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CC/03/25

DRAFT

**COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

PRESENTATION ON BIOBANK PROJECT.

Background

1. The COC finalised its statement on genotype-environment interaction with regard to chemically induced cancer in June 2002. Dr Zimmerman, Director of the Public Health Genetics Unit, Cambridge replied with a number of suggestions regarding future research on gene-environment interactions (See Annex 1 to this paper for copy of COC statement and Dr Zimmerman's letter). Following discussion of the letter at the November 2002 COC meeting, the chair agreed a response, forwarded by the secretariat (Annex 2 to this paper).
2. Dr P Greenaway (Assistant Director, DH Research and Development) responded on behalf of Biobank suggesting that a presentation to the COC might address the issues raised by members. A copy his memo and the protocol for Biobank (dated February 2002) are appended as Annex 3 to his paper.
3. The protocol gives an overview of the methods for recruitment (500,000 men and women aged 45-69), included would be provision of a blood sample for DNA analysis and consent for participation and follow-up. Information will be obtained through a self-administered questionnaire and a 30 minute interview with a practice nurse including some measurements (e.g. weight, height). Participants will be flagged through the Office of national Statistics. Follow-up will include resurvey of a subset of 2000 every 2 years, and a resurvey of entire cohort by post every 5 years. A number of power calculations are included in the protocol which suggest that the genotype-environment interactions considered in the COC statement should be detectable in the Biobank study. One key aspect of the Biobank study is to provide a structure and resources for future research.

Presentation

4. It is anticipated that the Biobank team will present for approximately 30 minutes with an additional 30 minutes for discussion with COC members. It is anticipated there will be sufficient flexibility in the agenda for the September meeting to allow for additional time if required.

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Questions/comments for Biobank team

5. Members are asked to consider questions/comments which will enable the Biobank project to maximise the objective of being a useful resource for genotype-environment interaction studies.

**Secretariat
August 2003**