CC/MIN/2022/01

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the meeting held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 by Teams.

Present

Chair:	Professor D Harrison	
Members:	Mr D Bodey	
	Dr G Clare	
	Dr M Cush	
	Dr J Doe	
	Dr R Haworth	
	Prof G Jenkins	
	Dr R Kemp	
	Dr L Rushton	
	Dr L Stanley	
	Prof H Wallace	
Secretariat:	Miss B Gadeberg	UKHSA Scientific Secretary
	Ms C Mulholland	FSA
	Dr A Cooper	FSA
	Dr E Hudson	FSA
Assessors:	Dr A Axon	HSE
	Mr N O'Brien	VMD
	Dr O Sepai	UKHSA
Sponsor:	Ms S Peters	DHSC
Invited Experts and Contractors:	Dr R Bevan	IEH Consulting
Officials:	Dr J O'Brien	FSA Science Council
	Mr M Price	HSE

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ITEM 1: Announcements and apologies for absence

1. The Chair welcomed Members, and other attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Prof Neil Pearce and Dr Ruth Dempsey, Ms C Potter (FSA), and Ms Georgia Hale (DHSC).

2. This was the last meeting for Professor Heather Wallace, Dr Lesley Rushton and Dr Ray Kemp having come to the end of their terms of office on the COC. They were thanked for their contributions to the Committee.

3. The Sponsor and Secretariat team were working with the Chair to recruit to the existing and upcoming vacancies. Members would be kept informed and were encouraged to share the vacancy notices when available.

4. Members were reminded to declare any interests they may have in an item before its discussion.

ITEM 2: Minutes of meeting held on 18th November 2021 (CC/MIN/2021/03)

5. The second draft minutes were agreed with no further changes.

ITEM 3: Matters arising

Item 3 Matters Arising – Draft position paper: The Tumour Microenvironment

6. This document was awaiting publication on the Committee website. There had been some changes to the publication process with the transition from PHE to UKHSA, in particular with respect to application of accessibility standards. This was likely to impact on the format of published statements on the COC website, including the use of numeric referencing.

Item 3 Matters Arising – Cancer Risk Characterisation Methods G06 Update

7. This document was awaiting publication on the Committee website.

Item 3 Matters Arising – Second draft revised Guidance Statement (G04): The Use of Biomarkers in Carcinogenic Risk Assessment

8. This guidance statement had been presented to COM at its meeting on 1st March 2022. The COM would look to produce guidance on genotoxicity biomarkers and as such the COC guidance document could be shortened in this section. A couple of other suggestions had also been made. The revised document would be presented to the COC under Matters Arising at its meeting in July for final approval.

Item 3 Matters Arising – First draft updated Guidance Statement (G03): Hazard Identification and Characterisation: Conduct and Interpretation of Animal Carcinogenicity Studies

9. Members were thanked for their comments following circulation by correspondence. The comments would be addressed and sent to the Chair for approval

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Item 5 – Second draft of updated Guidance Statement G07: Alternative approaches to the assessment of potential carcinogenicity of chemicals

10. Members were thanked for their comments following circulation by correspondence. The comments would be addressed and sent to the Chair for approval

Item 7 Any other business – Use of COC guidance

11. The Secretariat was investigating reinstating provision of website statistics and would look to close the loop by engaging with Government Departments and Agencies on their use of COC guidance and advice.

ITEM 4: Reserved Item: Summary and discussion of the 2018 EFSA scientific opinion on the safety of hydroxyanthracene derivatives for use in food (CC/2022/01)

12. No interests were declared for this item.

This item was discussed in reserved session. The minutes will be made public in due course.

ITEM 5: Follow up to Horizon Scanning – March 2022 (CC/2022/02)

19. No interests were declared for this item.

20. This paper presented the standing update follow up to the annual horizon scan in November 2021, incorporating an updated version of the balance of expertise on the Committee, membership lists for COM and COT. The paper also noted an ongoing EFSA consultation on the use of the benchmark dose approach for risk assessment, for which the COT was likely to have a separate meeting with COC and COM Members to collate feedback.

21. The Committee welcomed the invitation to provide feedback to the EFSA consultation on benchmark dose modelling alongside COT and COM.

22. It was noted that the discussions in the joint COC-COM session had raised the suggestion of providing information on exposure assessment, which was also an uncertainty in the context of the earlier discussion of hydroxyanthracene derivatives. This could be explored as a COC activity or jointly with COM and COT.

23. The Committee noted the earlier joint COC-COM discussion on modifiers of cancer risks and flagged next steps of considering application of the model, weighting of evidence and how this could be of use practically. It was suggested that it could be useful to consider lessons learned from quantitative genetics as a starting point.

24. Members were reminded that the list of topics was not fixed and suggestions could be made to the Secretariat at any time.

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ITEM 6: COC Annual Report 2021 (CC/2022/03)

25. No interests were declared for this item.

26. This paper presented the annual report of COC for 2021. It was agreed that this presented an accurate representation of the activities of COC for the previous year.

27. Members were reminded to confirm their annual declarations of interest to the Secretariat if they had not already done so.

ITEM 7: Any other business

28. No other items of business were raised.

ITEM 8: Date of next meeting

29. The next meeting would be held on 21st July 2022.

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