

Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-5455, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12543. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

**Agenda:** The committee will discuss the safety and effectiveness of new drug application (NDA) 20-654 Myotrophin® (human mecasermin (recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) origin) Injection, Cephalon-Chiron Partners) for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

**Procedure:** The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions should be made to the contact person by May 2, 1997. Those desiring to make formal presentations should notify the contact person before May 2, 1997, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

FDA regrets that it was unable to publish this notice 15 days prior to the May 8, 1997, Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs Advisory Committee meeting. Because the agency believes there is some urgency to bring this issue to public discussion and qualified members of the Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs Advisory Committee were available at this time, the Commissioner concluded that it was in the public interest to hold this meeting even if there was not sufficient time for the customary 15-day public notice.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: April 18, 1997.

**Michael A. Friedman,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Operations.*

[FR Doc. 97-10541 Filed 4-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

#### Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This notice also summarizes the procedures for the meeting and methods by which interested persons may participate in open public hearings before FDA's advisory committees.

FDA has established an Advisory Committee Information Hotline (the hotline) using a voice-mail telephone system. The hotline provides the public with access to the most current information on FDA advisory committee meetings. The advisory committee hotline, which will disseminate current information and information updates, can be accessed by dialing 1-800-741-8138 or 301-443-0572. Each advisory committee is assigned a 5-digit number. This 5-digit number will appear in each individual notice of meeting. The hotline will enable the public to obtain information about a particular advisory committee by using the committee's 5-digit number. Information in the hotline is preliminary and may change before a meeting is actually held. The hotline will be updated when such changes are made.

**MEETING:** The following advisory committee meeting is announced:

#### Biological Response Modifiers Advisory Committee

**Date, time, and place.** May 6, 1997, 3 p.m., National Institutes of Health Campus, Bldg. 29, conference room 121, 8800 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20852.

**Type of meeting and contact person.** This meeting will be held by a telephone conference call. A speaker telephone will be provided in the conference room to allow public participation in the meeting. Open public hearing, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., unless public participation does not last that long; open committee discussion, 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed committee deliberations, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; William Freas or Rosanna L. Harvey, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM-21), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-827-0314, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Hotline, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), Biological Response Modifiers Advisory Committee, code 12388.

**General function of the committee.** The committee reviews and evaluates data relating to the safety, effectiveness, and appropriate use of biological response modifiers which are intended

for use in the prevention and treatment of a broad spectrum of human diseases.

**Agenda—Open public hearing.** Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Those desiring to make formal presentations should notify the contact person before April 29, 1997, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time required to make their comments.

**Open committee discussion.** The committee will discuss the site visit review report for the Laboratory of Molecular Medical Genetics and the research program of an individual in the Division of Cellular and Gene Therapy.

**Closed committee deliberations.** The committee will discuss the intramural scientific research program. This portion of the meeting will be closed to prevent disclosure of personal information concerning individuals associated with the research program, disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6)).

Each public advisory committee meeting listed above may have as many as four separable portions: (1) An open public hearing, (2) an open committee discussion, (3) a closed presentation of data, and (4) a closed committee deliberation. Every advisory committee meeting shall have an open public hearing portion. Whether or not it also includes any of the other three portions will depend upon the specific meeting involved. The dates and times reserved for the separate portions of each committee meeting are listed above.

The open public hearing portion of the meeting(s) shall be at least 1 hour long unless public participation does not last that long. It is emphasized, however, that the 1 hour time limit for an open public hearing represents a minimum rather than a maximum time for public participation, and an open public hearing may last for whatever longer period the committee chairperson determines will facilitate the committee's work.

Public hearings are subject to FDA's guideline (subpart C of 21 CFR part 10) concerning the policy and procedures for electronic media coverage of FDA's public administrative proceedings, including hearings before public advisory committees under 21 CFR part 14. Under 21 CFR 10.205, representatives of the electronic media may be permitted, subject to certain limitations, to videotape, film, or

otherwise record FDA's public administrative proceedings, including presentations by participants.

Meetings of advisory committees shall be conducted, insofar as is practical, in accordance with the agenda published in this **Federal Register** notice. Changes in the agenda will be announced at the beginning of the open portion of a meeting.

Any interested person who wishes to be assured of the right to make an oral presentation at the open public hearing portion of a meeting shall inform the contact person listed above, either orally or in writing, prior to the meeting. Any person attending the hearing who does not in advance of the meeting request an opportunity to speak will be allowed to make an oral presentation at the hearing's conclusion, if time permits, at the chairperson's discretion.

The agenda, the questions to be addressed by the committee, and a current list of committee members will be available at the meeting location on the day of the meeting.

Transcripts of the open portion of the meeting may be requested in writing from the Freedom of Information Office (HFI-35), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, rm. 12A-16, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting, at a cost of 10 cents per page. The transcript may be viewed at the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Summary minutes of the open portion of the meeting may be requested in writing from the Freedom of Information Office (address above) beginning approximately 90 days after the meeting.

The Commissioner has determined for the reasons stated that those portions of the advisory committee meetings so designated in this notice shall be closed. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. app. 2, 10(d)), permits such closed advisory committee meetings in certain circumstances. Those portions of a meeting designated as closed, however, shall be closed for the shortest possible time, consistent with the intent of the cited statutes.

The FACA, as amended, provides that a portion of a meeting may be closed where the matter for discussion involves a trade secret; commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential; information of a personal nature, disclosure of which would be a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; investigatory files

compiled for law enforcement purposes; information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action; and information in certain other instances not generally relevant to FDA matters.

Examples of portions of FDA advisory committee meetings that ordinarily may be closed, where necessary and in accordance with FACA criteria, include the review, discussion, and evaluation of drafts of regulations or guidelines or similar preexisting internal agency documents, but only if their premature disclosure is likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action; review of trade secrets and confidential information submitted to the agency; consideration of matters involving investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes; and review of matters, such as personnel records or individual patient records, where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Examples of portions of FDA advisory committee meetings that ordinarily shall not be closed include the review, discussion, and evaluation of general preclinical and clinical test protocols and procedures for a class of drugs or devices; consideration of labeling requirements for a class of marketed drugs or devices; review of data and information on specific investigational or marketed drugs and devices that have previously been made public; presentation of any other data or information that is not exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the FACA, as amended; and, deliberation to formulate advice and recommendations to the agency on matters that do not independently justify closing.

FDA regrets that it was unable to publish this notice 15 days prior to the May 6, 1997, Biological Response Modifiers Advisory Committee meeting. Because the agency believes there is some urgency to bring this issue to public discussion and qualified members of the Biological Response Modifiers Advisory Committee were available at this time, the Commissioner concluded that it was in the public interest to hold this meeting even if there was not sufficient time for the customary 15-day public notice.

This notice is issued under section 10(a)(1) and (a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2), and FDA's regulations (21 CFR part 14) on advisory committees.

Dated: April 16, 1997.

**Michael A. Friedman,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Operations.*

[FR Doc. 97-10478 Filed 4-22-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

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**ACTION:** Notice.

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**MEETING:** The following advisory committee meeting is announced:

#### Ear, Nose, and Throat Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee

*Date, time, and place.* May 21, 1997, 8 a.m., Gaithersburg Hilton, Ballroom, 620 Perry Pkwy., Gaithersburg, MD. A limited number of overnight accommodations have been reserved at the hotel. Attendees requiring overnight accommodations may contact the hotel at 301-977-8900 and reference the FDA Panel meeting block. Reservations will be confirmed at the group rate based on availability. Attendees with a disability requiring special accommodations should contact Christie Wyatt, KRA Corp., 301-495-1591, ext. 224. The