

File - Dr. Sterling  
Special project  
Dir. Sterling  
JAMES H. OTTMAN  
OF GENERAL

**SHOOK, HARDY & BACON**

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February 15, 1974

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A "Conference on Data Dissemination for Carcinogenesis" was held January 29 through February 1, 1974, by NCI. The conference, initiated by Dr. Umberto Saffiotti, was part of the "National Cancer Program." I enclose copies of the conference agenda, roster of working group members and a list of participants. The booklet on the conference also contains some information about the participants. I enclose the sketch on Dr. Theodor Sterling and would be glad to send any others on request.

If this material is shared with others within your company, please suggest it be kept confidential until a report on the conference has been published.

Dr. Saffiotti has recently made a report on NCI's carcinogenesis program. Copies are available through the Office of the Associate Director for Carcinogenesis, Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland 20014. I enclose copies of certain pages that appear to be of unusual interest.

A report by the President's Science Advisory Committee titled Chemicals and Health was released on January 9 of this year. A note from Science concerning this report is enclosed,

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together with certain pages of the report bearing on cigarette smoking. This report deals in an almost unbelievable way with cigarette smoking and estimates of mortality contribution. I am advised by Dr. Sterling that the report is vulnerable on several points, and he has shown great interest in analyzing it.

Reports such as Chemicals and Health fall within the scope of Dr. Sterling's general review, and he believes that this particular report minimizes occupational hazards and pollution in general. You will recall that Drs. Sherman and Wolfe concluded in their auto industry study that their data "seriously challenge the traditional view by management and much of the medical profession that workers' lung and heart disease are largely caused by cigarettes rather than by workplace poisons." The "traditional view" seems to have triumphed in Chemicals and Health.

Dr. Sterling has indicated that there is additional data available to Sherman and that he hopes to be able to help collect it.

Dr. Sterling believes that considerable information that might be useful in evaluating such reports as Chemicals and Health may be contained in the Dorn data (U. S. veterans). He wants to request the data from the Government. Sterling believes that if the Dorn data is made available, an analysis would show important associations other than smoking. He is also of the opinion that this would allow the inference that occupational and other factors may also exist to a substantial extent in the Hammond data.

Dr. Sterling says that he is presently undecided with regard to whether or not to request the Dorn data and is interested in any observations concerning its validity, etc. I have advised Dr. Sterling (in connection with his two-year project) that such decisions, of course, are his to make. He realizes this but states that if he decides to ask for the Dorn data, it could affect his budget. Dr. Sterling has already indicated that, aside from the foregoing, he will request some increase (perhaps \$9,000) for the period September, 1974, to September, 1975. Should there be an additional amount needed as a result of obtaining the Dorn data, the total increase would be about \$15,000.

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At the time Dr. Sterling's two-year review project (\$61,420 annually) was approved, \$20,000 in funding for a conference was also given approval. The conference was to have been in Tel Aviv but Sterling now doubts that it will go forward. A portion of that money could be diverted to cover any increase needed in connection with the second year of his review project; however, no decision is necessary at this time.

We agree with Dr. Sterling that Chemicals and Health should be reviewed. If it could help to get the Dorn data then we favor his asking for it, but would welcome any observations you may have. Dr. Sterling will probably make a decision on requesting it by the last of February.

Sincerely,

*Bill Shinn*

William W. Shinn

WWS/rf

Enclosures

cc: Alexander Holtzman, Esq.  
Lester Pollack, Esq.

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