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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Meeting Announcement

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following meeting:

Name: Preventing Birth Defects Due to Thalidomide Exposure.

Time and date: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., March 26, 1997.

Place: Sheraton Colony Square Hotel, 188 14th Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30361.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 75 people. Registration is not required.

Purpose: The meeting will enable academic and public health professionals to discuss strategies to prevent birth defects due to exposure to thalidomide and other human teratogens. Thalidomide, a potent human teratogen, is now available as an investigational drug in the USA. Although the drug is currently being considered for approval only for the treatment of leprosy, its potential applications appear to be numerous. This meeting will bring together leaders from the fields of birth defects research, clinical practice, bioethics, and public health to review existing strategies for limiting intrauterine exposure to human teratogens, and to discuss and provide individual input on new approaches for preventing birth defects due to future teratogens such as thalidomide.

Matters to be discussed: Agenda items will include presentations on the following topics: (1) Assessment of the Accutane Pregnancy Prevention Program, (2) use and limitations of drug registries, (3) contraception efficacy, (4) ethical issues on teratogen exposure, and (5) measures to assure appropriate use of pharmaceuticals. Group discussions on strategies for health care provider education, patient education, and appropriate use of pharmaceuticals will follow the presentations. Written materials may be submitted to CDC until March 21, 1997, for distribution to meeting participants.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dwight Jones, Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, NCEH, CDC, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, M/S F-45, Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3724, telephone 770/488-7160, Fax 770/488-7197.

Dated: March 13, 1997.

Carolyn J. Russell,
Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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