

# SIA NEWS

**SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

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## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL TO ADDRESS SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY HEALTH ISSUES

CUPERTINO, CA--The Board of Directors of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) has taken another step toward initiating an independent study of potential health consequences from employment in the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

SIA will establish a scientific advisory panel of independent experts to (1) examine the issues raised by a recent University of Massachusetts health study of workers in a semiconductor fabrication facility, and (2) develop a request for proposals for a broadly-based epidemiological study of semiconductor workers.

The panel will be made up of independent scientists with expertise in the fields of epidemiology, industrial hygiene, toxicology, occupational medicine, and biostatistics. The group will have ongoing activities, including assisting SIA in evaluating study proposals, reviewing study results, and making recommendations for continuing surveillance of the safety and health of the industry's workforce.

The SIA board action followed a review of the still-unpublished University of Massachusetts study by an SIA-sponsored task force of academic epidemiologists, industrial hygienists, and occupational health physicians.

"SIA's task force concluded that the University of Massachusetts study had several major limitations, and therefore did not provide an adequate foundation for mandating specific decisions regarding industry health practices," commented SIA President Andrew A. Procassini. "For that reason, the task force recommended that SIA undertake further efforts to secure an independent study that would verify, clarify, or refute the results of the original study.

"If there is a real health problem in the industry, we are determined to find it and correct it," Procassini said. "The creation of an independent scientific advisory panel will assure that the results of further study will be scientifically sound, and will therefore form a valid basis for appropriate action." \*