

**Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
National Cancer Institute**

**Minutes of the State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and  
Environmental Research Coordinating Committee**

**August 2, 2011**

The State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee was convened for a meeting on August 2, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. via conference call. The Chair of the subcommittee is Michele Forman, PhD of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

**Subcommittee Members Present**

Janice Barlow  
Suzanne Fenton, PhD  
Michele Forman, PhD  
Sandy Haslam, PhD  
Christine Ambrosone, PhD  
Neeraja Sathyamoorthy, PhD

**NIH Staff Present**

Jennifer Collins, MR  
Laura McGuinn, MSc

**Others**

Ilane Maximo, University of Texas at Austin

**I. BACKGROUND**

The Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (IBCERCC) is a congressionally mandated body established by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This Committee is comprised of 19 voting members, including representatives of Federal agencies; non-federal scientists, physicians, and other health professionals from clinical, basic, and public health sciences; and advocates for individuals with breast cancer.

The Committee's primary mission is to facilitate the efficient and effective exchange of information on breast cancer research activities among the member agencies, and to advise the NIH and other Federal agencies in the solicitation of proposals for collaborative, multidisciplinary research, including proposals to further evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. The Committee serves as a forum and assists in increasing public understanding of the member agencies' activities, programs, policies, and research, and in bringing important matters of interest forward for discussion.

The objectives of the SOS Subcommittee of the IBCERCC are integrated and dependent on the objectives and activities of the other Subcommittees<sup>1</sup> of the IBCERCC and include the following: to summarize the state of the literature (both animal and human research); advances in breast cancer research supported or conducted by Federal agencies relevant to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer (and related disorders); and identify research gaps.

---

<sup>1</sup> The other Subcommittees of the IBCERCC are the Research Process Subcommittee (Chair, Michael Gould) and the Research Translation, Dissemination, and Policy Implications Subcommittee (Chair, Jeanne Rizzo).

The IBCERCC SOS Subcommittee held its eighth meeting, hosted by NIEHS and the NCI, via conference call on August 2, 2011. Attendees of the meeting included committee members and NIH staff. The meeting agenda included discussion on the following: updates on progress made in the advances, animal, and epidemiology sections and action items and work assignments moving forward.

## **II. Discussion**

### ***Research Gaps/Needs and Figure Drafts***

Michele brought the group up to date on the progress made by Sandy, Sue, Christine, and Michele regarding research gaps and needs identified during the work summarizing the animal and human epidemiology research. She referred everyone to the table circulated in advance of the call today entitled Table 1: Key research needs to be addressed in humans and animals. She explained that the purpose of the table was to provide a quick glimpse of what the research needs are.

Janice requested clarification regarding the meaning of the check marks; specifically whether they indicate that the research has been done or whether they indicate a gap in research. Michele said that the checks are meant to indicate gaps and each research need should have at least one check in the box for animal/human or both.

The group went through the table systematically and edited where appropriate. The group agreed that the word objectives or goals should be added in a sentence prior to the table in which the purpose of the table and its elements are described. The group agreed underneath each of the key questions and bullets the terms should be titled “Research Needs” (removing “Goals”). During the call Sue incorporated the changes recommended by the group. She will circulate a revised table to the group for a second review.

Next, the group discussed the graph that Sandy developed depicting the life stage time course of development for both human and rodents. Sandy clarified that this was meant to be a time course relevant to breast development. A legend is needed to make the purpose of this clear. Sue proposed making the utero values negative to clarify. Michele suggested that the periods of development (in Utero, infancy, childhood, etc.) could be combined into a single bar (with colors representing the periods) and then all three bars for the two rodents and for humans could be displayed in one single graph. The graph would have two scale bars with rodent days on the left and human years on the right. Sue will have Casey edit the graph accordingly this week and then send back out to the group.

The group then discussed the pictures of rodent and human breast development distributed by Sandy and Sue. The group liked the black and white versions of the images because they felt that the colors were a bit distracting. Sandy wondered if Jose Russo could provide lower magnification images for the human. She will contact him and ask. Michele liked the images related to breast cells during menstrual/estrus cycling on Sue’s figure and proposed adding it to Sandy’s. Sandy agreed to change involution to senescence. Sue/Sandy will incorporate the requested changes and send back out to the group.

### ***Advances or Progress Updates***

Neeraja provided an update on the progress in this section. She will send a draft to the group in about a week’s time. After discussion with Debbie Winn, she is putting advances in a bigger picture perspective and is incorporating the comments received in response to the memo that this group sent to selected individuals.

The group discussed the best way to present the information. Christine suggested that a time line will not work for all of the advances because they are the culmination of a body of evidence (such as risk factors).

Michele liked the idea of a table of progress with columns for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment (and animal research). The bullets would be put in chronological order.

Once a draft is made then the group can review and determine what should be included in this table. Michele encouraged the smaller group working on this to have phone calls ahead of the next conference call (September 12). Sandy/Sue will send a list of what they have for animal research advances to Neeraja and Janice.

#### ***Animal updates***

The group reported that they are moving along and making progress. Sue has sent everything to Sandy for her review.

#### ***Human epidemiology updates***

Michele reported that this group is also continuing to make progress.

#### **Action Items**

- Jenny will send the SOS group Michele Forman's new contact information.
- Sue will update the research gaps/needs table and circulate back to the group for review.
- Sue will have Casey update the time course graph and send it to the group.
- Sue/Sandy will update the images comparing human/mouse/rat breast development and send to the group.
- The advances group will send a draft of their section to the group ahead of the next conference call (scheduled for September 12).

### **III. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. on August 2, 2011.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.

/Michele Forman/

Michele Forman, PhD

Chairperson

State-of-the-Science Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

/Gwen W. Collman/

Gwen W. Collman, PhD

Executive Secretary

Research Process Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

Proper signatures

Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)