between measured fiber levels and observed adverse health outcomes, and data gaps/research needs. ATSDR will use the scientific input received from the discussions of each of the individuals to aid in developing scientifically defensible public health evaluations for human exposures to smaller-than-5-micron fibers and in the formulation of future research proposals.

DATES: The panel discussion will be held on October 29, 2002, from 1 p.m. to approximately 6 p.m., and October 30, 2002, from 8 a.m. to approximately 5:30 p.m.

Location: The panel discussion will be held at the Jacob K. Javitz Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10278. It is located on Broadway between Worth and Duane Streets. Participants must enter through the Broadway Street ''Federal Employees Entrance'' and show picture identification and a registration confirmation e-mail from ERG. To make hotel reservations at the nearby Holiday Inn Downtown/SoHo, please call the hotel directly at 212–966–8898. Reference the ''ATSDR Fibers Panel'' to receive the group rate of $195.00/night plus 13.25 percent tax and $2.00 occupancy tax. You must make your reservation before October 14, 2002. After this date, any remaining rooms will be released from our block and sold on a space- and rate-available basis.

Attending the Panel Discussion: The public is welcome to attend the panel discussions. There is no charge for attending the meeting; however, you must pre-register as seating is limited. To register, send your full contact information (name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, and email) to ATSDR's contractor, Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) by email (*meetings@erg.com*) or fax (781–674–2906), referencing the ''ATSDR Fibers Panel.'' If you have any questions about registration, please call ERG directly at 781–674–7374.

A limited amount of time will be set aside for members of the public to present brief oral comments regarding asbestos- and synthetic vitreous fiber-related scientific issues. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes, and the number of people giving oral comments may be limited by the time available. Opportunity for making oral comment will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis; therefore, the public is encouraged to pre-register and sign-up to present oral comments by emailing (*meetings@erg.com*) or faxing (781–674–2906) ERG. After the meeting, ATSDR will prepare a summary report that will capture the salient points of each of the panel members and observers. The agency will consider the scientific information received during the meeting to aid in developing scientifically defensible public health evaluations for human exposures to smaller-than-5-micron fibers and in the formulation of future research proposals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For general questions about the asbestos and synthetic vitreous fibers panel discussion, contact Dr. Allan Susten, Assistant Director for Science, Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, ATSDR, at 404–498–0007.

For questions about logistics, contact ERG at 781–674–7374.

Background Information: ATSDR conducts public health assessments to evaluate possible public health implications of contaminants associated with hazardous waste sites and other environmental releases. A crucial part of this evaluation is the understanding of toxicological implications of exposure to substances that may be present. Recent events have highlighted a need to further explore the potential for health effects from exposure to biopersistent fibers, specifically asbestos and some SVFs. ATSDR is currently involved in several site assessments that address the potential for residential and community exposures to persistent fibers from past industrial operations (*e.g.*, vermiculite processing plants across the country), hazardous waste sites, and dust generated from the World Trade Center (WTC) collapses in lower Manhattan. These sites are unique in that contaminant materials are/may be present in people's homes and communities. Additionally, there are potential concerns surrounding smaller length fibers which may have been generated by each of these past activities, especially in relation to the materials found in lower Manhattan.

Smaller fibers and non-fibrous particles may be generated as fibrous materials are processed, disposed of, or damaged, as in the case of the WTC collapses. In these situations, traditional fiber counting techniques may not quantify all of the materials present. Standard assessment methodology addresses fibers greater than 5 microns in length, based on the relative risk of longer fibers being greater than that of shorter fibers. Significant toxicology and occupational health research has focused on asbestos fibers and SVF greater than 5 microns in length, however, it seems that much less is known about the potential health effects of smaller fibers. ATSDR has identified a need to understand the potential for fibers less than 5 microns in length to contribute to adverse health effects. ATSDR is convening this panel to gain a greater understanding of asbestos and SVF toxicity, especially as it relates to fibers less than 5 microns in length. Research needs identified during these deliberations may lead to the development of specific research projects.

ATSDR's overall goal is to receive individual expert opinions on the following three general questions related to asbestos and SVF toxicity. A number of specific questions related to these issues will also be discussed. (1) What is the physiological fate of asbestos and vitreous fibers less than 5 microns in length? (2) What are the potential health effects (cancer and non-cancer) of asbestos and vitreous fibers less than 5 microns in length? (3) What data gaps are evident when addressing the above questions? What research is needed to fill these data gaps?

Dated: October 4, 2002.

Georgi Jones,

Director, Office of Policy and External Affairs, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 02189]

The Safety of Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) Vaccine; Notice of Award of Funds

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the award of fiscal year (FY) 2002 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the Safety of Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccine. This program addresses the ''Healthy People 2010'' focus areas of Immunization and Infectious Diseases.

The purpose of the program is to ensure the safety of vaccines contained in the recommended childhood immunization schedule, specifically the safety of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR) by performing the following:

1. Determine the presence of measles vaccine strain gene sequences in intestinal tissue obtained from children with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

2. Determine the presence of measles vaccine strain gene sequences in

intestinal tissue obtained from matched controls.

3. Compare results between the two groups.

4. Provide the results of these studies to practicing physicians and other health care professionals.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following performance goals for the National Immunization Program: (1) Reduce the number of indigenous cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, (2) ensure that two year olds are appropriately vaccinated, and (3) work with global partners to reduce the cumulative global measles related mortality rate.

B. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided only to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). No other applications are solicited. The potential role of the MMR vaccine as a cause of autism has divided segments of the medical, scientific and public communities and threatens to adversely effect the MMR immunization program in the United States as it has in the United Kingdom and Ireland, where MMR immunization rates have dropped sharply from above 95 percent to just over 70 percent. This sharp decrease came as a result of two published papers alleging an association between the MMR vaccine and Autism. To provide definitive data as to the potential link between measles antigen in the intestine and autistic disorder, groups and organizations which feel strongly that there either is or is not an association between MMR and autistic disorder must be involved in this study to ensure acceptance of the results. Groups that must be involved in this study include autism community representatives (MIND Institute, Cure Autism Now, Autism Society of America); research groups at Harvard University, Columbia University, Coombe Women's Hospital, Dublin, Ireland; CDC; other government representatives; and members of the general medical and scientific communities. AAP is the only organization that can ensure that these diverse groups, organizations and individuals come together to implement and complete this proposal. This is because AAP is the only major scientific and professional body with credibility among all of the groups with a stake in the outcome. AAP has made significant scientific contribution in the investigation of the possible association of MMR vaccine and Autism. AAP has been the only organization that has pulled these groups together in the past to evaluate MMR vaccine and autistic spectrum disorder. In June 2000, AAP convened a conference at which parents, practitioners, and scientists presented information on MMR and ASD. AAP then formed a multidisciplinary panel of experts who reviewed data on the pathogenesis, epidemiology, and genetics of ASD and the available data on the hypothesized associations with Intestinal Bowel Disease, measles, and MMR vaccine. AAP's findings were published in the May 2001 issue of Pediatrics. ['Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and autistic spectrum disorder: report from the new challenges in childhood immunizations conference convened in Oak Beach, Illinois, June 12–13, 2000''. Pediatrics 2001; 107(5) *url:http//www.pediatrics.org/cgi.content/full/107/5/e84/].*

Additionally, because of AAP's broad scope of contacts, the organization's respect among pediatricians and other healthcare providers, data from this project can be facilitated and disseminated rapidly. The immunization recommendations and guidelines developed by AAP are considered among the most reliable and up-to-date information available to the pediatric community. When study findings are disseminated by AAP, immunization practices could be affected significantly.

C. Funds

Approximately $450,000 is being awarded FY 2002. It is expected that the award will begin on or about August 30, 2002 and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to two years. Funding estimates may change.

Continuation awards within an approved project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress as evidenced by required reports and the availability of funds.

D. Where To Obtain Additional Information

This and other CDC announcements, the necessary applications, and associated forms can be found on the CDC home page Internet address—*http://www.cdc.gov.* Click on ''Funding'' then ''Grants and Cooperative Agreements.''

For business management technical assistance, contact: Ms. Peaches Brown, Grants Management Specialist, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2920 Brandywine Road, Room 3000, Atlanta, GA 30341–4146. Telephone number 770–488–2738. E-mail address: *prb0@cdc.gov.*

For program technical assistance, contact: Maureen Kolasa, Epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., Mailstop E–52, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. Telephone number 404–639–8759. E-mail address: *mxk2@cdc.gov.*

Dated: October 4, 2002.

Sandra R. Manning,

CGFM, Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 02186]

Oral Vaccine Institute; Notice of Award of Funds

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the award of fiscal year (FY) 2002 funds for a grant for Oral Vaccine Institute (OVI) research on liposome-based delivery systems for oral or nasal vaccination. This program addresses the ''Healthy People 2010'' focus areas of Immunization and Infectious Diseases; Maternal, Infant and Child Health; Medical Product Safety; and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

The purpose of the program is to develop a platform of liposome constructs containing vaccine antigens that can immunize through the oral or nasal routes, rather than via parenteral injection with conventional needle and syringes.

B. Eligible Applicant

This grant is to be awarded to the Oral Vaccine Institute, which is affiliated with Oral Vaccine Technologies, Inc. (OVT), a for-profit company based in Las Vegas, Nevada and incorporated in Nevada. OVT owns several patents currently issued by the U.S. Patent office. They have assembled a team of scientists with considerable expertise in the areas of liposome development, vaccine development and mucosal immunity. OVT has executed an agreement allowing the Oral Vaccine Institute the right to use its intellectual property that is set forth and described in its Executive Summary for certain research purposes.

BioMedical Research Models, Inc. (BRM) is under contract to provide certain laboratory facility capabilities and personnel to accomplish the mission of the Oral Vaccine Institute. The facility is fully prepared to