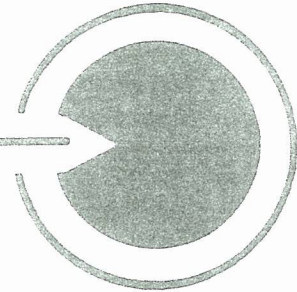


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NEWSLETTER



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"SEE-SURP" REPORT CONFLICT!

Michael F. Ziff D.D.S. and Sam Ziff

At what point does factual misrepresentation influence the public health to a degree that demands corrective action?

The misinterpretation of conclusions from the January 1993 CCEHRP ("See-Surp") report is so blatant that nothing less than formal investigation by the United States Congress is warranted!

The closing paragraph of the Preface to the Final Report sums up the veracity of the entire effort: "This report is not intended to serve as the authoritative source on dental amalgam safety, but rather as a planning tool to assist policy-makers in deciding on appropriate risk management actions."

THE CCEHRP DOCUMENT

The Final Report is entitled: *DENTAL AMALGAM: A SCIENTIFIC REVIEW AND RECOMMENDED PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE STRATEGY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND REGULATION.*

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The study represents 25 months of effort by subcommittees from eight Public Health Service (PHS) agencies, including; the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Indian Health Service. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and non-government "peer reviewers" also participated.

CCEHRP CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion on the safety of dental amalgam, stated on page 3 of the document under the section entitled "Amalgam Risks," is:

- "In the absence of adequate human studies, the Subcommittee on Risk Assessment could not conclude with certainty whether or not the mercury in amalgam might pose a public health risk."

The conclusions of the Subcommittee on Risk Assessment, stated on page 29 of Appendix III, are:

- "Available data are not sufficient to indicate that health hazards can be identified in non-occupationally exposed persons. Health hazards, however, cannot be dismissed."
- "Because there are no scientifically acceptable studies with sensitive standardized measurements for physiological and behavioral changes in non-occupationally exposed populations, we cannot, at present, determine whether such changes observed in persons with low-level occupational exposure to mercury also occur as a result of exposure to mercury from dental amalgams."
- "The margin of safety may, however, be lower