## Nurses Movement for Responsible Medicine

### 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

"The opinion is frequently heard that fundamental truths may be revealed by animal experiments and may then be transferred to sick human beings. As an experienced physiologist I feel justified in taking a stand on this.

It is pure nonsense!"

Professor Pickering of Cambridge University (British Medical Journal, 64)

#### **More on Drug Toxicity**

Adverse Drug Reactions are now acknowledged to rank as one of the principal causes of death in the UK, USA and Europe.

Since screening began in 1955 many thousands of drugs have shown activity in animal models, but by 1997 only 39 had won approval by the FDA. Alan Oliff, executive director for cancer research at Merck, cited the problem that "the (*animal*) model systems are not predictive at all."

Researchers blamed failure on the fact that drugs were being tested against mouse, not human, tumours. So from 1975 researchers came up with xenograft models whereby human tumours are implanted into mice that have been modified to accept the foreign tissue. These models fare no better because the grafted tumours do not behave like naturally occurring human ones. Drugs appearing effective in these models worked poorly in humans. Edward Sausville of the National Cancer Institute sums it up as follows: "We had basically discovered good mouse drugs rather than good human drugs."

"These limitations have led the NCI, amongst others, to test drug candidates in cultures of human cells. The Institute now relies on a panel of 60 human tumour cell lines, including samples of all the major human malignancies."

#### Professor Claude Reiss - July 2004

<u>NB</u>: The problem is that so many other researchers, including cancer researchers, are still using animals.

In June 2012 the British Medical Journal (BMJ 2012:344:e3989) referred to a report by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices that the Institute calculated that in 2011 prescription drugs were associated with two to four million people in the US experiencing "serious, disabling, or fatal injuries, including 128,000 deaths."

The following is from a study by Jason Lazarou, published by the American Medical Association on 15 April 1998, 'Incidence of Adverse Drug Reactions in Hospitalized Patients':

"Every year, in the US, between 76,000 and 137,000 hospitalized patients die as a result of the drugs. Beyond that, every year 2.2 million hospitalized patients experience serious adverse reactions to the drugs."

# The following extracts are from a speech given by the late Hans Ruesch in April 1984 at the University of California, Los Angeles

"...Yesterday a friend told me a very good case. Now, let's assume you were a horse breeder, and suddenly all your horses took sick and some started to die and the others just lay down in misery. And let us assume a healer came in and said, ""I can cure your horses, and this is what I am going to do. I am going to transmit this horse sickness to human beings and then I am going to find a cure for your horses."" You would think that this man was either an idiot or a crook. And exactly this is being done in medical research today."

"The great British surgeon Lawson Tate who at the end of the last century developed practically all surgical techniques still in use today, gave up his experiments on animals. He became a clear enemy of animal experimentation. He published books and scientific papers stating that animal experimentation had misled him for years. Everything he had learned from the animals he had to relearn before he could operate on people..."

"I was in a Swiss laboratory, one of our giants in Baden, and I spoke to the head researcher there who didn't know what kind of book I was preparing; he thought I was going to glamorise our Swiss drugs industry. I asked what he thought of animal experiments. He told me definitely that he did not believe in animal experiments, that they were only misleading. He even gave me examples. And I asked him, Why do you do them? And he said, ""because we are a multi-national and we must show our protocols to the foreign regulatory agencies."" He didn't say, but I do know he meant America, because only America has the amendment. We in Switzerland have no obligation to test drugs on animals but we do it anyway just to be covered by this animal alibi."

"...An Italian researcher in a hospital in Milan, Pietro Croce is his name, published his book in Italy. Pietro Croce wrote a book showing why vivisection had not done one thing for medical science but only make it frustrated; by vivisection I mean animal experimentation in general. In a meeting in Turin last year where an Italian parliamentarian was present, Pietro Croce said a solemn pledge that if anybody could prove to him that a single medical conquest undisputedly through animal research had been of lasting value to human beings, and that although it had been done quicker and had more safety especially than other methods, he would give up his anti-vivisection campaign forever. And I immediately subscribed to his pledge, and I'm repeating it now. After my 'Slaughter of the Innocent' came out in Italy, the leading Italian papers published my challenges to the vivisection community to meet me in public debate on a national network and to let the listeners decide on the outcome. I accept the challenge and I am repeating it now.

This is why you must ask for abolition, just as the I initiative in Switzerland which is going to the polls probably next year. The government has been stalling since 1980 when we gathered the necessary signatures. The government doesn't know what to do to serve our chemical industry but the government just can't stay out of it. We are going to the polls. The answer is abolition. Not controls, because we have controls for 100 years with the results we have seen..."

"My friends, in the cause of modern medicine, animal experimentation is dead. It has been dead for a long time but the jokers in charge of research pretend they don't know. It is time that all this nonsense ceased. It is time to bury the corpse lest the stench poison us all. It is time to ask for the abolition of vivisection now, not in 200 years."

"I thank you."

#### Hans Ruesch - April 1984

"Hans Ruesch's magnificent book washes away the thin excuses of doctor-apologists for animal testing. Comprehensively and carefully documented, objective, yet emotionally compelling."

#### Robert Mendelsohn, M.D.

In another of his books, titled 'Naked Empress', Hans Ruesch exposed the bias of the mass media towards the pharmaceutical companies, their owners and backers. He also spoke of some of those who had attempted to expose them, one of whom was Dr Anna Kingsford, Britain's first woman doctor who made the following comment:

"The spiritual malady that rages in the soul of the vivisector is in itself sufficient to render him incapable of acquiring the highest and best knowledge. He finds it easier to propagate and multiply disease than to discover the secret of health. Seeking for the germs of life, he invents only new methods of death."