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Dr. Barry Friedlander
Director of Medicine and
Health Science
Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindberg Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63167

Dear Barry:

I have read these documents in detail and have noted some suggested editorial changes on the manuscripts themselves. Besides the editorial comments I have three additional observations. First, it is my opinion that the elevation in the urinary porphyrins seen in the exposed workers may not have been caused by the chlorinated dioxins. My reason for believing this is that I do not believe that the porphyrin producing enzymes would continue to be induced so long a time after exposure to the levels of dioxins that induced the chloracne. Second, I think the conclusion section of the chloracne chapter could use some additional work. I have indicated on the manuscript the sections which I think should be reconsidered. Finally, I believe the authors should include in their conclusion sections a consideration of the data published on the "Yusho Oil" and "Yucheng" incidences. As you know these were fairly large populations which consumed chlorinated dibenzofuran contaminated rice oil. These are probably the best clinically documented populations exposed to this class of chemicals.

In general I think the manuscript is well written. In my opinion, with the few exceptions noted, they have interpreted the results of the study appropriately. I hope these comments will be of some value in your review of this document.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Neal
Professor of Biochemistry, Emeritus

*Julie,
File Norkuska Study*

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