

Joint Research on the Biomedical Effects of the
Chernobyl Reactor Accident

DOE/ER/89188

DOE Contract #DE-A105-92 EH 89188

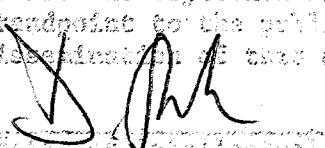
Closeout Report

The National Cancer Institute has negotiated with the governments of Belarus and Ukraine (Ministers/Ministries of Health, institutions and scientists) to develop scientific research protocols to study the effects of radioactive iodine released by the Chernobyl accident upon thyroid anatomy and function in defined cohorts of persons under the age of 19 years at the time of the accident. These studies include prospective long term medical follow-up of the cohort and the reconstruction of the radiation dose to each cohort subject's thyroid. The protocol for the study in Belarus was signed by the U.S. and Belarusian governments in May 1994 and the protocol for the study in Ukraine was signed by the U.S. and Ukraine in May 1995. A second scientific research protocol also was negotiated with Ukraine to study the feasibility of a long term study to follow the development of leukemia and lymphoma among Ukrainian cleanup workers; this protocol was signed by the U.S. and Ukraine in October 1996.

Implementation of the three studies was initiated as soon as feasible following the signings; however, numerous administrative and logistical difficulties had to be resolved prior to full operational effectiveness. These included negotiations with various governmental entities and levels of authority to resolve issues such as: (1) the establishment and function of Institutional Review Boards in both countries and their approval by NCI and NIH, (2) the procurement, shipment and internal control of equipment and supplies, including tax and custom exemption status, (3) the negotiation of bilateral funding arrangements for each of the three studies, and (4) the transfer of funds into Belarus and Ukraine for staff and project support, including the matter of fees and taxes imposed on such funds by local financial institutions and governments.

During and following resolution of these and other issues, the infrastructure for the studies was established and field operations were initiated. The three projects are continuing.

We have no objection from a property
standpoint to the publication or
dissemination of these materials.


11/4/99
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