Message

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Sent: 12/29/2010 2:36:36 PM
To: Birchfield, Norman [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c910f2fd28414e819b6afe6dda525e9f-Birchfield, Norman]; Berner, Ted [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f1949c9653024d3cb4aa4c2bd69c4fde-Berner, Ted]; Jones, Samantha [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=eac77fe3b20c4667b8c534c90c15a830-Jones, Samantha]; Cogliano, Vincent [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=51f2736376ac4d32bad2fe7cfef2886b-Cogliano, Vincent]
Subject: Fw: Documenting US Government Scientists' Knowledge on the Subject of Dioxin Exposure Cancer Risk

FYI---

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----- Forwarded by Lynn Flowers/DC/USEPA/US on 12/29/2010 09:36 AM -----

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Cc: "Jana Fults/Representative Owens&#39, Office" <jana.fults@mail.house.gov>
Date: 12/28/2010 06:47 PM
Subject: Documenting US Government Scientists' Knowledge on the Subject of Dioxin Exposure Cancer Risk

To All Involved Parties,

I have experienced an inexcusable lack of concern for the prevention of cancer among the personnel of numerous state and federal government health agencies. I have written the paper found below to address this matter.

I request that those involved think about the harm to the public health that is being caused by their actions and lack of actions. I request that those of you who care engage in a substantive dialogue on the subject of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) exposure cancer risk and exposure reduction strategies.

Much time and energy has been lost in the experiences that I have encountered during the past year. People will develop cancer because of the resistance that I have met with. This is wrong. It must come to an end. I am hopeful that we can all begin working together using scientific knowledge to prevent cancer. If you would all join in educating the American public, especially children and their parents, a great amount of good could be accomplished.

joyous in Nature,

Don Hassig

Documentation of the Scientific Knowledge Possessed by US Government Scientists on the Subject of Dioxin Exposure Cancer Risk-Donald L. Hassig, December 28, 2010

The Division of Cancer Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) publishes a National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Promotional Toolkit designed to guide state and tribal health agencies in the development of cancer control programs. The Promotional Toolkit sets forth information on cigarette smoking, exercise and diet in relation to cancer risk, but provides no information on any pollutant carcinogens.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) publishes a Physicians' Data Query (PDQ) series, including an education piece on breast cancer prevention. No information on dioxins or any other pollutant carcinogens is provided in this document. Additionally, the NCI published "Cancer Trends Progress Report, 2009-2010". This report contains a dioxin chapter. The dioxin chapter presents only data for one cogener of the over 200 dioxins. This data shows no detectable levels of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) in human tissue samples analyzed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The non-expert reader of the dioxin chapter would conclude that dioxin exposure is no longer a relevant matter with regards to cancer causation. This is a wrong conclusion. It results from deception. It is a dangerous conclusion because it leads the non-expert reader to consume animal fat without taking into account the need to reduce consumption so as to lower dioxin exposure cancer risk, which is more than an acceptable quantity of cancer risk.

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) publishes an advisory titled, "Chemicals in Sportfish and Game", in which recommendations on consumption are set forth, including the recommendation that girls and women of child-bearing age consume no fish from the Great Lakes or St. Lawrence River. This recommendation arises from the presence of dioxins and Mirex in the fish of these waters. The DOH chooses not to publish any information on the subject of the presence of dioxins and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the commercially available animal fat containing foods, including: milk, dairy products, meats, farm raised fish and eggs. Neither does the DOH publish for public education any information on the quantification of dioxin exposure cancer risk.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a 2003 draft dioxin reassessment and a 2010 draft report titled, "Reanalysis of Key Issues of Dioxin Toxicity and Response to NAS Comments". Both documents provide detailed information regarding quantitative risk assessment for dioxin exposure cancer outcome. The information presented in the draft reassessment and the draft reanalysis documents describes dioxin exposure at current levels of exposure for the animal foods consuming American public that is a significant contributor to cancer causation.

The absence of information describing dioxin exposure as a significant contributor to cancer causation and recommending efforts to decrease exposure in the education pieces published by the CDCP Division of Cancer Prevention and Control and the NCI constitutes a sound foundation for the conclusion that the US government health agencies are intent upon setting before the public messages designed to minimize concern about animal

fat contamination so as to protect the profits of the food industry.

I have questioned both the CDCP and the NCI on the failure of these documents to make known to the public the existing scientific knowledge on dioxin exposure cancer risk. Lenora Johnson, Director of the NCI's Office of Communications and Education, would provide no explantion of the public health failures of the above named documents. She merely stated that the documents were "evidence based". This is a meaningless phrase when used to answer a question about the lack of information in a document. Dr. Marcus Plescia, Director of the CDCP Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, refused to explain why his office chose not to produce public education pieces addressing the subject of dioxin exposure cancer risk.

In order to begin changing the government/corporate culture that makes possible the controlling influence of corporations in the production of public health education pieces, I decided to document the scientific knowledge on dioxin exposure cancer risk that exists among federal government scientists. In 2010, I made a diligent effort to obtain interviews with scientists at CDCP, NCI, EPA and the US Food and Drug Administration. None of these agencies have provided access to their scientists. Additionally, I have sought to conduct an on the record interview with scientific experts employed by the New York State DOH. Dr. Thomas Johnson, a scientist in the DOH's Center for Environmental Health, with expert knowledge on the subject of dioxin and cancer, stated to me that his superiors had forbidden him to talk with me.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) has a good reputation for providing leadership in matters of science and cancer prevention. The National Toxicology Program (NTP),housed at the NIEHS, publishes the "Report on Carcinogens", which lists and classifies chemicals evaluated for carcinogenicity by the Program. NIEHS publishes "Environmental Health Perspectives", an internationally recognized research journal focusing on subjects of pollutant exposure and disease causation. I sought to document the dioxin exposure cancer risk knowledge possessed by Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of NIEHS. Dr. Birnbaum is a former US EPA scientist with a long history of research on the subject of dioxin exposure and disease. She answered my questions in a very careful way. Dr. Birnbaum refused to participate in an oral interview. The written answers she provided avoided answering my question of whether or not dioxin exposure at current levels of food supply contamination imposed a significant quantity of cancer risk.

I attempted to arrange an interview with Dr. William Suk, Director of the NIEHS Center for Risk and Integrated Sciences. When I first spoke with Dr. Suk about an interview, he demonstrated a strong willingness to provide the interview. I contacted Christine Flowers, Director of the Office of Communications at NIEHS, as I followed the established process for obtaining interviews with government scientists. After weeks of silence on the interview request, I received a call from Communications Director Flowers. She stated that Dr. Suk had requested that she contact me to request that I stop seeking to speak with him. This sounded so unlikely, I called Dr. Suk. He stated that he had told Director Flowers that he wanted to give me the interview. The only explanation of these conflicting communications is that Christine Flowers was seeking to terminate my interview request in a very dishonorable way.

The resistance that I have encountered from federal government health and regulatory agencies in my efforts to cause these institutions to assist with the education of the American public concerning dioxin exposure cancer risk and exposure reduction has been shocking. I have concluded that federal government health and regulatory agencies are controlled by corporate influences to the extent that it is impossible for these entities to utilize scientific knowledge to protect the public health. This part of government is a failure and a disgrace. It must be acknowledged that such failures have occurred and a lengthy process of bringing changes that will insure that such failures do not occur in the future must be entered into.

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