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(date)

SCIENTISTS TO HOLD COUNTER-CONFERENCE TO MCGILL'S ONE SIDED CONFERENCE

Public invited to hear critical information regarding McGill's asbestos research and "investigation malfeasance"

Attleboro, MA – Canadian and American researchers announced today that they will hold a conference on January 7, 2013 at 5:15 PM in the Gold Room at McGill University's Faculty Club, to present critical information to the public regarding McGill's ongoing refusal to address damning evidence of asbestos research improprieties and improper conduct by former Chair of McGill's Epidemiology Department, Dr. Corbett McDonald.

"McGill has refused all requests for an independent inquiry into complaints on this matter," said Dr. David Egilman. "Instead, after an inadequate and self-serving internal investigation, McGill presented a report that contained biased, inaccurate and misleading information and dismissed the complaints.

"This is a shameful cover-up, that shows a continuing sad lack of integrity on the part of McGill on the asbestos issue," said Egilman, who will present evidence of research malfeasance that McGill has deliberately ignored.

In February 2010, more than thirty scientists from around the world asked McGill "to carry out a thorough, independent and transparent investigation of the allegation that the Quebec asbestos industry had improper influence over the epidemiological research carried out by Prof. J. C. McDonald and his unit at McGill; that the research is flawed, lacks transparency and contains manipulated data; that requests for the study data to be released have been refused; that the research minimized the threat to health posed by chrysotile asbestos; and that Prof. McDonald and others at times denied that the asbestos industry was funding the research."

In addition to McGill's refusal to allow an independent investigation of this complaint, McGill is holding a Seminar on January 7, 2013 at which Dr. Bruce Case of McGill's Department of Epidemiology and a former colleague of Prof. McDonald will apparently present still another defense of McGill's asbestos research. Dr. Case claims to possess the missing data related to this research, but refuses to make the data public.

A number of scientists have written to McGill, noting that: "Many have expressed great dissatisfaction with how the asbestos research issues have been handled at McGill and continue to hope for full transparency". The scientists expressed a number of concerns regarding McGill's asbestos seminar and asked that McGill allow the other side of the issue to be heard at McGill.

Along with Dr. Egilman, Dr. Fernand Turcotte will make a presentation on the situation in Quebec regarding the risk to health posed by asbestos. His presentation is entitled *Amiante et risques pour la santé: la situation du Québec telle qu'établie par l'Institut National de la Santé Publique*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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