New report advocates for new coordinated research program to investigate the impacts of exposure to low doses of radiation on human health. In a new report, "Effects of Exposure to Low Doses of Radiation, Says New Report," researchers call for a national strategy that will implement most of the research program's essential elements identified in the report within two years. With adequate funding, DOE could implement most of the research program's essential elements into the report within the two years.

The research agenda proposed in the new report highlights the need for more coordination among federal agencies and international partners. The committee recommends that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) lead this coordinated federal research program because of its current capabilities in low-dose research. The new report also recommends that the United States should establish a new coordinated research program to investigate the impacts of exposure to low doses of radiation on human health. The research program proposed in the new report, with periodic reassessments based on how research is progressing, the U.S. appropriated for the DOE low-dose radiation research program in 2021 and 2022 was not sufficient to implement a coordinated federal research program. New investments over a sustained period spanning more than a decade will be required to develop and maintain a low-dose radiation research program, the report says. Significant investments over a sustained period spanning more than a decade will be required to develop and maintain a low-dose radiation research program, with periodic reassessments based on how research is progressing. The $5 million appropriated for the DOE's low-dose radiation research program in 2021 and 2022 was not sufficient to implement a coordinated federal research program.

"There is much we don't know about the impacts of low-dose radiation exposures on health — but recent advances in research, new tools, and a coordinated multidisciplinary research program could help fill those gaps," said committee chair, Edwardcurso, professor of radiology and radiological science at the University of California, Los Angeles, and chair of the committee that wrote the report. "This new approach to radiation science would incorporate answers to concerns and individuals and communities that have been unmet by existing research, including radiation risks, cancer patients, radiologists, and others impacted by the legacy of U.S. atomic weapons testing and production." 

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