

Occupational Medicine Meeting Highlights

During the Wrap-Up session, the future directions for the SOMDs were discussed:

1. Recommendations to the Department of Energy were stated:

- a. Hiring of a qualified chief medical officer
- b. Medical Peer Review by qualified physician peers must be the standard practice
- c. The medical directors want to work with DOE in establishing consistency of the HRP process throughout the complex.
- d. Instead of focusing primarily on injury rates, we recommend taking a more comprehensive approach into looking at the health and productivity of the workforce.

2. Education of the new DOE Chief Medical Officer

The medical directors would like to participate in the orientation and education of a new CMO.

3. Collaborative working relationship with the Office of Enforcement to facilitate their understanding of the medical issues associated with 10 CFR 851.

The SOMDs would very much like to work with Ms. Kathy McCarty and her associates on this issue.

4. SOMDs participation on VPP site visits.

The medical directors agree with Mr. Brad Davy in having a physician serving on the VPP site visits for the occupational medicine portion of the evaluation.

5. Cytogenetic Testing

Considerable amount of interest was voiced to using REAC/TS for Dicentric testing for recent ionizing radiation exposure, and Translocations testing for historical exposures. Please contact Dr. Gordon Livingston or Dr. Mark Jenkins at REAC/TS Biodosimetry Laboratory for further details.

6. Pandemic Influenza Education

Dr. Bonnie Richter has offered her presentations and handouts to the SOMDs to use at their sites in educating their workforce on a pandemic influenza.

7. Funding for REAC/TS

The SOMDs thanked Drs. Bonnie Richter and Pat Worthington, along with Ms. Marsha Lawn for their continuing support of REAC/TS.

8. Beryllium Update

Dr. Lee Newman and Dr. John McInerney presented an update on beryllium health effects, interpretation of BeLPT, new tests for the future, and Web-based tools. Please see their presentations when they are posted.

9. Hazards of Synthetic Biology

Dr. Pete Lichty presented information on biosafety committees should know concerning new hazards as we pursue biofuels. Please refer to his handout to see information on infections, allergic reactions, toxic reactions, and susceptible individuals.

10. Human Performance

Dr. Todd Conklin's presentation was focused on the medical directors looking at human performance in terms of a). What did we do to set the worker up for failure? b). Understand the risks of your organization. c). Become a learning organization from near misses and injuries. d). Understand that the physician brings a different perspective to the investigation team.

11. Outsourcing of Medical Services

There was considerable concern expressed about the outsourcing of medical services at different sites. The medical directors will put together a business case for medical services.

12. Medical Directors Organization

- a. The spring meetings will be held at one of the DOE sites so medical directors can highlight their programs and discuss areas of concern.
- b. Monthly telephone calls will continue
- c. Leadership – Dr. Brady, who has been chairing the group for the past 4.5 years, indicated he would like to start transitioning a SOMD to chair the group. Any interested SOMD should contact him.

13. Presentations

Ms. Marsha Lawn is currently gathering all of the PowerPoint presentations given in Las Vegas and will soon have them on a website for all to view.

The SOMDs would like to thank all of the participants and speakers at our bi-annual meeting. It is only by working together that we can really understand the medical and safety issues of our workforce.

Bill Brady