



November 24, 2009

Dear Dr. Riegel:

You are receiving this letter because you cared enough about other people to volunteer for a study of persons who have been exposed to asbestos or asbestos - containing materials. One of the major complaints heard from volunteers is that they never really know what good resulted from their contribution. The purpose of the letter is to tell you of just a few of the concrete advances in medicine that have been made as a result of your participation in our studies.

In August of this year we published a paper in the International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health reporting the probable reason why pleural plaques-thickening of the covering of the lungs sometimes cause terrible, unrelenting pain. This discovery will help us to better treat this pain. In the same article, we discussed the case of a young girl who ultimately developed asbestosis by being exposed to the taconite dust on her fathers' work clothes.

In January of 2008, we published an article along with our colleague, Dr. Harvey Pass, in Annals of Thoracic Surgery which described the value of a blood test that has been performed on many of our patients here at Karmanos in screening for Mesothelioma, the very aggressive cancer caused by asbestos. In March of 2007, we published updates to the 2004 guidelines that all physicians should use when diagnosing and managing asbestos related diseases.

We also published an article in the October 2005 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine which identified another blood test which can help in the early diagnosis of Mesothelioma.

We have recently developed a new, enhanced way of imaging the chest which makes structure almost as clear as photographs. There are more exciting milestones ahead which we expect to meet largely as a result of your willingness to participate in medical research.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

John J. Graff, PhD, MS
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Karmanos Cancer Institute