ARCH, a Summary

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Why is a comprehensive study of Chernobyl health effects needed?

- To provide information relevant to radiation protection

- To provide information that would improve the prevention and care for those exposed to Fukushima and other possible accidents

- To answer the concerns of the millions exposed to Chernobyl

- To improve the understanding of the interaction or radiation with tissue

What are the key ARCH recommendations?

- The creation, maintenance and follow-up of life-span cohorts of a) those exposed to fallout as children and b) liquidators with known doses

- Study of specific problems largely based on the life-span cohorts

- Support for a Chernobyl Health Effects Research Foundation to coordinate the work in the different countries involved

Why should the EC support this, how, and what would it cost?

- Chernobyl was the world's biggest nuclear accident, it occurred in Europe and fallout affected many European countries

- EC support is essential for international coordination and credibility

- Cost estimate for the first year is 1 million Euro, during this year long-term support would also be sought from US and Japan

ARCH and MELODI

- Two SRAs with different aims with only limited overlap

- MELODI, studies of low-dose mechanisms and effects

- ARCH, the long-term consequences of a nuclear accident

- ARCH should not be in competition with MELODI and should be supported through a separate funding mechanism

Why is support needed now?

- Many long-term radiation effects begin to be detectable 20 or more years after exposure

- Increasingly discrepant claims continue to be published

- Planning for the consequences of the Fukushima accident needs information from Chernobyl

- The ARCH report was commissioned by the EC, and represents the view of 14 European experts with 8 international expert advisors

- Without an EC initiative now, accepting the recommendations of its own expert group, the full health effects of the worlds biggest nuclear accident will probably never be known