

[://www.fluorideACTION.net](http://www.fluorideACTION.net)

<http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=91857>

Another bombshell has dropped into the fluoride-bone cancer story.

Harvard Professor alleged to have attempted to cover-up his graduate student's PhD findings.

The Environmental Working Group (ewg) has just dropped another bombshell into the fluoride-bone cancer story. They are charging that Harvard Professor Chester Douglass has attempted to cover-up his graduate student's PhD findings. The charge appears today in the Boston Herald (see below). Thus, for those who were wondering why it was that Elise Bassin's important finding has not seen the light of day in the FOUR YEARS since her PhD was successfully defended in 2001, this maybe the explanation (see <http://www.ewg.org> for a discussion of Bassin's thesis). Bassin found that young boys being exposed to fluoride in their 6th, 7th and 8th years have a seven fold increase in osteosarcoma (see the FAN homepage for more on the thesis).

We are not talking here of just little old academic paper - we are talking about a thesis - which if held correct - means that young boys are dying because the dental profession wants to reduce tooth decay. Such a matter is of such vital importance for all parents that this issue should have been made public immediately Bassin's thesis had been successfully defended. But Douglass didn't do so. Why?

In addition to Chester Douglass receiving enormous amounts of taxpayers' money to investigate this matter, he is also a consultant for Colgate. He edits their monthly "Oral Health Report." With such a glaring conflict of interest - Colgate has been manufacturing fluoridated toothpaste for years and pays a huge attention to marketing to kids (there latest little gimmick is a tube which plays a little tune when you take the top off! http://www.epinions.com/pr-Bath_Hygiene_Accessories-Colgate_Children_s_Fluoride_Toothpaste_With_Musical_Cap_Baby_Looney_Tunes) - it is surprising that it was Douglass who was chosen to be the recipient of so much public money to oversee research into this controversial area.

Whether, Douglass was serving the interests of Colgate or some other master, the truth is that when given the opportunity to talk about the issue in public he has denied any connection between fluoridation and osteosarcoma. For example, in 2002, after Bassin's thesis had been accepted, Douglass spoke before a meeting organized by the British Fluoridation Society, held at the Royal College of Physicians in London. Along with Hoover, of the National Cancer Institute, he specifically rejected any connection between osteosarcoma and fluoridation, and somehow failed to mention Bassin's work!

When he was asked to summarize his work for the NRC committee reviewing the toxicology of fluoride in water in 2004, his summary somehow fails to discuss Bassin's findings, although he partially covered his tracks (plausible deniability?) by listing her thesis in the list of references.

Another key question is why - year after year - public money has been put into Douglass's work on osteosarcoma and fluoridation, when he has published practically

nothing on the subject. He published a short abstract 10 years ago which claimed no connection between osteosarcoma and fluoridation, promising a full paper to follow. It never came, and nothing else from Douglass on the subject since!

In actual fact, it was Bassin's re-examination of Douglass's data from 1995, which led to her remarkable finding. Not only did her careful examination based upon the year in which children were exposed yield her important finding, but it also partially explains why other epidemiological studies have failed to find this connection.

It would appear that rather than acknowledge this to the public, Douglass has scurried around with his friends in the cancer and dental establishment to cover this story up.

It is important that Bassin not be made another victim of such shenanigans. Her work is important. It is robust. It deserves to be published without further delay.

As far as Douglass is concerned, here is a classic case of scientific integrity at its worst. If this does not make those who promote fluoridation blink what will?
Paul Connett

The Boston Herald story.

<http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=91857>

Claim: Doctor fudged fluoride findings

By **Jessica Heslam**

Tuesday, June 28, 2005 - Updated: 05:00 AM EST

An environmental watchdog group plans to file a complaint today with federal medical authorities claiming a Harvard doctor is fudging research findings.

The Washington, D.C.-based Environmental Working Group said Dr. Chester Douglass reported no link between fluoride and bone cancer in boys, contradicting extensive research done by one of his doctoral students.

Douglass, a professor of epidemiology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, has been given grant money, possibly more than \$1 million, by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to research whether there is a link between fluoride and bone cancer in boys, the non-profit group alleges.

One of his dental doctoral students, Dr. Elise Bassin, did an extensive study that found a link between fluoridated tap water and bone cancer in adolescent boys, the

group said. Douglass was the lead adviser on her doctoral thesis and signed off on her research, the group claims.

Despite his student's findings, Douglass told federal health officials in his grant report that there is no correlation, according to the group. Douglass did not send the NIEHS the student's research but summarized it himself.

Douglass is the editor-in-chief of the Colgate Oral Care Report, a newsletter that goes to dentists and is supported by toothpaste manufacturer Colgate Palmolive.

Douglass could not be reached for comment last night. Bassin's research has never been published and access to it is restricted by Harvard, the group said.

``It sure seems pretty outrageous," said EWG spokesman Mike Casey. ``We're absolutely perplexed."

It appears Douglass violated federal research rules, according to the group's complaint, which they plan to file with the NIEHS.
