

Process for Preparing Five Draft Monographs on Viruses

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Viruses Peer-Review Meeting

Outline

Background on Report on Carcinogens (RoC)

Selection of viruses for review for the RoC

Preparation of the draft RoC monographs

Evaluation of cancer hazards and RoC listing criteria

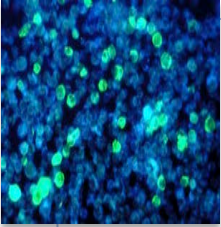
Peer-review charge

Next steps



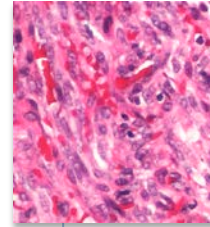


Five selected viruses



Epstein Bar Virus (EBV)

- Herpes virus



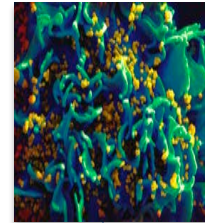
Kaposi sarcoma herpesvirus (KSHV)

- Herpes virus



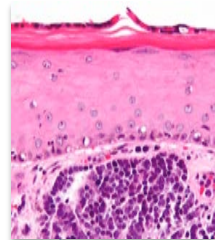
Human immunodeficiency virus, type 1 (HIV-1)

- Retrovirus



Human T-cell lymphotropic virus, type 1 (HTLV-1)

- Retrovirus



Merkel cell polyomavirus



The Report on Carcinogens (RoC) is congressionally mandated

- Public Health Service Act, Section 301(b)(4) (1978, amended 1993)
 - Directs Secretary, Health and Human Services (HHS) to publish a list of carcinogens
 - Lists substances as “*known*” or “*reasonably anticipated human carcinogens*”
- Identifies substances that pose a cancer hazard for people in the United States
- Each edition of the report is cumulative
- NTP prepares the RoC for the Secretary, HHS





Process for the Preparation of the RoC

Nomination and Selection of Candidate Substances



Scientific Evaluation of Candidate Substances



Public Release and Peer Review of Draft RoC Monographs



HHS Approval and Release of Latest Edition of the RoC

Invite nominations to the RoC

Interagency review

Public comment

Develop draft concept documents for substances proposed for evaluation

Public comment

Review of draft concept documents by NTP Board of Scientific Counselors*
(public meeting, public comment)

NTP Director

Select candidate substances

Prepare draft RoC Monograph for a candidate substance
(initiate cancer evaluation component)

External scientific input, as needed
(e.g., consultants, *ad hoc* presentations, expert panels*)

Public input
(e.g., listening session, comment)

Interagency input
(complete cancer evaluation component and prepare draft substance profile)

Interagency review

Complete draft RoC Monograph

Release draft RoC Monograph

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Peer review of draft RoC Monograph by NTP Peer-Review Panel*
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Present information regarding the peer review and revised draft RoC Monograph to NTP Board of Scientific Counselors
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NTP Director

Finalize RoC Monograph
(cancer evaluation component and substance profile)

Submit recommended listing status for newly reviewed candidate substances

NTP Executive Committee

Approval of listing status by Secretary, HHS
(transmit latest edition of RoC to Congress and release to the public)

Key

HHS = Health and Human Services

NTP = National Toxicology Program

RoC = Report on Carcinogens

* Federally chartered advisory groups



RoC related products

- Concept document
 - Contains rationale and proposed approach for the substance review
- Draft RoC monograph consists of two parts
 - Cancer hazard evaluation component
 - Substance profile
- Report on Carcinogens
 - Compilation of substance profiles for each listed substance



Selection of 5 Viruses as Candidate Substances

Important public health concern

Nominated by private individual

Interagency review

Public comment (N = 0)

January 19, 2012: FR

Developed draft concept

Public comment (N = 0)

March 7, 2014: FR

Draft concept reviewed by BSC

April 16-18, 2014 public mtg

NTP Director

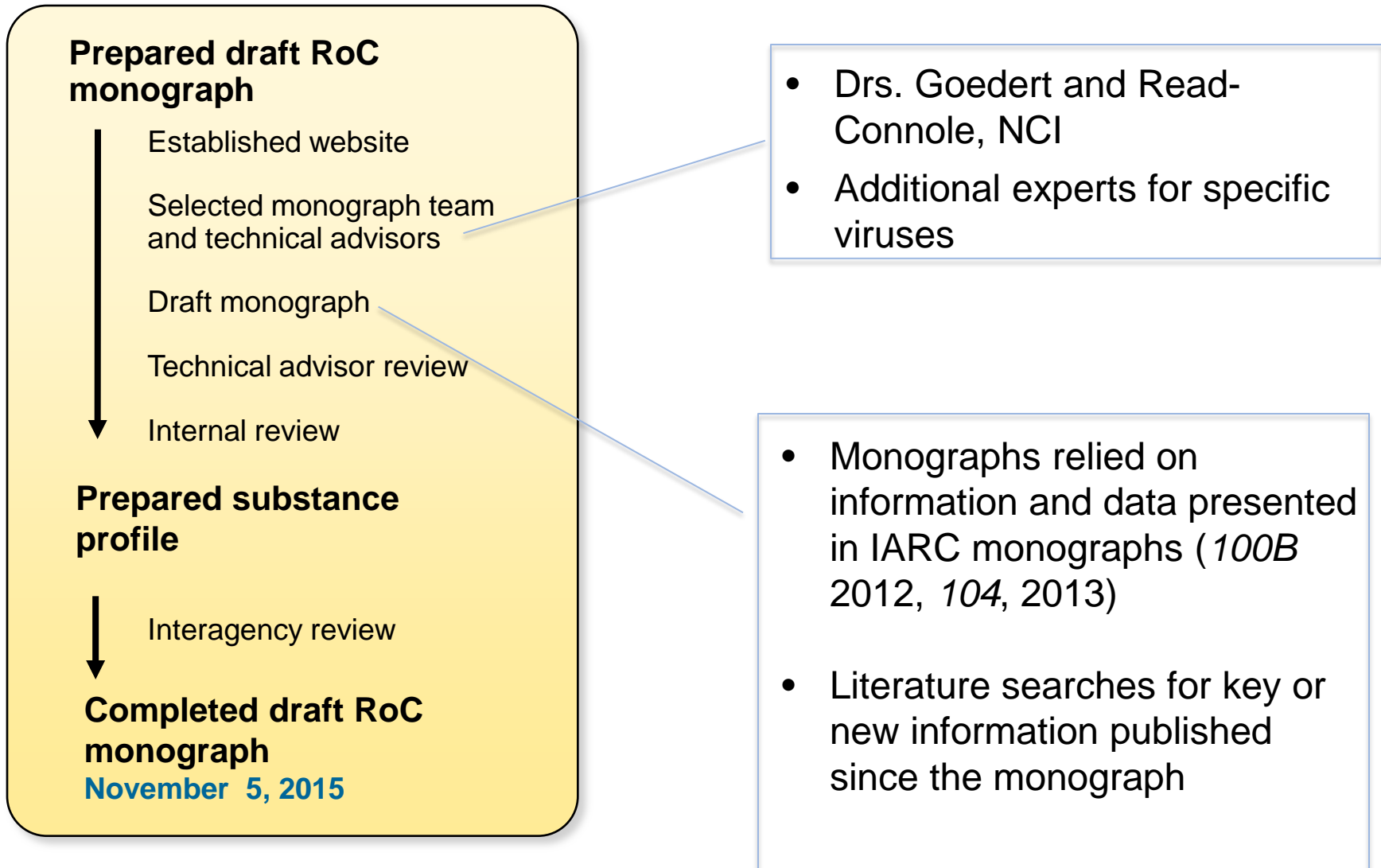
Selected as candidate substance

- Many individuals living in the United States are infected with the 5 viruses
- ~12% of cancers worldwide are linked to viruses*
 - Hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus, and selected human papillomaviruses are listed in the 13th RoC
- Currently, no vaccines are available for any of these five viruses
- Large database of cancer studies
- Evaluated over 24 specific types of cancers

*Parkin, 2006



Preparation of the RoC monographs





Monograph Preparation: Contents

Cancer hazard evaluation component

Overview and introduction

Properties and detection

Human exposure

- Prevalence and transmission
- Diseases, prevention, treatment

Cancer studies in humans

Other relevant data

Overall cancer evaluation

Literature search strategy

Substance profile

Listing recommendation

Carcinogenicity

Biological properties

Detection

Exposure

Regulations



Reach RoC Conclusions

Evaluate whether a significant number of U.S. residents are exposed to viruses

Congressional mandate

- Publish a report that lists substances which are *known or reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens* **and to which a significant number of persons residing in the United States are exposed.**

Evaluate data

- Exposure primarily inferred by seroprevalence data (such as NHANES and blood bank)
- Blood bank data may underestimate exposure

Reviewer instructions

- Use their judgment as to whether the exposure information in the draft monograph supports the NTP conclusion that a significant number of U.S. residents are exposed to each virus.



Reach preliminary listing recommendation

Known to be a human carcinogen

- Sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity from studies in humans

Reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen

- Limited evidence from studies in humans
OR
- Sufficient evidence from studies in experimental animals
OR
- Less than sufficient evidence in humans or experimental animals
 - Agent, substance, or mixture belongs to a well-defined, structurally related class of substances whose members are listed in a previous RoC as either known to be a human carcinogen or reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.
OR
 - Convincing relevant information that the agent acts through mechanisms indicating it would likely cause cancer in humans.



Guidance (final paragraph of criteria)

Conclusions regarding carcinogenicity in humans or experimental animals are based on scientific judgment, with consideration given to all relevant information.

Relevant information includes, but is not limited to, dose response, route of exposure, chemical structure, metabolism, pharmacokinetics, sensitive sub-populations, genetic effects, or other data relating to mechanism of action or factors that may be unique to a given substance.

For example, there may be substances for which there is evidence of carcinogenicity in laboratory animals, but there are compelling data indicating that the agent acts through mechanisms which do not operate in humans and would therefore not reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer in humans.



Reach level of evidence conclusion for carcinogenicity from studies in humans*

Sufficient evidence

- Causal relationship between exposure to the agent, substance, or mixture, and human cancer

Limited evidence

- Causal interpretation is credible, but that alternative explanations, such as chance, bias, or confounding factors, could not adequately be excluded.

*This evidence can include traditional cancer epidemiology studies, data from clinical studies, and/or **data derived from the study of tissues or cells from humans exposed to the substance** in question that can be useful for evaluating whether a relevant cancer mechanism is operating in people.



Evaluate mechanistic and other relevant data

- Provides context for biological plausibility of findings reported in human and experimental animal cancer studies
- Mechanistic data are often sparse and for most listed substances, mechanisms are not completely understood
 - Mechanistic data are not a requirement for listing a substance in the RoC
- Can be used to list/not list a substance or support findings in humans and experimental animals
 - Agent belongs to a well-defined, structurally related class of substances whose members are listed in the RoC
 - Convincing data that a substance operates by a mechanism that would cause cancer in humans
 - Compelling data that a substance causes cancer by a mechanism that would not occur in humans



Human evidence comes from epidemiology and/or molecular studies

- Epidemiological issues some of which are unique to viruses
- NTP approach for applying the RoC criteria
 - Hill considerations for human epidemiological studies
 - Review of mechanistic evidence in humans and considerations developed by others
 - IARC (EBV) to address whether the presence of virus in a tumor is the cause of the cancer or effect of the tumor
 - Zur Hausen consideration of molecular and epidemiological evidence
 - Multi-causality issues
 - Cause is not a single component but a set of minimal set of conditions that produces outcome
 - Not necessary to identify all components to prevent the disease outcome
 - Each disease may have more than one sufficient cause



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Charge

To comment on the draft cancer evaluation component, specifically, whether it is technically correct and clearly stated, whether the NTP has objectively presented and assessed the scientific evidence, and whether the scientific evidence is adequate for applying the listing criteria

To comment on each draft substance profile, specifically, whether the scientific justification presented in the substance profile supports the NTP's preliminary policy decision on the RoC listing status of each virus

Actions (votes)

Whether the scientific evidence supports the NTP's conclusions on the level of evidence for carcinogenicity from cancer studies in humans of the five viruses

Whether the scientific evidence supports the NTP's preliminary listing decision of viruses in the RoC



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Acknowledgements

Office of the RoC (ORoC), NTP

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