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**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
DIOXIN STUDY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL TO MEET**

ANN ARBOR – The Community Advisory Panel for the University of Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study will hold its inaugural meeting on Sunday evening, August 29, beginning at 6:30pm at the Freeland Elementary School Cafeteria, 710 Powley Drive, Freeland, MI 48623. The public is invited to attend.

A team of University of Michigan scientists is completing preparations for a two-year study to see whether residents of Midland and Saginaw counties have been exposed to dioxin that is in the soil. The Community Advisory Panel is made up of local community leaders. The purpose of the panel is to provide a forum for community residents to express their concerns about the dioxin problem, to discuss the study, and to help the investigators communicate more effectively with the involved communities. The study protocol will be presented at the CAP meeting and there will be opportunity for questions and discussion.

“We want to get the facts,” said Dr. David Garabrant, head of the U-M dioxin study. “We want to find out whether dioxin that is in the soil is also in people’s bodies. In order to be successful it is important that people in the involved communities understand what this study is about, and be willing to participate in the study. The Community Advisory Panel is an important mechanism for achieving this goal.”

Garabrant noted that information about the Community Advisory Panel has been posted on the study's web site: www.UMDioxin.org. More information, such as future meeting dates, times and locations, will be posted as they become available.

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