

This response represents the combined views of the Epidemiology and Genetics Teams at Westlakes Scientific Consulting Limited and the University of Central Lancashire in the United Kingdom.

- In the second paragraph of the Executive Summary, mention should be made of large epidemiological studies being able to contribute to knowledge on the health effects of low doses.
- Also in the Executive Summary, some mention could usefully be made of the assessment of organ-specific doses from internally deposited radionuclides in terms of being one of the more important issues to address.
- 4.1 - It states that "Appropriate arrangements will be made within MELODI to involve any research organisation that is willing and able to contribute to its goals". It's not clear how such involvement will happen. Will research organisations be approached or will they need to approach a relevant part of the management structure.
- More importantly, it's not clear how appropriate multi-national projects will continue or begin whilst MELODI is being established.
- In epidemiology, more could be made of pooling European cohort studies with those from outside the EU in order to produce more precise risk estimates.
- It's not clear if epidemiology should be contributing to research programmes of wider scope or whether other research areas should contribute to epidemiology! Either way, we agree more synergies are required.
- There are some concerns that the cost of the structures involved in administering MELODI may detract substantially from the funds presently available for research.
- We have some concerns about whether MELODI will be established quickly enough to allow existing EU collaborative projects to continue appropriately.
- Could MELODI be usefully extended to include a database of all relevant research carried out to date?
- Finally, perhaps more of a question for our National Representation on the HLEG, it's not terribly clear whether the EU will now be the only funders of research in this area or whether national programmes will continue to exist at present (but in a form consistent with the EU strategy).