

implant retrieval analysis or data banking, even though medical implant retrieval research provides the only true long-term data on the host response to and the final condition of the implant. Thorough reporting on the performance of implants would allow physicians to evaluate devices, understand the clinical benefit and risks associated with medical implant treatment and prevention of disease, and advance the development of better devices and materials. This will ultimately benefit patients through superior implant technology.

While most medical implants function very well, significant challenges remain associated especially with their intended long-term duration of use. The advance of medical implant science is hampered by a lack of study of implants retrieved after surgery or at autopsy. Much can be learned of clinical end points, implant performance, and design theory, and this information will again lead to superior medical implants that benefit U.S. patients.

The objective of the conference is to assess the opportunities and challenges to developing a framework for independent research of explanted natural and synthetic implants, with the ultimate objective to provide benefits to patients through implant retrieval and analysis. For the purpose of this conference, implants are defined as having a minimum life span of three months; as penetrating living tissue; as having a physiologic interaction; and of being retrievable. This conference will bring together specialists in surgery, pathology, engineering, biomaterials, information systems, and other related disciplines, as well as representatives from the public, legal, ethical, and industrial communities.

After 1½ days of presentations and audience discussion, an independent, non-Federal technology assessment panel will weigh the scientific evidence and write a draft statement that it will present to the audience on the third day. The technology assessment panel's statement will address the following key questions:

- What are the patient, health care provider, and societal expectations of the lifetime costs, risks, and benefits of medical implants?
- What can the role of information data systems be in educating the public, medical community, and policymakers about medical implants and retrieval?
- What are the legal, ethical, religious, cultural, public policy, and economic barriers to implant retrieval and reporting, and how can they be overcome?

- What information is necessary to evaluate and improve implant and material performance and device design?

- What future research and institutional support is necessary to ensure continuing advances in implantable devices?

The primary sponsors of this conference are the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the NIH Office of Medical Applications of Research (OMAR). Additional sponsors are the NIH Biomaterials and Medical Implant Science Coordinating Committee, which represents all of the NIH Institutes and Centers, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; the National Library of Medicine; and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This is the 19th Technology Assessment Conference held by the NIH in the 23-year history of the Consensus Development Program.

Advance information on the conference program and conference registration materials may be obtained from Louise Harkavy, Prospect Associates, 10720 Columbia Pike, Suite 500, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901-4437, (301) 592-3320, mirr@prospectassoc.com. The consensus statement will be submitted for publication in professional journals and other publications. In addition, the statement will be available beginning January 12, 2000 from the NIH Consensus Program Information Center, P. O. Box 2577, Kensington, Maryland 20891, phone 1-888-644-2667 and from the NIH Consensus Program site on the World Wide Web at <http://consensus.nih.gov>.

Dated: December 7, 1999.

Ruth L. Kirschstein,
Deputy Director, NIH.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discuss could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, ZDK1 GRB-7, J2 P.

Date: December 15-17, 1999.

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Omni Charlottesville Hotel, 235 W. Main St., Charlottesville, VA 22902.

Contact Person: Lakshmanan Sankaran, Scientific Review Administrator, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, Natcher Building Room 6AS25F, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-6600, (301) 594-7799.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.847, Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Research; 93.848, Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Research; 93.849, Kidney Diseases, Urology and Hematology Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: December 7, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,
Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Notice of Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of meetings of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council.

The meetings will be open to the public as indicated below, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.