

May 24, 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 May 24, 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 here: <https://biomonitoring.ca.gov/events/biomonitoring-california-scientific-guidance-panel-meeting-may-2010>.

Program and Laboratory Updates

Program staff gave an update on progress toward meeting the objectives of the Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This included an update on the Program's collaborative efforts with the Environmental Health Tracking Program in Tulare and Imperial counties; the Cohort of Young Girls' Nutrition, Environment, and Transitions (CYGNET); and the Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project (MIEEP). The new Firefighter Occupational Exposures Project (FOX) was also briefly introduced. The Program's efforts to obtain outside funding and the continuing progress on the pilot projects were acknowledged.

Laboratory staff gave an update on activities since the last SGP meeting. Panel members noted the progress made by the laboratories in developing and validating new analytical methods and were complimentary on the level of precision and accuracy achieved by the laboratories.

Designated Chemical

The Panel voted unanimously to recommend adding triclocarban (and its metabolites, biomarkers, and/or relevant indicator chemicals) to the designated chemical list. Panel members requested additional detailed toxicology, persistence, and exposure information for use in any future discussions on triclocarban.

Priority Chemicals

The Panel voted unanimously to recommend adding parabens that were already designated (butylparaben, ethylparaben, methylparaben, propylparaben) to the priority list.

New Format for Designated and Priority Chemical Lists

Program staff gave an overview of the new format for the designated and priority chemical lists and asked for the Panel's input on specific issues, such as formatting details, revised and new footnotes, and updating information on the lists based on CDC.

The Panel provided the following comments and recommendations:

- Because different isomers can have different toxicities (e.g., cis- and trans-permethrin), it was suggested that the specific isomers be retained on the list.
- There was an inquiry if CAS numbers would be included on the list. Program staff explained that a full technical list that will include the CAS numbers is planned for the future.
- The Panel reviewed and agreed to the revised footnote on diesel exhaust and a new footnote for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).
- The Panel approved the Program's proposal to add parent chemicals newly identified by the CDC for a particular metabolite to the priority list in cases when that metabolite is already on the priority list.

Other Panel Input on Chemical Selection

It was requested that the Program include the broad class of disinfection byproducts, especially byproducts of chloramination, in the queue of chemicals being considered for the Panel to review as potential designated chemicals.

Firefighter Occupational Exposures (FOX) Project

Program staff presented an overview of the FOX project. The Panel congratulated the Program on developing this study during the time since the last meeting. Panel members made a number of specific comments:

- Suggestions were made regarding refining the exposure assessment and the questionnaire, such as by obtaining information on pesticide applications at the fire stations and adding questions on exposures at home or at a second job.
- The Program should measure phthalates, which are likely to be found in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters.
- The Program could consider expanding the questionnaire to longer than 15 minutes, if needed, and work with the union and management to encourage rank and file firefighters to take the time to complete it.
- GPS coordinates of the fire stations should be obtained to look at nearby traffic density, truck traffic and other sources for PAH exposures. This pilot project would be a good opportunity to measure a biomarker for diesel exposure, if one were available.

Overview of Draft Public Integration Plan

Program staff presented an overview of the Draft Public Integration Plan and asked for input on specific discussion questions:

- Aspects of our public integration efforts that should be priorities.
- Methods and practices that might be effective for increasing the number and diversity of Program stakeholders.

- Ideas about achieving high participation rates in biomonitoring studies.
- Suggestions of individuals or organizations we might interview to gain insight into effective communication of biomonitoring results.

Panel members recommended that the Program make contact with a range of groups and individuals for insight and ideas on involving the public, including:

- Participants in earlier Program meetings to find out why they are not currently participating in Program activities and how the Program could better engage with them;
- Those who have had success working with environmental justice (EJ) advocates;
- The leadership of community and/or EJ groups; and
- Labor organizations, which represent a diverse cross-section of Californians, and have a commitment to chemicals policy reform. Findings of contaminants in umbilical cord blood are of concern to many occupational groups, especially those heavily exposed to chemicals (e.g., refinery workers).

Panel members also recommended that the Program:

- Inform participants that they need to request their results if they want to receive them;
- Work to ensure that results are understandable to the study participants;
- Be clear with community groups regarding the Program's limited capacity to conduct studies in their communities, to avoid raising unrealistic expectations; and
- Create a Facebook page in order to connect with the public.

Mr. Davis Baltz of Commonweal suggested using the results from the pilot study on cord blood as an opportunity to re-engage individuals who expressed interest in the Program early on but have not attended SGP meetings recently.

Selection of SGP Chair

The Panel nominated and unanimously confirmed Dr. Ulrike Luderer as Panel chair.

