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/ Applicability of Radiation-Response Models to Low Dose Protection Standards /  
/ Topical Planning meeting notes for Thursday April 5th, 2018                 /  
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Members in attendance:  
\* Wanda  
\* Jerry  
\* Mike  
\* Y. Mike  
\* Alan  
\* Kris  
\* Tony  
\* Paul  
  
4:40P  
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Some of the members haven't seen the minutes. I sent out a copy of the minutes that I received back on the 15th of last month. Tony asked where the guys were planning to meet tomorrow. Wanda offered her place for the meeting. It sounds like they agreed upon meeting at 8 am at 110 pine st.   
  
4:45P  
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Tony said that there are 5 abstracts that are not on the website and three people authors that we don't have abstracts for. (These names are on the list that Tony passed out at the start of the meeting). Tony said that Dan Stram is one of the boys from the DOE that is doing the Russian Studies. We wanted Dan Stram to do the epidemiology. Tony said that Miac workers and Tinker river were the only two cases where people we have low dose results for humans. Tony said that he doesn't believe the results, because most of Sr 90 goes to the bones, and they didn't have an increased incidents of bone cancer. Also, what sort of control do you use for an situation like this. Tony said that we want to have a panel discussion and we want to have the epidemiologist on the panel and then the other person we want to get is Preston. We would have the panel discussion after lunch. We want David before them and then the three of these guys in a row. Tony said that this Fontos, is the DOE boy who is funding these guys. There are some people who aren't too excited about this project because they are supposed to be out in Russia the week before they might be scheduled to be at our meeting.   
  
4:51P  
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Mike said that one of the key if not most important factors of our meeting is that we have said over the last ten years that there have been significantly more studies and research performed. Mike asked if Monday is the only day where new reports of results are being discussed. Tony confirmed that only new biological results are being discussed on Monday. Mike asked if there have been any new studies that are not biological. Tony said that some of the other studies that have been looked into have been financial. Tony said that nobody here got enough dose for us to study. Mike said it seems to him from a logic perspective that we should point out the new data on the downside of just taking the conservative approach. We have said that you can take the conservative approach if there aren't any consequences. Mike is suggesting that maybe we should open up with the topics on Fukushima and discuss the costs associated with the overly conservative approach. Then after that, move on to the biological research.   
  
4:55P  
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Mike said he thinks it is important that we look at the fact that this conservatism does have some very negative impacts. Tony said that we have a number of papers on these topics. Mike asked if any of these papers provide resolutions to this situation. Tony said that no, only the hormesis boys have a suggestion about what to do. Tony said that when I invited Bruce Napier, he said that you don't want me there because I'm an LNT guy and your a hormesis conference. Tony said that no, we want you to come out here. Mike asked which one on this list is the one that talks about Fukushima. Tony said that he put most all of those on the last day. He said that there are two or three people coming from Japan. Tony indicated that the public will believe what we tell them as long as we tell them right. Somebody said "that's a big if". Tony said he thought what might be helpful would be to look at who is on this list and then to see, who isn't on there. Then you might say "Hey look Mr. Brooks, you made a great list but you missed adding my favorite guy. Tony mentioned Oleg who got kicked out of science and now he is at the IAEA". Tony said that he is one of the few that looks at things differently.   
  
5:01P  
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Tony doesn't have Janet on the list which talks about what they fed your mother. Tony doesn't have Gale Wallacheck on there. But the thing is, if I put them on, who am I going to kick off. Wanda said she wonders if it is even applicable, but she is concerned about that paper at ORAN where they updated some correction factors. Wanda read through and was very confused about their statistical analysis. Tony asked if we had any abstracts from them and Wanda said that we didn't. Tony said that all the reimbursement programs are total bullshit, but that if he just gets a few more spots of skin cancer, he will get his 50K. Mike said that looking at the program, there is a fair amount of time on Wednesday spent focusing on Fear and other things. The issue though, is that Mike thinks that focusing on that isn't as important if there is a negative consequence resulting from being overly conservative.   
  
5:04P  
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Mike wants the group to focus on new data and new analysis on Tuesday, then on Wednesday we get the people together to start hashing out what do we do. Tony said that Alan once published a paper on fear and risk. Wanda said that 20 years ago we had a similar problem. And there was always a risk of letting the hormesis boys run away with the conference. Mike said that, this is the reason that getting Fukushima in there is really important, because it will mention the sociological impacts that resulted from the current standards. However, Mike says that we need to build a case for why the fear is unsubstantiated. We need to be able to say that people worry about the dangers of doses below a certain level, however we can definitively show you the consequences of the current standards being applied for doses below that level. Mike said that we need to have an open mind about these results, so that we can have a discussion about whether the science should dictate that we do something different than we are currently. Tony says that the human data is what controls everything. Tony said that this Miac and Tinker river group are going to come out here and say that the data is linear all the way. Tony says that these epidemiologists drive the standards.   
  
5:09P  
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Tony says that these papers, say that at low dose there is still linearity all the way down. Tony said that they equipped these people with dosimeters and they grouped these people together and then said that things are linear. The trouble is, they grouped these people together by dose along the x-axis, however they didn't look at the cancer rates along the y-axis. He said that due to the Sr 90, we would expect bone cancer. Tony says that from our experiments, there is a big plateau at low levels of dose and then as you go up, it takes off. Tony said that this research said that it just takes off from zero. Tony thinks this stuff is really wrong. Alan said that he really likes what Mike said about how he wants to set things up. He said that the LNT may have merits at some place, but at some low levels there is some sort of actual negative effect. Also, we need to discuss and point out what these individual groups UNSCER ICRP, need to do to improve the situation.   
  
5:15P  
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Mike asked if there was any research which would refute the MIAC data, Tony said that of course we have data like that but it is for animals. Tony said that out in Russia, they just dump this stuff out in the river. Tony said the plutonium dogs and the MIAC workers line up perfectly. If you give them too much, they die right away, if you give them less they get inflammatory diseases and eventually cancer, and if you give them less then that, you don't get anything more than if you had background radiation. Tony said that two or three of Doug Boehrem's kids will say something like that. For example Stephanie published something on the Lovelace dogs, but would anybody believe her. Alan asked if the data was good, and Tony said that created the data himself. Tony said that they gave the dogs Sr 90 their entire lives and below a certain level, we didn't see anything. After a certain point, you start to see trouble. Alan asked if there was anybody who could talk about the difference between animal studies and humans. Tony said that there is no question that humans are not mice.   
  
5:19P  
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Tony said that we have enough people who can talk the animal studies. Tony said that the MIAC data laid on top of people for the high dose range. However, where things are different is at the low dose range. For the dogs things dropped off at low dose. Alan asked what Boice would say, if he got to do his million man study. He wants to either say that below some certain level, we don't see anything. Or alternatively, things are linear the whole way. The trouble is, that we don't have enough data for people at low dose. Tony said that what they do for chemicals, is they have some key events along the pathway in order for it to change. Tony got together with this guy and asked how does rate effects these events. He said that it was very important. Alan asked Tony if those error bars were in low dose area and he said yes. Tony said you have diesel exhaust and fumes and other things in a mine. You have radon at high doses. However, it was the smokers in the radon mines that got the cancer, not the other guys.   
  
5:24P  
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Alan said that he was talking with an LNT guy and the LNT guy said that Radon is a huge problem if you are a smoker, but that it wasn't if you weren't. Tony said that basically, if you are smoker, it increases your chance of cancer by a LOT, and if you are smoker then radon will increase cancer rates at a significant level however, if you are a non-smoker the radon doesn't really do anything. If you are smoker and you are concerned about cancer, it is way better to just stop smoking than to re-mediate the radon. Mike said, so in reality it isn't that Radon is the second highest risk of cancer, it is that Radon + smoking is a big risk. Tony said that Radon and smoking interact with each other. Tony said that he spoke with some guy who worked at a uranium mine and the guy said that he never found cancer in a uranium miner that wasn't a smoker.  
  
5:29P  
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Tony said that once we start talking about this stuff, these are the sorts of debates that we will get into. Alan and Tony said that as a result, it might be a good idea to push this off till at least Tuesday. It sounds like Steve won't be back for another week. Tony and Alan agree that it is really critical that we put this stuff in the right order. Tony said that we will take another look at this tomorrow. Tony said that we have some that aren't on the web, We have Nick Priest and this guy here. And he said that we don't know how to get them on the web. Tony said that there are whole lot of abstracts that we probably don't want to have discussed because they are so far down in the details. Tony said that here is Stephanie who went over the old dog data. Tony said that here is Nick, and he is talking about a million dollar study.   
  
5:33P  
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Alan said that the thing that Steve put together was far beyond science, and Tony said that the abstracts that we said are also far beyond science. What we need to do now is to go over these papers and see. Tony said what can he personally do so that everybody on the committee can do something. Tony wants the phone numbers or email addresses of the people on the committee. Tony said that there are only 7 or 8 people on the list that he needs to get in touch with. Tony wants to get the contact information for the people who have agreed to be on the program committee. He wants to know who got the emails which included the instructions. Mike said that he wondered if they could actually open up the website to access those abstracts.  
  
5:44P  
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Alan said that the trouble is, once we send out a draft version, we don't know where this information is going to go. So we have to be careful. Alan asked Tony if he thought there were any major holes like we don't have anybody from the NRC. Tony said that he doesn't see any that we could fill at this point, we don't have the NRC but we haven't been able to get anybody else to come out. Tony did say that he got some great young guy from the IAEA who wrote a paper. Noel manning said that she doesn't want to give a paper/speech. She said that Tony could tell them anything that she could tell them. She was the one that got fired from the DOE over the low does program. Alan asked if we knew any more about who we are to fund from Doug Boehrem, Tony said that we have to fund Hooker and the kids. He said that there about six or seven kids and that we got abstracts from all of them. Hooker is from Australia so its a long travel, however, since our conference is right after Rad Research, he doesn't have to fly from Australia to get here, we only have to fly him from Rad Research to our event, and maybe back. Basically we can split the travel costs with Rad Research.  
  
5:49P  
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Tony said that he has him attending a Bruce Power meeting on the third weekend in may. Mike asked what the presentation was on. Tony said that he will be speaking about everything that he knows about radiation. He will talk about internally deposited radioactive materials and the low-dose program. Bruce power is now funding these students with me as a mentor. Alan said that while this group is together, we will try and find a way to get something to these people. Mike and Tony agreed that we can give them a hard deadline of two weeks to look at this stuff. Alan said that, this would mean that they would have to get it back to us by the 20th. We would have to do it by early the following week. Tony said that yeah, that is all that we can do. Tony said that tomorrow, if we can get our program the way we want to look. Then we might be in good shape. Alan said that we probably need to get together on about the 24th of April. Tony said that Wednesday is normally a bad day but mornings could work. Tony asked Mike if we needed to play more with biology and epidemiology and he said yes, if we don't have the data then there isn't much we can accomplish.  
  
5:54P  
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Alan asked Wanda what is with the current state of the website. Wanda said that things mostly look good but that she did want to make some minor changes. Mike asked if Monday the 23rd would work for Alan, Alan said it would but asked if Mike would be available any time later. Tony said that he is afraid about what he is going to get back from people. Wanda said that Ruth Whiner is a harsh critic. Tony asked if Finendangen is going to give the presentation or will it be the other guy. Alan said that he would prefer Finendangen to the other guy. Alan said that maybe we could pick the date tomorrow but maybe we should just do it on Monday the 23rd. It sounds like the group has agreed to meet on the 23rd of April to put it together.  
  
5:58P  
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Alan said that we probably won't need to talk about travel funding yet, we need to figure out who is going to be on the program. Wanda brought up the young professionals. Wanda sent out requests for interest from them and she hasn't gotten anything back from them. She asked if them or anybody they could recommend would be interested, and she hasn't heard anything. Wanda said that she will pulse them again. Alan asked if Janet is the one who is driving the young professionals these days and Tony said that as far as he can tell, there isn't anybody driving things. Mike said that if their abstracts are solid and scholarly, perhaps we should mix them up into the program along with lots of other people. Alan said that on to the honorary advisory council, we have eight people. Mike said that we had two people decline, Boice and Larry Dauer.   
  
6:02P  
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Tony said that Nick Daniaks abstract was really weak. Tony said that Gale Wallachecks abstract was also lousy. Alan said that he is still concerned about publications. Make sure that everybody can get a copy of the HPS thing and make sure that ... Jerry said that him and Bob have the same concerns, they don't have a really crisp idea of what Wayne is doing. Tony said that he had issues with registration, he said that he put in all of that information but the website said that he couldn't register without a PayPal account. Paul said that we aren't set up for credit cards. Tony asked Paul what PayPal was, Tony said that it's kinda like a universal credit card. Mike said that on the registration page, it needs to show the option to either sign in via PayPal or include a link for people to register for PayPal.  
  
6:10P  
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Tony has suspicions that maybe the free tour option wasn't working correctly. Alan asked Paul how hard it would be to add an option to pay by credit card. Paul said that he doesn't know. He said that it just isn't something that is on the website at this time. Wanda said that Virginia should know how hard it would be to add the pay by Credit Card option on there. Alan asked how many people have registered that have paid, Wanda said that two people have paid. Wanda said that many of the comp people have already registered. Tony said that we have 90 abstracts, and so if they all show up then we will have at least 90 people.  
  
6:15P  
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Wanda said that we now have a volunteer. Jerry said that he wants to raise the issue that Bob and him talked about today. Our budget is predicated today on 105 members, 5 comp, 25 non-members, 5 students, 10 emeritus. Tony said that we are going to have more students than that. Tony said that we are probably already up to 10 now. Jerry asked if we were still comfortable with 10 emeritus members, and Wanda said that this number was probably about right. Alan said that we might want to increase that number but that it would probably be alright. Mike said that right now Tony has allocated 20-30 minutes per speaker. Tony said that, this is something that we can work on. Mike said that we could up the number of speakers if we limited speeches to 15 minutes + 5 minutes to answer questions.   
  
6:18P  
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I asked how many posters we were expecting. And it sounds like we are expecting at least 40. Jerry said that the only place to get poster boards that are 8 ft wide and raised off the ground. It can accommodate about 4 posters. Right now we are expecting 10 of these, the company is called LCD. It used to be called Lilac city. As a result, we got a 10% discount. Right now those 10 boards delivered and received is going to be a bit of $1000. Tony said that there are a bunch of poster boards back in the biology department. Tony said that he will get Jerry a number of a person to contact to see if he can get those poster boards for free. Since Tony knows her, he will be the one to contact her instead.  
  
6:23P  
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Jerry said that once people solve the issue of what to expect, like are we going to have luncheon speakers and whatnot, they need to inform Jerry so he can start putting together that detailed agenda. Jerry said to think about this as building a house, in this case we need to think about what we want to do and then this will blow up into a list of things that the hotel needs to do. There is the pro-speaker group which says we need speakers at noon and then there is the issue that we want people to just hob-knob during lunch. On to Kris, she said that she does need something regarding Bruce Power. She knows the B reactor tour is going to go but she doesn't know about anything else. Alan asked Wanda about the articles that she was going to get published.   
  
6:27P  
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Wanda said that our conference wasn't listed in some nuclear news because our conference hasn't been fully approved yet. Apparently Wanda was so grouchy, that they have changed their policy and we will be listed next month. Also, it sounds like Wanda's article will get published in May. Wanda will be sending letters to all the academic department heads in the US. Wanda will just send it out there. Jerry pointed out that we have 178 days left before the conference begins. Alan said that we need to get that program put together and also getting payment is a big issue.   
  
6:31P  
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Tony got in contact with Katrina Waters and it sounds like she is going to get him the number for the protocol office.   
  
The next meeting of our group will be at 4:30pm on the 8th of May. Wanda will get the room scheduled.  
  
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ACTION ITEMS  
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\* Try to get access to those abstracts tonight and see if I can post them in my google drive to share with people.  
\* I may need to also double check if I can get a list of who was sent what.  
\* Paul will work on getting a (create a paypal account) link added to the website.  
\* Paul will contact Virginia about adding pay by credit card to the website.  
\* Tony will contact Katrina Waters about seeing if we can get use some poster boards for free.