DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

National Mammography Quality Assurance Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The meeting will be open to the public.

Name of Committee: National Mammography Quality Assurance Advisory Committee.

General Function of the Committee: To provide advice and recommendations to the agency on FDA's regulatory issues.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on January 31, 2000, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn, Walker/Whetstone Rooms, Two Montgomery Village Ave., Gaithersburg, MD.

Contact Person: Charles A. Finder, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (HFZ–240), Food and Drug Administration, 1350 Piccard Dr., Rockville, MD 20850, 301–594–3332, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1–800–741–8138 (301–443–0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12397. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: The committee will: (1) Discuss the establishment of a proposed demonstration project to assess the efficacy of less than annual inspections as described in the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 1998, and (2) continue the discussion of the Mammography Quality Standards Act (the MQSA) compliance guidance. The committee will also receive updates on the status of facility noncompliance under final regulation inspections, accreditation and certification of full field digital mammography, States as certification agencies under the MQSA, and Voluntary Stereotactic Accreditation Programs. The MQSA compliance guidance documents, which are in a question and answer format, are available to the public on the Internet at http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/mammography. The guidance is being updated continually in response to questions that FDA receives from the public. Additional information regarding guidance updates may be obtained by calling the Information Line.

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by January 10, 2000. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before January 10, 2000, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: December 28, 1999.

Linda A. Suydam,

Senior Associate Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 00–239 Filed 1–5–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At least one portion of the meeting will be closed to the public.

Name of Committee: Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee.

General Function of the Committee: To provide advice and recommendations to the agency on FDA's regulatory issues.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on January 27, 2000, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and on January 28, 2000, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn, Versailles Ballrooms I and II, 8120 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD.

Contact Person: Nancy T. Cherry or Denise H. Royster, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM–71), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville, MD 20852, 301–827–0314, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1–800–741–8138 (301–443–0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12391. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: On January 27, 2000, the committee will: (1) Review the current understanding of the immune correlates of protection against invasive Haemophilus influenzae type b disease, and (2) discuss the potential clinical significance of reduced antibody responses to PRP (polyribitol phosphate) polysaccharide following administration of combination vaccines containing Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccines. On January 28, 2000, the committee will: (1) Discuss the influenza virus vaccine formulation for the 2000 to 2001 season, and (2) be briefed on selected individual research programs in the Laboratory of Pediatric and Respiratory Viral Diseases.

Procedure: On January 27, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and on January 28, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 2:25 p.m., the meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by January 19, 2000. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 9:10 a.m. and 9:25 a.m. and between approximately 4 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. on January 27, 2000. Oral presentations from the public will be heard on January 28, 2000, between approximately 8:20 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., between approximately 1:30 p.m. and 1:40 p.m., and between approximately 2:15 p.m. and 2:25 p.m. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before January 19, 2000, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Closed Committee Deliberations: On January 27, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., the meeting will be closed to permit discussion and review of trade secret and/or confidential information (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)). This portion of the meeting will be closed to permit discussion of pending investigational new drug applications or pending product licensing applications. On January 28, 2000, from 2:25 p.m. to 3 p.m., the meeting will be closed to permit discussion where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6)). The meeting will be closed to discuss personal information concerning individuals associated with the research programs.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: December 23, 1999.

Linda A. Suydam,

Senior Associate Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 00–237 Filed 1–5–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health service

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH; National Toxicology Program; Solicitation of Comments on Proposed Peer Review of Low-Dose Issues for Endocrine Disruptors

SUMMARY: NTP is soliciting comments on the planned scope and process for a proposed peer review of studies bearing on the question of whether endocrine disruptors may cause effects at doses lower than are tested using standard toxicological testing procedures. Nominations for peer reviewers, as well as nominations for studies to be reviewed, are also being solicited. Results from the peer review will help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (a member agency of the NTP) and, in particular the EPA's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, determine how to address low-dose questions in endocrine disruptor screening, testing, and hazard assessment.

Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is implementing an Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program as required by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (See 63 FR 71542–71568, Dec. 28, 1998). The EPA is in the process of choosing appropriate assays to use in this screening program and is also developing standardized, validated protocols for these assays. A critical aspect of protocol development is dose-setting. In recent years, there have been suggestions that hormonally active agents may cause effects at doses lower than those normally selected for toxicological testing. A review of the issue can be found in the National Academy of Science's recently-released report Hormonally Active Agents in the Environment (NRC [National Research Council]. 1999. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, pp. 103–111).

The EPA has asked the National Toxicology Program to establish an independent panel of scientists to review the evidence related to low-dose effects and consider their implications for the development, validation, and interpretation of test protocols. If this Panel concludes that significant effects at low doses occur and that the standard dose-setting paradigm is inadequate to detect such effects, the EPA intends to pursue in a separate forum the question of how to test for such effects, including endpoints to be tested, dose-setting protocols and appropriate test methods. If the Panel believes the current data to be inconclusive, it will be asked to describe specific research that would resolve the ambiguities.

Proposed Scope and Process for the review

A. Scope of the Review

Analysis will focus on interpretation of the major data sets showing or refuting effects at low doses. ''Low doses'' are defined for the purposes of discussion as ''doses below the currently accepted No Observed Adverse Effect Level for that substance''. The intent is to evaluate the presence or absence of low-dose effects in specific studies, then evaluate the likelihood and significance of these and/or other potential low-dose effects to humans.

The main topic to be addressed is evidence for defining the shape of the dose/response curves for endocrine-active substances in the low-dos region.

The review is expected to examine all evidence, including such things as relevant pharmacokinetic and mechanistic information, which may have a bearing on the low-dose issue. In order to come to disclosure on the central issue of whether there are sufficient grounds to change the traditional dose-setting paradigm for endocrine-active substances, it will not be possible to go into the details of non-central issues. Issues which may enter the discussion but which are not the central forcus and will not get exhaustive review include:

—existence of inverted U-shaped dose/response curves as a general phenomenon in toxicology;
—completeness of the list of endpoints examined in two-generation toxicity tests;
—definition of ''adversity''.

B. Selection of Studies for Review

Given the breadth of the scope, many studies are likely to be considered relevant to the discussion. NTP proposes to divide studies into two categories: those which provide background information and those which hare critical to the resolution of the issue. Hard copies of both the background information and critical studies will be provided to the Panel in advance of the Peer Review Meeting. For the critical studies, principal investigators will be invited for in-depth discussions with the Panel, and the data sets from these critical studies will be subjected to independent analyses by the panel. NTP anticipates that approximately 10 to 12 studies might be designated critical.

C. Criteria for Selection of Studies for Review

Studies which provide direct evidence for the presence of effects related to the endocrine system at doses below the No Observed Adverse Effect Level will generally be considered critical. Studies which provide direct evidence against such effects at similar doses for the same chemical will also generally be considered critical. Studies which provide direct evidence for endocrine-related effects for chemicals for which NOAELs have not been established will generally be considered critical if there is reason to believe that normal procedures for establishing a NOAEL would set NOAELs at a higher level than those indicated by the study in question, as long as the difference in putative NOAELs would be due to dose/response considerations rather than to definitions of adversity or selection of endpoints for observation. Studies which provide direct evidence against effects at similar doses from chemicals for which such claims have been made will also generally be considered critical.

Pharmacokinetic and mechanistic studies which provide insight into the plausibility or relevance of effects established in the direct studies may be either critical or background information depending on how closely they address low-dose issues.

Studies of other endocrine effects caused by a substance for which a low-dose endocrine effect is established will be considered background information unless mechanistic information establishes a relevant relationship to the low-dose effect.

In general, potency per se, is not a central issue. Studies which show effects at low doses but whose central issue in setting a NOAEL is either the definition of adversity or the completeness of the list of endpoints for which observations are made will not be considered relevant to the dose/response issues that this peer review will address.

For background information, well-written reviews will be preferred over individual studies. Only studies or reviews which have been published in standard, peer-reviewed scientific journals or books will be considered.