

Presentation 16 – Lea Steele

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

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***Committee Work Plan***

Jim Binns  
Lea Steele

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

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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**

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

**RAC Committee Work Plan**

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- **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
  - GWIRAC 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**

