

NIEHS/NTP and NIOSH/IWSB Interagency Agreement for Collaborative Research on High Priority Hazards

NTP Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting, December 15, 2016

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NIEHS/NTP and NIOSH have had a long-standing interagency collaborative partnership to address two overarching goals: 1) provide scientific data and knowledge necessary for making appropriate decisions that protect and improve public health, and 2) leverage federal resources and reduce undue overlap in the conduct of environmental/occupational health research.

Specifically, this partnership takes advantage of the unique mission and capacities of both agencies to:

- Conduct exposure and health assessments of priority agents of mutual interest to NTP and NIOSH
- Capitalize on NIOSH access to human populations and work sites to provide real-world context for NTP and NIOSH toxicology studies
- Guide decision-making for NIOSH epidemiologic studies
- Provide a toxicology and epidemiology evidence-base for guidance documents such as the Report on Carcinogens, Office of Health Assessment and Translation (OHAT) reviews, and NIOSH Criteria Documents

Agents are selected for study in a number of ways including comparison of the list of International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Group 2 agents and NTP-nominated agents to identify overlap; identification of agents where NIOSH believes there to be an imminent, previous unidentified hazard (e.g., diacetyl); and review of requests for exposure assessment from NTP.

The interagency agreement supports NIOSH to conduct exposure assessment research including: company recruitment, walk-through visits, recruitment of study participants, sample collection and analysis, analytical methods development (if needed), chemical usage profiles, statistical support, and assessment of epidemiology study feasibility (if needed). The interagency partnership also provides for NIOSH scientists to support the NTP on a regular basis as technical reviewers, subject matter experts, and workshop participants.

The impact of this collaboration has been wide-reaching and includes: informing testing priorities, guiding selection of relevant laboratory test exposures and doses, development of methods for generation of laboratory test exposures (e.g., welding fume, mold, asphalt fume), and informing priorities for further epidemiologic research.

Recently completed and current projects include:

- Use of and Occupational Exposure to Indium in the United States.
- Occupational Exposure Assessment Of Manganese Fractions In Welding Fume

- Industrywide Exposure Assessment Study of Workers Exposed to Carbon Nanotubes and Carbon Nanofibers
- Occupational Exposure to Bisphenol-A in U.S. Workers
- Assessment of Occupational Exposure to Flame Retardants
- Assessment of Occupational Exposure to Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles Containing Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Coal Tar Sealant Applicators