



THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
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2030 DOW CENTER
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August 8, 1978

MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT

Dr. John Stafford
Division Manager
Health and Environment Protection
Imperial Chemicals Industries, Ltd.
Plastics Division
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 1HD
England

cc: R. Hinderer, BFG
J. Lawrence, SPI
David Duffield, MD, ICI
J. T. Seawell, MCA
MCA Vinyl Chloride Research
Coordinators:
Z. G. Bell M. N. Johnson
W. D. Harris C. D. Kary
R. N. Wheeler G. TerHaar
W. M. Smith

Dear John:

Your correspondence dated July 20 on PVC dust inhalation illustrates the complexity of this issue. Selection of which resins to study and which additives to include is a real problem. How to study the resins is also complex, but simple compared to planning an epidemiological study. I'm enclosing a recent paper in which you may be interested (Agarwal, D. K. et al Environmental Research 16: 333-341 (1978)). I've also become aware of a study now being completed at NIOSH in Cincinnati, Ohio; copies of pages 27 and 28 of TOX TIPS which describe the study, are attached. I'm trying to get more information on the NIOSH study from Dr. Trent Lewis and Mr. Bill Wagner at NIOSH.

As you are aware, Nick Wheeler (Union Carbide) and Robert Hinderer (BF Goodrich) are both very interested in inhalation of PVC. They are attempting to re-kindle interest in a PVC inhalation study either through the MCA or SPI. If either of these groups take on this project (and I assume it could be through existing committees which I chair) there should be close cooperation with your studies at ICI. Furthermore, we have the work of Frongia in Cagliari, Italy to consider since it should be completed soon.

I agree with your suggestion of a meeting of interested parties to discuss the available data and to plan and coordinate future research. Obviously, we need a bibliographic search of published literature and if possible, all unpublished reports. Has ICI or have any of the groups mentioned in the paper for the EMAS meeting of May 5, 1978 made such a literature

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search? Is there a coordinated PVC dust project in Europe or is ICI carrying the load alone?

Do you still feel a meeting is appropriate and if so when do you feel it would be best to get together?

It might be desirable to work through Mr. J. T. Seawell of the MCA who has provided excellent service on our past projects on vinyl chloride. Seawell can provide the facilities and organization we need to get the discussion started. However, since a plastic is involved it may be desirable to use the SPI organization since it embraces a broader group of potential financial supporters. The details can be worked out later.

Sincerely,



T. R. Torkelson
Corporate Medical Dept.

Enclosures

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