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December 29, 1983

Dr. Myron S. Weinberg
Weinberg Consulting Group Inc.
2828 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Suite 301
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Dr. Weinberg:

In response to your request concerning Jack Dean's report that someone is studying latent immune responses in man, I have gathered the following information.

Searching our literature for all articles authored or co-authored by Dean I have found only articles dealing with immune functions in rodents and with proposed testing and screening approaches. Copies of the two most relevant articles are enclosed. Dean has, however, referenced J. G. Bekesi et al as writing on "Lymphocyte function of Michigan dairy farmers exposed to polybrominated biphenyls" (Science 199:1207) and R. E. Faith et al as writing on "Chemical separation of helper cell function and delayed hypersensitivity responses" (Cell Immunology 40:275). Unfortunately, we have neither of these latter articles and have had to order them.

I have also searched on the keyword "immune". The most prolific author on the topic of human immunity seems to be G. Reggiani of F. Hoffmann-La Roche & Co., Ltd. In three of his reviews (enclosed) he mentions immunocapability studies of 45 Seveso children. Other than an increase in the complement hemolytic activity all tests were normal over a period of two years. A listing of the tests performed is included in the enclosed article by F. Pocchiari et al.

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Reggiani also mentions a study of three groups of adult male workers in the United Kingdom. He does not elaborate on this study other than to say that "Preliminary results could seem to suggest that the exposed groups are relatively deficient in primary immune capability. These findings had apparently no repercussion on the frequency and course of infectious diseases in these people." One of the groups had been "exposed to toxic levels of TCDD more than ten years previously."

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

William A. Shirley
William A. Shirley

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Encs.

cc: Dr. A. M. Ford
Dr. W. J. McCarville

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