Limitations of Cause of Death Data Among Autopsied Population in the United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries

Stacey L. McComish¹, Joey Zhou², Florencio T. Martinez¹, Sergei Y. Tolmachev¹

¹U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Washington State University, Richland, WA; ²Office of Domestic and International Health Studies, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC

The United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) is a human tissue program that studies the biokinetics and internal dosimetry of actinides – such as uranium, plutonium, and americium – in former nuclear workers who were occupationally exposed to these elements. Tissue donors were predominantly Caucasian males, who volunteered portions of their bodies, or their whole bodies, for scientific use posthumously. The causes of death among 356 USTUR Registrants were determined, and a preliminary analysis of discrepancies between death certificates and autopsy findings was conducted. Although the USTUR population is not a representative sample of U.S. nuclear workers due to self-selection, it provides valuable information, such as the accuracy of death certificates among this autopsied population.

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