Title of the Collection—(New)—OMB No. 0990–NEW—Report of Medical Examination and History.

Abstract: Health professionals applying to the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) must be medically qualified prior to appointment. Applicants must have a healthcare provider/physician complete form PHS–7059, Report of Medical Examination, documenting the health status of the applicant. The Corps Medical Evaluations Officer will review the information to ascertain if the applicant is medically qualified presently and in the near future. This is a one-time survey.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN TABLE

Forms	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
PHS–7059	4,000	1	15/60	1000
PHS–7060	4,000	1	15/60	1000
PHS–7053	800	1	6/60	80
PHS–7054	1320	1	6/60	132
PHS–7055	2800	1	7/60	327
PHS–7056	1600	1	7/60	187
PHS–7057	600	1	5/60	50
PHS–7061	2000	1	10/60	334
Total	17,120	.....	.....	3,110

Dated: September 18, 2007.

Alice Bettencourt,

Office of the Secretary, Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E7–19533 Filed 10–2–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150–28–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Toxicology Program (NTP); Host Susceptibility Program (HSP); Genetic Variation and the Basis for Individual Susceptibility to Environmental Toxicant Associated Disease: Request for Information

AGENCY: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH).

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The NTP is developing the Host Susceptibility Program (HSP), a new research program, to identify and functionally validate genes associated with environmental exposure. This program will make available NTP expertise and resources to investigate the genetic basis for population-level differences in susceptibility to environmental toxicants and/or disease based upon gene and environment interactions. This research will be designed to ultimately lead to a better understanding of why some individuals are more susceptible than others to exposure to an environmental toxicant resulting in disease and morbidity. Asthma, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity are examples of diseases associated with multiple interacting genes that are influenced by exposure to environmental agents. Through this Request for Information, extramural and intramural scientists are invited and encouraged to provide information and comment relevant to this proposed programmatic research approach in order to help guide further development and refinement of the goals of the NTP HSP. Information on this initiative can be submitted electronically through the HSP Request for Information Web site at: (*http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/32130*) or by contacting Dr. John E. French (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** below).

DATES: The deadline for response is October 31, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Responses can be submitted electronically at the HSP Request for Information Web site: *http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/32130.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Other correspondence should be directed to Dr. John E. French, Host Susceptibility Program, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC–17, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (fax) 919–541–0947, (email) *hsp@niehs.nih.gov.* Courier address: Dr. John E. French, Host Susceptibility Program, 111 T.W. Alexander Drive, Building 101, Room F167, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NTP was established as a cooperative effort to (1) coordinate toxicology testing programs within the federal government, (2) strengthen the science base in toxicology, (3) develop improved testing methods, and (4) provide information about potentially toxic chemicals to health, regulatory, and research agencies, scientific and medical communities, and the public. To meet these goals, NTP designs and conducts large-scale laboratory animal research and testing programs and analyzes and reports their findings to assess potential hazards to human health from exposure to environmental chemicals.

Recently, the NTP led and funded a haplotype mapping project with Perlegen Sciences to resequence 15 isogenic strains of mice selected for their potential genetic diversity. Along with the public sequence of isogenic C57BL/6J, analysis of 16 sequenced strains has revealed, conservatively, more than 8 million single nucleotide polymorphisms in this initial analysis of laboratory and wild-derived isogenic mouse strains (Frazer *et al.*, 2007). Identification and analysis of mouse haplotypes will provide a valuable tool for haplotype-phenotype association studies in genetically diverse strains that can be used to predict human genetic variants of functional significance (*http://mouse.perlegen.com/mouse/index.html*). Toward that goal, the NTP is developing a multidisciplinary research program on genetic susceptibility to environmental exposures. This effort will partner extramural and/or intramural researchers with NTP scientists by creating research partnerships using NTP R&D contract resources. This research program is not a funding opportunity or a grant program.

The intent of HSP is to provide researchers access to NTP R&D contract resources and NTP expertise in public health toxicology. Participation by extramural and/or intramural scientists will be based on competitive peer

review of proposed research projects. NTP scientists will work with extramural and/or intramural investigators to define and refine the most effective and cost-efficient experimental protocols for accomplishing the experimental aims and for linking environmental exposure with toxicity leading to disease. Development of approved projects will proceed sequentially from hypothesis through specific aims, based upon a consensus derived experimental plan. Continued support of research projects will depend upon satisfactory completion of each phase of the research plan.

Via this partnership, extramural and/or intramural investigators will have access to NTP contract resources to investigate the relationship between exposure to environmental toxicants and development of quantitative measures of toxicity and disease, using genetically diverse experimental animal models. Using research partnerships, HSP scientists aim to develop the tools and means necessary to accomplish the multidisciplinary tasks that are often rate-limiting to individual research groups that may be interested in investigating environmental toxicant exposure and genetic susceptibility to disease and determining allelic variants of causally related genes and their potentially dysregulated signaling pathways. Once a project has been peer reviewed and approved, NTP staff will interact directly with the Principal Investigator(s) (PIs) of the approved projects to refine the research using NTP contracted resources. NTP R&D contractors will perform approved tasks under the direction of NTP staff. Those tasks necessary to accomplish the experimental aims of any particular study are expected to vary from project to project. In some cases, NTP may only support one or two key missing steps necessary to complement the research; in other cases, it may be necessary to supply the entire scope of experimental tasks needed to complete the specific aims. Examples of tasks that can be supported by NTP contracts and staff include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Facilitating animal model selection (multiple-isogenic strains, heterogeneous, outbred stocks, etc.).
- Providing strain-specific data on absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of metabolic products of environmental toxicants.
- Defining or optimizing of exposure route, dose and dose schedule of environmental toxicants using range-finding studies to determine quantitative measures of acute toxicity *in vivo* in an appropriate animal model.
- Quantitatively identifying variants of toxicity (phenotyping) in multiple isogenic strains, genetically engineered strains, and/or genetically defined outbred stocks.
- Developing appropriate experimental design protocols for toxicity, biomarkers, expression arrays, clinical and histopathology, and statistical analysis.
- Acquiring test agent(s) in quantities sufficient for non-GLP acute and prechronic toxicity investigations, development of analytical methods for determination of quantity and purity of test substances, production and stability (storage) of dosage forms.
- Developing, optimizing, and conducting study and route specific toxicology and toxicity assays for correlation between toxicity and histopathologic determinants.

Output from such collaborative research activities, which may include providing biological samples and/or data (genotyping, quantitative measures of toxicity, expression phenotypes, etc.), is to be made fully available to the originating principal investigator (or his/her replacement, in case of withdrawal) for continued support of the research project developed within the partnership. Data and samples are to be transferred to extramural or intramural collaborators under terms of a negotiated NIH Materials Transfer Agreement.

Information Requested

The NTP is soliciting information from the extramural and intramural research communities on the strategies, resources, and tools necessary to enable this cooperative research program on genetic variation and individual susceptibility to environmental toxicant exposure and associated polygenic diseases to progress. Please respond online at the HSP Request for Information Web page (*http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/32130*) to any or all of the following questions by October 31, 2007.

1. In general, what are the utility and limitations of using model organisms (e.g., multiple strains of isogenic mice, heterogeneous mouse stocks, etc.) to investigate and establish the genetic determinants of biological response?

2. Are there particular environmental toxicants associated with human disease where this research approach is immediately applicable and useful to the identification of causally related genes and their allelic variants?

3. Similarly, are there particular physiologic or pathogenic pathways and/or disease endpoints for which the proposed research approach is likely to be especially insightful in advancing our understanding of gene-environment interactions?

4. What computational, statistical, and bioinformatic methodologies might be particularly useful for determining toxicity phenotypes and identifying associated genes, pathways, and networks?

5. What high-data content technologies, platforms, and statistical approaches might be particularly valuable and critical to elucidating the genetic basis for toxicity and disease based upon the experience and knowledge gained over the past decade?

6. Are there high-throughput assays and screens using cell-based systems that might be employed to examine the role of genetic variation in human exposure?

7. Are *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays and genetic models for functional validation of genes useful in permitting orthologous human genes and their allelic variants to be identified and tested in large-scale human populations with defined environmental exposures?

8. Is the competitive research partnership approach described for the HSP using NTP R&D expertise in toxicology and contract resources viable and of general interest to researchers interested in these questions? Why or why not?

9. Are there specific concerns over intellectual property or research collaboration issues in a research partnership that should be addressed and negotiated?

All responses to individual questions within this Request for Information are optional. The information collected will be analyzed and considered for use in the further development of the NTP HSP. The summarized data (without identifiers) may appear in internal reports. Although the NIH will provide safeguards to prevent the release of identifying information, there is no guarantee of confidentiality. This Request for Information is for planning purposes and should not be construed as a solicitation for applications or as an obligation on the part of the Government. The Government will not pay for the preparation of any information submitted or for the Government's use of that information. Acknowledgement of receipt of responses will not be made, nor will respondents be notified of the Government's assessment of the information received. No basis for claims against the Government shall arise as a result of response to this Request for Information, or in the

Government's use of such information as part of our evaluation process.

Reference

Frazer, K.A., E. Eskin, H.M. Kang, M.A. Bogue, D.A. Hinds, E.J. Beilharz, R.V. Gupta, J. Montgomery, M.M. Morenzoni, G.B. Nilsen, C.L. Pethiyagoda, L.L. Stuve, F.M. Johnson, M.J. Daly, C.M. Wade, and D.R. Cox. A sequence-based variation map of 8.27 million SNPs in inbred mouse strains. Nature 2007 July 29 Epub.

Dated: September 24, 2007.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Acting Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program.

[FR Doc. E7–19462 Filed 10–2–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Final Effect of Designation of a Class of Employees for Addition to the Special Exposure Cohort

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice concerning the final effect of the HHS decision to designate a class of employees at the Rocky Flats Plant, Golden, Colorado, as an addition to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. On August 6, 2007, as provided for under 42 U.S.C. 7384q(b), the Secretary of HHS designated the following class of employees as an addition to the SEC:

Employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its predecessor agencies, or DOE contractors or subcontractors who were monitored or should have been monitored for neutron exposures while working at the Rocky Flats Plant in Golden, Colorado, for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days from January 1, 1959, through December 31, 1966, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the Special Exposure Cohort.

This designation became effective on September 5, 2007, as provided for under 42 U.S.C. 7384*l*(14)(C). Hence, beginning on September 5, 2007, members of this class of employees, defined as reported in this notice, became members of the Special Exposure Cohort.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Elliott, Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C–46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513–533–6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to *OCAS@CDC.GOV.*

Dated: September 26, 2007.

John Howard,

Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. E7–19528 Filed 10–2–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Decision To Evaluate a Petition To Designate a Class of Employees at the Mound Plant, Miamisburg, OH, To Be Included in the Special Exposure Cohort

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice as required by 42 CFR 83.12(e) of a decision to evaluate a petition to designate a class of employees at the Mound Plant, Miamisburg, Ohio, to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. The initial proposed definition for the class being evaluated, subject to revision as warranted by the evaluation, is as follows:

Facility: Mound Plant.

Location: Miamisburg, Ohio.

Job Titles and/or Job Duties: All workers.

Period of Employment: February 1, 1949 through the present.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Elliott, Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C–46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513–533–6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to *OCAS@CDC.GOV*.

Dated: September 27, 2007.

John Howard,

Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. E7–19522 Filed 10–2–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Final Effect of Designation of a Class of Employees for Addition to the Special Exposure Cohort

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice concerning the final effect of the HHS decision to designate a class of employees at the Rocky Flats Plant, Golden, Colorado, as an addition to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. On August 6, 2007, as provided for under 42 U.S.C. 7384q(b), the Secretary of HHS designated the following class of employees as an addition to the SEC:

Employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its predecessor agencies, or DOE contractors or subcontractors who were monitored or should have been monitored for neutron exposures while working at the Rocky Flats Plant in Golden, Colorado, for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days from April 1, 1952 through December 31, 1958, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the Special Exposure Cohort.

This designation became effective on September 5, 2007, as provided for under 42 U.S.C. 7384*l*(14)(C). Hence, beginning on September 5, 2007, members of this class of employees, defined as reported in this notice, became members of the Special Exposure Cohort.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Elliott, Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C–46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513–533–6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to *OCAS@CDC.GOV*.