Did Harvard and Professor Collude?

Study Linking Fluoride and Bone Cancer in Boys Suppressed

by Charlotte Gerson

On September 29, 2006, Samuel S. Epstein wrote a blistering letter addressed “to the Editors”, but it is not clear which editors and which publication was addressed.

Samuel S. Epstein is a professor emeritus of environmental and occupational medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health and is Chairman of the Cancer Prevention Coalition.

Prof. Epstein takes strong issue with the fact that a researcher of the School of Dental Medicine was put in charge of the possible connection between water fluoridation and bone cancer. Professor Chester Douglass had already been active in promoting fluoridation and had financial ties to Colgate!

An assistant to Prof. Douglass, a student Elise Bassin had found a "robust" relationship between osteosarcoma and young boys' exposure to fluoridated water. This was extremely important — yet Professor Douglass concealed these findings from the public as well as from the Environmental Working Group who was funding the research for over three years.

To make the matters worse, Harvard exonerated the Professor of all charges in the matter in spite of well-documented evidence against him. Douglass had even gone so far as to lie about the actual figures of his own research. It finally turned out that Douglass made a million dollar contribution to Harvard's new Dental School Building.

The Environmental Study group released another article dated Washington, Aug. 16, 2006, by Lauren Sucher and Michael Connett, which describes the release as coming in the form of a four-paragraph statement which is secret and not available to the public. [Italics mine]

Fortunately, the data in question have since been published in a peer-reviewed journal by four Harvard professors and PhDs which clearly point out that Douglass's statement that the findings were 'not significant' cannot be supported. An additional statement referring to Douglass' and Harvard's excuse reads “This excuse is so tortured, you can see why it took a bunch of Harvard professors a year to concoct it.” Richard Wiles, Senior Vice-president of the Environmental Working Group, continues, "Whether or not Douglass intentionally suppressed and misrepresented these data is irrelevant. He deceived the public and health officials about critical research findings for years, and hundreds of boys suffered the consequences.”

The Harvard panel also brushed aside a conflict of interest stemming from the fact that Douglass is a paid consultant for the toothpaste industry, a major user of fluoride.
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