

September 2013

Bret Wise, Chief Executive Officer
Dentsply International
York, Pennsylvania USA
cc--Dentsply's Regional Offices worldwide

Will Dentsply protect the environment of developing nations?

Dear Mr. Wise:

As a leading dental amalgam manufacturer, Dentsply is a major source of mercury in our environment. Between 313 and 411 tons of mercury is consumed annually around the globe for use in dental amalgam, accounting for 10% of mercury consumption. This significant amount of mercury eventually enters our environment via many different pathways. For example, Dentsply's dental amalgam is polluting:

- 1) Air via cremation, sludge incineration, and respiration
- 2) Water via dental clinic releases and human waste
- 3) Soil via landfills, burials, and sewage sludge that is spread on agricultural lands as fertilizer

Once dental amalgam is in the environment, microorganisms can change elemental mercury into methylmercury, a highly toxic form that builds up in fish, shellfish and animals that eat fish. Methylmercury can damage children's developing brains and nervous systems even before they are born.

The new Minamata Convention on Mercury requires phasing down the use of amalgam – an unnecessary and tooth-damaging filling material, dentists worldwide tell us. But as wealthier nations reject this mercury product, amalgam is increasingly dumped on developing nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America – which have fewer resources to address the harms caused by dental mercury pollution.

Dentsply already makes many affordable, high-quality alternatives to dental amalgam. To protect our environment, we -- the undersigned NGOs from six continents -- urge Dentsply to start promoting the use of these mercury-free dental filling materials and to *stop selling amalgam in developing nations*. Will Dentsply take this most basic step to help prevent developing nations from becoming a dumping ground for dental mercury?

The NGO list follows below.

Sincerely,*

Dominique Bally, Abidjan

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Dhaka

María Cárcamo, Montevideo

Charlie Brown, Washington

**Please reply to one of the above:*

Mr. Bally: 01 BP 1660 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire; jve.ivoire@yahoo.fr

Dr. Hossain: House # 8/1, Block-C, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh; shahriar25@gmail.com

Ms. Carcamo: Colorado 2127, Montevideo 11800, Uruguay; coord@rapaluguay.org

Mr. Brown: 316 F St., N.E., #210, Washington DC 20002, USA; charlie@toxicteeth.org

Africa

Gilbert Kuepou Ph.D., Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (Cameroun)

Dr. Hemsing Hurrynag, Pesticide Action Network (Mauritius)

Paul Saoke, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) Kenya

Rico Euripidou, groundwork - Friends of the Earth South Africa

Haji T. Rehani, AGENDA for Environmental and Responsible Development (Tanzania)

Leslie Adogame, Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (Nigeria)

Dr. Najwa Bourawi, Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte (Tunisia)

Sena ALOUKA, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement International Secretariat (Togo)

Ellady Muyambi, Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control

Adetonah Sounkoura, Ph.D., Groupe d'Action Pour la Protection et la Promotion de la Faune et de la Flore (Benin)

Emmanuel Odjam-Akumatey, Ecological Restorations, Ghana

Ange Baimey & Dominique Bally, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (Côte d'Ivoire)

Asia

Ram Charitra Sah, Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (Nepal)

Dr. Mohammed Salsabil Ibne Shamin and Dr. Saiful Alam, Bangladesh Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry

Takeshi Yasuma, Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution (Japan)

Richard Gutierrez, BAN Toxics! (Philippines)

Yuyun Ismawati, BaliFokus, Indonesia

Mageswari Sangaralingam, Consumers' Association of Penang (Malaysia)

Dr. Naji Kodeih, IndyACT (Lebanon)

Satish Sinha, Toxics Link (India)

S.M. Mohamed Idris, Sahabat Alam (Friends of the Earth) Malaysia

Dr. Manvelyan Elena, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

Dr. Lillian Lasaten-Ebuen, IAOMT Philippines and East Asian region, World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Environment and Social Development Organization (Bangladesh)

Oceania

Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith PhD (Law) National Toxics Network (Australia)

Dr. Lisa Matriste, Australians for Mercury-Free Dentistry

Imogen Ingram, Island Sustainability Alliance (Cook Islands)

Elizabeth O'Brien, Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group Inc (Australia)

Juliet Pratt, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, Oceania Region (New Zealand)

South America

Lilian Corra, Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente

Zuleica Nycz, Associação de Proteção ao Meio Ambiente de Cianorte (Brazil)

Maria Cárcamo, RAPAL Uruguay

North America

Fernando Bejarano González, Centro de Acción sobre Tóxicos y sus Alternativas en México

Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council (the Americas)

Anna Tilman, Canadian chapter, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry

Michael Bender, Mercury Policy Project (U.S.)

Kathleen Burns, Ph.D., Sciencecorps (U.S.)

Perry Gottesfeld, Executive Director, OK International (U.S.)

Eric Uram, Safe Minds (U.S.)

Senator Charlotte Pritt, State and Local Public Officials Mercury-Free Caucus (U.S.)

Darree Sicher, United Sludge Free Alliance (U.S.)

Jim Turner, Citizens for Health (U.S.)

Sylvia Dove, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, International headquarters

Charles G. Brown, Consumers for Dental Choice (U.S.)

Europe

Olga Speranskaya, Eco-Accord Russia

Geoffrey Begon, Non Au Mercure Dentaire (France)

Dino Pische, la Academia Internazionale di Ordontoiatria (Italy)

Servando Pérez-Domínguez, PhD, MERCURIADOS (Spain)

Hanna Schudy, EKO-UNIA (Poland)

Dr. Graeme Munro-Hall, IAOMT-Europe

Dr. Bent Christiansen, Danish Association of Orthomolecular Medicine

Dr. Peter Ohnsorge, European Academy for Environmental Medicine e.V.

Professor Lars Hylander (Sweden)

Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, European Environmental Bureau (European Union /Belgium)

Csulak Eva, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, Hungary Chapter

Dr. David Harvie-Austin, British Society for Mercury-Free Dentistry

Trine Jørgensen, Danish Association for Non-toxic Dentistry

Reinhard Lauer, Bundesverband der Beratungsstellen für Umweltgifte, insbesondere Amalgam, Schwermetalle und Holzschutzmittel e.V. (Germany)

Henrik E. Kock, Nobody needs mercury! (Denmark)

Margaretha Molius & Ann-Marie Lidmark, Swedish Association of Dental Mercury Patients

Florian Schulze, Centrum fuer AmalgamToxikologie Berlin (Germany)

Marie Grosman, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, Europe Region