

# Associazione Malattie da Intossicazione Cronica e/o Ambientale – Italy

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2010 12:53 PM

**Subject:** Petersen's Paper: Propaganda for a Pro-Mercury Trade Group?

To Dr Ala Alwan  
Assistant Director-General  
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health  
WHO

Dear Dr Ala Alwan,  
we are writing to you about the Report of the Meeting on "Future Use of Materials for Dental Restoration" held in Geneva in November 2009 which presents serious lacks on relevant issues on the systemic adverse health effects in the amalgam bearers.

According to some participants, such as two representatives of the Zero Mercury Working Group, the report doesn't show the complexity and plurality of positions on amalgam that were presented at the meeting.

The partiality of this report is quite evidenced also in the references by the relevant number of journals edited by dental organizations, such as JAMA, Dental Clinics of North America, J Public Health Dent, Journal of American Dental Assoc., Acta Odontologica Scandinavica and others. The dental organizations are clearly in a situation of conflict of interest and, in fact, the evidence about the adverse health effects of amalgam can be found more in publications about toxicology, neurology, immunology and bio-chemistry.

In the Petersen's report we could not find a single line about the toxicological studies based on the so-called "chewing-gum test" for the evaluation of metals in saliva, not a line about the lymphocyte immuno-assay test for the evaluation of systemic allergy to metals, not a line about the toxic burden of the jaw bone, which is a major target of amalgam toxic overload, not a line about the typization of apolipoprotein-E gene which is responsible for susceptibility to the toxicity of mercury.

In Dr Petersen's report we can read the a-critic quotation of a sentence from the Consensus Statement WHO Consultation (3-7 March 1997): "*controlled studies have been published demonstrating systemic adverse effects from amalgam restorations. At present, there is no scientific evidence showing that general symptoms are relieved by the removal of amalgam restorations*". This sentence is totally false.

There are several studies about the improvement of neurological symptoms as well as the improvement of symptoms in MS, ASL, CFS, MCS and auto-immune disorders after the correct removal of amalgam fillings. The adverse health effects are so many that also Dr Math Berlin's overview of scientific literature published in

1997–2002 on amalgam, for the Swedish Government, concluded that, in case of a systemic chronic multi-systemic disease, the evaluation of amalgam poisoning should be accomplished for excluding this case.

Moreover, we would like to remind you that the Consensus Statement was unanimously approved by the participants of the WHO Consultation, at Geneva on 3-7 March 1997, but it does not represent an official position of WHO, as we can clearly read on the Statement itself: "*Experts groups, whatever the form, are usually set up as ad hoc groups, and what they have in common is that they are only set up in order to provide advice to WHO. This means that any statements or recommendations made by the group or the individuals experts are not in any way binding for WHO, or for any other body, for that matter, they are only made as advice to WHO. Also, WHO is in no way responsible for the advice provided to it by the experts*".

We believe that Dr Petersen's a-critical quotation of WHO 2007 Consultation on amalgam, puts the WHO in a position of responsibility for promoting as "WHO official position" a report which was only reflecting the personal opinion of some external experts.

For all these reasons we are here asking you to withdraw immediately Dr Petersen's report on November 2010 meeting in Geneve, with a public press conference, and we also ask you to let all the participants at

Geneve meeting to review and to subscribe the report of the meeting in a democratic and transparent way.

WHO has a huge moral and legal responsibility in protecting the health of present and future generations from the adverse health effects of amalgam poisoning and we would strongly recommend you to control very carefully the transparency of any decision making before promoting position papers and official reports also because there are already several legal actions going on in Europe for the compensation for amalgam injury.

Sincerely yours,

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