

TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
MEDICAL USES OF ISOTOPES

December 12, 2007

MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: For the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) to recommend that a subcommittee be given authority to speak on behalf of the full ACMUI with regard to the medical implications of the upcoming National Academies of Science report, which is in response to provisions in the 2005 Energy Policy Act.

OUTCOME: ACMUI unanimously recommended that a subcommittee speak on behalf of the full ACMUI for this issue.

Dr. Leon Malmud, ACMUI Chair, provided background information on the issue by explaining that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was directed by the 2005 Energy Policy Act to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Science (NAS) to conduct a study of industrial and commercial uses of radioactive sources. The study is in response to Congressional concerns that radiation sources could be purchased or stolen by terrorists for use in a dirty bomb attack on the United States. The goal of the study is to identify equivalent or improved processes or lower risk radioactive sources that could replace the use of certain radioactive sources. According to the NAS, this report will be issued in the very near future. NRC will review the document and provide comments focused on the NRC's mission - safety and security of radioactive material. ACMUI is being provided the opportunity to provide comments such that Congress also understands any potential impacts on the practice of medicine resulting from this report and its recommendations. Ms. Sandra Wastler, NRC, further explained that when the NAS report is published, NRC staff will have only a few days to review the report and provide comments to Congress. NRC staff suggested that ACMUI form a subcommittee to quickly review NRC's comments and provide additional input with regard to the medical implications of the study. Dr. Malmud selected Drs. Richard Vetter and Subir Nag to compose the subcommittee.

Mr. Ralph Lieto, ACMUI, inquired as to which types of sources would be covered by the NAS report. Mr. Anthony Huffert, NRC, confirmed that only International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Code of Conduct Category I and II sources were being considered in the NAS study.

Dr. Bruce Thomadsen, ACMUI, requested that NRC staff forward the NAS report to the entire ACMUI once the report is published. Dr. Thomadsen suggested that ACMUI members may review the report and send comments to the subcommittee members, if they choose; however, the subcommittee members would not wait for ACMUI member comments nor would the subcommittee members send their comments to the full ACMUI for concurrence. NRC staff agreed to send the NAS report to the entire ACMUI once the report is published.

Dr. Nag made the following motion, and Dr. Vetter seconded.

MOTION: ACMUI recommends a subcommittee comprised of Dr. Vetter and Dr. Nag to make comments and recommendations on behalf of the entire ACMUI in terms of the medical implications of the upcoming National Academies of Science study, which is in response to provisions of the 2005 Energy Policy Act.

The motion passed unanimously.