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MEETING LOG

Meeting with: Donna Seger, M.D.
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Marc Bayer, M.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, Connecticut

Date of Meeting: May 13, 1996

Meeting Location: CPSC, East-West Towers, Bethesda, MD

Attendees:

Commission: Michael Babich, EH
Laureen Burton, EH
Kailash Gupta, EH
Sandra Inkster, EH (by telephone)
Tim Johnson, ES
Elizabeth Leland, EC
Warren Porter, Jr., LSHL
Val Schaeffer, EH
Marilyn Wind, EH

Non-Commission: Drs. Bayer and Seger
Alex Cohen, Consumer

Log Entry Source: Elizabeth Leland, EC *EL*

Summary of Meeting:

Drs. Bayer and Seger requested a meeting with CPSC staff to discuss the long-term effects of carbon monoxide (CO) exposure. Dr. Seger presented information from studies and literature on the long-term effects (delayed neurologic sequelae) of CO exposure. Dr. Seger also presented information from her experience treating patients who are asymptomatic of CO poisoning at bedside, but who present symptoms after a battery of neuropsychiatric tests are given. The battery of neuropsychiatric tests are specific to carbon monoxide. She indicated that delayed neurologic sequelae occur after exposure to levels of 20-30 percent COHb. Delayed neurologic sequelae, according to Dr. Seger, are not known to have occurred at lower COHb levels, but she pointed out that their occurrence has not been disproved. Dr. Seger also noted that delayed neurologic sequelae usually appear 3 weeks after exposure to CO, but sometimes are not diagnosed for longer periods after exposure because wide information about such effects are not known.

Dr. Bayer indicated that the medical profession's knowledge of CO and the effects of CO is evolving. He also indicated that adverse outcomes in fetuses of exposure to CO is not precluded by lack of specific data. Dr. Bayer believes that vulnerable



populations will be exposed if the "deliberate ignore" level of 15 ppm for 30 days on CO detectors is raised. However, no information about documented levels at which vulnerable populations are affected was presented. Dr. Bayer stated that the current medical information available shows long-term effects of CO exposure at lower COHb levels than previously-available medical information. Toxicological experience indicates that further knowledge may show long-term effects at low COHb levels.

Both Dr. Bayer and Dr. Seger stressed the importance of education for the medical profession, first responders, and consumers.

CPSC staff indicated that they would evaluate the information presented to them by Drs. Bayer and Seger.