

ICCA WORKSHOP ON HUMAN BIOMONITORING JUNE 7-8, 2005

Executive Summary



*INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
CHEMICAL
ASSOCIATIONS*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are many influences on human health, including genetic, biological, physical, chemical, behavioural, social and economic factors. In the broadest sense, human biomonitoring can be used to evaluate many of these potential environmental and health stressors, and in this perspective, it is recognized that biomonitoring of chemicals is just one of the subset of factors relevant to evaluating environmental influences on human health.

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) is meeting the science, policy, product stewardship and communications challenges of human biomonitoring of chemicals. On June 7-8, 2005 the ICCA held a workshop in Paris to discuss the challenges of human biomonitoring, defined for this workshop as the measurement of chemical substances, or their degradation products or metabolites, in specimens or samples obtained from humans.

Recognizing that human biomonitoring is one of many valuable tools in risk-based decision making, the ICCA Board approved a formal ICCA Position on Biomonitoring in the fall of 2004. At that time, the ICCA committed to advancing the science and methodologies needed to interpret biomonitoring in a risk-based context. This position remains consistent with our industry's long-standing Responsible Care® initiatives, our commitment to work with the scientific community and governments to develop the scientific foundation for risk-based decision making and our affirmation to engage in public dialogue on topics central to the industry.

As part of the efforts to implement the ICCA Biomonitoring Position, ICCA's Long Range Research Initiative (LRI) and ICCA's Coordinating Group on Endocrine and Sensitive Subpopulations (CGESS) worked collaboratively to organize this Workshop on Human Biomonitoring. The Workshop's objectives were to bring together industry professionals from across the globe to build a common understanding of human biomonitoring within the entirety of the global industry of chemistry; to mobilize the global industry to make contributions to the scientific and policy dialogues on biomonitoring; and to help shape global priorities for future industry activities.

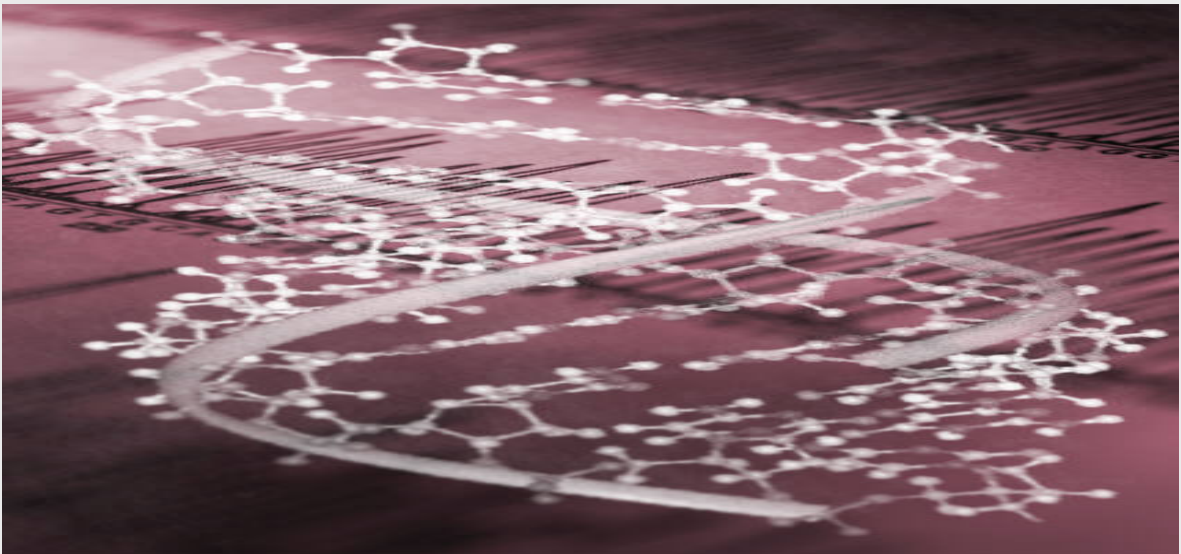
The Workshop successfully brought together more than 70 industry professionals with a broad range of business and technical backgrounds, representing 30 companies and numerous chemical associations and sector groups across Europe, Japan and North America.

The Workshop participants agreed that the core issue facing industry is the widely held misperception that presence of chemicals in humans as measured by biomonitoring equates to hazard. Participants worked collaboratively during the workshop to evaluate the challenges biomonitoring poses for the chemical industry and to develop recommendations for actions to be considered for advancing the industry's responsible actions in science, policy, product stewardship and communications.

The Overarching Conclusions Of The Workshop Were:



- Industry must mobilize collaborative efforts on all aspects of the human biomonitoring issue through ICCA level activity to address the challenges in science, policy, product stewardship and communications.
- The instrument of human biomonitoring can be a valuable tool within the context of risk based decision making, but needs careful targeted use.
- Industry must catalyze science-based policies, product stewardship and communications that foster actions and understandings that the presence of substances in the body as measured by biomonitoring must be considered in the context of potential health risks.
- There was affirmation that as a responsible industry, globally the ICCA and member companies, must continue to be alert to the presence of their products in the human environment, must enhance efforts to understand to what extent this translates into presence in people and must undertake efforts to promote interpretation and communication of such levels in a risk context and take risk management/mitigation actions when these are warranted by the science.



The Top Line Workshop Recommendations Proposed To Be Undertaken Are:

Science: The ICCA LRI Science Workshop (being planned for early 2006) will identify global research topics that build on existing science work and the suggestions of this workshop to enable: 1) better integration of biomonitoring within risk assessment processes; and 2) identified science gaps to be addressed to respond to the needs of, and to strengthen, product stewardship, policy development and communications.

Policy: Coordinated advocacy will be enhanced to promote interpretation of biomonitoring data in a risk-based context. Industry will further develop our position of the role of biomonitoring in risk-based decision making, and seek to engage international organizations, such as the OECD, to lead in providing guidance on study design, collection and use of biomonitoring data. At regional levels, industry will also engage with relevant competent authorities and science organizations to contribute to the development of the science-based foundation for biomonitoring as used in risk based policies. Important milestones will be identified to foster enhanced coordination for both planning and advocacy.

Product Stewardship: A white paper will be developed to illustrate how and under what circumstances the collection of data and development of information to interpret human biomonitoring information integrates within, and can be used to enhance, product stewardship. Based upon the outcome of the white paper, subsequent actions will be considered to 1) provide guidance on setting priorities and 2) to provide guidance to assist in deciding on what additional studies, information or models may be central to enhance interpretation of human biomonitoring results in a risk context.

Communications: A global communications strategy aiming to utilize biomonitoring as part of our toolkit to provide reassurance and enhance trust in the industry will be developed by the communications working group. This will build upon and augment existing communications materials. As a matter of urgency the communications working group will develop and network appropriate messages/information relating to biomonitoring and industry activities designed to meet the needs of industry leaders and communicators.

Global Coordination for Implementing the Workshop Recommendations and ICCA Position: Recognizing that there are important differences, as well as similarities, in the path biomonitoring progresses in various regions, a continuous flow of information within ICCA is needed to promote common understanding and to coordinate contributions. It was agreed that the workshop organizing committee will form the nucleus of an ICCA Biomonitoring Team to guide implementation of the ICCA Biomonitoring Position, to share regional perspectives, priorities and work products and collaborate to be accountable for delivery of the recommendations for action developed at the June 7-8 Workshop. Progress will be reported to the ICCA Board.

For more information on the Workshop or this Report, please get in touch with the industry contact for your region:

The Americas: Richard A. Becker, Ph.D. at Rick_Becker@americanchemistry.com

Europe: Colin Humphris at CHU@cefic.be

Japan: Saburo Nakata at snakata@jcia-net.or.jp