

Presentation 16 – Lea Steele

**Research Advisory Committee
on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses**

Committee Work Plan

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**RAC Committee Work Plan:
Topics for Discussion**

1. Meeting Schedule
2. Regular Content of Committee Meetings
3. Specific Topics for 2004 Meetings and Future Reports
4. Communications
5. Reports
6. Staff Activities

RAC Committee Work Plan

- **Meeting Schedule**
 - 3 times/year: ~February, ~June, ~October

RAC Committee Work Plan

- **Regular Content of Committee Meetings**
 - "Mini-symposiums" on scheduled topics
 - Breaking news related to GWI
 - Update on VA research and admin. activities related to GWI
 - Update on other federal activities related to GWI
 - Overview of GWI-related research published since prior meeting
 - Discuss recommendations, status of prior recommendations
 - Other issues/topics raised by committee members
 - Public comments

RAC Committee Work Plan

• Topics for 2004 RAC Meetings and Future Reports

- Research re: exposures of concern
- Systematic consideration of possible treatments for GWI

RAC Committee Work Plan: Topics for 2004 Meetings and Future Reports

• February, 2004, Meeting

- Depleted uranium
- Infectious diseases
Immunological research related to GWI
Additional vaccine issues possibly related to GWI (multiple vaccines, adjuvants, etc.)
- ??Unexplained pneumonia, other health concerns associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom??
- Reports on individual examples of GWI treatments

RAC Committee Work Plan: Topics for 2004 Meetings and Future Reports

• June, 2004, Meeting

- Relationship of GWI to other conditions (e.g. neurological conditions, CFS, MCS, FMS, etc)
- Overview of biological abnormalities documented in GWI, other unexplained syndromes
- Overview of treatments used to treat “well-established” medical conditions with similarities to GWI
- Overview of research on treatments for unexplained illnesses
- Reports from clinicians who regularly treat veterans with Gulf War illnesses
- Presentations/discussions of untried treatments that might hold promise for GWI (with invited experts)



RAC Committee Work Plan: Topics for 2004 Meetings and Future Reports

- October, 2004, Meeting
 - Oil well fires
 - Other hydrocarbon exposures of potential concern (e.g. jet fuel, tent heaters, etc.)
 - CARC paint
 - Sand
 - Respiratory conditions in Gulf War veterans
 - Other exposures of possible concern
 - Overview of research evidence re: association of exposures with GWI
 - Reports on individual examples of GWI treatments

RAC Committee Work Plan: Communications

- Committee Members
 - Email major GWI news as it comes out
 - GWI/RAC updates sent out biweekly or monthly
 - Abstracts/complete articles of recently-published research
 - Government publications or activities related to GWI
 - News articles on GWI
 - Committee activities, business

RAC Committee Work Plan: Communications

- Public
 - Maintain on website
 - Meeting information: agenda, minutes, etc.
 - Committee documents and briefs
 - Info on links to GWI-related research funding opportunities
 - Info on links to studies that are recruiting Gulf veteran subjects
 - Respond to correspondence, phone inquiries, media requests

RAC Committee Work Plan: Reports

- Frequency of Regular Reports
- Upcoming 2004 Report and Recommendations
 - Basic structure similar to Executive Summary. Will also include key points from RAC interim report, elaboration of scientific details in appendices.
 - Targeted timeline for completion:

Dec. 15	Draft to committee members for review
Jan. 11	Final draft to committee members for approval
Jan. 18	Report to Secretary
 - Public release of report in late January/early February
 - Results briefed to federal government officials, others

**RAC Committee Work Plan:
Staff Activities**

1. Monitor, review scientific research
2. Draft RAC written products
3. Communications with government agencies, media, etc.
4. Communications with the public
5. Committee meeting support
6. Administrative activities

