



National Children's Study Interagency Coordinating Committee Report

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Chair, Interagency Coordinating Committee

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institutes of Health

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Today's topics



- What is the ICC?
- ICC areas of expertise
- Update on lead agency leadership
- Relevance of the NCS to lead agencies
- ICC accomplishments for 2009
- Proposed activities for 2010



The ICC Members



Amy Branum, MSPH
National Center for Health Statistics



Adolfo Correa, MD, PhD
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities



Mary Ellen Mortensen, MD, MS
National Center for Environmental Health



Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, MD (Chair)
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities



Elizabeth H. Blackburn, BSN
Office of Children's Health Protection



Sally Perreault Darney, PhD
National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory



Nigel A. Fields, MSPH
National Center for Environmental Research



James Quackenboss, MS
National Exposure Research Laboratory



Kimberly Gray, PhD
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



Sheila A. Newton, MS, PhD
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



Steven Hirschfeld, MD, PhD
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development



Sarah Keim, MA, MS
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development



Mark Klebanoff, MD, MPH
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development



What is the ICC?



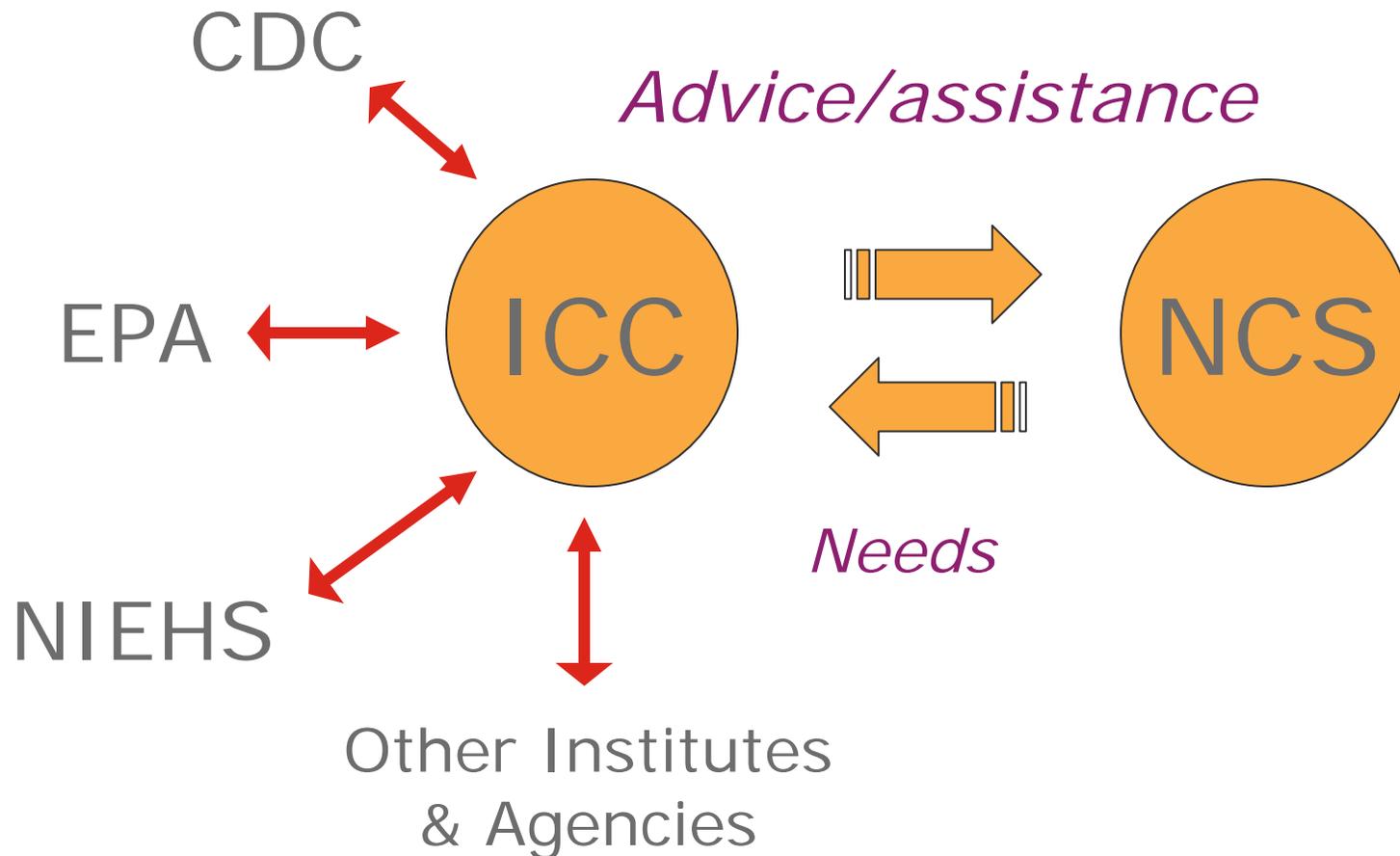
- The ICC representatives from each agency:
 - Oversee broad Study issues
 - Promote interagency collaboration
 - Assure that the mission of the NCS is maintained over time
 - Ensure that NCS goals reflect the scientific priorities of the Study's four lead agencies



Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee



Outreach



ICC Areas of Expertise



- Liz Blackburn
 - Home health, hospital nursing, pediatric environmental health issues
- Amy Branum
 - Nutrition, perinatal epidemiology (pre-term birth, low birthweight, multiple births, assisted reproductive technology)
- Adolfo Correa
 - Birth defects, stillbirths, pregnancy outcomes, diabetes, obesity, hyperglycemia, nutritional factors in pregnancy, study design, epidemiologic methods, occupational exposures, pediatrics data linkages , survival analysis



ICC Areas of Expertise



- Sally Darney
 - Reproductive physiology, reproductive health, reproductive toxicology, sperm function, infertility
- Nigel Fields
 - Environmental toxicology, molecular epidemiology, exposure science, community-based participatory research
- Kim Gray
 - Epidemiology (maternal/child health, neurobehavior and developmental outcomes), exposure assessment, environmental health science: environmental chemicals and neuro outcomes (across development and aging), respiratory and cardiovascular



ICC Areas of Expertise



- Steven Hirschfeld
 - Pediatric hematology-oncology, drug and research evaluation, research protection of children, regulation, policy and operations, data analysis and data standards
- Sarah Keim
 - Pediatric epidemiology – infant nutrition and development; life-course epidemiology / intergenerational factors
- Mark Klebanoff
 - Perinatal and reproductive epidemiology (esp pre-term birth)



ICC Areas of Expertise



- Mary Mortensen
 - Medical and environmental toxicology, clinical pharmacology, developmental pharmacology (susceptibility of children), interpreting background exposures to environmental chemicals (e.g., reference ages)
- Sheila Newton
 - Biochemistry, science policy
- Jim Quackenboss
 - Study design (quality assurance), study management, survey design (probability samples), questionnaire design communications, measurements, database design and review, statistical analyses and monitoring
- Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp
 - Child development/behavior, developmental disabilities (esp. autism and CP)



Lead Agency Leadership



- **EPA Administrator**

- Lisa P. Jackson, M.S.E.

- **HHS Director**

- Kathleen Sebelius, M.P.A.

- **NIH Director**

- Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

- NIEHS Director: Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S.

- NICHD Director (Acting): Sue Shurin, M.D.

- **CDC Director**

- Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.



CDC and the NCS



- **CDC's Environmental Health Laboratory collaboration with NCS includes:**
 - Providing operational expertise by assisting with protocol and procedure development for biological specimen (urine, blood, breast milk) collection, processing, labeling, and shipping;
 - Providing analytical expertise by measuring environmental chemicals and nutritional indicators in a subset of biological samples from each Vanguard Center.
- **Benefits of this collaboration for both CDC and NCS:**
 - Analytical results for pregnant women and infants will help characterize exposures that have not been well-described, and may be helpful to indicate exposures that are relatively high or are extremely low in these groups, compared to other age groups. Results may help inform future NCS case-control studies.



EPA and the NCS



- **Administrator Jackson emphasizes Children's Health**
 - Names Peter Grevatt Director of EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection
 - Five-Point Agenda for Children's Environmental Health
 - Regulations and Policy Development
 - Chemicals Management and Toxic Substances Control Act Reform
 - Community-based Children's Health Programs
 - Research and Science Policy including collaboration with NICHD on the National Children's Study
 - Measure Effectiveness of EPA's Children's health Activities
- **EPA is collaborating with NCS on:**
 - Exposure "validation" designs (e.g., nested sub-studies)
 - Laboratory methods for environmental samples (pesticides in surface wipe samples)
 - Workshops: "Exposure Assessment Metrics" and "Lessons Learned from the EPA/NIEHS Children's Centers" (with NIEHS)



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the NCS



- Aug. 2009, meeting with NCS-NIEHS-EPA on recruitment strategies and environmental and biological sampling.
- Sept 2009, NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers meeting features children's health and NCS
- Sept. 2009, Director Linda Birnbaum lauds NCS in testimony about Children's Health for U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
- Oct 2009, Children's Environmental Health issue of EHP includes NCS.
- Exposure Biology Program grantee meeting involves NCS staff in discussions about innovative technologies and devices for measuring environmental exposures in NCS.
- NIEHS GRANTS news:
 - New Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center grants to be announced in early 2010 (EPA-NIEHS).
 - ARRA to fund grants on developmental effects of bisphenol-A and autism spectrum disorder.
 - NCI program on Breast Cancer and the Environment will examine environmental factors that influence puberty.



ICC Accomplishments for 2009



- Advised Program Office on cost savings measures
- Served as liaisons between ICC and
 - Steering Committee/Executive Steering Committee
 - Data access and confidentiality subcommittee
 - Publications subcommittee
- Served as reviewers for VC protocol and other relevant NCS scientific documents
- Represented the NCS to respective agencies and at scientific meetings



ICC Projected Activities for 2010



- Raise the profile and visibility of the NCS
- Provide scientific input on feasibility, acceptance and cost of NCS Vanguard Study
- Advise new Director of the Study and PO regarding VC protocol and IRB amendments as needed
- Review and make recommendations regarding evaluation of Study outcome assessments
- Promote and support the NCS Scholars Program and collaborate on the NCS Vanguard Study as a dynamic platform for advancing clinical research methodology
- Continue to provide oversight and guidance to assure that the Study achieves its stated mission and remains aligned to the interests of the lead agencies

