The U.S. President’s Cancer Panel Report

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Outline of presentation

- Background President’s Cancer Panel and previous reports
- Focus of 2008-2009 report: Environmental and occupational causes of cancer
- Major conclusions and recommendations
- Responses and progress since 2010 public release
**Table 20.—Proportions of cancer deaths attributed to various different factors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text section No.</th>
<th>Factor or class of factors</th>
<th>Percent of all cancer deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Best estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Food additives</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Reproductive&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt; and sexual behaviour</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Pollution</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>Industrial products</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>Medicines and medical procedures</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>Geophysical factors&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>10&lt;sup&gt;?&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. President’s Cancer Panel
What is it?

- Function statement:
  - “To monitor the development and execution of the activities of the National Cancer Program, and report directly to the President.”

- 3 member panel appointed by the President
  - Previous Chair: Dr. LaSalle Leffall, Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine
  - Previous Member: Dr. Margaret Kripke, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

- Management and support services provided by National Cancer Institute
Environmental Factors in Cancer

Presenting Experts:
- Richard Clapp
- Devra Davis
- Adam Finkel
- Elizabeth Fontham
- David Kriebel
- Philip Landrigan
- Christopher Portier
- Paul Schulte
- Jeanne Stellman
- Daniel Wartenberg
- Frank Mirer
- Jeanne Rizzo

The focus of this meeting will be:
- Effects of industrial pollutants
- The status of U.S. regulation of occupational and environmental exposures
- Research barriers in environmental health
- Occupational exposures
- Other industrial and manufacturing health concerns

For more information, please visit http://pcp.cancer.gov or contact Karen Parker at klparker@mail.nih.gov, or (301) 451-9462.

No registration required

This meeting is free and open to the public. Proceedings will be recorded.
“The true burden of environmentally induced cancers has been grossly underestimated.”

Pres. Obama: “Use the power of your office to remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water, and air that needlessly increase healthcare costs, cripple our nation’s productivity and devastate American lives.”
Solutions going forward

“A precautionary prevention-oriented approach should replace current reactionary approaches to environmental contaminants in which human harm must be proven before action is taken to reduce or eliminate exposure”
Cancer Panel Report & the American Cancer Society Reaction

- ACS spokesman claims the report distracts people from behavioral & lifestyle factors
- “hopes the report won't confuse Americans about the clearest ways to prevent cancer, such as through healthier living.”

Emphasizes individual, not systems-level action

USA Today, May 6, 2010.
Solutions going forward

“‘Green chemistry’ initiatives and research, including process redesign, should be pursued and supported more aggressively…”
12 Principles of Green Chemistry (sample)

- Design chemicals and products to be effective with little or no toxicity
- Prevent waste that requires treatment or clean-up
- Develop less hazardous ways to synthesize chemicals
- Use renewable raw materials
- Design chemicals to break down after use
The Wet-Cleaning Example

- Perchloroethylene exposure is a problem in Massachusetts
  - Hundreds of small dry cleaners use Perc
- Toxics Use Reduction Institute promotes “wet-cleaning” alternative
  - Provides on-going training and small grants for transition to wet-cleaning (see http://www.turi.org/Our_Work/Business/Small_Businesses/Dry_Cleaning)
Ten Broad Goals, forty-four objectives
Three (6.8%) objectives deal with environment
- Increase number of providers with accurate understanding of role environment plays
- Increase number of consumers aware of natural and man-made (industrial, manufacturing) cancer-causing substances
- Increase number of school officials aware of PCBs in school buildings
Lowell Center – next steps

- Lowell Center Initiative for a Cancer-free Economy
  - Continue to build a broad campaign, increase public awareness, advance safer alternatives
  - Develop model projects, educational materials, promote chemicals policy reform
  - Convene “change agents” to develop a “Roadmap”
  - Build partnerships, strategies and fundraising