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VISTA

Mr. Bob Romano
Chemical Manufacturers Association
2501 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Mr. Ron Van Mynen
Mr. Norm Gaines
Union Carbide Corporation
39 Old Ridgebury Rd.
Danbury, CT 06817

Mrs. Sara Schotland
Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton
1752 North, N. W., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Gentlemen and Mrs. Schotland:

This attached article describes the conclusions of a study that further supports our recent arguments on the EO ATSDR Profile. Bad science has a way of hanging around and continuing to do damage. We should try to get this report. Assuming it's good science, we may want to refer to it in the future.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Grumbles

Thomas G. Grumbles, C.I.H.
Environmental Quality Manager

dlj

Attachment

VVV 000012926

Report concludes bad research hard to erase once published

REUTER NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — Erroneous scientific research, once published, is hard to kill and keeps being cited in subsequent studies even after its authors have retracted it, researchers said.

"We found that articles citing invalid, retracted work are abundant and ubiquitous in the scientific literature," said the study from the University of Kentucky.

The authors said they located 82 retracted articles published from 1973 to 1983 which were later cited 733 times as support for subsequent research.

As an example the authors listed 14 articles published by John Darsee, who worked at Harvard and Emory universities and was accused in 1981 of inventing data obtained during a heart drug experiment in dogs.

Despite widespread publicity about the case, the study said,

"Darsee's 14 completely retracted articles were subsequently cited 123 times after their retraction."

The study said that no reliable source exists to locate fraudulent or erroneous work, and that most scientific journals have no index for their own retractions.

The researchers said the problem involves both large, well-known journals and more obscure publications.

The report was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In a related article in the same issue, Paul Friedman of the University of California in San Diego said most scientific journals had no written policies for responding to allegations of research fraud.

He said efforts by his university to retract dozens of articles written by a faculty member accused of research fraud had met with mixed success at best.

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