

Californians for Green Dentistry – USA

Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2010 12:17 PM

Subject: Petersen Paper has reckless disregard for environmental health

The Honorable Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General, WHO, AlwanA@who.int

Dear Assistant Director-General Alwan

We are shocked that the Petersen Paper has no interest in environmental health. Quantitatively, the contribution of dental mercury to the environment is shocking; when it gets into the water --- and developing nations have no way to stop it --- it poisons the children. It is unconscionable, unethical and immoral to continue to support dental mercury particularly in developing countries. These countries have no way to collect and contain mercury once it gets into the environment, just look at the Amazon region to see the devastation created from small scale gold mining. It is common knowledge that the mercury that is used in small scale gold mining is dental mercury that is sold illegally for this purpose.

If the WHO will not protect those who can least protect themselves, then WHO will? The ability to re mediate a contaminated mercury site is financially impossible for these countries. It is our duty and moral obligation to ban this product on ethical reasons alone, as if the source is stopped, the 300 - 400 tonnes used in the dental mercury fillings annually will not become an environmental hazard in the future.

These four pro-mercury dentists, all from developed nations, feel dentists have no duty to reduce their mercury use. They would rather point the finger at children for getting cavities. It's time for WHO to ask the world's dentists – the half still profiteering off mercury --- to get training and stop using mercury amalgam.

We know the American Dental Association has no interest in reducing cavities. The ADA took a million dollars a year from Coca Cola until this raw deal was exposed. The ADA knows Coca-Cola is good for business --- more cavities equals more profits. FDI talks of reducing cavities -- but it is all political rhetoric.

We ask WHO to stop siding with the pro-mercury faction of dentistry and start siding with the world's children.

Sincerely,
Anita Vazquez Tibau, Director
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