

ILSI RISK SCIENCE INSTITUTE

International Life Sciences Institute

Robert A. Venezia, Dr.Ph.
Panel Manager
CHEMSTAR Department
Chemical Manufacturers Association
1300 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209

November 25, 1996

Dear Dr. Venezia:

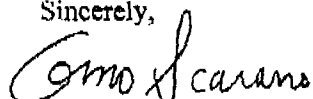
Per your request, this letter provides an update on the project entitled *Use of Non-Tumor Data in Cancer Risk Assessment*. As you know, the project was initiated to address the question of how non-tumor data such as mutagenicity, DNA adduct formation, cell proliferation, and cell death could be used in cancer risk assessment. The project will use a case-study format with three chemicals, benzene, butadiene, and vinyl chloride. Progress on the vinyl chloride portion of the project is highlighted in preparation for your Vinyl Chloride Panel Health Committee meeting tomorrow.

The first step in the project was to confirm participation of the individuals nominated to perform the case studies. Dr. James Swenberg (University of North Carolina) and Mr. Harvey Clewall (ICF Kaiser) have agreed to be the primary and secondary authors, respectively, and Dr. Curtis Travis (Informatica International) has agreed to be the reviewer for the vinyl chloride case study. Second, a comprehensive literature search has been conducted to identify the literature from which Drs. Swenberg and Travis and Mr. Clewall will identify the data for use in the case study. Third, the authors will begin work on their respective sections and generate the first draft of the case study, which will then be sent to the reviewer for comment. Finally, once drafts for all three chemicals have been reviewed and revised, a meeting of authors, reviewers, project Working Group Members, and project sponsors will take place to: 1) discuss the "lessons learned" from the case studies; 2) develop recommendations on the use of non-tumor data in cancer risk assessment; and 3) identify research needs regarding the use of non-tumor data in cancer risk assessment.

At this time, we have completed the vinyl chloride literature search and plan to hold a conference call of the vinyl chloride case study participants in early December. We anticipate that the authors will begin their work in early 1997.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at 202-659-3306. We extend our thanks for your support of this project and look forward to its successful completion.

Sincerely,


Gino Scarsano, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist