

Community Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
For the Cancer Cluster Investigation  
Frederick County Health Department Entrance "C"  
May 23, 2012

**TAC Purpose:** a). To provide assistance in determining what questions should be examined regarding cancer numbers – geographic region, time period, types of cancers, etc. and then and b). To identify options for how to answer the question(s)/hypothesis(es).

**Working Hypothesis:** There is an increased rate of cancers (gather data on all, possibly narrow down later based on confirmed exposures) within a ¼ mile radius around Ft. Detrick (Area A and B).

I. Introductions

J. Bee (by phone), B. Brookmyer, J. Hahn, B. Roberson, E. Kruse, G. Rudy, J. Sawitzke, R. Watkins; new member R. Starks; and guests B. Resnick, B. Simpson, P. Truant

II. Review of Notes from April Meeting –

No changes requested from those present.

III. Update on Ed Kruse's Research Efforts

Ed is awaiting final Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. The goal is to start with interactive community meetings to distribute surveys by the end of June. The current plan is for the surveys to be distributed at those types of events rather than through the mail or door-to-door delivery to randomly selected residences. He is looking for a response rate between 400-800 persons in each of the 3 geographic areas under study (within 2 miles of Fort Detrick, Walkersville, and Middletown). The null hypothesis (statistics term) = there is no difference in cancer in the 3 geographic areas. He will then compare the survey results with the Maryland Cancer Registry data although that data is only available at the zip code level. Ed reported that he will be including survey responses for persons who live in zip codes that are entirely contained within the 2-mile radius from Fort Detrick. In other words, if a zip code is partly within and partly outside of the 2-mile radius from Fort Detrick, then responses from persons residing within that zip code would not be included in the analysis.

IV. Update from Members on Other Data Collection Efforts

- a. School-linked case finding – No update
- b. KRF - No update
- c. Maryland Cancer Registry Data Analysis – No update

V. Sharing of Other information Relevant to Member Interests

- a. Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee – No update
- b. Story Collection – See attached proposal from the Johns Hopkins team in response the a Community TAC member request to have the community's story(ies) captured. There was discussion of persons and perspectives that might be of interest to the Johns

Hopkins team. The team is doing this on a volunteer basis and have no funding and have IRB approval for a limit of 10 persons to be interviewed for their stories. There are 3 products that are proposed to be completed by the end of the calendar year: 1) website for the public about cancer cluster investigations using Ft. Detrick as a case study; 2) a Johns Hopkins Public Health magazine article; and 3) a peer-reviewed article submitted for publication in a scientific journal.

- c. KRF – No update
- d. Fort Detrick RAB – No update

VI. **Next Meeting** – To be determined based upon the timing of the IRB approval and Ed's needs.

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