

**NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURES  
MONITORING WORK GROUP**

**Meeting No. 4 Summary  
Teleconference  
February 16, 2010**

**Call Objectives:**

- Provide an update from the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures (National Conversation)*
- Hear an update on the work of the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Monitoring Work Group (Monitoring Work Group)* subgroups, provide input, and discuss milestones for the future
- Review the progress on data set inventory
- Agree on next steps

<b>Upcoming Call</b>	<b>When and Where</b>	<b>Suggested Agenda Items</b>
Full Monitoring Work Group call	March 24, 2010 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Eastern time, teleconference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review of subgroup work products</li> <li>○ Plans for May meeting</li> </ul>

**I. Action Items**

<b><i>National Conversation</i> Update</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completed by</b>
1. Propose questions and subject matter experts for April Web dialogue to subgroup lead Dan Goldstein or to Sharyle Patton, Commonwealth	John Balbus, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, <i>Monitoring Work Group</i> chair; subgroup leads Dan Goldstein, Megan Latshaw, and Jennifer Parker	March 1, 2010

<b>Monitoring Work Group Update and Subgroup Discussion</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completed by</b>
2. Share current data set inventory with Judy Qualters, National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)	Mike McGeehin and Jenny Van Skiver, NCEH/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)	February 26, 2010

3. Share current data set inventory with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Environmental Information and discuss the data with Kevin Teichman, EPA	Roy Fortmann, EPA	February 26, 2010
4. Share current data set inventory with the National Library of Medicine (NLM)	John Balbus	February 26, 2010
5. Contact Jennifer Parker to assist the Health Outcomes Subgroup	Any member	ASAP, ongoing
6. Share outlines with the full Monitoring Work Group to discuss on the next work group call	All subgroups	<p>Post on project management site or send to <a href="#">Jenny Van Skiver</a> by March 17, 2010.</p> <p>Note:            Chemical Use and Release Subgroup documents should be posted <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Exposure Levels/Biomonitoring Subgroup documents should be posted <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Health Outcomes Subgroup documents should be posted <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>(Contact Jenny Van Skiver at <a href="mailto:jvanskiver@cdc.gov">jvanskiver@cdc.gov</a> for assistance.)</p>

**II. Agreements Reached**

N/A

**III. Call Summary**

**National Conversation Update**

National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Leadership Council (Leadership Council) January 29, 2010, Conference Call

John Balbus, Monitoring Work Group chair, summarized the major points discussed on the Leadership Council's January 29 conference call. Dr. Balbus related NCEH/ATSDR's ongoing support of the *National Conversation*. He explained the need for a new Leadership Council co-chair to replace Dr. Howard Frumkin and noted that Leadership Council members differed on whether the new co-chair should be a representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, another federal agency, or a non-federal agency. Dr. Balbus said Leadership Council members continue to have questions about how they might follow up on implementing an action agenda. He also stated that federal agency officials participating in the *National*

*Conversation* will need to discuss whether they are serving as individuals or as representatives of their specific agencies.

#### Project Management Site

Jenny Van Skiver, NCEH/ATSDR staff member, noted that all members should have received an e-mail dated February 11, 2010, that explained how to access the *National Conversation* project management site and included a PDF-formatted user's manual. NCEH/ATSDR hopes that members find this site useful in collaborating on shared work products, managing conference call schedules, and viewing the work of other *National Conversation* work groups. Video tutorials on how to get started on the site and how to use several key functions are available [here](#). (You will need a browser with a QuickTime plug-in to view the videos.) Members who have questions about how to use the site or where to find certain information on the site should contact [Ms. Van Skiver](#). If members have technical questions or problems, inquiries should be e-mailed to [admin@nationalconversation-projectsite.org](mailto:admin@nationalconversation-projectsite.org).

#### *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures* Public Involvement Subcommittee (Public Involvement Subcommittee)

A small number of work group and Leadership Council members with a particular interest in public involvement in the *National Conversation* have shared suggestions for effective use of the *National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Community Conversation Toolkit (Community Conversation Toolkit)* and Web dialogues. Dan Goldstein, Monsanto, and Sharyle Patton, Commonwealth, are the *Monitoring Work Group* members on the *Public Involvement Subcommittee*. They will be reviewing *Community Conversation Toolkit* and Web dialogue content, including agendas and discussion questions. Suggestions from the Monitoring Work Group on public involvement activities should be sent to Goldstein or Patton.

#### Work Group Report Template

Dr. Balbus encouraged the Monitoring Work Group subgroups to think about feeding their work into the report template. Although subgroups should plan to contribute their own content to each of the sections, Dr. Balbus advised that the section, "Vision of a Successful System for Work Group Issue Area," should reflect more holistic thinking. He suggested that the full work group might want to work on that section collectively.

### **Monitoring Work Group Update and Subgroup Discussion**

#### Progress on Data Set Inventory

Dr. Balbus noted that the Scientific Understanding Work Group has formed a subgroup around inventorying existing databases for data mining. He noted that the Scientific Understanding Work Group's scope is broader than the Monitoring Work Group's but that working from the same inventory for our respective purposes makes sense. Dr. Balbus called for volunteers to finish populating the inventory. The following next steps were determined:

- Dr. Balbus will share the inventory with National Library of Medicine staff and ask for their suggestions.
- Roy Fortmann will contact Kevin Teichman, EPA, and share the inventory with the staff of the US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Information and ask for their suggestions.
- Mike McGeehin, NCEH/ATSDR, or Ms. Van Skiver will share the inventory with Judy Qualters, NCEH, and ask for her suggestions.

#### Monitoring Work Group Subgroup Updates

Each subgroup (Chemical Use and Release Subgroup, Exposure Levels/Biomonitoring Subgroup, and Health Outcomes Subgroup) is continuing its discussions and beginning to consider how its work will fit into the work group report template distributed earlier this month. All subgroups agreed to share their current work products 1 week before the next full Monitoring Work Group call.

**Next Steps**

Kathy Grant, RESOLVE facilitator, confirmed that the next Monitoring Work Group call will be held March 24, 2010, from 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Eastern time. The next in-person work group meeting has been scheduled for May 6–7, 2010, in Washington, DC. The venue and logistics will be determined at a later date.

**IV. Participation**

**Members Present:**

Henry Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
Herb Buxton, U.S. Geological Survey  
Alison Edwards, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
Roy Fortmann, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Daniel Goldstein, Monsanto  
Nancy John, Cherokee Nation  
Charlotte L. Keys, Jesus People Against Pollution  
Megan Latshaw, Association of Public Health Laboratories  
David Marker, Westat  
Richard Matheny, Farmington Valley Health District  
John Osterloh, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health  
Jennifer Parker, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics  
Karen Pierce, Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates  
Martha Stanbury, Michigan Department of Community Health  
Trey Thomas, Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Richard Van Frank, Improving Kids' Environment  
Alan Woolf, Children's Hospital, Boston  
Rosemary Zaleski, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc.

**Regrets**

Jose Emilio Esteban, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Jay Feldman, Beyond Pesticides  
Sam LeFevre, Utah Department of Health  
Dean Lillquist, Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Paul Lioy, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey  
Sharyle Patton, Commonwealth  
Ruthann Rudel, Silent Spring Institute  
Steve Whittaker, Public Health—Seattle & King County  
Michael Wilson, University of California, Berkeley

**Facilitation and Staff Team Members Present:**

John Balbus, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Monitoring Work Group chair

*Final Document*

Kathy Grant, RESOLVE facilitator  
Michael McGeehin, NCEH/ATSDR senior liaison  
Jenny Van Skiver, NCEH/ATSDR staff