

## MEETING SUMMARY

### NATIONAL TOXICOLOGY PROGRAM CENTER FOR THE EVALUATION OF RISKS TO HUMAN REPRODUCTION

#### EXPERT PANEL EVALUATION of BISPHENOL A MARCH 5–7, 2007

---

An independent 14-member expert panel convened by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR) worked for 2.5 days to review and assess more than 500 scientific studies on the potential reproductive and developmental hazards of bisphenol A. Because of the length and complexity of this evaluation, the panel was unable to complete its review and will reconvene to issue its conclusions about bisphenol A. This follow-up meeting is expected to occur within the next few months and will be open to the public. Once a date is set, CERHR will announce details about the meeting and post the interim draft expert panel report on its website (<http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov/>).

The expert panel is reviewing and evaluating the available scientific evidence on bisphenol A in three primary areas: human exposure, reproductive toxicity, and developmental toxicity. At its March meeting, the panel revised its draft report for sections on chemistry, use and human exposure, general toxicology and biological effects, developmental toxicity data, and reproductive toxicity data. At the follow-up meeting, the expert panel will reach its final conclusions, identify research needs, and complete its report.

Bisphenol A is a high production volume chemical used primarily in the production of polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins. Polycarbonate plastics are used in food and drink packaging; resins are used as lacquers to coat metal products such as food cans, bottle tops, and water supply pipes. Some polymers used in dental sealants and tooth coatings contain bisphenol A. Exposure to the general population can occur through direct contact with bisphenol A or by exposure to food or drink that has been in contact with a material containing bisphenol A. CERHR selected this chemical for evaluation because of (1) high production volume, (2) widespread human exposure, (3) evidence of reproductive toxicity in laboratory animal studies, and (4) public concern.

#### **Background**

NTP established CERHR in 1998 as a public resource for providing scientifically based, uniform assessments of the potential for adverse effects on reproduction and/or development caused by man-made or naturally occurring chemicals or chemical mixtures to which humans are exposed. CERHR convenes independent panels of scientific experts to conduct its evaluations. Expert panel meetings are open to the public and the public is invited to nominate scientists to serve on CERHR expert panels. Following completion of the evaluation of a chemical, NTP prepares an NTP-CERHR monograph that contains its opinion on the potential for the chemical to be a reproductive or developmental hazard, the expert panel report, and public comments received on the final expert panel report. CERHR has completed 17 NTP-CERHR monographs on other chemicals, which are available on the CERHR website.

Questions about the expert panel review or CERHR can be directed to Dr. Michael Shelby, CERHR Director, at 919-541-3455 or [shelby@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:shelby@niehs.nih.gov).