

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute**

**National Asthma Education and Prevention Program  
Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Summary  
May 13, 2020**

The third meeting of the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee (NAEPPCC) took place on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. ET. The meeting was open to the public.

**NAEPPCC Co-Chairs**

James P. Kiley, Ph.D.  
George A. Mensah, M.D.

Michelle Freemer, M.D., M.P.H.  
Lenora Johnson, Dr.P.H.  
Terry LaMotte  
Lucinda Miner, Ph.D.  
Mark Parker

**NAEPPCC Executive Secretary**

Susan Shero, R.N., M.S.

**NAEPPCC Members Present**

Joseph Kofi Berko, Jr., Ph.D.  
Sheila Brown  
Anne Mentro Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., R.N.  
Fernando Holguin, M.D., M.P.H.  
Joy Hsu, M.D.  
Elliot Israel, M.D.  
Robert F. Lemanske, Jr., M.D.  
Kenneth Mendez, M.B.A.  
Giselle Sarah Mosnaim, M.D.  
Gary S. Rachelefsky, M.D.  
Lisa M. Wheatley, M.D., M.P.H.  
Juan P. Wisnivesky, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Darryl C. Zeldin, M.D.

**NAEPPCC Members Absent**

Kurtis S. Elward, M.D.  
Lynn B. Gerald, Ph.D.

**National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  
(NHLBI) Staff Members Present**

Neyal Ammary-Risch, M.P.H.  
Cheryl Ann Boyce, Ph.D.  
Jasmin Bustillo, M.S.  
Sonya Freeman

**Others in Attendance**

Todd Abbott, Boehringer Ingelheim  
Dionne Adair  
Akinlolu Adefarati  
Alan Baptist, M.D., M.P.H., University of Michigan  
Matteson Beckis  
Brittany Benourida  
Kathryn Blake, Pharm.D., Nemours Children's Health System  
Maribeth Bogush, Ph.D., MedBio Consulting  
Tom Boulanger, R.Ph.  
Jim Boushie, M.B.A., Boehringer Ingelheim  
Edward Brooks, M.D., University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
Melanie Buzzelli, M.P.H., American Lung Association  
Erik Cipriano, Boehringer Ingelheim  
Michelle Cloutier, M.D., Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Anne Dixon, M.A., University of Vermont  
Alisha Etheredge, M.S., M.P.H., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Hannah Green, M.P.H., American Lung Association

Karla Grossman, University of Michigan  
Susan Hassell, M.P.H., M.S., Westat  
Eric Juhl, J.D., Jeffrey J. Kimbell &  
Associates  
Karen Kaplan, Westat  
Patricia Enright Kaplan, Westat  
Samir Khoury, M.D., Boehringer Ingelheim  
Jerry Krishnan, M.D., Ph.D., University of  
Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences  
System  
Lynn Lotenberg, Elucidate Change LLC  
Russ Mardon, Ph.D., Westat  
Wilson Pace, M.D., University of Colorado

Lisa Pucci, M.B.A., Boehringer Ingelheim  
Sheri Rogers, M.S., M.A., Boehringer  
Ingelheim  
Stephen Teach, M.D., M.P.H., George  
Washington University  
Craig Umscheid, M.D., University of  
Chicago  
Tisa Vorce, Michigan Department of Health  
& Human Services  
Emma Will  
Nicole Wojcik, Boehringer Ingelheim

## **Welcome**

NAEPPCC executive secretary Ms. Susan Shero and NAEPPCC co-chairs Drs. James P. Kiley and George A. Mensah welcomed members to the NAEPPCC's third meeting.

Ms. Shero reviewed the meeting agenda and summarized the timeline for the 2020 asthma guidelines update. The draft document was released for public comment in December 2019, and the NAEPPCC would discuss and consider approving the document during this meeting. If the committee approves the report, the document will undergo clearance by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) leaders hope to publish the final document by the end of 2020.

## **Overview of Public Comments**

Dr. Michelle Cloutier, who chairs the NAEPPCC Expert Panel Working Group that is updating the 2007 asthma guidelines, explained that public comments on the draft report were accepted between December 2, 2019, and January 17, 2020. The Expert Panel received more than 500 comments from a broad array of stakeholders on a variety of topic areas. In February 2020, the Expert Panel met in person to consider comments that needed additional discussion. The panel then voted formally on all changes to recommendations, and at least 90 percent of panel members approved of every revised recommendation.

Dr. Cloutier then summarized the public comments received on each topic and on some general themes as well as the disposition of each comment (see meeting slides). In many cases, the Expert Panel revised sections of the report in response to comments. However, some comments were out of scope for the update and did not result in any revisions.

## **Discussion**

Dr. Cloutier thanked the members of the Expert Panel for their hard work preparing the guidelines update. Several NAEPPCC members, including both co-chairs, praised Dr. Cloutier and the Expert Panel for their excellent work.

In response to NAEPPCC questions, Ms. Shero confirmed that a graphics specialist will enhance the figures in the report to make them more user friendly. In addition, Dr. Cloutier confirmed that the report does address the black-box warning for Singular in the step diagrams and that the Expert Panel listed research gaps in the report, including the need for recommendations on the use of long-acting muscarinic antagonists in children aged 6 to 11 years. However, whether this guidelines document will be updated to address remaining research gaps will be a decision for the NHLBI. An NAEPPCC member suggestion was to publish the clinician's summary in the report's Appendix A as a separate document for clinicians who might not read the entire report.

A motion carried unanimously for the NAEPPCC to accept the report. Dr. Kiley explained that the NHLBI will move the report through the clearance process as expeditiously as possible. He asked federal committee members to shepherd the report through their department's clearance process.

### **NHLBI Communications Strategy**

Dr. Lenora Johnson, Director of the NHLBI Office of Science Policy, Engagement, Education, and Communications, described the strategic communications plan to build public awareness of the guidelines update. The approach will have four phases:

Phase 1 (spring 2020): Strategic communications and outreach planning and coordination to develop a comprehensive communications plan, identify appropriate spokespersons, and work with the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JACI)*, which will publish the guidelines update, to develop coordinated report release plans

Phase 2 (summer 2020 to spring 2022): Develop supportive materials, such as fact sheets, a standalone version of the step tables, and a quick-reference guide for clinicians

Phase 3 (fall 2020 to winter 2021): Announce release and build awareness of update report through, for example, a media advisory, telebriefings, a digital toolkit, and social media posts

Phase 4 (2021 to 2022): Ensure implementation and adoption of the guidelines for health professionals through development of content and continuing education programs, tutorials, and materials to distribute at medical meetings

The timeline is based on the assumption that the federal clearance process will proceed as expected. However, this is not a normal time because of the COVID-19 outbreak, and delays are possible. Another assumption is that NAEPPCC members and other stakeholders will support the release and implementation of the updated guidelines in ways that are appropriate for their constituents' needs.

### Discussion

The NAEPPCC encouraged the NHLBI to ensure that the report reaches primary care providers, and not merely specialists, quickly by publishing the update report in a primary care journal. Dr.

Johnson explained that several approaches will be used to ensure that primary care providers have opportunities to read the report. For example, the NHLBI website will have a link to the report once it is published, and the *JACI* article will be open access. In addition, Dr. Johnson and her team will prepare several supportive materials designed for primary care providers, including at-a-glance materials and step charts.

When asked what NAEPPCC members should tell their organizations about the materials, beyond the report, that will be available, Dr. Johnson explained that the NHLBI cannot develop other products until the report is cleared and its content is finalized. She suggested that NAEPPCC members tell their organizations to stay tuned and that other materials to support the release will be available. As soon as the materials are available, organizations will be told what the materials are and invited to help distribute them.

Ms. Shero asked NAEPPCC members not to share the draft report until it has undergone clearance.

In response to a suggestion for the formation of a committee to help develop the strategic communications materials, Dr. Johnson explained that no further engagement will be required because the materials will be based on the content of the report.

Dr. Johnson answered a question about materials for patients by explaining that NHLBI's Learn More Breathe Better program is considering tools and materials that might be useful for patients. Patient advocacy organizations and foundations, such as the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, that would like to disseminate the report to patients should coordinate their efforts with the Learn More Breathe Better program. Dr. Johnson encouraged all NAEPPCC members to join the Breathe Better Network, a partnership of the Learn More Breathe Better program.

Dr. Mosnaim reported that the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology is eager to work with the NHLBI and other professional societies to support the report's dissemination and implementation and to ensure that the information reaches patients. Dr. Johnson noted that all of the products and materials that the NHLBI will develop to support the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines will be publicly available, and organizations can use these materials in ways that are appropriate for their audiences.

In response to an NAEPPCC question about publishing the guidelines in additional journals, beyond *JACI*, such as those targeted to pulmonologists, Dr. Kiley explained that journals do not typically support joint or simultaneous publications. The NHLBI will determine whether it can provide editorials or other products that link to the *JACI* article. An NAEPPCC suggestion was for the committee to publish an editorial in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Dr. Mensah was pleased with the NAEPPCC suggestions, including to develop products for different audiences, including patients, to support dissemination and implementation. Once the document is published, he hoped that NAEPPCC members affiliated with patient advocacy organizations would produce one- or two-page summaries of key points from the report for these audiences. In addition, the NHLBI participates in NIH funding opportunity announcements, such

as [PAR-19-274](#) for dissemination and implementation research that support research on strategies for dissemination, adoption, and sustained adherence of clinical practice guidelines. Interested NAEPPCC members should contact Ms. Shero for more information on this research funding opportunity.

When asked about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on plans for the updated guidelines, Ms. Shero said that the outbreak could affect the timeline. Dr. Johnson explained that those responsible for clearing the report are otherwise engaged, so the clearance process might take longer than usual. In addition, plans to disseminate the report at professional meetings might need to be altered because these meeting schedules might be altered.

### **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Kiley and Dr. Mensah thanked those who helped make the guidelines update possible, including the NHLBI and Westat staff. They also thanked the NAEPPCC members for their contributions.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

### **Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

*Susan F. Shero*

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Susan Shero, R.N., M.S.  
NAEPPCC Executive Secretary

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James P. Kiley, Ph.D.  
NAEPPCC Co-Chair

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George A. Mensah, M.D.  
NAEPPCC Co-Chair

## **National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee Roster**

### **NAEPPCC Co-Chairs**

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### **NAEPPCC Executive Secretary**

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