



# University of Wisconsin Hospitals

CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

University of Wisconsin-Madison

1300 University Avenue • Madison, Wisconsin 53706

April 20, 1977

IN THE MATTER OF A RULE MAKING PROCEEDING CONCERNING LAETRILE

Docket #77N-004A

I, Dr. Ganick, pediatric hematologist-oncologist, assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, hereby make a statement concerning laetrile. I received my medical training at the Harvard School of Public Health and at the University of Wisconsin Medical School. I did further post graduate training at the University of Pittsburgh at the Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, and at the University of Rochester, Strong Memorial Hospital. I have attached a copy of my curriculum vitae as exhibit one.

As a pediatric hematologist oncologist, I take care of children who have tumors and leukemia as well as other blood diseases. In the last few months I have received many questions from patients and parents concerning laetrile. There are many stories of cures that are publicized on the public media and by word of mouth. Three of my patients have tried laetrile. One young lady with a rhabdomyosarcoma who had multiple metastases went down to Mexico for laetrile treatment. She died in the hotel room in Mexico. Another young man with osteogenic sarcoma with lung metastases went to Oklahoma for laetrile treatment. At the time he went to Oklahoma his metastases were stable. He had not shown any progression of disease for several months. He received injections of laetrile in Oklahoma and returned to Wisconsin. He is able to obtain oral laetrile from a health food store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When seen in clinic after going to Oklahoma, this young man demonstrated the same metastatic lesions in his lung, but no further progression. These metastatic areas could remain stable even without treatment. I do not think that laetrile actually stopped the progression of the disease. It has remained stable and this occurs sometimes even off any known chemotherapy. The third patient was a young man with leukemia in relapse. He went down to Mexico for several weeks to receive injections. The cost of this family to receive the injections was considerable, the price besides the expense of the trip and motel accommodations, they were charged about \$600.00 per week for the injections. He has returned to Wisconsin, and receives the injections of laetrile by his local physician. When seen in clinic this young man still demonstrated leukemia in relapse. The laetrile did nothing for his disease. He continues to progress and he will ultimately die from his leukemia. The story of this young man

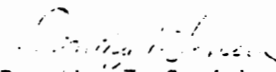
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was published in the Wisconsin papers and in fact a photographer went down with them to Mexico to narrate his story. I feel strongly that the denouement of his story should also be publicized on the public media, that the laetrile did nothing for the progression of his disease.

I think it is quite important for the FDA to make a statement on laetrile. There is so much hearsay information on laetrile given out to the general public. The patients and parents that I see are put in a very difficult position. They are desperate for anything to cure their cancer and the hope of cure with laetrile I think does more to unsettle these people. It comes under the category of "we did everything for our child" even to the point of foolishness in going after an unproven cure. I would really appreciate if the FDA could come out with some statement on laetrile and come out with some further facts on the testing of laetrile. I think this would be very helpful to eliminate the rumor that the United States government is trying to keep a cure for cancer out of the country. I feel it is criminal for people to make money on other people's desperate situations. Money is taken from these desperate people on the hope of a cure when there is no such thing. Instead of them wasting time going after these pipe dreams, it would be better for them to remain closer to their homes and come to peace with a very sad situation.

I hereby verify under penalty of perjury the foregoing statement is to the best of my knowledge true and correct.

Sincerely,

  
Dorothy J. Ganick  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Enclosure

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dorothy Joan Ganick, M.D.

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Center for Health Sciences  
Department of Pediatrics  
1300 University Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
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Home Address:

6251 Charing Cross Lane  
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562  
(608) 238-8741

Date of Birth: October 9, 1943

Birthplace: Boston Mass.

Social Security Number: 019-32-3844

Education

1961-1965 Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts, B.A.  
Magna Cum Laude  
1965-1967 Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts,  
M.S. in hygiene  
1967-1971 University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison,  
Wisconsin, M.D.

Clinical Training

1971-1972 Intern, Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
1972-1974 Resident, Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Specialty and Research Training

1974-1976 Fellow in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, University of  
Rochester, School of Medicine, Rochester, New York

Professional Positions

1976 - Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of  
Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

Awards and Honor Societies

Phi Beta Kappa (1965)  
Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, University of  
Wisconsin (1970)

Professional and Specialty Boards

Diplomat, National Board of Medical Examiners (1972)  
Diplomate, American Board of Pediatrics (1976)

PUBLICATIONS

Klemperer, M.R., Ganick, D.J., Shigeoka, A.O., Lee, H., and Segel, G.B.  
Attempted Treatment of a Child with Metastatic Neuroblastoma  
Employing Syngeneic Marrow Transplantation.  
Transplantation, 21, 161, 1976.

Ganick, D. J., Segel, G.B., L. J. Hirsch, and Klemperer, M. R.:  
Blood Clearance and Organ Uptake of Damaged Red Cells in  
Normal and Splenectomized Mice - Clin Res 24, 308A, 1976  
(Abstract)

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