

**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**

September 12, 2011

The State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee was convened for a meeting on September 12, 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

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 Subcommittees¹ 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.

The IBCERCC SOS Subcommittee held its ninth meeting, hosted by NIEHS and the NCI, via conference call on September 12, 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,

¹ 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).

and epidemiology sections, preparation for the upcoming in-person meeting, and action items and work assignments moving forward.

II. Discussion

Michele welcomed everyone to the call and asked Janice for an update on the advances section. She said that she like to think of these as “progress” rather than advances. Janice briefly described the table that Neeraja sent around in August that contains columns for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Janice indicated that it is representative of the responses to the survey. Sue commented that she also has a list for animals and said that she will add an animal research column to the table. She will send to Sandy for commenting and then send to the whole group next week.

Next, the group moved on to the table that was edited as a result of the August 2 conference call regarding research needs. Sue edited the table and sent to the group on 08/03 and has not received comments to date. Sue requested feedback by next week.

Sue and Sandy have also been working on editing the figure for mammary gland development. They will finish and then send back out to the subcommittee. They also reported that the state-of-the-science in animal research draft is almost ready.

Michele reported that the human epidemiology chapter is not as mature as the animal chapter. They will continue to work on their draft leading up to the September in-person meeting.

Jenny requested that all written drafts for review by the full Committee be sent to her by the end of the day on Thursday, September 22 to allow time for printing and distribution electronically ahead of the meeting on September 26.

For advances section the group deliberated the need for including references. They decided that if the Committee definitely wants to include the references, they will be responsive to that request. They will get feedback from the full Committee. Michele initially envisioned this section looking like what Vivian Pinn showed the group.

The group discussed the organization for the chapters. Sandy suggested that she always sees that epidemiology informs the animal studies. As such, she thought that the epidemiology chapter should precede the animal chapter. Janice proposed that because the advances section highlights the lack of breast cancer and environment research that this should be included in the text before the epidemiology/animal information. Sandy agreed and said that this emphasizes that we really don't know that much about the environment. The group agreed and thought that advances (progress-to-date) should be first. This would be followed by the animal and human information and end with the section on future needed.

This entire section will include a general introductory section that will include information regarding breast/mammary gland development, known risk factors, trends in incidence and rate, etc.

Next the group focused on what would be presented to the Committee on the first day. Michele suggested that each of the groups from this subcommittee will present 3-5 slides that highlight the major points. This will cover the general approach and organization for each of the sections.

Christine said that we need to agree on risk factors and the state-of-the-science of environmental research in breast cancer, and conclusions. Michele said that we need feedback from Committee on this. We also need to confirm that we have covered all of the major progress areas.

Sandy said that the agenda needs to include plenty of time for discussions. We need a more intensive look at the subcommittees and information on what they have done since the last meeting. There needs to be ample time for the other subcommittees to ask questions. Michele proposed one hour for each subcommittee with 45 minutes to present and 15 minutes for questions. The morning will be spent reviewing progress.

Michele asked Neeraja to provide an introduction for the progress section, specifically on how we arrived at the advances to date table, describing the survey and readings, etc. She should briefly review/highlight the current draft of the table.

Christine will provide an update on the epidemiology section, Sue will provide an update on the animal section, and Michele take on the future needs update. Presenters should send slide sets to Jenny by Friday, September 23.

The group proposed that the afternoon of the first day would be composed of break-out sessions that would allow the group to respond to the questions from other Subcommittee. In addition, Subcommittees would generate recommendations/requests for the other subcommittees.

Action Items

- Sue will add a column of information on the table of advances for animal research. She will send to Sandy for comments and then to the subcommittee next week.
- Subcommittee members should send Sue edits to the research needs table by the end of the week.
- Sue/Sandy will finish editing the mammary development figure and send to the group for editing.
- Presenters should send slide sets to Jenny by Friday, September 23.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. on September 12, 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)