

**APPLIED
EPIDEMIOLOGY
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July 2, 1997

Dr. Hasmukh Shah
Manager, Vinyl Chloride Panel
Chemical Manufacturers Association
1300 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

Reference: Mark Gruenwald's comments on Tamburro Protocol

Dear Dr. Shah:

Thank you for sending Mark Gruenwald's comments on Carlo Tamburro's protocol.

While I agree that the protocol is not particularly well written from a grammatical or stylistic perspective, I did not suggest any editorial changes but focused on larger issues. It certainly would make the protocol clearer and more readable if it were properly edited.

Mark is correct in questioning the use of the term "increased association," although I do, and I presume other epidemiologists would, understand what he means. The correct terms are as follows: "increased risk," or "increased incidence" (neither of which can be measured in case-control studies); or simply, "an association" (not "increased association"). I tend to prefer the term "association" as it does not imply that an observed association is causal.

I hope that this helps put Mark's comments into perspective. Please call me if you wish to discuss this further.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth A. Mundt, Ph.D.

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

To:

DR. SHAH

CMA

From:

K.A. Minor

Date:

JULY 2, 1997

Subject:

M. Greenwood's comments

Number of pages including cover sheet:

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MESSAGE:

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