



# Scientific and Community Input to Date

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[http://i2.cdn.turner.com/money/2010/04/30/news/economy/bp\\_gulf\\_oil\\_spill\\_cost/gulf\\_oil\\_spill\\_100428a.top.jpg](http://i2.cdn.turner.com/money/2010/04/30/news/economy/bp_gulf_oil_spill_cost/gulf_oil_spill_100428a.top.jpg)

# Sources of Scientific and Community Input

- June 2010 IOM meeting  
<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/Assessing-the-Effects-of-the-Gulf-of-Mexico-Oil-Spill-on-Human-Health.aspx>
- Scientific expertise
  - Previous oil spills
  - WTC experience
  - Gulf region university investigators
- Community expertise
- Federal agencies' expertise (this meeting!)

# Goals of Community Consultation

- Improve study protocol
- Enhance participation rates, facilitate recruitment
- Build trust, enthusiasm
- Identify community needs we need to be prepared to address
- Learn from past mistakes

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# Consultation Efforts to Date and Planned

- Individual phone conversations (N ~ 25)
- Phone conference with state health officials 8/17/10 (N ~ 10)
- Webinar 8/17/10 (N ~ 140)
- Second webinar 9/15/10
- IOM public input and review 9/22/10
- State and local health departments
- Stakeholders' meetings
- Town hall meetings

# Scientific Concerns – Study Components

- Include behavioral and mental health; consider Millennium Cohort measures
- Include heat exposures
- Oversample women and study reproductive effects
- Conduct pulmonary function testing with bronchodilators on all
- Include DNA adducts, exhaled breath condensate

# Scientific Concerns – Study Design

- Collect biospecimens immediately, don't wait for enumeration
- Collect urinary metabolites of PAHs immediately
- Anticipate difficulty in finding truly unexposed controls
- Examine health of workers' families
- Study exposed, non-worker coastal populations
- Meet with small group of highly exposed workers ASAP to identify acute health issues

# Scientific Concerns – Exposure Assessment

- Don't assign exposure categories based purely on job title; wide range within each
- Consider weather conditions, tides, machinery and equipment in assigning exposure categories
- Examine relationships between biomonitoring studies and environmental sampling data provided by EPA and OSHA

# Community Concerns – Local Involvement

- Involve local community organizations now and throughout
- Recognize need for cultural competency and close connections with local communities
- Translate training materials and provide instruction in Vietnamese, Haitian Creole
- Fund local universities to participate in study design, data analysis, interpretation, publishing
- Recognize concerns regarding federal efforts
- Develop unified plan for coordinated research effort of universities, agencies

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# Community Concerns - Communicating Results

- Communicate as much information as possible including biomonitoring
- Use care in communicating results of unclear validity or clinical significance
- Participate in community meetings such as those of EPA, CDC, USCG

# Community Concerns - Referral and Care Needs

- Many potential parallels with WTC medical follow-up and care, be prepared for need to provide care
- Work with local medical resources and health departments to put referral program in place
- Develop overall referral plan and then tailor to individual communities
- Anticipate potential need for special workers' compensation for volunteers as in WTC



## NIEHS

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