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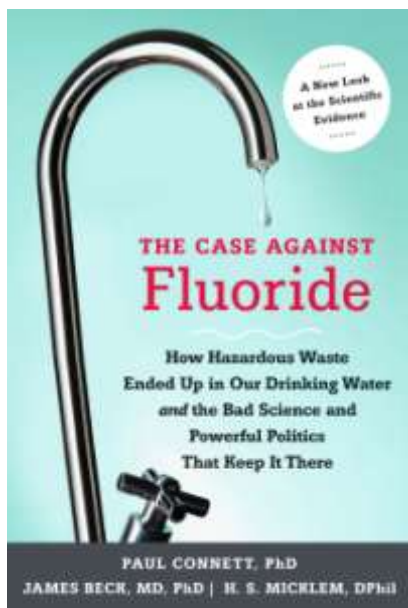
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IN THIS ISSUE: THREE PROFESSORS WRITE NEW BOOK, DR PAUL CONNETT TO ATTEND AGM, JUDICIAL REVIEW IN JANUARY, GLASGOW KIDS' TEETH IMPROVE BUT EIRE AND USA'S STILL BAD, ANOTHER UK OVERFEED, RECENT ACTIVITIES, AUSTRALIAN PROTESTS & MORE...

New fluoridation book published



Three Emeritus Professors have jointly produced a new book against fluoridation. Dr Paul Connett is the Director of the Fluoride Action Network (FAN). He holds a BS (Honours) degree from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in chemistry from Dartmouth College. He is an Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at St Lawrence University, Canton, NY, where his areas of expertise were environmental chemistry and toxicology.

Dr James S Beck is a Professor Emeritus of Medical Biophysics at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada and holds doctorates in medicine from Washington University School of Medicine and biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr H Spedding Micklem is a Professor Emeritus in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of

Edinburgh, Scotland. He holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford.

An excellent Review of the book, by Dr C Vyvyan Howard, MB ChB, PhD, FRCPath, Professor of Bio-imaging at the Centre for Molecular Biosciences, University of Ulster, is included in *Fluoride*, the journal of the International Society for Fluoride Research 43(3):170-173. Dr Howard is a toxico-pathologist specialising in problems associated with the action of toxic substances on the foetus and the infant. To read the review please access - <http://tinyurl.com/3a2u3xh>

Connett P, Beck J, Micklem HS. *The case against fluoride: how hazardous waste ended up in our drinking water and the bad science and powerful politics that keep it there*. Paperback; 348 pages; ISBN-13:9781603582872. Published by Chelsea Green Publishing, 85 North Main Street, Suite 120, White River Jct., Vermont 05001, USA. Available from bookshops price £14.99. Order at your local library too, so it's there for others when returned.

Dr Connett to address NPWA's 2010 AGM

Dr Paul Connett will attend NPWA's AGM in York on 23 October. He will address members and present the new book: *The case against fluoride: how hazardous waste ended up in our drinking water and the bad science and powerful politics that keep it there*.

Connett Southampton meeting a success

A meeting held by Hampshire Against Fluoridation at Southampton Solent University on 11 September attracted some 150 people. Dr Connett (below) told the assembly that fluoridation is based on politics not science, it is a bad medical practice, it is ineffective, and it poses many potential health risks for which there is a totally inadequate margin of safety. These are the themes of Dr Connett's new book which he chose to launch at the meeting.

Dr Connett praised the Daily Echo's wonderful coverage of the fluoridation issue which, he said, was educating politicians and the public by being read across the world. He presented Fluoride Action Network's 2009 Albert Burgstahler Award for



Scientific Integrity to Dr Jennifer Luke in recognition of her courage in researching and publishing the studies showing that fluoride accumulates in the human pineal gland (Luke, 2001) and that it lowers melatonin production in animals. Read Luke's 1997 thesis, *The Effect of Fluoride on the Physiology of the Pineal Gland* at - <http://fluoridealert.org/luke-1997.pdf>

SCSHA Judicial Review to be heard in January

The Judicial Review of South Central SHA's decision to fluoridate Southampton and parts of south-west Hampshire will take place on 11 January at the High Court, London.

Recent Activities

This year we have held stands at three two-day Health and Healing Festivals, in Bridlington, Buxton and Harrogate. We changed our stand for our fiftieth anniversary year with a golden theme. These events give us an opportunity to speak to the public, who mainly agree with our viewpoint on fluoridation. We distribute our literature and encourage people to join us.

On 2 June, the Chairman gave an illustrated talk to the Probus Group in Penistone. Members of the Executive Committee have attended the AGMs of three water companies, Severn Trent, Anglia and Northumbrian Water. In each case we asked questions and ensured that the subject of fluoridation was given an airing.

We were very much saddened in May to hear of the death of Hari Selvadurai, a member of the Executive Committee. We sent a message of condolence to Hari's family and the Chairman and two Executive Members attended Hari's funeral in Golders Green. Hari was much loved and we greatly miss her wisdom and her charm.

In July we sent a delegate to the Fluoride Action Network's 2010 Conference in the USA. The theme this year was "Campaigning – What works and what doesn't".

Over the past eighteen months, we have been sending information to the EU's Scientific Committee for Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER). The Committee's draft report - *Critical review of any new evidence on the hazard profile, health effects, and human exposure to fluoride and the fluoridating*

agents of drinking water was issued in June, together with an invitation to participate in a consultation on its content. We have sent SCHER a submission, pointing out where we disagree with their analysis and we sent two delegates to the meeting they arranged on 17 September in Brussels. The international campaign against fluoridation was well-represented at the meeting with other delegates from the US, Eire, Northern Ireland and Austria, all of whom have sent submissions to SCHER. We await developments.

Another fluoride overfeed

Overdosing of fluorosilicic acid occurred at Anglian Water's Newspring works in Bedfordshire intermittently over a period of two weeks in August 2009. The cause was the temporary linking of the chemical dosing equipment to the raw water flow meter, when the final water flow meter needed repairs. The result was that, when the iron removal pressure filters backwashed, the chemical dosing system received an incorrect elevated flow signal which caused overdosing of fluorosilicic acid for several minutes each day.

The Inspector found that high fluoride alarm settings at Newspring works were not compliant with the *Code of Practice on Technical Aspects of Fluoridation*, therefore the dosing equipment did not shut down in a timely manner. The water company's staff missed numerous warnings which should have enabled them to identify this event: an elevated sample result, the automatic shutdown of the plant on two occasions, and numerous alarms received at the control centre.

Anglian Water has now checked all its fluoridation equipment against the requirements of the *Code of Practice* and addressed non-conformities. The Inspector says "The event serves to reinforce to companies the importance of compliance at all times with the requirements of the Code of Practice including the training of all relevant staff. In the light of two overdosing events in two consecutive years the Inspectorate is considering the status of the Code of Practice, and whether it should be made statutory in the future."

Source: *Drinking water 2009: A report by the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water Eastern region of England*, July 2010.

We reported on an earlier overdose by Severn Trent in *Watershed* Vol 15, No 2, just a year ago.

Glasgow improves childhood tooth decay rates – without fluoridation! 13 Jul 2010

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) has reported that after an investment of £7 million in oral hygiene almost 60% of 11-year-olds in the city were given a clean bill of health during dental check-ups—2500 more than in 2005 and a 19% improvement. The number of hospital admissions for dental extractions has been slashed by 1000 in five years.

Tooth brushing sessions in nurseries and schools and a fluoride varnishing programme (underwritten by cash incentives to dentists) are said to be the main reasons for the drop in tooth decay. The figures also show 93% of Glasgow children are registered with an NHS dentist compared with a Scottish average of 84%.

The health board is still in favour of adding fluoride to the city's water supply but is not actively campaigning to persuade government bodies to fluoridate.

Mr Frank McAveety MSP (Labour) recently asked the Scottish Executive whether it plans to consider water fluoridation. In a Scottish Parliament Written Answer of 27 July 2010, Shona Robison MSP (SNP), Minister for Public Health and Sport, replied that there are currently no plans to fluoridate the public water supply in Scotland.

Fluoride protester cut from chains goes on hunger strike

On 26 July, anti-fluoride protestor Alex Young chained himself to the entrance gates of the waterworks in Mount Gambier, South Australia, to prevent workmen on the fluoridation plant from entering. He was there overnight but next day police informed him that he was breaking the law by obstructing traffic. They demanded he unchain himself but Alex told them he did not have the necessary key. They then cut him free and arrested him.

Alex was charged at Mount Gambier Magistrates Court with unreasonably obstructing the path of a driver on the Blue Lake Pumping Station Access Road, an offence which normally carries an on-the-spot fine of twenty-one Australian

Dollars. Alex asked the Court for their view on human rights and said "It would be nice to go home – it was cold last night."

The Magistrate said "I am not minded to impose restrictions on his liberty. A day in custody is penalty enough." He dismissed the case without imposing a criminal conviction or further penalty, but ordered Alex to pay an A\$80 levy and advised him not to return to the waterworks.

Alex subsequently declared himself on hunger strike but after seventeen days was persuaded to give up, at a rally of supporters. The crowd of around 100 people cheered for him to break his 17-day strike; one Mount Gambier resident said the community needed Alex alive to continue fighting. He agreed to eat again in return for cooperation from his supporters for a "people's mandate" against the State Government. He hopes to raise at least ten thousand signatures. He also called for donations to take his case to the Supreme Court and for "any damn lawyer in Mount Gambier who has the guts to fight for the people" to represent him voluntarily for the public good. Alex said that his first food was "a sip of pumpkin soup" which "tasted beautiful". He had lost 10.5 kilogrammes in weight and had been hospitalised twice with stomach pains.

On 6 July 2005, South Australia's Department of Health (now SA Health) advertised a public consultation meeting on oral health in the *Border Watch*, Mount Gambier's local paper. No mention of water fluoridation was made in the advert.

In early 2007 the news that Mount Gambier would be fluoridated began to hit the headlines. Members of group *Network Against Fluoride* attended a Council Meeting on Tuesday 13 March 2007 and expressed concerns at the lack of public consultation. As a result the City Council wrote a letter to SA Health Minister John Hill requesting more information and public participation. Minister Hill's reply dated 27 May 2007 was of the vein "you had your chance to have your say at the 2005 public meeting". The Council was informed that the State Government had planned fluoridation for towns with above 1000 residents since 1986 and considered there had been sufficient discussion of the

issue. Fluoridation of Mount Gambier's water would proceed. Subsequently building work commenced on a fluoridation plant near to the Blue Lake.

At the time of going to press, we understand that fluoridation of Mount Gambier's water is imminent. Ann Bressington MLC (Member of the Legislative Council, South Australia's Parliamentary Upper House) has called upon Health Minister John Hill and SA Health's Principal Water Quality Adviser Dr David Cunliffe to attend a public meeting on 9 October to address residents' concerns. Several doctors opposing fluoridation are expected to address the meeting. Ms Bressington is calling for a Parliamentary Inquiry into the apparent refusal by SA Water to release documents regarding the quality of the fluoridation chemical. She has also promised to lead another street protest.

There was, however, a moment of humour when, on 13 March this year, a rally in support of fluoridation proved a complete flop as the organiser walked Mount Gambier's Commercial Street entirely alone!

Elizabeth McDonagh writes - Mount Gambier, South Australia (declared a city in 1954) is a settlement of some 25,000 inhabitants set in a unique and ancient landscape of volcanic craters, lakes, limestone rocks and underground waterways. It is situated between Adelaide and Melbourne.

The Blue Lake, the source of water supply for the city and surrounds, is just one of the lakes within the three craters of an extinct volcano. Each year in November, it mysteriously changes colour to an unbelievable turquoise blue. From March each year it gradually makes the change back to its more sombre winter blue which is still a magnificent sight.

When, in 1993, I visited the waterworks on the edge of the Blue Lake, I was told that the water was considered among the best in Australia. It was simply filtered before distribution by gravity as the lake is well above the city. There were at that time no plans to fluoridate.

I have learned recently that when Adelaide was fluoridated in February 1971 it was decided that Mount Gambier would NOT be fluoridated. This was mainly due to the efforts of Ms Helen Lesley Gebhardt who had

campaigned since the mid 1960s against water fluoridation.

Coalition in no hurry to repeal fluoridation law

There is anger and disappointment at the coalition Government's failure to change the law with regard to fluoridation. On 7 June 2010, Dr Julian Lewis MP asked the Secretary of State for Health whether it remains his policy that fluoridation of the water supply in Totton and Southampton should not take place without the consent of a majority of the local population. The reply, given by Simon Burns MP, Minister of State for Health, was as follows: "Section 58 of the Water Act 2003 empowers strategic health authorities (SHAs) to contract with water undertakers to fluoridate a water supply after conducting public consultations. It is essential that any consultation gives people a real opportunity to make their views known and that those views are taken into account before a final decision is made. The decision by South Central SHA to approve the fluoridation of water supplies to the Southampton area is the subject of a judicial review, which is likely to be heard in the autumn, and so due to the legal challenge the Department is unable to comment."

Local authorities are expected to take over the duties of the unelected Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) when, as the Government has promised, the SHAs are abolished in 2012. Councillors may be less likely than SHAs to impose fluoridation on an unwilling public.

Many of our members and supporters participated in Nick Clegg's *Your freedom* website by signing Hampshire Against Fluoridation's call for repeal of Section 58 of the Water Act 2003 and associated Statutory Instruments. The *Your freedom* website is now closed but it has been stored by the National Archive on their website – <http://tinyurl.com/2wzdsaa> Details of HAF's request can accessed at – <http://tinyurl.com/34wpug3>

One of our members delivered a letter by hand to Nick Clegg's constituency office in Sheffield. He was subsequently told that the correspondence had been lost. If you decide to write to the Government on this issue we suggest you copy the correspondence and send it

'Recorded Delivery'. It is best to write to your own MP. The address to use is: House of Commons London SW1A 0AA. Or you can email via – www.theyworkforyou.com

Dentist using banned implants 13 June 2010

Some dentists are allegedly using cheap 'fake gold' (copper-aluminium) alloys for crowns, bridges and dental implants, in order to make more money. Fake-gold alloys first came on to the market in the 1990s as a response to an escalation in the price of gold. At the time, there was no internationally accepted way to test their corrosion resistance. When a test was introduced, it showed that the vast majority of 'fake gold' alloys corrode far more readily than precious-metal alloys and release potentially toxic metal ions into the mouth. The use of such alloys by NHS dentists was banned.

Under the new dental contracts introduced in 2006, dentists are paid a monthly salary in return for a pre-agreed number of units of dental activity (UDAs). A crown or a bridge counts for 12 UDAs, currently worth £190. This payment covers all material costs, which means a dentist makes more profit if he uses cheaper materials.

One dentist was struck off in May after he was found guilty of claiming thousands of pounds for NHS dental work he never carried out, and for failing to act in the best interests of his patients. This followed a criminal conviction for obtaining money by deception, which included fraudulently using fake-gold alloys. The NHS Counter Fraud Service is believed to be investigating two further cases.

There is no way of knowing how widely the use of fake-gold fillings has spread as the NHS no longer collects information on it. It is said that UK laboratories are making thousands of gold-coloured dental implants every year at a fraction of the price of real gold. Cheaper products may be imported from countries such as China.

New EU rules intended to oblige dentists to give patients written information about the composition and source of their dental appliances were modified after lobbying from the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which

said it would struggle to enforce them.

New bid to reduce tooth decay in Eire's children

13 Sept 2010

Fluoridation has been mandatory in Eire since 1964 and the practice now affects approximately 70% of the country. In the greater Dublin area, a whopping 2294 children were given general anaesthetic in 2008 for teeth to be extracted. Twenty-two per cent of these children were under four years old. The country's Health Research Board is to fund a new research project to develop an intervention designed to increase the frequency of tooth brushing among disadvantaged children from age two years in Ireland and to reduce the high incidence of tooth decay and extraction in the under fours. As most tooth decay is found among the less well off, the Board believes that targeting this group will have a positive effect.

Source: Evening Herald, Ireland.

Paediatric Dental Caries in the US: Current Status

The Colgate Oral Care Report, Vol 20, No 2, carried a revealing article on the state of paediatric dental health in the USA. The article included the following: "Oral disease, including dental caries, is the most common pediatric disease and a significant cause of morbidity in adulthood. As much as half of American children have caries. Reducing caries prevalence among children was one of the objectives defined in the *Healthy People 2010* initiative. However, this objective is far from being achieved; recent epidemiological data suggest that caries prevalence is increasing in the US. Several reports of child deaths due to complications of oral disease were recorded in the last decade. Further, tooth decay has been identified as a silent epidemic.

Recent data also show that thirty percent of American adults aged 65 years and older have lost their teeth, consequently living with an impaired quality of life and altered self-image. This was mostly attributed to poor oral healthcare during childhood, consistent with a recent World Health Organization report on altered immune responses and other health repercussions among adults who, as children, lived in poor environments with limited access to healthcare. Indeed, social, racial, and ethnic

disparities in oral health and access to care continue to be serious barriers to healthy living in the US. In 2000, the Surgeon General's report concluded that twenty-five percent of American children, most coming from low-income families with limited dental care access, carried eighty percent of the pediatric oral disease burden. The rate of tooth decay among children from ethnic and racial minorities and low-income families is three times higher than among white children and those with high income. Currently, over one hundred million people do not have dental insurance in the US. Further growth in oral health disparities can be expected if no action is taken to eliminate them."

So much for fluoridation helping the deprived! <http://tinyurl.com/35ku3jy>

50th Birthday card received

On our announcing the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of The National Pure Water Association by Lord Douglas of Barloch, we received a beautiful hand-made card (below) from member Jennie Symonds. This is the wording inside it "hope we won't be needing you by your 100th. (In 50 years time history may give you an honourable place in its books as successfully putting an end to fluoridating our water.) Lots of luck with it all. Jennie S."

Thank you, Jennie, for recognising the efforts of our Association in such a nice way. The Committee is grateful for all the support we get from our members.

