

21 April 1956

B. P. McIntosh, Capt. USAF (MC)
United States Air Force Hospital
MacDill Air Force Base, Florida

Dear Captain McIntosh:

We have been informed of the removal from work of Messrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Because of the information we have in correspondence dating from 31 August 1955 (to Mr. A. J. Baldwin) we are presuming that the three analytical results given in the original letter were determinations on the blood of these three men.

We have asked Colonel John Boysen of the Industrial Medical Section of the Air Force Medical Corps to inquire into the particulars of the health status of these men but believe it advantageous to put into your hands containers for the collection of blood and urine samples before we receive the requested information from Colonel Boysen on the presumption that we would want the samples after the receipt of the report.

If our presumption that these three men have been removed from their laboratory job because of the analytical findings for lead are correct please collect samples of both blood and urine from these men according to the instructions which accompany the containers and return them to us for analyses.

We are very doubtful that these men have absorbed significant amounts of organic lead as a result of their potential exposure to tetraethyl lead in the laboratory unless some overt exposure has occurred. This is because

- (1) We have never seen evidence of significant exposure in men engaged in this kind of work and would not expect it unless there had been an unusual occurrence such as spillage on the skin which was not cleaned promptly and adequately or unless spillage had occurred outside the hood and therefore created heavy concentrations of organic lead in the respiratory air from which the men were not removed nor protected.
- (2) The last report which we have seen on analytical results given in Lt. Pizzuto's letter to A. J. Baldwin of 29 March is not consistent with organic lead exposure for reasons given fully in Dr. Kehoe's letter to you of 10 October 1955.

For the reasons given in this letter of Dr. Kehoe's it is necessary for intelligent interpretation of the analytical findings on people with exposure to organic lead to have those findings on both blood and urine.

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The level of 92 micrograms mentioned in Lt. Pizzuto's letter if truly representative of the concentration of lead in blood would suggest absorption of inorganic lead rather than organic.

We shall inform you of our results and our interpretation immediately after our analyses.

Very truly yours,

LWS:vr

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.

cc - Dr. R. A. Kehoe
Colonel John Boysen

Dictated but not read.

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