

Boyle, Coleen

From: Boyle, Coleen
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2002 2:10 PM
To: Schendel, Diana
Cc: Cordero, Jose
Subject: RE: Autism thimerosal paper - cover letter

I will prepare the letter for Jose's signature -- but won't get to it until next week. I would suggest that it accompany the submission as support of the importance of the work. I can fedex it so it arrives late next week.

Jose: We need to discuss. thx

Coleen Boyle, Ph.D.
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National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 4770 Buford Hwy, NE Atlanta, GA 30341 (770)488-7366 Fx:(770)488-7156 cboyle@cdc.gov <mailto:cboyle@cdc.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Schendel, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2002 9:44 AM
To: Boyle, Coleen
Subject: FW: Autism thimerosal paper - cover letter

Hi Coleen,

I read through this quickly and what do you think? If you want to prepare the letter, I could take it with me -
- whichever they prefer).

Let me know - thanks, Diana

PS - Poul (and still today) so we didn't talk about HL and meningitis - stay tuned.

Diana Schendel, PhD.
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-----Original Message-----

From: Poul Thorsen [mailto:pt@SOCI.AU.DK]
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2002 6:02 AM
To: Schendel, Diana
Subject: Autism thimerosal paper - cover letter

Dear Diana,

Her are the latest versions and the figure still need to be updated, but will be. Marlene believes ~~_____~~ Could you or Coleen write a cover-letter underlining the importance of getting this information out now? Please do not mention the Journals name, as it is not finalized, ~~_____~~ Could you bring the letter, when you come? See you soon!

Thank you!

Best regards
Poul

Boyle, Coleen

From: Boyle, Coleen
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2002 3:47 PM
To: Cordero, Jose
Subject: FW: letter of support for Danish study -- for Jose's review and cmt (and signature)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Boyle, Coleen
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2002 2:51 PM
To: Magyar, Pat; Cordero, Jose
Cc: Yeargin-Alsopp, Marshelyn; Chavez, Gilbert
Subject: letter of support for Danish study -- for Jose's review and cmt (and signature)



autism_thimerosal_
danishstuds...

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December 10, 2002

Jerold F. Lucey, M.D.
Editor in Chief
PEDIATRICS
University of Vermont
College of Medicine
Pediatrics Editorial Office
89 Beaumont Avenue, GIVEN D201
Burlington, Vermont 05405 - 0068

Dear Dr. Lucey:

I am writing in support of an expedited review and consideration of the enclosed manuscript that examines the association between thimerosal, an ethyl mercury containing preservative, and autism. As you may know, there has been considerable interest by parents, clinicians, educators, and policy makers for an explanation of the marked increase in the rate of autism in recent years. A University of Davis study released in October of children identified through the California developmental disabilities service system, reemphasized the upward trend in autism and the lack of understanding as to the cause.

One factor hypothesized to have a causal role is childhood vaccinations. Specific aspects of vaccinations that have been subject to inquiry include the MMR vaccine and thimerosal. There are now numerous epidemiologic studies to suggest that the MMR vaccine is not associated with the risk of autism; an Institute of Medicine review that was published in 2000 concluded that the weight of the scientific evidence did not support a link between MMR vaccine and autism.

For thimerosal, however, there are limited data to evaluate this factor. Because mercury in its inorganic form is known to have serious neurologic effects, many parents have speculated that the increased number of vaccines (many of which contained thimerosal) may have been a significant factor in the recent rise in autism. The Danish study is a powerful epidemiologic study of this issue and capitalizes on the Danish health registry system that incorporates all health encounters into disease and exposure specific registries. In addition, a key strength of the study is the ability to examine rates of autism prior to and after the *discontinuation* of vaccines containing thimerosal in Denmark in 1992. Contrary to what would be expected if thimerosal was linked to autism, the authors did not observe a decline in the rate of autism with the removal of thimerosal containing vaccines.