questionnaire and other study materials as much as possible.

