
From: Watson Greg USGR
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2005 4:15 PM
To: McAllister, Ray
Subject: Confidential - Comments on SAP Nominations

Importance: High

Dear Ray,

I would ask that you handle our comments with care & in such a way that they cannot be attributed to Syngenta. Ray, I am not aware of the common practice in these cases - but it seems to me that this should be submitted informally & NOT placed in the public docket.

I enclose some comments on Dr. Cory-Slechta from the perspective of researchers who are close to the Parkinsons disease area, which has been a major focus of her research effort. These are from an objective standpoint in the knowledge and experience of a wide range of external peer investigative scientists and are based on consideration of the literature and meeting attendance where she (CS) has spoken.

CS has been active in examining the effect of chemicals in a mouse model that is used as an animal model for investigating Parkinsons disease. The model is a short-term model and uses intraperitoneal administration of chemicals over a relatively short timeline and at relatively high doses; for obvious reasons intraperitoneal exposure of agents creates some concerns about extrapolation of the results of the research. CS has been a prominent voice at meetings, in the literature, and in the press reporting results from the model, including much work on agrochemicals. Although the animal model is simply a model, and a research tool with clear limitations in reflecting a chronic progressive disease in humans (i.e., extrapolation issues regarding short term intraperitoneal exposure), her presentation and reporting have given conclusions that go beyond what the data reasonably support. Her presentations in meetings, appearances in the press, and her publications often include over-dogmatic statements, and an over-interpretation of data with subsequent conclusions - that are in reality speculation. CS appears single-minded in believing that some pesticides are a primary risk factor for Parkinsons, and data appear to be presented and interpreted with this conclusion in mind. We have found an unwillingness to enter into objective scientific debate with industry regarding her data or the literature in this area. There have also been examples of using low incidence occurrences (eg of particular pesticide use patterns) and generalising them into apparent universal conditions, which then support her conclusions or justify her assumptions. Overall, we feel that CS is not an appropriate candidate for the scientific advisory panel based on the above mentioned reservations.

Best Regards,

Greg Watson

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