



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

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February 18, 2000

Dear Colleague:

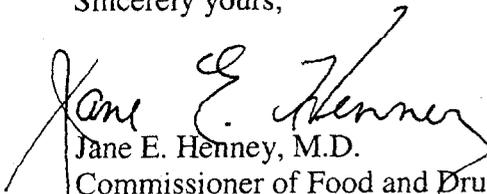
I would like to invite you to attend one of two public meetings that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is holding to explore new leveraging opportunities with outside organizations and individuals. During these meetings, we plan to discuss new ways to increase our ability to protect and promote the health and safety of the public – a mission that we all share.

Today, more than ever, we need to combine our strengths and resources with those who share our public health mission. While leveraging or collaborating is not new to our Agency, we are committed to building more effective partnerships that will have a larger public health impact on the American public than would be possible if we worked alone. Leveraging will allow us to strengthen our scientific base at the Agency, maximize our intellect and resources, and ultimately expand our ability to protect consumers. The Agency is currently working closely with a diverse set of partners – including public health organizations, scientific experts, academia, other federal agencies, states, industry, and consumers – to expand our public health reach.

The meetings will be held on March 23, 2000, at Stanford University in Stanford, California, and on April 12, 2000, at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. I will moderate both of these meetings, and several senior directors at FDA will join me. We encourage participants to share their ideas for collaboration with us at these meetings. Your input will provide an excellent opportunity for the agency to work more effectively and more efficiently on our public health priorities.

For more detailed information including instructions on how to register, please visit our website at www.fda.gov/oc/leveraging/stakeholders2000 or review the enclosed *Federal Register* notice. You may also register by sending us the enclosed registration form. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, I hope you will share your thoughts with us through our website listed above.

Sincerely yours,


Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs

Enclosures

00N-0001

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Notices

Federal Register

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DISPLAY DATE: 2-17-00
PUBLICATION DATE: 2-18-00

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 00N-0001]

Leveraging—Collaborating With Stakeholders; Notice of Meetings

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing two public meetings entitled "Leveraging—Collaborating with Stakeholders." The purpose of these meetings is to discuss ways in which FDA can better leverage its expertise and resources by working with outside organizations. Participants may include, but are not limited to, academia, consumer groups, scientific experts, industry, public health providers, States, and other Government agencies.

DATES: The first meeting will be held on March 23, 2000. The second meeting will be held on April 12, 2000. For additional information regarding registration and the location and time of the meetings see table 1 in section III of this document.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, e-mail: FDADockets@oc.fda.gov or to the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov>.

REGISTRATION AND REQUESTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS: Send registration information (including name, title, firm name, address, telephone, fax number, and e-mail address) and requests to make oral presentations, to the appropriate contact person listed in table 1 of section III of this document by March 17, 2000, for the California meeting and by April 5, 2000, for the North Carolina meeting. Because space is limited, it is necessary to register in advance

of the meetings and by the appropriate deadlines. Participants who wish to make a formal oral presentation should register with the appropriate contact for "speaker registration" identified by meeting in table 1 of section III of this document by the same deadlines listed above. Presentations will be limited to the questions and subject matter identified under section I of this document. All registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Speakers will be chosen in order of registration. All other comments should be sent to the Dockets Management Branch (address above).

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please indicate such at the time of registration.

You may register by e-mail, at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/leveraging/stakeholders2000>.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Virginia Cox, Office of the Commissioner (HF-10), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-3409, FAX 301-594-6807, e-mail Vcox@oc.fda.gov. Local contact information is listed in table I of section III of this document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

FDA is exploring new opportunities to leverage its own assets by working with other organizations in order to carry out its public health mission effectively in the 21st century. These collaborations are intended to have a larger net public health benefit to the American public than would be possible if FDA worked alone. The agency is currently working closely with a diverse set of partners, including public health organizations, scientific experts, other Federal regulators, States, industry and consumers, to expand these benefits. Leveraging activities are prominent in every major area of FDA responsibility, including:

- (1) Safety related research,
- (2) Safety review for new products,
- (3) Monitoring safety of products on the market,
- (4) Assuring industry compliance with safety regulations, and
- (5) Patient/consumer education on the safe use of products.

The agency would like to expand these leveraging initiatives in order to address the increasingly complex regulatory challenges of this millennium.

In the section II. A. and B. of this document, FDA has provided illustrations of collaborative projects that are currently ongoing and those that are proposed. As you

read through both sections, please respond to the following questions, as appropriate; these initiatives and questions will be discussed at the stakeholders meetings:

1. Does your organization share an interest in any of these initiatives?
2. If so, what role would your organization play in this initiative, and what could you contribute?
3. Do you have suggestions for improving FDA's approach to any of the leveraging initiatives?
4. Do you have suggestions for other organizations that would benefit from working with FDA on these types of efforts?
5. Are there other initiatives not listed below that you would suggest as a possibility for collaborative efforts between FDA and your organization or other organizations?

A. Examples of Ongoing Initiatives

1. Safety-Related Research—National Center for Food Safety and the Technology (Moffett Center)

The Moffett Center is a collaboration with industry, the Illinois Institute of Technology, and the University of Illinois' Food Science Department. The Moffett Center was established in 1987 to address food safety, specifically food processing and packaging technologies. The collaborative programs positioned the Moffett Center as a focal point of FDA's participation in research and technology outreach associated with the President's Food Safety Initiative focus on preventing and reducing foodborne contamination. The scope of food safety information and expertise achieved through this participation far outreaches the work any one member could accomplish to answer critical food safety questions. A recent expansion of the Moffett Center focuses on small business needs in food safety. The Moffett Center research has helped in developing higher product safety standards and better consumer protection.

2. Safety Review for New Products—Product Quality Research Institute (PQRI)

PQRI fosters scientific research to support regulatory policy in the areas of drug substance, drug product, biopharmaceutics, science management, and novel approaches for regulating pharmaceuticals. PQRI provides opportunities to develop science-based publicly available information to: (1) Facilitate the drug development process, (2) facilitate needed changes in the manufacture of drug substance and drug product, (3) enhance review consistency and efficiency, and (4) increase reliance on tests that are no more burdensome than necessary to assure

product quality. Co-sponsors include the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (FDA), American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, Generic Pharmaceutical Industry Association, National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, Nonprescription Drug Manufacturers Association, National Pharmaceutical Alliance, Parenteral Drug Association, and Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

3. Assuring Industry Compliance With Safety Regulations—Mammography

Mammographies are provided by more than 10,000 facilities throughout the United States, a far greater number than FDA can effectively inspect for compliance with quality standards. The Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 (MQSA) requires these facilities to be accredited by FDA approved accrediting bodies that are either nonprofit organizations or State agencies and directs FDA to delegate site inspection tasks to States. FDA established mammography accreditation standards based on American College of Radiology (ACR) technical standards that are endorsed by other industry and government experts. FDA approved accreditation bodies now include ACR and several State agencies.

4. Patient/Consumer Education on the Safe Use of Products—Take Time to Care

The Take Time to Care Outreach program brings together FDA's Office of Women's Health and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, and other senior citizen groups, professional associations, business/labor women's organizations and other health organizations. This network of organizations delivers the message about safe drug use, including the "My Medicines" brochure distributed at over 20,000 pharmacy outlets. Through this program, FDA expects to help 6.5 million women safely use their medications.

B. Examples of Proposed Initiatives

1. Safety Review for New Products—Safety Assurance in Clinical Trials

The volume of clinical trials has grown dramatically over the past decade, due to expanding development of new medical products. In addition, clinical trials are more often performed at multiple study sites, including multi-country studies. Extensive oversight by FDA is not feasible in an era of significantly scaled-back field staffing. FDA sees a growing need to collaborate with outside organizations in managing the research, compliance and educational aspects of clinical investigations, particularly those sponsored by academia, industry, other government agencies and other private institutions/corporations.

2. Assuring Industry Compliance with Safety Regulations—Gene therapy, Human Cellular and Tissue Based Products

Advances in these categories of new medical products create the need for better science to assure product safety and strategies to assure industry compliance with safe manufacturing practices. FDA is interested in exploring collaborative strategies for research studies that will lead to the development of scientifically based standards for: Safety and toxicity of viral vectors carrying a human gene for replacement or reconstitution; safety of cell substrates for use in production of live-attenuated viral vaccines or gene therapy vectors; and quality control and safety of human cellular and tissue-based products.

3. Patient/Consumer Education on the Safe Use of Products—Risk Management

FDA is interested in launching widespread educational initiatives, aimed at consumers, of newly approved medical products, as well as important products that have been on the market. The agency would like to target, in particular, vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly and those with special needs. FDA would also like to capitalize on the capabilities of the Internet to get its

message to the right people. It would be very useful to join forces with other organizations in order to amplify and focus messages that would help consumers/patients better manage their own health status.

4. Inspections—Internet

The Internet is being used by a rapidly growing number of consumers to obtain information about drugs and to order these medical products. FDA is in the early stages of an initiative to monitor firms marketing drugs through this medium. The agency is interested in exploring ways to collaborate with other organizations in order to extend its ability to monitor the situation and to keep consumers safe and informed.

5. Safety-Related Research—NCTR Identified Opportunity

Work on gene-chip and gene-array technology to provide high-throughput screening of biomarkers for susceptible populations is already underway. This is being done in collaboration with academia, industry and government. However, we see a growing need to collaborate in the development of DNA microarray technology to better define biomarkers of toxic response that are more relevant and applicable to the human population. The FDA is interested in exploring strategies with its stakeholders to develop the capacity to utilize these DNA-, RNA-, and bioinformatic-based technologies to better understand toxin-induced responses in in vitro and in vivo model systems to improve extrapolation of these systems to the human.

II. Comments

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their responses in advance of the March 23, 2000, and April 12, 2000, meetings. Written comments should be identified with docket number 00N-0001 and submitted to the Dockets Management Branch (address above).

III. Scheduled Meetings

TABLE I.

Date and Location	Address	Scheduled Time	Attendance and Speaker Registration
March 23, 2000, Stanford, CA.	Stanford Law School, rm. 290, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, CA.	6 p.m. to 8 p.m. PST.	Judy Keast, Food and Drug Administration, Oakland Federal Bldg., 1301 Clay St., suite 1180N, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-637-3960, ext. 112, FAX: 510-637-3976, e-mail: jkeast@ora.fda.gov.
April 12, 2000, Durham, NC.	Duke University Medical Center, Searle Conference Center, Seeley Mudd Bldg., Research Dr., Durham, NC.	1 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST.	Mary Lewis, Food And Drug Administration, 310 New Bern Ave., rm. 370, Raleigh, NC 27601, 919-856-4456, FAX: 919-856-4776, e- mail: Mlewis@ora.fda.gov.

IV. Transcripts

Transcripts of the meetings (from each site listed in section III of this document) may be requested in writing from the Freedom of

Information Office (HFI-35), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, rm. 12A-16, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting at a cost of 10 cents per page.

Dated: February 11, 2000,
Margaret M. Dotzel,
Acting Associate Commissioner for Policy.
[FR Doc. 00-???? Filed ??-??-00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

Collaborating with Stakeholders Registration Form

If you are interested in attending and/or speaking at one of the *FDA Collaborating with Stakeholders* meetings, please fill out the form below.

Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Please select the meeting you would like to register for:

- Stanford University, Stanford, California, March 23, 2000.
- Duke University, Durham, N.C., April 12, 2000.

Please indicate below whether you will be presenting comments at the meeting or just attending the meeting.

- I would like to attend the meeting, but not make a presentation.
- I would like to attend the meeting and make a presentation on one or more of the following proposed initiatives. (Please select which initiative(s) your presentation will be on):
 - Safety Assurance in Clinical Trials
 - Gene Therapy, Human Cellular and Tissue Based Products
 - Risk Management
 - Internet
 - NCTR Chip Technology

Please specify if you need special accommodations:

Send Forms to:

California: Judy Keast, FDA, Federal Bldg. 1301 Clay St., #1180N, Oakland, CA 94612; Fax: 510-637-3976
North Carolina: Mary Lewis, FDA, 310 New Bern Ave., #370, Raleigh, NC 27601; Fax: 919-856-4776
(You may also register via our website at www.fda.gov/oc/leveraging/stakeholders2000)