

Community Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
For the Cancer Cluster Investigation  
June 8, 2011

**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

Members Present: J. Bee (via phone); B. Brookmyer; R. Clark; J. Hahn; E. Kruse; G. Rudy; J. Sawitzke; A. Shirmohammadi; R. Watkins; J. Wolfe; P. Wolfe

II. Review of Notes from March 9, April 13, and April 20 Meetings

No changes or edits suggested/requested.

III. Update on Ed Kruse's Research Proposal

University of Maryland's Institutional Review Board (IRB) is scheduled to evaluate the research proposal. Tentative plan is to reproduce the survey forms in early July and distribute. To get 95% confidence interval the sample size in the 2 mile buffer and controls geographic areas of Middletown and Walkersville will need a total of 3,000 from each area to be surveyed for a total of 4,500 to be surveyed.

IV. Update on G. Rudy's Survey Proposal

Combined with item III above.

V. Update from Members on Other Data Collection Efforts

- a. School-linked case finding – 1990 graduation year – suggestions included using Classmates.com and Reunions.com in addition to alumni communication methods for TJHS and FHS to perform a retrospective cohort analysis with a geographically distant Frederick County high school(s).
- b. Old Address lists – discussed effort required to construct lists and then the next step would probably involve what was discussed in approach a. above to track down/reach out to names linked to those addresses. If use the entire population from a specific school rather than the population of just those living at certain addresses then there would be no need to construct old address lists.

VI. Sharing of Other information Relevant to Member Interests

- a. National Academy of Sciences – Distributed NAS presentations that were handed out at the NAS meeting May 16.

- b. Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee – Next meeting June 14 at 7pm at Frederick City Municipal Annex at 144 W. Patrick Street

VII. Next Meeting – July 6 at 7pm