

Report 28: Clearest and Most Present Dangers from Occupational and Chemical Agents

Convener: Frank Mirer

Brief History:

It would be important to align NIEHS research portfolios and intervention activities with areas where there is likely greater public health impact of new knowledge, particularly knowledge which would inform evaluation of lower dose potency of the agent. Another driver of priority would be controversy over regulation or other public health intervention. Exposure circumstances may have become ripe for impact in recent years.

Discussion Highlights:

The convener's interest was the priority of research in particle effects, which have emerged since the mid ninety's from community studies, but which are common to air pollution, diesel particulate matter, nano technology, etc. This is an area where community studies may transfer to occupational.

The topic was poorly attended, there was limited enthusiasm for naming exposure circumstances, other. Some exposure circumstances mentioned were perfluorinated compounds, nanoparticles, naturally occurring asbestos-like fibers. The association of auto immune disorders with indoor use of pesticides and cosmetics. Increased prevalence of auto immune disorders among women may be accounted for by these exposures.

One participant suggest that prioritizing this way may not be a good method of strategic planning, because issues change over time.

Recommendations:

A better accounting for disposition of petitions to NTP for testing would be helpful. A method for petitioning to NIEHS for research consideration beyond testing could be established. Public health or regulatory impact should be better incorporated into RO1 and other research project evaluations.

Discussion Participants:

Edwards, Ladd, Long, Mirer, Nicholas, Sink (not all for entire time)