



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20204

September 28, 1967

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Department of Environmental Health
Kettering Laboratory
Eden and Bethesda Avenues
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

It was our reluctance to tell you to go ahead with your proposed study on lead-containing hair dyes that prevented me from replying to your letter as soon as I received it. Since that time I have been out of the country for about a month.

Assuming that your investigation does demonstrate that no lead is absorbed through the human skin from the use of lead-containing hair dyes, we do not believe that this would prove absolute safety. It seems reasonable to conclude that the general use of these dyes by the public would result in some contamination of the hands followed by oral consumption of some lead. Therefore, it is important that your client understand that a negative finding in your experiment does not eliminate entirely the risk of increasing the environmental exposure to lead.

In regard to your protocol, we have no additional suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Garth

O. G. Fitzhugh, Ph.D.
Toxicological Advisor,
Division of Toxicological Evaluation

Please accept my apology for the delay.