interpretation of bioassays? Can we start looking at susceptible subpopulations?

[Slide]

Really what we are interested in here is how much acrylamide gets in the body, how much is metabolized, what is our area under the curve in blood and the tissues? Do we have adducts in proteins, and do we have adducts in DNA? And, the same thing for glycidamide. And, what is the balance between the various processes?

[Slide]

To go back to a little history, one of the more comprehensive studies on pharmacokinetics was conducted by Miller et al., in 1982. They administered radioactive acrylamide to rats. I just draw your attention to the very last bullet. The half-life of acrylamide, they found, was about two hours and about 12 percent of the radioactivity remained associated with red blood cells. That is something that is actually specific to the rat. They have a very high level of binding in red blood cells and it is because of the presence of a highly

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reactive cysteine in rat hemoglobin that does not occur in mouse or in human red cells.

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I have already alluded to this study that was conducted in 1992. This was the first study that I was involved in with acrylamide, looking at urinary metabolites following administration of this 1,2,3 14C acrylamide in rats and mice. We used a dose of 50 mg/kg in male rats and mice and we were able to characterize five urinary metabolites including four derived from glycidamide. Interestingly, we actually found glycidamide itself in the urine. We find that there was a big species difference, with rats metabolizing most of the acrylamide directly by glutathione conjugation and about 33 percent by glycidamide, whereas with mice it was the opposite, much more was oxidized by glycidamide than was conjugated directly with glutathione.

[Slide]

On this slide I just have a summary of the various metabolic pathways. The acrylamide

undergoes direct conjugation with glutathione to form this mercapturic acid that we see in urine. This is the epoxide glycidamide and this is actually detected in urine and we see it is ring opened form, the dihydroxy form, and we also see two glutathione conjugates at each of the epoxide carbons to form also mercapturic acids.

[Slide]

Now I am going to switch to hemoglobin adducts. These are one of the great ways of detecting exposure long after the exposure may have happened. So, what do we know about hemoglobin adducts and how do they behave? Well, they are proportional to area under the curve for reactive chemicals or metabolites. You can get a lot of hemoglobin rapidly from a blood sample so it is easy to get and easy to measure. It has a number of reactive amino acid residues that can react with chemicals and their metabolites, cysteine, histidine, the internal valine and carboxyl groups. The internal valine is particularly useful in performing adducts because it is the same in both

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the alpha and beta chain of hemoglobin and it is the same in rats, mice and humans. So, that gives you a lot of simplification. You don't need to have different assays for different species.

The red cell has a long lifetime in circulation of about 120 days, and it is removed with zero order kinetics. That also is a big advantage. It is not a first order process so it is very predictable and we can really nicely model what is going on with adduct accumulation. What happens is if you have continuous exposure over the life span of the red cell, in humans, if you have an adduct formed per day of exposure of X, you would expect that the life span of the red cell, if you had continuous exposure, is that your adduct level would reach 60 times X. So, that is very useful for long lived exposures and long experiments but it makes it very difficult to actually do a short-term study because you need to have a fairly high level of exposure if you are trying to do a calibration study.

With repeated exposures the adduct

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accumulate and reach a steady state when the duration of exposure exceeds the red cell life span. So, it is good for things like dietary exposure, smoking, exposures in the workplace, those kind of endpoints.

[Slide]

This is just a very crude sketch of what happens if you have a reactive chemical in the blood. This is the concentration with time and, as your chemical would go up and down maybe in one or two exposures on consecutive days the adduct concentration would increase and would reach plateau when your chemical has disappeared from circulation, and then would increase again on the second exposure. So, that is sort of an illustration of the integration. You are looking at accumulation over time and the dose or the area under the curve equals the adduct concentration that you measure divided by the reaction rate constant for basically a second order reaction, a rate constant that you can determine chemically in vitro. So, that is one way that we can actually go

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from an adduct measurement to an indication of what the area under the curve was and can give us a way of tying back into pharmacokinetics and pharmacokinetic modeling.

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Again to review just a little bit of the history, the first measurements were done with cysteine adducts in the rat. There has been some indication of non-linearity, first in a study by Bailey and then in two studies by Calleman. are probably the more authoritative ones. measured adducts from acrylamide and glycidamide produced by reaction with cysteine. They detected the adduct from glycidamide as well as acrylamide. Then they did a very elaborate compartmental pharmacokinetic model and it ended up with a description of a saturable metabolic process, oxidation of acrylamide to glycidamide. what it implies is that there is a greater risk per unit exposure of low doses if glycidamide is the metabolite that generates adverse effects.

[Slide]

This just shows acrylamide internal dose that was calculated by Calleman. This is the administered dose in milligrams per kilogram body weight. You can see this is a straight line extrapolated from these points, and then this is the actual curve of the model with individual data points of each dose. So, that is for acrylamide.

[Slide]

For glycidamide it shows this evidence of saturation where, as you increase the dose up to 100 mg/kg, the amount of glycidamide produced is falling off.

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Then, the last slide from this paper shows that they calculated the percent of acrylamide that would be metabolized through glycidamide at 15 mg/kg, which was actually the concentration we used or the dose that we used in our studies, and find about 30 percent or so metabolized through glycidamide in the rat. We got pretty good agreement. As you go down to lower doses the percentage that gets metabolized through

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glycidamide appears to go up.

[Slide]

Now I would like to switch gears to valine adducts. I am sure this is a name that is familiar to you all. Before Margarita was working on acrylamide in food she did a lot of work on hemoglobin adducts and actually developed one of the major methods that we use for acrylamide adduct analysis. That is when valine is involved in the adduct formation. It is the internal residue in both the alpha and beta chains, as I indicated before.

She developed a modified Edman degradation that selectively cleaves the N-terminus with its adduct, using a variant of the classic Edman degradation for peptide sequencing. This has been used widely with gas chromatography with negative chemical ionization mass spectrometry, and more recently with GS-MS. It is, however, a real pain to do this assay. It is tremendously labor intensive, although as assays go it is pretty good.

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This method was applied in a number of studies. One was by Bergman et al. They looked at analysis of acrylamide and glycidamide adducts in China. Just to go through these really quickly, they looked at acrylamide and glycidamide adducts in 41 workers exposed to acrylamide. They only looked at glycidamide adducts in six samples and they find that there were about 30-100 percent of the acrylamide adduct levels. This methodology though left something to be desired. It was a completely different method for the AAVal or acrylamide valine versus the glycidamide valine.

Emma Bergmark on acrylamide valine in smokers and non-smokers in laboratory workers. Then Perez et al. developed a method for acrylamide valine and glycidamide valine that was applied to workers in a production plant, and they recorded glycidamide valine levels that were about 3-12 percent of the acrylamide valine levels. These are probably a reasonably good measurement.

Then we have the Hagmar study, in 2001,

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where acrylamide valine was measured in 210 tunnel workers. This is the one that precipitated a lot of the measurements in food. In the unexposed workers it measured from 0.02 to 0.07 nanomoles/gram for acrylamide valine and in the exposed workers it was found in considerably elevated levels.

[Slide]

One of the things that I have been doing over the last few years has been to work on a number of different aspects. These are metabolic data on acrylamide and adduct data. One of these has been how is the internal dose related to exposure with different routes of exposure and different species. Is the GSH conjugation to oxidation ratio altered by exposure route and by dose?

We have looked at comparing route of exposure, dermal and inhalation and IP, and we have looked at comparing inhalation exposure in rats and mice, and looked at Cyp 2E1 metabolism and its role in acrylamide metabolism.

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This just shows sort of a summary plot of glutathione conjugation versus oxidation. first bar is the glutathione conjugation. The second bar is all of the metabolites of glycidamide. The last one is glycidamide itself in When we look at dermal in the rat, it actually has the lowest amount of glutathione conjugation, the highest amount of oxidation, and compare that with inhalation IP and gavage and we see about 70 percent here at the peak. Whereas, in mice when we look at inhalation and gavage, we have a much greater percent of oxidation in the mouse compared with the rat.

[Slide]

We looked at metabolism of acrylamide via glutathione conjugation, oxidation to glycidamide and further metabolites of glycidamide in wild type mice and Cyp 2E1 null mice. We administered acrylamide at a dose of 50 mg/kg. In the wild type mice we find basically what we have seen before. About 50 percent or so was metabolized by

glutathione conjugation, the remainder by glycidamide and glycidamide further metabolites. Whereas, in the 2E1 null we saw absolutely nothing derived from glycidamide or glycidamide itself. So, it argues that Cyp 2E1, at least in the mice, is the major or the only form of p450 that catalyzes the reaction and there doesn't appear to be any other oxidation pathway.

[Slide]

In my lab recently we have been working on a new method for adduct analysis, basically using the Edman degradation. We have adapted this for using LC/MS/MS for analysis. We get a higher throughput, a greater sensitivity with a smaller amount of globin and we can distinguish adducts from natural abundance acrylamide and ¹³C-labeled acrylamide. We have just recently published this, actually this month.

[Slide]

The method essentially works on taking our acrylamide valine hemoglobin, adding Edmund reagent and we selectively cleave our adduct and we form

this kind of an adduct derivative, where this part, here, is derived from the acrylamide and this part, here, is derived from the valine, and this part, here, is derived from our derivatizing agent. We add an internal standard and we monitor by LC/MS/MS. We have three different ion reactions that we monitor. One is for our analyte; the second is for our ¹³C-labeled analyte where we have acrylamide administered to animals. The third one is our internal standard which is derived from labeling the valine with ¹³C.

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We have a similar kind of procedure for analyzing glycidamide valine. This basically is the adduct. I won't bore you with the details here.

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Our chromatograms look something like this. This is acrylamide valine. I think it is in the mouse. Here is our natural abundance channel, our ¹³C channel where we have administered ¹³C-labeled acrylamide, and this is our internal

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standard. From this we can understand our curves, we can quantitate and we can make measurements.

[Slide]

This is what we get with glycidamide valine. We actually have two isomers of our analyte and here is our internal standard.

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We have basically looked at the same kind of studies as I mentioned with our metabolism studies so I won't run through all this.

[Slide]

We have looked at acrylamide valine and glycidamide valine in rats administered acrylamide. We have used a number of different routes and exposure scenarios. What I wanted to draw your attention to, since we are talking about food, primarily gavage as a route of exposure. We have done two studies here, at 50 mg/kg and at 3 mg/kg. These are actually exposed to ¹³C so the channel to really focus on is this one, AAVal and GAVal, and we see high levels at 50 mg/kg and much lower levels at 3 mg/kg.

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The important thing is that the ratio of glycidamide valine to acrylamide valine changes in going from high dose to low dose. So, we do seem to have a dose-response difference in the percent going to acrylamide valine versus glycidamide valine, and that fits with the Calleman data.

[Slide]

I am just going to bypass this.

[Slide]

To look at inhalation exposure we used rats and mice actually during the same exposure event. Again, I am going to call your attention to these two sets of data and just look at the numbers. These got the same exposure and we have similar amounts of acrylamide valine from the acrylamide in blood, whereas in the glycidamide valine we have very considerably higher levels in the mouse than in the rat. Our ratio here is completely different. It is about 1.0 for the rat and about 3.5 for the mouse. So, we have big species differences and mice seem to make a whole lot more glycidamide valine than do rats.

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So, what kind of range of adduct concentrations have we seen and what kind of ranges have been reported? There have been a number of studies by Bergmark, by Hagmar and by Perez. The background is sort of in general agreement in humans from these studies. Some are in the 20-70 range. In smokers that may be elevated. In acrylamide exposed workers we can have fairly high levels that have been reported and that vary from 300-34,000 in the Bergmark study and in the 3-12 percent range in the Perez study for glycidamide valine compared to acrylamide valine.

In rats, what is in the literature, apart from what I summarized on cysteine adducts, we have a background and in rats administered a fried diet there is an increase from about 20 up to about--well, an increase of the order of I guess somewhere around seven-fold. So, there has been reported an increase in rats fed a fried diet.

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So I would like to conclude from some of

our published work that we have seen route differences in internal dose in metabolism to glycidamide. We see that dermal administration results in a lower percentage of absorption. I didn't really go into that but I think dermal is one of the significant worker place exposure rates. We do see a species difference in metabolism to glycidamide.

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We can readily measure acrylamide valine and glycidamide valine by LC/MS/MS. We do see a background for both of our adducts. The ratio of acrylamide valine to glycidamide valine depends on dose, rate of exposure and species. We do see a higher amount of glycidamide valine in mice compared to rats. Although I didn't really go into it, we do see a good correlation between metabolism data and hemoglobin adduct data.

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I think one of the things we are all concerned about is where are the data gaps. I have my opinions on where these are. One of the big

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ones is when are we concerned about glycidamide and when are we concerned about acrylamide, and how metabolism fits into mode of action when you are dealing with risk assessment. How is acrylamide taken up and metabolized in people and what is the relationship between exposure and hemoglobin adduct levels in humans. Then, a final point is how good are the data on DNA adducts.

[Slide]

We have a number of studies in progress and I just wanted to summarize those very quickly.

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The first one is a human study that has been funded by SNF. We are actually just doing the measurement of the adduct concentrations. That is to evaluate uptake of acrylamide, metabolism to glycidamide and to calibrate hemoglobin adducts with the known exposure and to compare uptake on dermal and oral administration. This was an exposure of sterile male volunteers to three different dose levels of ¹³C-labeled acrylamide, a dermal exposure to three times three doses of

acrylamide, and then collection of urine for analysis of metabolites by ¹³C NMR, collection of blood for analysis of hemoglobin adducts before and after administration. We are almost at the conclusion of this study and we hope to have this finished probably by the end of next month.

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There has been one paper published on acrylamide DNA adducts, and that is this paper by Segerback. They had synthesized an adduct, characterized an adduct standard from the reaction of glycidamide with guanine and then administered ¹⁴C-labeled acrylamide to rats and mice. They had identified DNA adduct based on comigration of ¹⁴C with adduct standard on HPLC. They quantitated the adducts.

These kind of approaches are limited by the specific activity of the acrylamide you can prepare and we do have more sophisticated methods for this. We have been working on one. I know that at NCTR there has been work going on, on this also and I think they are further ahead than we

are. But I think it is something that needs to be done and we need to have a better understanding of is this, for example, the only DNA adduct and how is it repaired. There are quite a number of issues of how one deals with an adduct if it is formed.

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I just wanted to finish up with this slide which is basically a summary of some of the points from the FAO/WHO consultation recommendations. At the time when these came out we were actually actively involved in pursuing some of these. One is evaluating and calibrating biomarkers of exposure. We need data on absorption, metabolism and distribution and excretion in humans by the oral route. We need information on glycidamide and binding to the DNA as a marker of toxicity and carcinogenicity. We need dose-response characteristics of acrylamide and glycidamide and the relationship between adducts with hemoglobin and adducts with DNA in different organs.

With that, I would like to stop and thank you for your attention.

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Questions of Clarification

DR. MILLER: Comments or questions? Yes,

Frank?

DR. BUSTA: I your human study that you are just concluding, the dose of 0.5--

DR. FENNELL: That was the lowest dose.

DR. BUSTA: Was it given orally?

DR. FENNELL: Yes.

DR. BUSTA: I am just guessing, I tried to calculate that, that is about 100 and 200 times above what you might get with a high concentration in food?

DR. FENNELL: Yes, I think we are talking about ball park. There are a couple of things that we were interested in, in this study. One is that when we initially developed our exposure protocol the driver was not acrylamide in food. The driver was acrylamide in the workplace. These are not, you know, outrageous levels that could be achieved in the workplace. I think that is issue number one.

The other is that when you come to

measuring DNA adducts or hemoglobin adducts, or any of these things that have a background, and you are accumulating a background from the dietary exposure it is difficult to actually see a significant increment above that background without going to a higher dose than you would see ordinarily for example in food. So, in order to see, for example, a two-fold or just a doubling of a background in hemoglobin adducts you would probably need to administer something like 60 times the daily dose to see an increase statistically, and the levels that we operate for determining background that is quite a challenge. So, one needs to actually get to much higher levels in order to make that happen.

One thing that would did was to use ¹³C-labeled acrylamide so we are actually looking at a different species of acrylamide adduct and glycidamide adduct than we see in our indigenous background but even then we were concerned that it was going to be too big a challenge for us to go much lower than 0.5.

DR. MILLER: How do you deal with that

when you have a substance that appears to be metabolized differently at high concentrations than low concentrations?

DR. FENNELL: I think the range that we are in--well, one of the things that we did want to find out was over that small concentration range did we see a difference. Certainly, what has been shown in the rat has been 0.5 to 100 mg/kg. So, in the range of 0.5 to 3.0 there is probably not going to be as wide a difference. You know, that big difference has been in the rat for the two dose points that showed the maximum or that showed the best evidence of saturation were at 50 mg/kg and 100 mg/kg. So, it is quite possible we won't be anywhere close to that at this point.

DR. MILLER: You said you calculated it was about 60 times?

DR. BUSTA: Well, if you have 1000 pph in a food, I calculated 1 mg/kg of food and feeding at 0.5, for an average person that is 35 mg that you have to feed. So, you would have to have 35 kg of French fries to get that average load. Maybe my

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numbers are a little off.

DR. FENNELL: No, I think your numbers are about right. I think this is one of the issues. You know, this study is not going to be the answer to what happens to acrylamide in food but I think it is going to go a long way to providing a calibration for hemoglobin adducts which in the end will give us some idea of what is happening in food.

DR. BUSTA: Where is the background coming from?

presumably from food. One of the things that we have had difficulty with is as you get down to the low end of the calibration curve your matrix blank always has a measurement, there is always something in that, so how do you deal with that if you are going to use the appropriate matrix? We are still wrestling with some of those issues on our assay at the moment for dealing with our pre-exposure measurements. We clearly do see adducts. You know, it is quite easy to find them. I guess the

question becomes when you do a calibration curve how you deal with them, and we are wrestling with some of those issues at the moment.

DR. BUSTA: I would think that there are groups of people that are consuming very, very low levels of acrylamide in the kinds of foods they are eating. So, you should be able to run an assay on their blood and find the minimum amount of adducts as a result of their consumption of that food. But you say you still get a baseline.

DR. FENNELL: We haven't done a huge number but we get a baseline even when we set up with rat hemoglobin where we are dealing with rats on defined diets, none of which we believe are fried but at least may be heated, and we do see a background. At the time we first observed it, it was more of an extreme annoyance and we thought, you know, when are we ever going to get a decent batch with a low background but now we know how to interpret this and it is more of an interesting observation.

DR. MILLER: Other comments?

DR. RUSSELL: With regard to the consultation recommendations that are up here now on the data on absorption, distribution and excretion in humans by the oral route, were those recommendations both for acrylamide in the food matrix as well as pure acrylamide? I guess another way of asking is not so much about the recommendations but is the work envisioned to go on in both realms, both looking at the pure acrylamide and in a food matrix?

DR. FENNELL: I wasn't at the consultation and I know there is at least one person in the room that was so.

DR. MILLER: Go ahead.

DR. CANADY: Yes, our intention was just for food but information from other routes would be informative to interpreting existing tox. studies.

DR. MILLER: Just one question, was there any suggestion made about the matrix itself, what the matrix should consist of? If everyone uses a different diet you may end up with different results.

DR. CANADY: Right. No, that level of detail was not gone into. It was more just the observation that we don't have information for absorption of acrylamide through the food matrix and so we need information that can help us interpret how we receive acrylamide through food versus what the animal studies tell us. That was a simple observation.

DR. MILLER: I have to admit that I am just uneasy about the apparent lack sometimes of agreement on fundamental standards. For example, if you are going to argue that there is a possibility that absorption or metabolism is going to have some impact on the outcome of the experiment, it would also be probably clear that different matrices are going to cause different effects, or at least it is possible. So, it seems to me there has to be some venue where people can agree on what that matrix is going to be. That equally applies to the analysis too. I mean, if everybody is using different analyses you have to show it doesn't make any difference, the

differences between the different analytical methods, or you are going to have to agree on which method you are going to use.

DR. DWYER: I am just curious. It seems to me there are a lot of feeding studies around the country where people are fed defined diets or some kind of diet, kept samples of what they are fed that least records of what they were fed, where they have blood samples. Have people looked at the similarities or has there been any work done to get an estimated dose and then looking at the hemoglobin adducts and so forth? Rather than starting from scratch and doing new studies, it would seem like this would be far less expensive and might give some first approximations.

DR. FENNELL: That is a good point. I think we are at a level of complexity in analysis that is much, much higher than acrylamide analysis in food when we are dealing with hemoglobin adducts, and the cost reflects that difference.

The way that we have collected samples in general has involved a fairly extensive sample.

preparation right at the point where the samples are collected. We wash the red blood cells is isotonic saline and then we store them frozen. We do that in order to decrease the amount of albumin binding or serum protein contamination. Once we have the red blood cell frozen it is pretty stable and we can do a lot of things with it at a later time.

So, I think if there are banked samples that are stored as red blood cells we think that we can analyze them. We are not quite there yet in having a definitive answer. You know, we can take an unwashed red cell where somebody has spun off the plasma or serum and see what we can get out of that. I think that is one important question. It has been raised to us. We have actually done one study and we think it was successful but we would like to do it a few more times before we make any definitive statements on it.

DR. MILLER: If you are going to use

NHANES samples you are going to have to determine

whether the storage conditions allow you to develop

any worthwhile conclusions.

DR. FENNELL: To address just one point about NHANES, the procedure that is planned by CDC for NHANES is different from the one that I presented. I attended a meeting at CDC to discuss that and I think CDC's plan is that we will have some standards that can be passed around the labs to make sure that we are all in agreement as to what the measurement is, but they are planning to set up a new method which will involve HPLC mass spec. with tryptic digests and whether they can do that on banked samples or not I don't know.

DR. MILLER: If what you say is true, the sample storage might make a difference in the results.

DR. FENNELL: I think the way the sample is stored can make a difference depending on whether you want to store it to go prospectively or whether you are looking at retrospectively stored bank samples and I think they are looking at it from the standpoint of going forward from here on.

DR. MILLER: I see.

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DR. DWYER: Would you say that again? Why are they developing another method if you already have a method?

DR. FENNELL: I am not sure I can give you an answer for that.

DR. DWYER: Aren't you all being funded by the Department of Health and Human Services?

DR. FENNELL: I am not. I am funded entirely by either by grant or contract and I am not funded by CDC at all.

DR. CANADY: One of the reasons the CDC has given for developing a new methodology is that the same methodology, if used for acrylamide and glycidamide adducts, could also then be used for other adducts to other chemicals. So, they are trying to develop a more generalized approach that they can use for other chemicals that they would asses through NHANES.

Having said that, they are in the process of determining what the method will be, whether it works and how well it correlates with other methods. They haven't decided on the method they

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will use, rather, they are developing a method that is appropriate. So, it is still in a method development stage although they are taking another approach, as Dr. Fennell indicated. They are trying to take another approach.

DR. DWYER: What are they doing with the blood they are collecting each day while they are waiting since the survey is in the field right now?

DR. CANADY: Right. The red blood cells are being stored for this purpose. There are samples being set aside of red blood cells for future analysis including acrylamide adducts and glycidamide adducts.

DR. MILLER: That is bothersome, frankly.

I can understand why they would want to develop a more multi-purpose analysis given the things they have to deal with, but this is an issue that needs some resolution, and why wait until they have a multi-purpose analysis when it might be easier just to produce a more specific assay to begin with?

Any other comments or questions? Since there is no one registered for public comment,

which is required by the rules of the committee, then we have come to the end of our first day's activities and, unless there is some further question or comment from the committee, I am going to adjourn the committee until tomorrow morning at 8:30.

[Whereupon, at 4:00 p.m., the proceedings were adjourned, to resume on Tuesday, February 25 2003 at 8:30 a.m.]

CERTIFICATE

I, ALICE TOIGO, the Official Court Reporter for Miller Reporting Company.

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