

## Paraquat Epidemiology Work Group

### Notes from Telecon Discussions 17 December 2007

Present: MFW/CB/PAB/JT/DJB

Absent: LLS

Purpose: to review actions following the Stakeholders discussion on 11 Dec 2007.

- 1. Review of Risk Factors Paper:** agreed that this be commissioned through the external experts group. The terms of reference will need to be established in early Jan 2008 prior to CB (and possibly MFW) meeting with (proposed) Checkaway and Mandel. It is envisaged that this work would take most of 2008 to prepare the manuscript with submission for publication early 2009.  
**ACTION: MFW and CB to discuss in Basel Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.**
- 2. Case Control Study:** the protocol has not yet been developed. The week commencing 25 Feb 2008 should be kept free by the team for a possible meeting with Mandel *et al* in the USA (Boston, California or Greensboro). Preparation of the protocol is expected to take most of 2008 with any study, if commissioned, to commence in 2009. Enabling actions need to be initiated, although Syngenta is not yet committed to undertake any study.
- 3. Cohort studies:** based on a previous publication and commitment, Syngenta is undertaking a further update analysis of the Widnes worker cohort, and this could be expanded to include PD. Enabling work should proceed (ACTION JT), though final agreement for the PD analysis must be obtained from the Stakeholders. (ACTION MFW). A decision on where and how the data should be reported (e.g. possibly as a short communication) needs to be considered. It is accepted that this is an underpowered study; however, it would address a question that is often asked by external scientists.  
  
Cohort of survivors from suicide attempts: this is likely to be the most difficult study to defend scientifically as there will be many confounding factors (e.g. other life style factors, identification of control groups, difficulties and ethics in contacting people who had a suicide attempt many years ago etc). There is also no hypothesis that a single acute exposure of paraquat (nor MPTP where the PD event occurs soon after exposure) could result in a chronic PD event some years after the exposure.  
It was proposed that CB/MFW initiate a document, with external advice and opinion, of the limitations of collecting data from this cohort, and that no further action is taken at this time.  
**ACTION MFW to discuss with LLS.**
- 4. External Experts:** MFW to discuss with LLS the possibility of including LaVecchia on the external experts team.
- 5. Time Table of Meetings:**

|                  |                                                   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 7 Jan (PM) Basel | MFW and CB (Risk Factors Paper and PD in general) |
| 9 Jan (PM) JH :  | PD sub teams                                      |
| 10 Jan JH        | Animal Team                                       |
|                  | Update LLS on progress of team activities         |
| End Jan USA      | MFW/CB to meet in US with Checkoway and Mandel    |
| w/c 25 Feb USA   | Teams to meet with external experts               |

Circulation: Study Team

D Berry 18 Dec 2007

