

**World Anti-Doping Agency
Health Medicine and Research Committee**

Teleconference Meeting Notes
August 8, 2000

PARTICIPANTS:

Prof. Arne Ljungqvist, Chair	(Sweden)
Dr. Christiane Ayotte	(Canada)
Dr. Barbara L. Drinkwater	(United States of America)
Dr. Ken Fitch	(Australia)
Prof. Bengt Saltin	(Denmark)
Dr. Gary Wadler	(United States of America)
Prof. Eduardo De Rose	(Brazil)
Harri Syvasalmi, WADA Secretary General	

REGRETS:

Prof. Theodore Friedmann	(United States of America)
Prof. Klaus Mueller	(Germany)
Dr. Johann Olav Koss	(Norway)

OPENING REMARKS

The Chair thanked the participants for joining the Health Medicine and Research Committee. He informed the group that all the member of this committee are highly respected scientists around the world and it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work together in order to make a difference and change the current status of doping in sport. The importance of this meeting was to discuss the IOC's decision to test for EPO at the Sydney Olympics. The chair welcomed the Mr. Harri Syvasalmi, WADA Secretary General.

Mr. Syvasalmi thanked the group for their commitment and expertise they bring to the committee and as well greetings from Mr. Dick Pound, WADA President.

Mr. Syvasalmi gave a brief overview of WADA current status indicating that WADA had made two very important decisions. The first decision was the mandate to carry out 2,500 tests this year with the majority (2,150) being conducted before the Sydney Olympics. The second decision was the approval of an Interdependent Observer to oversee, audit and report on the IOC's doping control program at the Sydney Olympics.

Mr. Syvasalmi indicated that WADA will be hiring three full time staff in the very near future to offer some assistance to the committee.

EPO TESTING AT THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS

The committee members stated that not all had received the EPO written report prepared by Prof. Ljungqvist. Mr. Syvasalmi indicated that the report would be sent out first thing in the morning. The committee members were asked to send their co-ordinates to the Mr. Syvasalmi at harri.syvasalmi@wada-ama.org

The Chair gave a brief overview of the paper with special reference to the fact that full scientific documentation of the planned testing had not been published in international scientific journals and asked for feedback from the committee.(See attached)

Comments from the Committee

<Dr. Fitch> indicated that the goal was to complete a least 300 EPO blood and urine test in Sydney

<Dr. Drinkwater> Concern was the possibility for false positives and have the studies been carried out on different gender, race and people living in high altitude locations.

<Prof. Ljungqvist> indicated the based on the research that was completed the likelihood of false positive were very low and the likelihood of false negative were high. There would be a 1 in 10,000 chance for a false positive. All the data collected was from China, France, Hong Kong, Noway and South Africa etc. It was a very diverse study.

<Prof. Saltin felt it important to have the proposed testing procedures introduced at the Sydney Olympic Games.

<Dr. Ayotte> felt that there might be a possibility that the EPO tests may not be held up in court. However the important part is the deterrence factor. If athletes are not concerned for their health they may be concerned that they will be tested.

<Dr. Wadler> Raised concerns from a legal point of view that page 5 of the report would offer a briefing summary for Lawyers to defend a case.

It was **Agreed** that Dr. Fitch would look after this matter and try to have the wording removed from the document.

On the basis of the explanation by the Chair and the discussion that followed, the committee members their support of EPO testing being introduced in Sydney as planned.

The Chair inquired whether or not the committee felt it was important for a representative with the expertise on the EPO testing to be present in Sydney. **All Agreed** WADA should have a representative with EPO experience.

It was **agreed** that biochemist Dr. Peter Hemersbach would represent Health Medicine and Research committee to provide his expert opinion for decisions that may be presented in CAS.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair informed the group that this committee will be devoting time to research and reviewing the banned substance list. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the teleconference and looked forward to meeting everyone in person.

NEXT MEETING

It was **agreed** the next meeting would be held in Lausanne on the 15-16 of October.

Arrival date: October 14
Meeting date: October 15 - 9:00am-5:00pm
 October 16 – 9:00am-12:00pm
Departure date: October 16 – afternoon

If you have any agenda items please send them to Mr. Harri Syvasalmi.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS

Draft Terms of Reference
Draft Program Activities
EPO Report