

Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane (for express delivery, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1093), Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-7001, FAX: 301-827-6776, or e-mail: JAINS@CDER.FDA.GOV, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12535. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Dated: October 2, 2003.

Peter J. Pitts,

Associate Commissioner for External Relations.

[FR Doc. 03-25449 Filed 10-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 2003N-0338]

Food and Drug Administration Obesity Working Group; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the following public meeting: Public Meeting on Obesity. The topic to be discussed involves issues within FDA's jurisdiction related to obesity and nutrition. The purpose of this public meeting, which is being sponsored by FDA's Obesity Working Group, is to discuss FDA's role and responsibilities in addressing the major public health problem of obesity, to focus on issues related to promoting better consumer dietary and lifestyle choices that have the potential to significantly improve the health and well-being of Americans, and to obtain stakeholder views on how best to build a framework for messages to consumers about reducing obesity and achieving better nutrition.

The agency has developed a web page for this initiative where interested persons can register to attend and/or make an oral presentation at the meeting, submit comments, and obtain related information. This Web Site is located at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/obesity.html>.

DATES: The meeting will be held on October 23, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration to attend the meeting must be received by October 17, 2003 at 5 p.m. Submit written comments by November 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Jack Masur Auditorium, Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center (Bldg.

10), National Institutes of Health (NIH), 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD. Important information about transportation and directions to the NIH campus, parking, and security procedures are found at <http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>.

Visitors must show two forms of identification, one of which must be a government-issued photo identification such as a Federal employee badge, driver's license, passport, green card, etc. If you are planning to drive to and park on the NIH campus, you must enter at the South Dr. entrance of the campus which is located on Wisconsin Ave. (the Medical Center Metro entrance), and allow extra time for vehicle inspection. Detailed information about security procedures is located on <http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For General Information: Brian R.

Somers, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Food and Drug Administration (HFS-820), 5100 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Park, MD 20740, 301-436-1692, FAX: 301-436-2636, e-mail: Brian.Somers@CFSAN.FDA.GOV.

For Registration Information: Patricia A. Alexander, Office of Regulatory Affairs (HFC-150), 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-6328, FAX: 301-443-2143, e-mail: registration@ora.fda.gov.

Registration and Requests for Oral Presentations

If you would like to attend the meeting, you must register with the appropriate contact person (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by October 17, 2003, at 5 p.m. by providing your name, title, organizational affiliation, address, telephone, fax number (optional), and e-mail address (optional). Registration will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis, and seating will be limited. To expedite processing, this registration information may also be faxed or e-mailed to Patricia A. Alexander (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Patricia A. Alexander (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days in advance.

If, in addition to attending, you wish to make an oral presentation during the meeting, you must inform Patricia A. Alexander (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) when you register and submit the following items: (1) A brief written statement of the general nature of the views you wish to present, (2) the names and addresses of all persons who will participate in the

presentation, and (3) an indication of the approximate time that you request to make your presentation. FDA asks that groups having similar interests consolidate their comments and present them through a single representative. Scheduled speakers should provide two copies of their presentation for the docket at the meeting. The agency requests that speakers annotate and organize their presentations to specifically identify which of the six questions (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**) are addressed in their presentations.

The agency will allocate the time available for the public meeting among persons who have preregistered to give an oral presentation. If time permits, FDA may allow interested persons attending the meeting who did not preregister to give a presentation to make an oral presentation at the end of the meeting.

After reviewing the requests for oral presentations and accompanying information, FDA will schedule each appearance and notify each participant of the time allotted to the person and the approximate time the person's oral presentation is scheduled to begin. The presentation schedule will be available at the meeting. After the meeting, it will be placed on file in the Division of Dockets Management under the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Obesity is a growing and urgent public health problem in the United States. There have been steady and substantial increases in adult obesity in the United States since the late 1980s. Today, almost two-thirds of all Americans are overweight; in 1988 through 1992, less than 56 percent were overweight. In 1988 through 1992, less than 23 percent of American adults were obese and by 1999 through 2000, the figure had increased by a quarter, to over 30 percent. The trends for children are even more worrisome. Recent research by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 13 percent of children aged 6 to 11 are overweight—almost double the rate of two decades ago. World Health Organization surveys show that weight is on the rise all over the world. The health of Americans suffers as they get heavier. According to some estimates, at least 300,000 deaths each year are associated with cases of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and other serious chronic diseases that, in many instances, result from unhealthy nutritional choices and lack of physical