Enforcing (and Defending) Responsible Conduct of Research: Some Lessons from Southwestern

KUMC Resident, Postdoc and Fellow Research Forum
May 5, 12:00-1:00 pm.

Bill Neaves, Ph.D.
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*1979-1980

**2015-2016
Criteria for Hospitalizing Children Who Have Ingested Products Containing Hydrocarbons

Nick Anas, MD; Vanthaya Namasonthi, MD; Charles M. Ginsburg, MD

- The clinical records of 950 children who ingested products containing hydrocarbons were reviewed. Eight hundred children were asymptomatic at the time of the initial evaluation and remained so during a six- to eight-hour period of observation. All had normal chest films, and all were treated as outpatients. One hundred fifty other children were admitted to the hospital; 79 were symptomatic at the time of initial medical evaluation and had abnormal chest roentgenograms. Seventy-one other children were asymptomatic but had roentgenographic evidence of pulmonary involvement (36) or had had pulmonary symptoms before arriving at the medical facility (35). Complications (seven) occurred only in symptomatic children who had roentgenographic evidence of pneumonia. These data suggest that the majority of children who are brought for medical evaluation after ingesting hydrocarbon-containing substances do not experience pulmonary complications and therefore do not require hospitalization. Only children who are symptomatic at the time of initial medical evaluation or who became symptomatic during a six- to eight-hour observation period require hospitalization.

(JAMA 1981;246:840-843)
ABOUT THE STOWERS ORIGINAL DATA REPOSITORY

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For more information about the Stowers ODR, please contact Kim Bland, Ph.D., Head of Science Communications.
Robert W. Haley, M.D.
Professor of Internal Medicine
Director of the Division of Epidemiology
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Self-reported Exposure to Neurotoxic Chemical Combinations in the Gulf War: A Cross-sectional Epidemiologic Study

Robert W. Haley, MD; Thomas L. Kurt, MD, MPH

A total of 249 Gulf War veterans from the Twenty-fourth Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion completed standardized booklets measuring self-reported wartime exposures and present symptoms.

Results. —Risk of syndrome 1 ("impaired cognition") was greater in veterans who reported wearing flea collars during the war (5 of 20, 25%) than in those who never wore them (7 of 229, 3%; relative risk [RR], 8.7; 95% confidence interval [CI], 3.02-47; P<.001). Risk of syndrome 2 ("confusion-ataxia") increased with a scale of advanced adverse effects from pyridostigmine bromide (χ² for trend, P<.001), was greater among veterans who believed they had been involved in chemical weapons exposure (18 of 108, 17%) than in those who did not (3 of 141, 2%; RR, 7.8; 95% CI, 2.3-25.9; P<.001), and was increased in veterans who had been in a sector of far northeastern Saudi Arabia on the fourth day of the air war (6 of 21, 29%) than in those who had not been (15 of 228, 7%; RR, 4.3; 95% CI, 1.9-10.0; P=.004). Effects of perceived chemical weapons exposure and advanced adverse effects from pyridostigmine were synergistic (Rothman S, 5.3; 95% CI, 1.04-26.7). Risk of syndrome 3 ("arthro-my-neuropathy") increased with an index of frequency and amount of government-issued insect repellent containing 75% DEET (N,N-diethylm-toluamide) in ethanol applied during the war (χ² for trend, P<.001) and with advanced adverse effects from pyridostigmine (χ² for trend, P<.001).

Conclusion. —Some Gulf War veterans may have delayed, chronic neurotoxic syndromes from wartime exposure to combinations of chemicals that inhibit butyrylcholinesterase and neuropathy target esterase.
Stanford Ethics Committee Rules Melmon Guilty of “Grossly Negligent Scholarship” --- Stanford President Censures Melmon

“Stanford investigates plagiarism charge.”

*Science* 1984 (June 22) 224:1324.
“Melmon resigns Stanford chairmanship.”

“Stanford department chairman resigns in aftermath of plagiarism charge.”

Ken Melmon, M.D.

FINDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

NIH GUIDE, Volume 25, Number 39, November 15, 1996

Notice is hereby given that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has made a final finding of scientific misconduct in the following case:

Melissa A. Harrington, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Based upon an investigation conducted by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, information obtained by ORI during its oversight review, and Dr. Harrington's own admission, ORI found that Melissa A. Harrington, Ph.D., former postdoctoral research fellow, Department of Pharmacology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, engaged in scientific misconduct.
One of Five Retractions


“It is with deep regret that we report here that critical data in the paper by Simmons and co-workers [*Immunogenetics* (1993) 38:351-358] cannot be reproduced, and because of this we are retracting this paper. We apologize to our colleagues for any difficulties that the publication of this paper may have caused.”

Joel D. Taurog  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center,  
Dallas, TX, USA

Robert E. Hammer  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center,  
Dallas, TX, USA

Maxime Breban  
Hôpital Cochin, Paris, France
Texas Scientist Admits Falsifying Results

By David Malikoff

“A University of Texas (UT) immunologist has admitted to federal officials that he falsified research results over at least a 5-year period.”

“The scientist was found to have repeatedly duped colleagues by spiking test tubes with doses of a radioactive marker that produced positive results, according to detailed reports by UT and federal investigators.”
Professor of Biology
Delaware State University

Director
Delaware Center for Neuroscience

Principal Investigator/Project Director
“COBRE: The Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research”
NIH - $10.5 million (2012-2017)

Principal Investigator
“A Tale of Two synapses: the development of neurotransmitter phenotype in motor neurons”
NIH - $571,000 (2013-2016)

Melissa Harrington, Ph.D.

https://www.desu.edu/~mharrington