

August 1, 2003

Work Related Lung Disease Surveillance Report
Public Health Surveillance Team
Surveillance Branch
Division of Respiratory Disease Studies
NIOSH
1095 Willowdale Rd
Morgantown, W V 26505-2888

Dear Public Health Surveillance Team:

I want to congratulate and thank you for your fantastic accomplishment in the Work Related Lung Disease Surveillance Report, 2002.

This Report surpasses all the previous ones, and as before it provides important, reliable and fascinating new information on occupational lung disease in the United States. With this series of excellent reports, we have real national surveillance of occupational lung disease, coming into ever sharper focus. It was only a few years ago that we had nothing like this large data base-- your Report has made a huge leap forward.

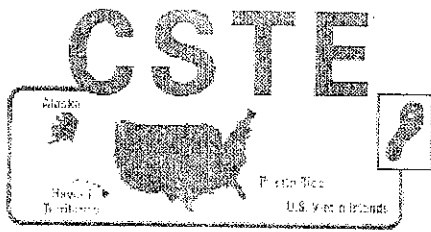
I will use this information in many ways in research and in teaching. I have already given copies to all our pulmonary fellowship trainees so that they will be aware of the importance of occupational lung diseases in our communities.

Thanks to all of you for what I appreciate was a huge and very successful effort in public health surveillance.

Sincerely,



William S. Beckett M.D., M.P.H.
Professor, Environmental Medicine and Medicine



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Patrick J. McConnon, MPH

March 22, 2006

David Weissman

Director, Division of Respiratory Disease Studies
1095 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

Dear Dr. Weissman,

CSTE is writing this letter in support of the Division of Respiratory Disease Studies to be included in the Division's National Academies portfolio review.

Since the early 1990s, CSTE has, in collaboration with NIOSH, created a forum for states to share their expertise and experiences in building surveillance and prevention programs and to develop a vision for a comprehensive nationwide approach to occupational health surveillance.

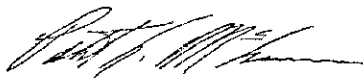
Through our cooperative agreement with CDC, NIOSH has supported a number of activities to assist state agencies in developing occupational health surveillance and prevention programs. Since 1996, this has included three significant initiatives:

- **Establishment of the NIOSH-States Surveillance Planning Work Group (Work Group) to provide state input to the NIOSH strategic planning process regarding state surveillance goals and activities.** In 2001, the Work Group published *The Role of States in a Nationwide, Comprehensive Surveillance System for Work-Related Diseases, Injuries, and Hazards*. This document outlined short-term and long-range visions for state-based surveillance activities and various approaches for allocating limited NIOSH funds to the states. It also identified surveillance issues that cut across specific conditions and made a number of recommendations to NIOSH for the implementation of a comprehensive nationwide occupational health surveillance system.
- **Development of Occupational Health Indicators (OHIs) for surveillance.** Between 2001 and 2003, the Work Group identified and developed a set of recommended OHIs that would allow states to uniformly collect and report on the occupational health status of the state population. The OHIs represent a core set of data that, if collected at the state level, would assist in the development of programs to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. The OHIs are now a required activity of NIOSH funded Fundamental Programs for state-based occupational health surveillance.
- **An annual state-based occupational health surveillance meeting held in conjunction with the CSTE Annual Conference.** These meetings provide an opportunity for state-based occupational epidemiologists to interact with other CSTE members and NIOSH program staff. It brings a stronger and more prominent focus to occupational safety and health among the CSTE membership as a whole, and fosters collaboration between occupational health and other public health disciplines.

NIOSH has played a leadership role in these activities, including several individuals from the Division of Respiratory Disease Studies: Margaret Filios, Robert Castellan, and Patricia Schleiff from the Division of Respiratory Disease Studies. These individuals have offered invaluable technical advice in developing the OHIs and consultation identifying surveillance priorities and emerging occupational health issues.

As state and federal agencies have essential and complementary roles, continued partnership between NIOSH and CSTE is important in building nationwide capacity for occupational health surveillance. CSTE looks forward to an ongoing collaboration with NIOSH and the Division of Respiratory Disease Studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick McConnon", written in a cursive style.

Patrick McConnon
CSTE Executive Director