


The U.S. President's Cancer Panel Report

R. Clapp

Lowell Center for Sustainable
Production and Boston University

November 14, 2014

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
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Doll & Peto, 1981

TABLE 20.—*Proportions of cancer deaths attributed to various different factors*

Text section No.	Factor or class of factors	Percent of all cancer deaths	
		Best estimate	Range of acceptable estimates
5.1	Tobacco	30	25-40
5.2	Alcohol	3	2-4
5.3	Diet	35	10-70
5.4	Food additives	<1	-5 ^a -2
5.5	Reproductive ^b and sexual behaviour	7	1-13
5.6	Occupation	4	2-8
5.7	Pollution	2	<1-5
5.8	Industrial products	<1	<1-2
5.9	Medicines and medical procedures	1	0.5-3
5.10	Geophysical factors ^c	3	2-4
5.11	Infection	10 ?	1-?
5.12	Unknown	?	?

Source: Doll R, Peto R. The causes of cancer: quantitative estimates of avoidable risks of cancer in the United States today. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. 1981. 66(6):1191-1308.

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

Industrial and Manufacturing Exposures

Chair

LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S.
Charles R. Drew
Professor of Surgery
Howard University
College of Medicine

Member

Margaret L. Kripke, Ph.D.
Special Assistant to the Provost
The University of Texas
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Executive Secretary

Abby B. Sandler, Ph.D.
National Cancer Institute

PRESIDENT'S CANCER PANEL

Tuesday, September 16, 2008
East Brunswick, New Jersey
Hilton East Brunswick
8:00am-4:15pm

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.

Industrial and Manufacturing Exposures

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

Lowell Center Materials



“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.”

2008–2009 Annual Report  President’s Cancer Panel

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CANCER RISK

What We Can Do Now



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”

2008–2009 Annual Report  President's Cancer Panel

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CANCER RISK

What We Can Do Now



Stonyfield yogurt container top



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.”

USA Today, May 6, 2010.

- Emphasizes individual, not systems-level action

Solutions going forward

“ ‘Green chemistry’ initiatives and research, including process redesign, should be pursued and supported more aggressively...”

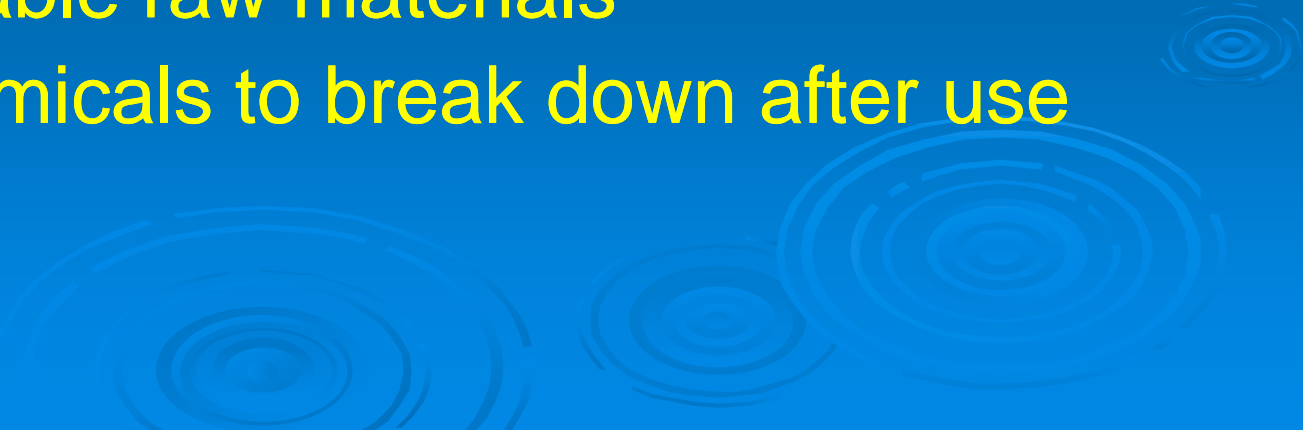
2008–2009 Annual Report  President's Cancer Panel

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CANCER RISK

What We Can Do Now



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
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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)

Mass. Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control State Plan, 2012-2016

- 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