Newsletter

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Nurses Movement for Responsible Medicine (NMRM) was founded in October 2007 by Cynthia O'Neill, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. to provide nurses with a channel through which they could express their concerns in relation to the high number of adverse drug reactions suffered by so many of their patients.

The Objective of NMRM
is the Immediate and
Unconditional Abolition
Of All Animal Experiments
On Medical
and
Scientific Grounds

"When I was a medical student we went into the physiology and the pharmacology laboratories and did animal experiments which we knew were worthless and the teachers knew were worthless, but we had to go through that ritual."

Dr Robert S Mendelsohn, on Toronto, Canada's CFRB Station,

10 April 1987 - Chairman Medical Licensure Committee for the state of Illinois, associate professor at the University of Illinois Medical School and director of Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital.

Painkillers and Kidney Transplants

From an article in Bunte, number 50, one of Germany's Major weeklies.

"...For the listeners it was a shock. The expert who joined in the discussion already attracted attention through his eloquence and his heavy stature. But what he said was of even more weight. Although it was only one sentence, the information it conveyed was highly explosive.

'Painkillers' he stated, 'must be held responsible for about 50 per cent of kidney transplants.'

Organ transplants are extolled as one of the greatest advances in medicine. Almost everything is held to be justified by their use – even the heavy costs. All the more serious is it when one comes to learn that that this irreplaceable masterpiece of modern medicine is to a large extent serving the purpose of warding off the worst effects of misuse.

Are 50 per cent of kidney transplants a result of the irrational use of painkillers? Since this information came from a specialist in medicines and poisons, it is of particular significance.

When used over a long period, painkillers cause serious kidney damage, extending to cancer of the bladder. Due to this, the expression "painkiller kidney" became established a long while ago.

Painkillers are among those drugs about which we have such a mass of information and experience that it is hardly possible to keep track of it all. They have been tried out over decades on millions of people. One can speak without exaggeration of wholesale experiments on human beings.

Nevertheless experiments on animals continue to be made, even though these drugs have already gone through all stages of animal experimentation. But despite this, the injuries to health, which are known today, had not been foreseen.

Dr Peter Schmidsberger.

Vioxx Tragedy Spotlights Failure of Animal Research

Consultant John J Pippin, M.D., F.A.C.C., flew to Washington, D.C., last month on an unusual mission. The longtime cardiologist – most recently head of cardiology at Dallas's Cooper Clinic – had just written a 23-page report detailing how animal experiments misled scientists in the development of Vioxx, and the COX-2 inhibitors. Dr Pippin presented his findings at a highly publicized FDA hearing on February 17.

Dr Pippin's report reveals that Vioxx and other Cox-2 inhibitors actually had a heart-protective effect in mice and other animals – exactly the opposite of how the drugs later performed in humans. The report also reveals that once clinical trials started showing that the drugs caused heart problems in humans, the pharmaceutical companies ignored this information and instead pointed to the animal tests as evidence that the drugs were safe.

As Dr Pippin details in his report, the Vioxx animal testing debacle is not unique. Over the years, millions of patients have been exposed to harmful drugs, such as Rezulin and Baycol, that seemed safe in tests on mice, dogs, rats, monkeys, and other animals. Physiological differences between humans and other animals are at the root of the problem, notes Dr Pippin. His report includes information about new, ethical, and more reliable human-based methods for studying drug metabolism.

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine news release – 15 February 2005

If one can't apply the result of a test on a rat to a mouse, what hope is there of applying it to a human?

Tests for the potential to cause cancer usually use rats or mice. In one study almost half of the substances causing cancer in mice didn't cause it in rats, and vice versa. If one can't apply the result of a test on a rat to a mouse, what hope is there of applying it to a human? In another study, rats and mice were exposed to 26 substances known to cause human cancer. Fewer than half caused cancer in either rats or mice, and the author concluded that we'd be better off tossing a coin.

Of course, giving high doses of 3 years to a few hundred genetically similar and healthy rodents is totally different from the situation in people, who will be exposed to very low doses for up to 100 years, will be genetically diverse and will be consuming a cocktail of chemicals.

Some American scientists used animal test results to calculate the possible risk of bladder cancer due to the sweetener Saccharin. They considered all the uncertainties involved in extrapolating results from animals to humans. Their answer was that the number of people developing bladder cancer from Saccharin could be as low as ONE person or as high as 1,444,000 people.

These tests are so meaningless that the results are often ignored. I treat acne with Dianette (which causes liver cancer in rats), as the Data Sheet says: 'The relevance of this finding to humans is unknown'. Carbamazepine, a drug for epilepsy, also causes liver cancer in rats, and the Data Sheet for this says: 'There is no evidence to indicate that this observation has any significant bearing on the therapeutic use of the drug.' The contraceptive Depo-Provera caused cancer in beagles and monkeys, but the British Committee on the Safety of Medicines stated: The relevance to man has not been established.' In America, the manufacturers asked for the ban on the drug to be lifted on the grounds that animal tests were misleading.

Dr Peter Simmons - DBAE Debate Issue 2

NB: The amount donated to Cancer Research UK (CRUK) in 2012 was £493m, which does not include donations to the other cancer charities. CRUK highest paid employee gets £210k - £220k per year.

"Cancer, is dreaded by all. It runs a close second to heart attacks as a cause of death. When it comes to the role of animal experimentation in cancer, vivisectionists present a creative blend of the spurious, the fantastic and the ludicrous. A frenzied litany, monotonous, ambiguous, deceitful. Despite all the vivisectionists' hullabaloo, the fact of the matter is: vivisection is cancer's Bermuda Triangle in which our realistic hopes faithful expectations and confidence in our research institutions have mysteriously disappeared."

Dr Moneim A Fadali, MD, Patron of NMRM.