

Dear Dr. Masnyk:

I must sincerely apologize for such a delay with answering to your letter of Feb. 9, 1999. Thank you for your comments and wishes concerning our last report. I'll try to answer to your questions.

In our report when we say that somebody is "provisionally" absent in the settlement, that can mean that this person is in the Army, or a student in some other place, but plans to return to the settlement. We do not have any details about the current address of these persons. The term "provisionally" living was assigned by the local medical staff of Kozelets raion for some percentage of people who were never formally living in this raion. As they say, some people were working in the raion, and later, when the factories were closed down, they moved away and are lost; their current address is unknown.

The report reflects the situation with postal cards sent to Kyiv participants, for Dec. 1, 1998. Later we have received some more cards. Totally, we received back 34 cards by mail, out of 119 cards sent. 23 cards were received back with positive answer and these persons were examined; 9 cards with definitive refusal; 3 persons are willing to participate but cannot afford time right now. We continue contacting with the remaining 85 persons, we try to find out their telephone numbers through the telephone exchange.

Up to now, 79 persons in Kyiv remained unexamined, out of 413.

They are distributed as follows:

	Number	Percent
Total subjects	413	100
Number examined in Kyiv	333	81
People left unexamined	79	19
Do not live at the address provided	15	4
Do not want to be examined (according to the postal card)	9	2
Do not want to be examined (according to the postal card + telephone contact)	22	5
Telephone number remains unknown	11	3
Agreed to come for examination but did not come	17	4
Moved to Russia and other towns	4	1
Has been operated due to a thyroid cancer abroad (Brussels)	1	0.2

Your comments concerning the results of fine needle biopsy and advisability of listing separately the findings in sections 4.3, 4.5 and 5.2 (obtained by fixed and mobile teams) will be absolutely taken into consideration in the next report.

In the section 6.14, in the database of dynamics of invitation of patients an arbitrary number of contacts may be stored, because in this DB the key field is ID-number + DateFirstContact. If there are more than 2 contacts with the patient, one more record with the same ID is added to the database, but with another date of contact. The field of database DateFirstCont is actually not only the date of the first contact but, in general, the date of any contact with the patient.

The use of the database of Chernobyl Registry has a number of technical difficulties in connection with disagreement of information in this database. It is impossible to find out in what settlement a person is residing. The settlement is recorded in two versions (digital code and name) which do not correspond to each other. Dr. Kartushin has answered in reply to our inquiry that we have to use the name of settlement, but not its digital code. At present, it is difficult to use the Registry database for computerized record linkage, and we will return to operation with Registry database when the most part of software for entering screening Forms will be developed.

In the process of correspondence with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Internal Affairs, we have learnt that there is no centralized address-inquiry office in Ukraine, and, therefore, we will have to use manual search in working with passport information. They recommend that we should apply to the passport offices of oblasts. Possibly, we will be able to perform computerized record linkage with databases of a restricted number of raion or town passport offices, because most oblast passport offices do not have centralized databases.

Thank you for your comment concerning use of the term "cohort". We will confine it to situations concerning the whole group of people provided for by the Project.

Lately, DCC staff has been intensively working at developing software for entering data from screening Forms. At present, software has been worked out for entering the following Forms:

- Primary registration Form
- Locator Form
- Laboratory blood examination Form
- Blood collection and processing Form (is being developed)
- USI Form (is being developed)

Immediate tasks of elaborating software to enter the Forms (in order of priority) have been set:

- Palpation Form (before April 1, 1999)
- Preliminary conclusion Form (before April 1, 1999)
- Final conclusion Form (before April 1, 1999)
- Anamnesis Form (before April 15 1999)
- Urine collection and processing Form (before April 15, 1999).

Secondary tasks of developing software for entering the Forms:

- Cytologic conclusion Form
- Pathology Form
- Hospitalization Form
- Report on undesirable medical consequences
- Fine needle biopsy Form
- Hospital's certificate of de ease

Thank you much for the review of dosimetry report written by Dr. A. Bouville. Thus, I have commented all your remarks and wishes, they will undoubtedly contribute to a better quality of the next report.

Your recommendation concerning a monthly running report on screening performance will be also taken into consideration in our further work. Table 1 contains the data on screening examinations of cohort members for February 1999, as well as the volume of screening for February 1, 1999.

We hope that the changes at your Institute will not have detrimental effect on our joint Project.

TABLE 1  
DYNAMICS OF INVITATION FOR SCREENING EXAMINATION AND  
EXAMINATIONS OF COHORT MEMBERS PERFORMED IN FEBRUARY 1999

Invitations sent	Appointments made		Patients examined	
	For fixed team	For mobile teams	By fixed team	By mobile teams
Invitations handed to medical staff for distribution in Kozelets	103	120	79	72



							d	cohort
1	Ivankiv	747	494*	494	100 %	145	29	19
2	Former Chornobyl rayon Gornostaypo l selsky sovet	84	-	-	-	37	-	44
3	Ovruch	3073	1960	1960	100 %	770	39	25
4	Narodichi	4277	985	985	100 %	332	34	7
5	Kozelets	2089	1157	-		134	12	12
6	Kyiv	-	412	412	100 %	333	81	-
Totally			5008			1751		

A total of 2063 cohort members have been examined for March 1, 1999.

Concerning your fax of February 11, 1999. We do not have any objections concerning the schedule of visits of American colleagues for the next 5 months. The only overlap is possible in the period May 10-15, when it is planned to hold International Diabetes Days on the basis of our Institute, with participation of a number of prominent European scientists-diabetologists. In this connection, it would be preferable to postpone the visit planned for May 10-15 to May 17-22; but if that will entail some difficulties for you, one can leave the dates May 10-15 without changes.

We are also analysing now the changes already introduced in the Project Protocol, and are working at the proposals concerning advisability of making new suggestions.

Thank you for your fax of March 4. We have already reserved rooms in Hotel Dnipro.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Yours sincerely,

Professor Mykola Tronko