

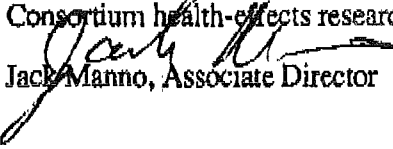
**GREAT LAKES RESEARCH CONSORTIUM**

24 Bray Hall, SUNY ESF, Syracuse NY 13210, (315) 470-6894, FAX, (315) 470-6779, BITNET: JMANNO@SUVM

**FAX MEMORANDUM**

*RE: ATSDR Subcommittee on Great Lakes Health Research*

TO: Consortium health-effects researchers and interested others

From:  Jack Manno, Associate Director

The Great Lakes Critical Programs Act mandates that EPA and ATSDR prepare a scientific report by 1994 that describes the impact on human health of water pollutants in the Great Lakes. ATSDR has \$2 million in 1992 to support human health effects studies. I have been appointed to serve on a group of advisors to ATSDR for this program.

I have only just received the topics for discussion at the ATSDR meeting scheduled for tomorrow (4/29) in Atlanta. I am faxing you the two pages that refers to the objectives of the ATSDR research program. The meeting tomorrow will focus on the kinds of research to fund to achieve these goals. I'm sorry about the short notice. If you have any comments you wish for me to carry to Atlanta please call me at my office until about 5 pm or you can reach me at my home tonight at (315) 428-0067.

106, Subsection 118(e), mandates that the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Great Lakes States, submit to Congress by September 30, 1994, a research report assessing the harmful human health effects of water pollutants in the Great Lakes region.

Toward this end, ATSDR has established a Great Lakes Research Program to investigate and characterize the association between the consumption of contaminated Great Lakes fish and long-term harmful health effects. The objectives of this program are to (1) build upon and amplify the results from past and ongoing research, (2) develop information, databases, and/or research methodology that will provide long-term benefit to the Great Lakes human health research effort, (3) develop directions and methodology for future research on human health effects, (4) provide health information to the subjects of the research and their medical professionals, and (5) increase public awareness of the health implications of the toxic pollution problems in the Great Lakes.

At this time the Agency has tentatively identified priority areas of research for the ATSDR Great Lakes Research Program. These areas of research will be reviewed by the Subcommittee on Great Lakes Health Research, which reports to the Agency's Board of Scientific Counselors, on April 29 and May 1. The aim of our

5. Establishing a chemical mixture database with emphasis on tissue and blood levels in order to identify new cohorts, conduct surveillance and health effects studies, and establish registries and/or surveillance cohorts.

As a part of this research program, ATSDR will also establish an information clearinghouse on human health studies relevant to the effects of consumption of contaminated fish in the Great Lakes region. The clearinghouse will serve to facilitate collaborative efforts among agencies conducting human health investigations. Given the diversity of agencies and sponsors of human health research pertaining to Great Lakes populations, communication and coordination becomes a matter of great priority.

Related to ATSDR's data gaps research program on human health effects from Great Lakes contaminants is another Agency research program, which is mandated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, called the Superfund statute. On October 17, 1991, ATSDR announced the initiation of its Superfund Mandated Substance-Specific Applied Research Program. This program, in coordination with USEPA and the National Toxicology Program of the Public Health Service, serves to identify and fill important data gaps for the most hazardous substances found at hazardous waste sites. PCBs, DDT,