



CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

April 21, 1987

Dear Vinyl Chloride Panel Members:

In his January 30, 1987 letter, Dr. Bill Gaffey discussed a course of action the Panel can take in response to the final report "An Update of an Epidemiologic Study of Vinyl Chloride Workers." In the report, the Environmental Health Associates identified 37 deaths from liver and biliary cancers. Only 15 of these 37 were diagnosed as angiosarcoma on the death certificates. Two plausible explanations for this finding are: 1) vinyl chloride causes liver and biliary cancers other than angiosarcoma, or 2) the deaths were due to angiosarcomas that were misdiagnosed as other liver and biliary cancers. Dr. Gaffey feels that undertaking a case control study would not provide the information necessary to resolve this issue. A copy of Dr. Gaffey's letter is enclosed for your ready reference.

As mentioned in my February 17 letter, I contacted Dr. Ishak of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology to explore the possibility of AFIP undertaking a study to confirm the types of liver tumors that are identified as angiocarcinomas and other liver and biliary tract tumors in the EHA final report. AFIP has agreed to review the liver and biliary cancer death cases at no cost to CMA, if we provide the tissue samples or slides from these cases. (See enclosed letter from AFIP). After receipt of the AFIP letter, I contacted Dr. Otto Wong at EHA for a proposal to collect the histopathologic material for submission to AFIP. EHA's proposal is enclosed for your review. Please note that EHA proposes to bill CMA on a time and material basis. I anticipate the final cost to be around \$15,000 rather than the \$5,629 estimated in the EHA proposal. The Panel currently has approximately \$50,000 in its account and therefore can undertake the study proposed in Dr. Gaffey's letter without additional financial commitment.

Please complete the enclosed commitment form to indicate your decision for or against undertaking the proposed study and return it to me by May 15, 1987.

Sincerely,

Has Shah, Ph.D.
Manager
Vinyl Chloride Program

CMA 021173

CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Commitment Form

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My company agrees to undertake the study proposed in Dr. William Gaffey's letter of January 30, 1987. I understand that the study will be completed from the existing funds and no additional financial commitment will be required.

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My company does not agree to undertake the study proposed in Dr. Gaffey's letter.

Management Contact

Panel Representative

Name (Signed)

Name (Signed)

Name (Typed)

Name (Typed)

Title

Title

Company

Company

Address

Address

Telephone

Telephone

Telecopier Number

Telecopier Number

Please return the completed form by May 15, 1987 to:

Has Shah, Ph.D.
Chemical Manufacturers Association
2501 Mth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

CMA 021174