



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

Conclusions and Recommendations

Workshop on the Collection, Reporting and Use of Human Data

25-27 February 2004, Cardiff, UK

**REPORT ON THE IPCS WORKSHOP ON THE COLLECTION, REPORTING AND
USE OF HUMAN DATA**

Held on 25-27 February 2004

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

1. This document provides a summary of the conclusions and recommendations from a Workshop held to discuss the potential for the collection, reporting and use of human data from three inter-related activities; poisons information, prevention and management; chemical incident alert and response and the risk assessment of chemicals. These activities form the core of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) the over-arching goals of which are to establish the scientific basis for the assessment of risks to human health and the environment from exposures to chemicals and to provide technical assistance in strengthening national capacities for the sound management of chemicals.

2. The Workshop was set in the context of the invitation from the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Bangkok, November 2003) that IPCS should take the international lead in the development of guidance on, and mechanisms for collecting, disseminating and utilizing clinical and exposure data from human observations. The resolutions of the World Health Assembly to strengthen systems for chemicals surveillance, emergency preparedness and response (WHA 55.16, 2002), its decision to revise the International Health Regulations to include chemical events of international concern (WHA 56.28, 2003) and its encouragement of Member States to take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management (WHA 56.22, 2003) also provided important reasons to explore linkages in the three areas of IPCS work.

OBJECTIVES

3. The specific objectives of the workshop were to increase awareness and understanding of IPCS work in the areas of human data collection and use, poisons centre development and chemical incident alert, surveillance and response, to identify and develop proposals for building strategic alliances and mechanisms to both strengthen these activities and to propose specific targets for work that can be further considered in the developing IPCS Workplans for the next biennium and beyond. Annex 1 provides the adopted agenda for the Workshop.

4. The meeting was organized together with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Management of Chemical Incidents, the UK Health Protection Agency and the Cardiff Centre of the UK National Poisons Information Service. The meeting was co-chaired by Professor Gary Coleman and Professor Jim Bridges and involved 28 participants with expertise in risk assessment, poisons centre operations, clinical treatment of poisoning, occupational health and safety, public health surveillance and

chemical incident preparedness and response. Annex 2 provides a list of participants.

5. In plenary the Workshop reviewed and discussed the current work of the IPCS and also nine case studies. These case studies illustrated some of the issues in the use of human data and work underway in several regions of the world to examine new ways of collecting and using existing human data. Specifically, participants heard and considered the views of the use of human data in risk assessment from the European chemical industry association, ECETOC, following an international workshop organized by ECETOC to discuss this topic and a survey being undertaken of chemicals assessment bodies. A report was given about the development of a chemicals-related component of the WHO Global Outbreak, Alert and Response Network and some of the lessons learnt from recent chemical incidents including those in China. A multi-hospital research project was presented for collecting different types of human data in Japan. The current activities and future perspectives of the European Environment Agency in establishing monitoring networks were discussed together with their links to public health actions. The work of the European Commission (DG SANCO) in working with poisons centres to establish a surveillance system on chemical intoxications and work underway in the US to develop strategic links with poisons centres to improve chemicals surveillance were reviewed. Finally the workshop heard of the objectives of newly formed UK Health Protection Agency and its work to provide more integrated public health actions .

6. Break-out or syndicate groups focussed on sources of human data being routinely collected by poisons information and treatment centres and the potential for improvements in the future particularly to strengthen the basis of risk assessment work and for chemical incident alert, response and follow-up.

7. A full summary of the Workshop is being prepared which will provide more information on each of the case studies and information and recommendations from the syndicate groups. The specific recommendations from each of the syndicate groups will be integrated to form the basis of an action plan for further discussion. While this is being completed the overall conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop are provided below.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8. There are substantial public health benefits from more effective collection, recording, sharing and use of human effects and exposure data. However this potential has not been exploited and needs to be improved to further protect public health.

9. Many organizations are involved in the collection and recording of human data but these are largely uncoordinated even within countries. An action plan to establish a more coordinated approach should be developed together with the means for implementation and support.

10. Important sources for human data are poisoning and chemical incidents but other important sources of exposure and outcome data exist (e.g. from occupational and environmental settings). These additional sources also need to be considered in the development of more coordinated and integrated approaches.

11. Although the focus of poisoning and chemical incident information is acute data it is recognized that they have the potential to generate valuable information on longer-term effects and situations which are often not subject of routine toxicity testing for risk assessment particularly if adequate follow-up takes place.
12. A sustained, collective and coordinated effort will be needed by experts involved in poisons centres, chemical incident centres and risk assessment authorities to strengthen existing and develop new mechanisms for collecting, reporting and using human data.
13. Dynamic, positive sustainable interactions between data gatherers and users are needed on an ongoing basis to fully realize the benefits of use of human data. The benefits to both data gatherers and users must be clearly expressed, demonstrated and promoted.
14. For optimal use of human data common procedures need to be established for data collection and recording. In the first instance and because of the resources, mechanisms and infrastructures required, such procedures should be developed and tested for carefully selected chemicals and/or situations of concern. The matrix describing data needs for risk assessment, developed as one of the break-out or syndicate activities should be completed and validated as far as possible.
15. Prospective planned data collection holds the best opportunity for achieving high quality data collection. Criteria or triggers should be identified for establishing priorities for data collection. Prospective pilot studies should be used to refine systems and practices.
16. In addition to improving existing systems consideration should be given to establishing new arrangements such as schemes to collect and collate suspected chemical adverse events similar to those existing for pharmaceutical adverse events. Ways to encourage access to data from public and private sources needs to be identified.
17. Guidelines should be developed to facilitate common data collection and reporting and use, taking into account existing systems such as the IPCS INTOX Data Management System. For risk assessment purposes priority should be given to the improvement of exposure-related information.
18. Mechanisms and networks for data collection and reporting need to be further developed and extended. Opportunities for in establishing special expertise in centres, or specialized networks exist as well as networks built on national, regional and global levels. The potential of INTOX-General, IPCS ChemiNet and other examples such as the model used for adverse drug reaction reporting should be examined further. Specialized networks might allow sentinel reporting and advice for particular chemicals/ groups of chemicals or situations of concern.
19. There are a number of barriers that need to be overcome in order to ensure good progress. These include ethical, legal and financial considerations. The ethical considerations particularly in emergency situations need identifying e.g. sample collection and analysis and follow-up . It is recommended that WHO/IPCS examine how to address these considerations further.

20. Data collection, analysis and use require considerable expertise. Arrangements for training and capacity building are needed to address these issues both from the perspectives of data collection and reporting and interpretation and use.

21. The contribution of poison information and treatment centres to improving public health at local, national, regional and global levels needs further recognition and support. Integrated public health data collecting systems should be encouraged.

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**IPCS WORKSHOP ON THE COLLECTION, REPORTING AND USE OF HUMAN
DATA**

Adopted Agenda

Held at Churchill's Hotel, Cardiff, United Kingdom

*25 - 27 February 2004
commencing at 09.30 on Wednesday 25 February*

1. **Welcome and introduction of participants**
2. **Election of Chair and Rapporteur**
3. **Objectives of workshop**
4. **Recent international developments**
 - **Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Forum IV)**
(Document 4.1)
 - **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) – Background Information** (Document 4.2)
 - **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - Health Sector Input** (Document 4.3)
 - **World Health Assembly Resolutions**
 - 55.16 Global public health response to natural occurrence, accidental release or deliberate use of biological and chemical agents or radionuclear material that affect health*
 - 56.8 Revision of the International Health Regulations)*
 - 56.22 Strategic approach to international chemicals management: participation of global health partners*
 - **Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)** (Document 4.4)
 - **Implementation of Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions** (Document 4.5)
5. **Review of current IPCS Work**
 - **Overview of refocused work programme** (Document 5.1)
 - **Update on Human Data Initiative** (Document 5.2)
 - **Poisons information, prevention and management** (Document 5.3)
 - **Chemical incidents and emergencies** (Document 5.4)

6. **Case study presentations**
 - **The use of human data in risk assessment – views of ECETOC**
 - **The WHO Global Alert and Response System in action**
 - **Learning from chemical incidents – recent Chinese experience**
 - **Survey of current views and uses of human data by chemicals assessment agencies**
 - **Multi-hospital research project for collection of human data in Japan**
 - **EEA Monitoring - current activities and future perspectives**
 - **The EU activities for a surveillance system on chemical intoxications**
 - **The vision for the UK Health Protection Agency**
 - **Recent developments in US chemicals surveillance**
7. **Introduction of suggested themes for break-out groups**
8. **Confirmation of charge to break-out groups**
9. **Break-out group discussion**
10. **Report back from break-out groups and plenary discussion**
11. **Workshop recommendations – discussion and confirmation**
12. **Closure**

**IPCS WORKSHOP ON THE COLLECTION, REPORTING AND
USE OF HUMAN DATA**

Cardiff, United Kingdom

25-27 February 2004

List of Participants

Dr Rahmat AWANG
National Poison Centre
Universiti Sains Malaysia
11800 Minden
Penang
Malaysia

Tel: +60 4 6570099
Fax: +60 4 6568417
E-mail: rahmat@usm.my

Professor P.G. BLAIN
Chemical Hazards and Poisons Division (Newcastle)
Health Protection Agency
Wolfson Unit
Claremont Place
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4AA
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 191 222 7195
Fax: +44 191 222 6442
E-mail: p.g.blain@ncl.ac.uk

Professor Jim BRIDGES
c/o University of Surrey
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 7XH
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 148 3233153
+44 (0)7768 004595 (mobile)
Fax: +44 148 3233153
E-mail: J.Bridges@surrey.ac.uk

Dr Edith CLARKE
Occupational Health Unit
Ministry of Health
P.O. Box MP44
Accra
Ghana

Tel: +233 21 660693
Fax: +233 21 668556
E-mail: ochealth@ghana.com

Professor Gary COLEMAN
WHO Collaborating Centre for the Public Health
Management of Chemical Incidents
The Chemical Division
The Health Protection Agency
University of Wales Institute
School of Applied Sciences
Western Avenue
Cardiff, CF5 2YB
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 2920 41 6852
Fax: +44 2920 41 6803
E-mail: gcoleman@uwic.ac.uk

Dr Mohamed ELMI
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
World Health Organization
WHO Post Office
Abdul Razzak Al Sanhoury Street
Naser City
Cairo 11371
Egypt

Tel: +202 670
Fax: +202 670
E-mail: elmim@emro.who.int

Dr Ligia FRUCHTENGARTEN
Centro de Controle de Intoxicacoes de Sao Paulo
Poison Control Centre
Av. Francisco de Paula Quintanilha Ribiero
860 Sao Paulo 04330 -020, SP
Brazil

Tel: +55 11 50125311
Fax: +55 11 50122399
E-mail: lfruchtengarten@uol.com.br

Mr Diego GOTTELLI
Centro de Información Quimica para Emergencias
(CIQUIME)
Juan B. Alberdi 2986
C1406GSS - Buenos Aires
Argentina

Tel: +54 11 4613 1100
Fax: +54 11 4613 3707
E-mail: dgotelli@ciquime.org.ar

Dr Ursula GUNDERT-REMY
Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
Postfach 330013
14191 Berlin 33
Germany

Tel: +49 30 8412 3300
Fax: +49 30 8412 3003
E-mail: u.gundert-remy@bfr.bund.de

Dr Tomas JOVAISA
Poisons Control & Information Bureau
Siltnamiu 29
Vilnius 2034
Lithuania

Tel: +370 5 236 2052
Fax: +370 5 236 2142
E-mail: tomas.jovaisa@vqpul.lt
jovaisa@tox.lt

Dr Alison JONES
Medical Toxicology Unit
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust
Avonley Road
London SE14 5ER
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 20 7771 5302
Fax: +44 20 7771 5306
E-mail: alison.jones@gstt.nhs.uk

Dr Edwin KILBOURNE
CAPT USPHS
Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd NE, MS E-60
Atlanta, GA 30333
USA

Tel: +1 404 498 0680
Fax: +1 404 521 5077
E-mail: edkilbourne@cdc.gov

Dr Yumiko KUROKI
Japan Poison Information Center, Tsukuba Office
c/o Total Health Evaluation Center
Amakubo 1-2
Tsukuba
Ibaraki, 305-0005
Japan

Tel: +81 29 852 6399
Fax: +81 29 854 7066
E-mail: ykuroki@j-poison-ic.or.jp

Dr Ingrid LANGEZAAL
European Chemicals Bureau TP-582
Joint Research Centre
Institute for Health & Consumer Protection
21020 Ispra (VA)
Italy

Tel: +39 0332 786135
Fax: +39 0332 789963
E-mail: ingrid.langezaal@jrc.it

Dr Ann-Maree LYNCH
Western Australia Poisons Information Centre
Emergency Department
Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital
Nedlands 6009
Western Australia
Australia

Tel: +61 8 93464193
Fax: +61 8 93463493
E-mail: ann-maree.lynch@health.wa.gov.au

Mr Chris MONEY
Industrial Hygiene Advisor - Europe
Exxon Mobil Petroleum & Chemical
Hermeslaan 2
B-1831 Machelen
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 722 4230
Fax: +32 2 722 3802
E-mail: chris.money@exxonmobil.com

Dr Agneta OHLSSON
National Chemicals Inspectorate
P.O. Box 2
S-172 13 Sundbyberg
Sweden

Tel: +46 8 519 412 41
Fax: +46 8 735 7698
E-mail: agneta.ohlsson@kemi.se

Professor Stephen PALMER
Department of Epidemiology, Statistics and Public Health
University of Wales College of Medicine
Heath Park
Cardiff CF14 4XN
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 2920 742478
Fax: +44 2920 742898
E-mail: palmersr@cardiff.ac.uk

Professor P.A. ROUTLEDGE
National Poisons Information Service (Cardiff Centre)
Gwenwyn Ward
Llandough Hospital
Cardiff CF64 2XX
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 29 20 71 5554 or
+44 29 20 71 5013
Fax: +44 2920 70 4357
E-mail: proutledge@compuserve.com

Dr Gabriele SCHÖNING
European Environment Agency
Environmental Assessment (EAS)
Kongens Nytorv 6
DK-1050 København K
Denmark

Tel: +45 3336 7265
Fax: +45 3336 7151
E-mail: gabi.schoening@eea.eu.int

Dr Malcolm SIM
Unit of Occupational & Environmental Health
Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine
Monash University
Alfred Hospital
Commercial Road
Melbourne Victoria 3004
Australia

Tel: +61 3 99030582
Fax: +61 3 99030556
E-mail: malcolm.sim@med.monash.edu.au

Dr Rachida SOULAYMANI BENCHEIKH
Centre Anti-Poisons du Maroc et de Pharmacovigilance
Rue Lamfaolel
Cherkaoui Madinat
Alirfane
Rabat Instituts
BP6671
Rabat 11400
Morocco

Tel: +212 37 777174 or
+212 61104745
Fax: +212 37 777179
E-mail: gbcherkaocu@yahoo.fr

Dr Chengye SUN
National Poison Control Centre
Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
27 Nan Wei Road
Beijing 100050
China

Tel: +86 10 83132562
Fax: +86 10
E-mail: sun@npcc.org.cn

Dr Gerard SWAEN
Department of Epidemiology
University of Maastricht
P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 43 388 2386
Fax: +31 43 388 4128
E-mail: g.swaen@epid.unimaas.nl

Dr John THOMPSON
National Poisons Information Service (Cardiff Centre)
Gwenwyn Ward
Llandough Hospital
Cardiff CF64 2XX
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 2920 715554/5013
Fax: +44 2920 704357
E-mail:

Mr Luciano VITTOZZI
Public Health Directorate
SANCO C3
JMO C3/26 B
L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel.: +352 4301 38073
Fax: +352 4301 33449
E-mail: luciano.vittozzi@cec.eu.int

Dr Maria WALLÉN
National Chemicals Inspectorate
P.O. Box 2
S-172 13 Sundbyberg
Sweden

Tel: +46 8 519 411581
Fax: +46 8 735 7698
E-mail: maria.wallen@kemi.se

Professor Ian WHYTE
Department of Clinical Toxicology and Pharmacology
Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital
Locked Bay 7
Hunter Regional Mail Centre
NSW 2310
Australia

Tel: +612 4921 1269
Fax: +612 4921 1870
E-mail: ian.whyte@newcastle.edu.au

IPCS Secretariat

Dr Kersten GUTSCHMIDT
International Programme on Chemical Safety
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 791 3731
Fax: +41 22 791 4848
E-mail: gutschmidtk@who.int

Dr Tim MEREDITH
International Programme on Chemical Safety
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 791 4348
Fax: +41 22 791 4848
E-mail: mereditht@who.int

Ms Lesley ONYON
International Programme on Chemical Safety
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 791 3548
Fax: +41 22 791 4848
E-mail: onyonl@who.int

Ms Joanna TEMPOWSKI
International Programme on Chemical Safety
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 791 3571
Fax: +41 22 791 4848
E-mail: tempowskij@who.int