



State University of New York
Health Science Center
Syracuse

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Clinical Campus

P.O. Box 1000
Binghamton, NY 13902

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Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 641
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

I am writing because I spoke again very recently with colleagues at NIEHS and learned that I may be incorrect in believing that money was actually added to their budget for Agent Orange and dioxin health research in Vietnam. As I understand it now from Cong. Lane Evan's office and Sen. Daschles office and the Senate Veterans' Committee, there is a request only, not targeted additional money, for Vietnam Agent Orange work in this year's budget. Therefore, we in the veterans' community must lobby much harder to see that money is put in NIEHS or EPA or other budget to be used only for Agent Orange in Vietnam health research to help American veterans. This must be as explicit as AIDS or breast cancer funding has been. I do not understand how this is done, but we clearly must work together on this matter to obtain the \$10 million dollars or so as a yearly base to answer these questions. One other alternative is a special action office, as President Nixon had for drug abuse, with its own funding for a specific time limited purpose. This did work rather well, I felt when I was involved with it. It has been a very long time since Congress seriously committed funds for first rate Agent Orange health research. Now that we know what we are doing scientifically and from a policy perspective, we need to reactivate meaningful funding.

Possibly we need to raise non governmental funds on our own for pilot studies in Vietnam, perhaps between \$150,000 and \$500,000, and show that we can obtain health study results in Vietnam concerning Agent Orange.

It was quite interesting to read the New York Times article about you. I expect that I would not be a popular choice to serve on any board. I had no idea you were so active in that field.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Arnold Schechter, MD, MPH

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