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To: Sandler, Dale (NIH/NIEHS) [E]
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Subject: FW: A second thought about the IJC rejection of the NHL manuscript
Date: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:44:55 PM

Hi Dale,

Although initially surprised by the decision of IJC concerning our NHL paper, upon reflection I think I can understand their decision. We have been cautious in our conclusions. Our Abstract states “*However, tests of homogeneity **did not show significant** differences in exposure-response among NHL-subtypes for any chemical. These findings are **among** the first to **suggest** links between DDT, lindane, permethrin, diazinon and terbufos with NHL subtypes.*” In our conclusion we say “The epidemiologic literature on NHL and these pesticides is inconsistent and “*although the findings from this large, prospective cohort add important information, **additional studies that focus on NHL and its subtypes and specific pesticides are needed.**”* In other words, we conclude that the paper does not present conclusive evidence. While the paper is important to science, public health, IARC and EPA, it is certainly not conclusive. I think we should take great pride in the very careful wording of our report, since it doesn’t overstate the data. We have spent a great deal of time insuring that the manuscript reflects the opinion of all the authors and the federal agencies they represent. I strongly believe that It would be unethical to change the content, scope or tone of the paper merely for publication in a journal with a high impact factor.

At the current time IARC is making plans for a new monograph on pesticides. Considering IARC’s timetable for selecting candidate pesticide for the monograph, it would be irresponsible if we didn’t seek publication of our NHL manuscript in time to influence IARC’s decision. Since all authors and every federal agencies involved has signed off on the current content of the paper, we should be ready to submit very shortly and we should change the current manuscript as little as possible, if at all.

Your help is always appreciated, thank you,

Michael

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