The NTP prepared the “Draft OHAT Approach for Systematic Review and Evidence Integration for Literature-based Health Assessments—February 2013.” (Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013) taking into consideration input from the BSC working group, the BSC, and the public (available at http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/38673). The approach includes seven steps that provide a framework for incorporating systematic review and evidence integration into NTP literature-based health assessments. To assist with determining if additional refinement or revision to the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013 might be needed, OHAT plans to apply it to two case-study evaluations. One case study will evaluate the association of bisphenol A (BPA) exposure with obesity and the other will examine the association of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) exposure with immunotoxicity. Prior to initiating these evaluations, OHAT is developing protocols that include specific elements for how the seven steps in the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013 would be carried out. The protocols on BPA exposure and obesity and PFOA or PFOS exposure and immunotoxicity should be available on April 2, 2013, at http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/38673. Persons interested in the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013 and the protocols are encouraged to access this Web site to stay abreast of the most current information.

The NTP will carefully consider the public comments on the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013 and consider what changes, if any, might be needed. The NTP plans to present the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013 to the NTP BSC at the meeting on June 25–26, 2013 and discuss plans to update the document based on comments. Details about this meeting will be published in the Federal Register and posted on the NTP Web site (http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/165).

Request for Comments

The NTP invites public comments on the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013. Two protocols are being released to illustrate application of this framework: BPA exposure and obesity and PFOA or PFOS exposure and immunotoxicity. The deadline for submission of public comments is June 11, 2013. Comments will be posted on the NTP Web site http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/38668 and persons submitting them will be identified by their name and affiliation and/or sponsoring organization, if applicable. Public comments can be submitted on-line or by email (see ADDRESSES, Public Comment Submissions). Persons submitting written comments should include their name, affiliation (if applicable), phone, email, and sponsoring organization (if any) with the document.

Web-based Informational Meeting

The NTP will hold a public, web-based, informational meeting on April 23, 2013, 12:00–4:00 p.m. EDT to provide an overview of the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013, describe the contents of the two case-study protocols, and respond to questions from the public on any of the documents. The meeting will be interactive and opportunities will be provided for members of the public to ask NTP staff specific questions that may assist in their review or understanding of the Draft OHAT Approach—February 2013. The deadline for registration for the webinar is April 16 at http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/38673, and the event will be cancelled if there are no registered participants by close of business that day. Registrants will receive information by email to access the web-based meeting on or before April 19, 2013.

Background Information on OHAT

OHAT was established to serve as an environmental health resource to the public and regulatory and health agencies (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3094430). This office conducts evaluations to assess the evidence that environmental chemicals, physical substances, or mixtures (collectively referred to as “substances”) cause adverse health effects and provides opinions on whether these substances may be of concern given what is known about current human exposure levels. OHAT also organizes workshops or state-of-the-science evaluations to address issues of importance in environmental health sciences. OHAT assessments are published as NTP Monographs. Information about OHAT is found at http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/ohat.


John R. Bucher, Associate Director, National Toxicology Program.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), 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 Child Health and Human Development Initial Review Group; Pediatrics Subcommittee.

Date: March 14, 2013.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Double Tree Hotel Bethesda (Formerly Holiday Inn Select) 8120 Wisconsin Avenue Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: Rita Anand, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Division of Scientific Review, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH, 6100 Executive Blvd., Room 3B01, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–496–1487, anandr@mail.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.864, Population Research; 93.865, Research for Mothers and Children; 93.929, Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research; 93.209, Contraception and Infertility Loan Repayment Program, National Institutes of Health, HHS)


Michelle Trout, Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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