



President's Cancer Panel Update

**National Cancer Advisory Board
February 2, 2009**

LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., MD, FACS, Chair



President's Cancer Panel

Function:

The Panel shall monitor the development and execution of the activities of the National Cancer Program, and shall report directly to the President. Any delays or blockages in rapid execution of the Program shall immediately be brought to the attention of the President.



President's Cancer Panel

The Panel's function is purely advisory; therefore, they are unable to implement change. However, the recommendations put forth in the Annual Reports are steps that stakeholders in the cancer enterprise can take to enhance the National Cancer Program.



Examples of the Impact of Panel Recommendations

- *Voices of a Broken System: Real People, Real Problems*
 - Patient Navigation
- *Facing Cancer in Indian Country: The Yakama Nation and Pacific Northwest Tribes*
 - Research of Patient Navigation funded by CRCHD
- *Translating Research into Cancer Care: Delivering on the Promise*
 - TRWG
 - HIPAA (IOM committee study)



Examples of the Impact of Panel Recommendations, cont.

- *Living Beyond Cancer: Finding a New Balance*
 - Treatment summaries/follow-up plans
 - Formation of ASCO Survivorship Task Force
 - LAF adult survivorship centers of excellence
 - Fertile Hope activities
- *Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: Policy, Program, and Personal Recommendations for Reducing Cancer Risk*
 - Tobacco regulation



Panel Impact

- Study currently being conducted to determine the feasibility of evaluating the impact of Panel recommendations.
 - 6 month study: October 2008 – March 2009
 - Results will follow in the summer of 2009
 - Study will conduct interviews with three sets of stakeholders: NCI recommendation implementers; external implementers; implementation beneficiaries



2007-2008 Meeting Series

Strategies for Maximizing the Nation's Investment in Cancer: Three Crucial Actions for America's Health

- September 10, 2007 *Atlanta, GA*
- October 22, 2007 *San Diego, CA*
- December 3, 2007 *San Juan, PR*
- January 28, 2008 *New Orleans, LA*



Annual Report

- Report was released October 23, 2008.
- Available in PDF on the PCP website: <http://pcp.cancer.gov>
- Print copies are now available.



Recommendations

Three Crucial Actions:

1. Preventing and treating cancer must become a national priority.
2. All Americans must have timely access to needed health care and prevention measures.
3. The scourge of tobacco in America must end.



2008-2009 Meeting Series

Environmental Factors in Cancer

- September 16, 2008 East Brunswick, NJ
 - *Industrial and Manufacturing Exposures*
- October 21, 2008 Indianapolis, IN
 - *Agricultural Exposures*
- December 4, 2008 Charleston, SC
 - *Indoor/Outdoor Air Pollution and Water Contamination*
- January 27, 2009 Phoenix, AZ
 - *Nuclear Fallout, Electromagnetic Fields, and Radiation Exposure*



Possible Outcomes

- Determine the status and role of regulatory agencies responsible for monitoring environmental hazards.
- Identify research needs and potential new areas of collaboration between Federal agencies
- Increase public awareness of environmental and occupational hazards
- Develop recommendations for:
 - regulating toxic and other potentially hazardous chemicals and materials
 - reducing exposure to pollutants



East Brunswick, NJ

Industrial and Manufacturing Exposures

Key Points:

- The Federal response to the need to decrease workplace exposure to chemical carcinogens has been inadequate on all fronts – research, regulation, and prevention.
- Understanding occupational cancer risks provides insight into more widespread community hazards
- Less than 2% of the chemicals currently in commercial use in the U.S. have been tested for carcinogenicity – Reactionary Principle.
- Regulatory reform and a comprehensive cancer prevention strategy are needed to apply research findings and limit harmful chemical exposures.



Indianapolis, IN

Agricultural Exposures

Key Points:

- It is very difficult to measure and identify relationships between environmental exposures and cancer risk in the general population, despite the knowledge that some of the chemicals present in pesticides are known, probable, or possible human carcinogens.
- Regulatory system is flawed - pesticide regulation is based on industry data and the process relies on a cost benefit analysis, where human health is weighed against the economic interests of industry.
- Organic farming has been proven to be economically sustainable and is one example of a precautionary approach to protecting human safety first.



Charleston, South Carolina

Indoor/Outdoor Air Pollution and Water Contamination

Key Points:

- Cancer risks from air and water pollution are poorly characterized as threats to the public and environmental health.
- Radon, a naturally occurring gas that becomes concentrated in homes and buildings, is ranked as one of the top four environmental risks to the public by the EPA as its decay products may be responsible for a significant number of lung cancers.



Charleston, South Carolina

Indoor/Outdoor Air Pollution and Water Contamination

Key Points (continued):

- 42% of the U.S. population may have access to drinking water that contains harmful contaminants such as endocrine disruptors, excreted human hormones, pharmaceuticals, and nitrates.
- Accurate risk assessment of “hot spots,” genetic susceptibility, time of exposure, and cumulative exposures over a lifetime to water contaminants and air pollutants will be important for better detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancers related to these risks.



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