



Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health

EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

Winter 2013

Dr. Bruce W. Case

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Departments of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, and
School of Environment McGill University**

**Misrepresentation of Historical Fibre Research:
Retrospective Knowledge Translation of Epidemiological
Inquiry**

Monday, 7 January 2013

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Purvis Hall, 1020 Pine Ave. West, Room 25

ALL ARE WELCOME

ABSTRACT:

Epidemiological research linking disease outcomes and exposures to fibres dates from the late 1950's. There is poor knowledge and comprehension of this research and its vital role among current public health professionals and stakeholders, in part generational. This presentation (originally given in part by invitation at the 11th International Conference of the International Mesothelioma Interest Group, Boston, September 14, 2012) is part of an ongoing project the principal aims of which are to present correct historical information, identify sources of bias which have resulted in misinformation, and provide younger physicians and scientists with accurate information on the development and results of asbestos science.

BIO:

Dr. Case is Associate Professor of Pathology and Associate Member in the Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health Department as well as the McGill School of Environment. He obtained a diploma in Occupational Hygiene (Faculty of Graduate Studies, 1980) at McGill in the first year of that program, and worked as a post-doctoral fellow and instructor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, from 1980-83 performing some of the first studies on asbestos-mediated free radical release. Returning to McGill in 1983 he joined with Corbett and Alison McDonald, Patrick Sébastien, and later Ben Armstrong in the Dust Disease Research Unit: the focus of this group was the epidemiological study of diseases related to mineral fibre exposure using lung-retained fibre in exposure assessment. In 1986 he received the National Health Scholarship of NHRDP (Canada) for his work in the field. In 1988 he became Director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Center for Environmental Epidemiology (School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh).

At McGill since 1992 he has participated in and given lectures to workshops, and provided peer reviews and advice for national and international agencies and professional societies on the subject of the exposure assessment and health effects of mineral fibres, including NIOSH, the U.S. EPA, CDC (ATSDR), the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), NIEHS (USA), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), the American Thoracic Society (ATS), the Geological Society of America (GSA), the Collegium Ramazzini, etc. He was a Director and Treasurer of the Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health (CARWH) from 2005-2009. Dr. Case reviews publications for a wide variety of journals in general medicine, pathology, environmental and occupational medicine, industrial hygiene, and risk analysis. His peer-reviewed research on asbestos and other mineral fibre and particle exposures and related diseases has been funded by American and Canadian public agencies including the Quebec and American Lung Associations, FRSQ, INSPQ, United States EPA, MRC / CIHR, NCI Canada), and NHRDP/ Health Canada. Currently on sabbatical, he has a collaborative project with the National Cancer Institute (US) on asbestos exposure and lung cancer and is co-investigator in large studies of occupational cancer funded by CIHR and by the Cancer Research Society/ FROS. He has been an occasional consultant to North American Regulatory and other Agencies (e.g., EPA, ATSDR/ CDC. **NIEHS), Workman's Compensation boards in four Canadian provinces, to University investigators in other nations, to unions, to individual patients with asbestos-related disease(s), and to attorneys representing plaintiffs and/or defendants in asbestos litigation.**