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**PRIVACY, ETHICS, PUBLIC EDUCATION AMONG TOP LAY CONCERNS
FOR THE USE OF BIOMONITORING**

Lay panel releases first-of-its kind report on measuring chemicals in the body

BOSTON — Fourteen residents from Boston and surrounding communities who spent the past six weeks becoming educated about the scientific, legal and ethical issues of surrounding biomonitoring released a report today to guide policy makers about measuring human exposure to environmental chemicals. The report is the culmination of the first-ever Boston Consensus Conference on Biomonitoring, organized by the Boston University School of Public Health and funded by a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Members of the panel came to consensus on many of the difficult problems that biomonitoring presents, identifying and agreeing on five priority areas of concern that warrant further exploration and consideration as the use of human biomonitoring expands: establishing responsible surveillance programs; using biomonitoring data to influence corporate and government behavior; educating the general public about biomonitoring; addressing issues of ethics, confidentiality and disclosure; and public policy.

The conference drew together a diverse group of lay people from Boston neighborhoods and nearby cities and towns. A truck driver, a teacher's aide, a financial analyst and a youth-detention worker are among the community members who participated to gather informed public opinion about how the public and private sectors should use and regulate the monitoring of chemicals in the body.

Results of today's report will be forwarded to public health policy makers and scientists around the country who conduct biomonitoring studies or deal with the issue in their work. The information will also be made available to advocacy groups, public health agencies and organizations, industry trade groups and others who are concerned with

related policy. The report is available at <http://www.biomonitoring06.org/> or by contacting Jessica W. Nelson, jwnelson@bu.edu , or 617-414-1075.

"I'm very satisfied with our consensus document. It points out the complex issue of biomonitoring in broad strokes, and also reflects the many small details we had to explore in order to understand this increasingly important field," said Alex Papali, Consensus Conference participant.

Panelists were selected from a pool of about 120 Greater Boston residents and reflect the demographics of Boston. The Conference was funded by a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), which is eager to understand perspectives on environmental health issues among different groups of people.

Two groups have organized and run the conference.

Steering Committee

- **Lois Adams**, Chief of Pesticides, Toxics, and Urban Programs, EPA Region 1
- **George Annas**, Chairman, Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights, Boston University School of Public Health
- **Tom Burke**, Professor and Co-Director, Risk Sciences and Public Policy Institute, Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- **David Carpenter**, Professor, Environmental Health and Toxicology, University at Albany School of Public Health
- **Howard Frumkin**, Director, National Center for Environmental Health / Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- **Carol Henry**, Vice President, American Chemistry Council
- **Ted Schettler**, Science Director, Science and Environmental Health Network

Project Team, Boston University School of Public Health

Raphael Adamek; Traci Bethea, MPA; Jessica Nelson, MPH; David Ozonoff, MD, MPH; Madeleine K. Scammell; Tom Webster, DSc.

Community Panel Members

Panelists are all from the Boston area and include a wide range of ages, income, education (from GED to advanced degrees), occupation and ethnic backgrounds. They represent the Boston neighborhoods of Dorchester (3), East Boston, Jamaica Plain (3), Mattapan, North End, South End, South Boston, as well as the towns of Arlington, Gloucester, Milton, and Newton Centre.