electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Direct Comments to OMB

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the: Office of Management and Budget, Office of Regulatory Affairs, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503, Attention: Desk Officer for NIH. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, contact: Charles MacKay, Ph.D., NIH Project Clearance Officer, Division of Grants Policy, Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration, OER, NIH, Rockledge II, Rm. 2196, 6701 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, MD 20892–7730, or call non-toll free at (301) 435–0978 or E-mail your request, including your address to: *mackayc@odrockm1.od.nih.gov*.

Comments Due Date

Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before August 10, 1998.

Dated: June 30, 1998.

Diana Jaeger,

Director, Division of Grants Policy, Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration, OER, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98–18321 Filed 7–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, Clinical Trials Musculoskeletal.

Date: August 3, 1998.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Natcher Bldg., 45 Center Drive, Room 5AS25N, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: John R. Lymangrover, Scientific Review Administrator, NIAMS, 45 Center Drive, Room 5AS 25, Bethesda, MD 20892–650, (301) 594–4952.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, Osteoporosis Center.

Date: August 10, 1998.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Natcher Bldg., 45 Center Drive, Room 5AS25N, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: John R. Lymangrover, Scientific Review Administrator, NIAMS, 45 Center Drive, Room 5AS 25, Bethesda, MD 20892–650, (301) 594–4952.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.846, Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 2, 1998.

LaVeen Ponds,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98–18317 Filed 7–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of General Medical Sciences; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of General Medical Sciences Special Emphasis Panel National Research Service Award.

Date: July 17, 1998.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Holiday Inn Chevy Chase, 5520 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Contact Person: Bruce K. Wetzel, Scientific Review Administrator, Office of Scientific Review, NIGMS, Natcher Building, Room 1AS–19, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594–3907.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.375, Minority Biomedical Research Support; 93.821, Cell Biology and Biophysics Research; 93.859, Phamacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry Research; 93.862, Genetics and Developmental Biology Research; 93.88, Minority Access to Research Careers; 93.96, Special Minority Initiatives, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 2, 1998.

LaVeen Ponds,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98–18318 Filed 7–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Toxicology Program; Notice of International Workshop to ''Evaluate Research Needs on the Use and Safety of Medicinal Herbs''

The Workshop will be held at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Conference Facility in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina September 23 and 24 1998 from 8:30 to 5:00 each day.

Background

Herbal medicines and dietary supplements account for one of the fastest growing markets in U.S. pharmacies and constitute a multi-billion dollar industry. It is estimated that as many as 1,500 botanicals are sold in the U.S. as dietary supplements or ethnic traditional medicines. It is further estimated that greater than 50% of the U.S. population uses one or more dietary supplements including medicinal herbs. Medicinal herbs are not, however, subject to the same testing for efficacy or safety mandated for prescription or over-the-counter drugs. Given the increasing use of some medicinal herbs and the paucity of toxicological data, this workshop will bring together a panel of national and international experts to discuss the use of the medicinal herbs and dietary supplements and to establish research needs that address public health

concerns. The tentative program follows:

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Opening Comments

The NIEHS—Dr. Carl Barrett, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
The National Toxicology Program—Dr. George Lucier, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Comments from NIH Office of Dietary Supplements—Dr. Bernadette Marriott, National Institutes of Health
DHHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion—Dr. Kenneth D. Fisher, Dept. of Health & Human Services
Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research—Ms. Phyllis Greenberger, Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research
Keynote Speaker: ''Science, Politics, Public Opinion and Herbal Dietary Supplements''—Dr. Norman B. Farnsworth, University of Illinois, Chicago
Session I: Benefits and Risks Associated with the Use of Medicinal Herbs—Dr. H.B. Matthews, (Session Moderator)
Commonly Used Medicinal Herbs in the United States—Mr. Mark Blumenthal, American Botanical Council
Ranking Possible Toxic and Carcinogenic Hazards of Natural and Synthetic Chemicals—Dr. Lois Gold, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
USP Panel on the Identification and Standardization of Natural Products—Dr. V. Srini Srinivasan, U.S. Pharmacopoeia
Session II: International Research on the Efficacy and Safety of Dietary Supplements and Medicinal Herbs Worldwide—Dr. Bernadette Marriott (Session Moderator)
Research of Medicinal Herbs in Germany—Dr. Prof. Hildebert Wagner, Institute for Pharmaceutical Biologie
Ancient-Modern Concordance in Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants—Dr. Sukh Dev, New Friends Colony, India
Medicinal Herbs in Japan—Prof. Yutaka Sashida, Tokyo Pharmaceutical University
Open Discussion & Public Comment

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Session III: Research on Medicinal Herbs and Dietary Supplements in the U.S.—Dr. Norman Farnsworth (Session Moderator)
Methodology and Testing to Insure Product Content and Quality—Dr. Joe Betz & Dr. William Obermeyer, Food & Drug Administration
Research on Dietary Supplements: An Industry Perspective—Loren D. Israelsen, Utah Natural Products Alliance
Current Research Programs of the U.S. Dietary Supplement Industry—Dr. Jill Ellis, National Nutritional Foods Association
Session IV: Panel Discussion on Research Needs to Assure Safety of Medicinal Herbs and Dietary Supplements in the U.S.—Dr. Kenneth D. Fisher (Session Moderator)
Dr. Bernadette Marriott, Director, NIH Office of Dietary Supplements
Dr. Wayne B. Jonas, Director, NIH Office of Alternative Medicine
Dr. Linda D. Meyers, Deputy Director for Science and Nutrition DHHS, Office of Disease Prevention and Nutrition
Dr. Elizabeth A. Yetley, Director, Office of Special Nutrition, US FDA
Mr. Loren Israelsen, Executive Director, Utah Natural Products Alliance
Dr. Jill Ellis, Scientific Director, NNFA
Dr. Rossanne M. Philen, Chief Environmental Hazards Epidemiology Section, NCEH
Mr. David Schardt, Associate Nutritionist, Center for Science in the Public Interest
Session V: Open Discussion on Research Needs to Assure Safety of Medicinal Herbs and Dietary Supplements in the U.S.—Dr. H.B. Matthews (Session Moderator)
Workshop Adjourns

Co-sponsors for the workshop include National Institutes of Health's Office of Dietary Supplements and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the Department of Health and Human Services National Toxicology Program and Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Special Nutrition and the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research.

The meeting is open to the public, limited only by space available. The program includes time for open discussion. In addition time will be allotted to persons wishing to make oral comments. Those wishing to speak are encouraged to pre-register. The time allotted for each presenter will be dependent on the number of speakers.

To register, please submit the following: name, address, institutional affiliation, department, address, city, state, phone, fax and email address to Jaime Edge, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 (fax: 919–541–0295 or email to edge@niehs.nih.gov.

For further information on the meeting plans contact Dr. Matthews at (919) 541–3252; for any other information on the workshop contact Alma Britton (919) 541–0530; Fax (919)–541–0295 or email: britton@niehs.nih.gov.

Dated: June 30, 1998.

Kenneth Olden,

Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[FR Doc. 98–18319 Filed 7–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); Notice of Meeting to Review the Murine Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA) as an Alternative Test Method for Contact Hypersensitivity; Request for Comments

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 103–43, notice is hereby given of a public meeting sponsored by the NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and coordinated by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NTP Center). The agenda topic is the scientific peer review of the murine local lymph node assay (LLNA), which is proposed as an alternative toxicological test method for assessing contact hypersensitivity (allergic contact dermatitis) potential of chemicals and products. The meeting will be held on September 17, 1998, at the Gaithersburg Hilton, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The meeting will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Background

Public Law 103–43 directed the NIEHS to develop and validate alternative methods that can reduce or eliminate the use of animals in acute or chronic toxicity testing, establish criteria for the validation and regulatory acceptance of alternative testing methods, and recommend a process through which scientifically validated alternative methods can be accepted for regulatory use. Criteria and processes for validation and regulatory acceptance were developed in conjunction with 13 other Federal agencies and programs