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**Description Notes** Includes letters to Young and other symposium participants  
and related information on the meeting. Only the letters were  
scanned.



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

8 September 1983

Alvin L. Young  
Specialist in Environmental Sciences  
Agent Orange Projects Office  
Veterans Administration  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Al:

This is to confirm our invitation for you to participate in our October 19-20 symposium on the public health risks of the chlorinated dioxins. Your participation will be essential as we consider the problems of exposure assessment, design of epidemiologic studies, and long-term strategy for dealing with these kinds of problems.

Our budget is quite tight, so we would very much appreciate your agency's paying your travel expenses. Let me know if this proves impossible.

I will telephone within the next weeks to discuss the specifics of your participation, and logistic details.

We are very glad you are coming.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

William W. Lowrance  
Senior Fellow and  
Director  
Life Sciences and Public  
Policy Program  
(212/570-8679)



UNIVERSITY OF UMEÅ  
Department of Organic Chemistry  
Christoffer Rappe, Mj

1983-09-28

RECEIVED

OCT 05 1983

Special Projects Staff (102C)

Colonel Al Young  
Veterans Administration  
Washington, D.C.  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Young,

I really appreciated to meet with you and to discuss with you during the recent ACS Meeting in Washington. The meeting at VA was extremely useful, and I would like to discuss with you the future activities in this field.

I think it was extremely interesting to compare the unpublished data from Canada (Ryan) with our data from Sweden. Both studies strongly indicates a background for a series of the most toxic PCDDs and PCDFs in the general population. If this is the real situation I think the consequences should be that all exposure measurement and risk evaluation (including Vietnam Veterans) should be based on analyses of all PCDDs and PCDFs, followed by handling the data using a pattern recognition approach.

However, there are very few labs having standards and experience in such studies, and I would like to have your opinion how our standards and experience could be transferred to the Vietnam Veteran project. I have no ideas how you think this could be done, and I should highly appreciate your comments. This is not only a question of how standard compounds should be transferred, it is also a question of experience to work with these standards. We have studied the analysis of human samples for several years now, and these studies have given us some experience, which is difficult to transfer.

When you closed the VA meeting you indicated your interest to keep the contact with that group, and also a possibility to have another meeting within one or two months. In this particular situation I think my travelling could be a special problem. I have been invited to a meeting in NYC October 19-20, and perhaps we could try to arrange a meeting in this connection (not October 21).

Looking forward hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours

Christoffer Rappe, professor



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

4 October 1983

Lt. Col. Alvin L. Young, PhD  
Special Assistant for Environmental Sciences  
Agent Orange Projects Office  
Veterans Administration  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

RECEIVED  
OCT 11 1983  
Special Projects Staff (102C)

Dear Al:

Again, we very much look forward to your presentation in our dioxins symposium. Apart from general discussion, which will no doubt be helpful, we would consider it a service to the overall structure of the symposium if you would briefly (ten minutes?) summarize your VA fat analyses, summarize the Ontario and any other tissue analyses that give us confirmation of actual human exposure to dioxins, and then comment on any problems or pitfalls of procedure that you would like to raise for our audience. We will allow time for discussion. In order to accomodate your schedule, we will plan to hear your presentation on the first day, October 19.

I have talked with Dr. Kang and Dr. Fischmann, and have sent both of them invitations and information. Both are coming. I have also invited Maj. Gen. Chesney.

Thanks for being willing to contribute to developing the "portfolio" on this complicated issue.

See you early on October 19.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

William W. Lowrance  
Senior Fellow and  
Director  
Life Sciences and Public  
Policy Program  
(212/570-8679)

Enclosure



**Veterans  
Administration**

**OCT 05 1983**

In Reply Refer To: 01

- William W. Lowrance, M.D.  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lowrance:

Please accept my deepest appreciation for your invitation to attend the Symposium on Public Health Risks of the Chlorinated Dioxins. I would like to explain briefly the nature of my work and my own concerns which make the opportunity to attend the Symposium of such great personal value.

The Board of Veterans Appeals is the final appellate body for deciding claims for veterans' benefits. Monetary benefits may be granted, for example, for chronic diseases and residuals of injuries occurring during service or within a statutory presumptive period for certain specified diseases. In the 1960's, the Board received its first appeal for service connection for asbestosis. The initial reaction was to deny the claim because the asbestosis was not present in service. This is the traditional approach to service connection claims. Obviously, the law as applied by the Veterans Administration did not contemplate the delayed effects of the asbestos exposure. The Board, however, reconsidered the traditional legal concepts of service connection and proposed instead to service connect the exposure to the asbestos rather than the disease itself. When a disease developed which could be medically attributed to the exposure, benefits could be granted for the disease even though it was not identified until many years following service.

This new interpretation of the law no doubt makes good common sense to you; but, it was something of a legal revolution here at the Board. We now apply this concept in the "Agent Orange" and other toxic substances cases involving potential latent periods between the time of exposure and the development of an identifiable disease. Our approach is not uniformly applied within the Veterans Administration in "Agent Orange" claims and a good deal of confusion has arisen over how these claims are adjudicated. This in part, I believe, has led to the introduction of legislation to set arbitrary time periods for granting service connection for certain diseases thought to be associated with herbicide exposure.

The development of our approach to deciding these claims has increased immensely the need to obtain expert information and advice. Because the Board is a quasi-judicial independent body, we believe it essential to obtain expert assistance not only within the Veterans Administration but from other sources as well. I have been assigned the task of developing

William W. Lowrance, M.D.

this expertise for the Board, advising the Board Members and attorneys on the disposition of the claims and, as an Acting Associate Law Member, to decide the claims.

The public controversy concerning "Agent Orange" has led me into extensive research on the dioxins. Our decisions not only must be accurate; but, to the extent possible, attempt to translate the complexities of this subject into language an individual with an eighth grade education can understand. As we acquire expertise in the area, we want to write more detailed comprehensive explanations which hopefully will contribute to the veterans' understanding of the health-related effects attributable to dioxin. This goal still looms on a very distant horizon. Symposiums such as yours will help us approach this goal.

My personal concerns are not limited to the Veterans Administration. There is, I believe, a need to summarize and explain to the legal profession the present state of scientific knowledge in the area of toxic substances as well as the strength and weaknesses of the studies which form the basis for the scientific conclusions. This will require scientists and lawyers working together to accurately translate the complexities of the scientific knowledge into the language of the lawyer.

On the more esoteric level, I am concerned about our present legal procedures for deciding cases in the toxic substance area. I do not believe our traditional concepts of negligence and liability provide an equitable solution for persons seeking compensation for damaged health resulting from toxic substance exposures. The use of an adversarial system which demands "facts" is also contributing to the public anxiety surrounding this issue. I watch with dismay as "experts" provide conclusions in these cases which are not well supported by the scientific studies cited. Whether our concepts of negligence and liability should be expanded to provide a method of compensating these individuals raises a number of fundamental legal and social issues which will have an impact on other areas of the law. Congress is beginning to consider alternative methods of compensation to such victims. Again, basic social issues of whether these people should be compensated, if so by whom, and how, will have to be addressed.

Congress has already mandated that veterans be compensated for diseases and injuries incurred during service. The Board of Veterans Appeals, I feel, is leading the way in developing procedures for compensating military personnel who are exposed to toxic substances and later develop diseases as a result of the exposure. Whether our concepts and ability to develop the expertise necessary to equitably decide these cases can or should be applied elsewhere will, I hope, eventually become part of the public debate in this area.

I am enclosing a brochure which further explains the work of the Board of Veterans Appeals. Also enclosed are representative Board decisions in the area of toxic substance exposure. I would be happy to provide any further information you desire concerning the work of the Board or myself.

William W. Lowrance, M.D.

Again, I want to thank you for your invitation to attend the Symposium as an observer.

Sincerely yours,

*Bonnie M. Marinelli*

BONNIE M. MARINELLI



October 7, 1983

10A7B

Christoffer Rappe, Mj  
Professor of Chemistry  
Department of Organic Chemistry  
University of Umea  
S-901 87 Umea  
SWEDEN

Dear Professor Rappe:

Please accept my thanks and appreciation for your comments and contributions to the Veterans Administration meeting on the Analysis of Human Adipose Tissue, September 1, 1983. I was delighted that you were able to stay an extra day and participate.

I am in receipt of your letter of September 28 and concur that we should meet and outline how you and your research team could contribute to the adipose tissue project. At the very minimum, I hope you will want to participate in the interlaboratory validation studies. I know, however, that there are numerous other areas in which your participation will be of great value.

I too will be attending the Dioxin Symposium at Rockefeller University, October 19-20, 1983. I would like to suggest that we meet the afternoon of October 18 in New York City. I have hotel reservations at the Barbizon Hotel, 63rd Street at Lexington Avenue, phone (212) 838-5700. I currently plan to be in New York around 4 p.m. but I can arrange to leave Washington earlier if the date of October will accommodate your schedule.

Please contact me when you have completed your travel arrangements. My telephone number at the Veterans Administration is (202) 389-5535. I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

My Best Regards,

ALVIN L. YOUNG, LT COL, USAF, Ph.D.  
Special Assistant for Environmental Sciences  
Agent Orange Projects Office

YOUNG:jm

10/7/83

10A7B



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

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OCT 21 1983

Special Circulation Staff (102C)

TO: Participants in the October 19-20 Symposium on the  
Public Health Risks of the Dioxins

FROM: William W. Lowrance *WWL*

RE: PUBLICATION OF SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

DATE: 25 October 1983

All of the feedback I have gotten on last week's symposium has been very enthusiastic. Most people remark that it was both stimulating and useful. I am personally grateful to you, the speakers, who made such constructive presentations.

Now we must move very quickly to publish the proceedings, in order to extend the discussions to a much wider audience.

We are having the recorded tapes transcribed by a medical transcription service. When I have these in hand, in about ten days, I will send you the transcription of your presentation and the ensuing discussion. Working from these materials and your manuscript, we will edit to final camera-ready copy from our word processor. If you have a manuscript in hand now, please send it to me right away; this will help my editing of the transcript, especially the technical terms.

I will edit the Q&A to clarify and condense, and will draft some summary reflections. These will be checked with the panelists and other key participants. I will be glad to consider any letters submitted as commentary, perhaps to be printed as an appendix.

After the entire package is in hand, I will ask for your approval of your part, and for any other comments.

The publisher, William Kaufmann, Inc., will print the proceedings within a few weeks after he receives the typescript from me. As with our previous symposium, Assessment of Health Effects at Chemical Disposal Sites, the volume will be printed elegantly and inexpensively (the last one sold for \$10.00). [If you have not seen the previous volume, let me know and I will send one to you.]

A lot of work lies ahead, in a short time, and I will be very grateful for your continued help. I'll be in touch shortly.



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

31 January 1984

Alvin L. Young, Lt. Col.  
Agent Orange Projects Office  
Veterans Administration  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington,, DC 20420

Dear Al:

Here is your manuscript from our dioxins symposium, in proposed final form (except for the minor typographical adjustments indicated).

When we receive your approval, we will make any last changes via the word processor and send it to the printer as camera-ready copy. The manuscript looks very good to me. But please check it.

Also enclosed is the transcript of the discussion that followed your presentation. Would you try to incorporate these points into the text of your paper where possible?

We are very close to publication, and I of course will be grateful for an early reply.

I realize, of course, that you are now in OSTP, but I trust that you or your former VA colleagues will help us complete this task.

Hope things are going well for you in the White House.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

William W. Lowrance  
Senior Fellow and  
Director  
Life Sciences and Public  
Policy Program  
(212/570-8679)

Enclosure

1. Make Corrections as noted.
2. Delete discussion after text
3. Copyright of article

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

February 6, 1984

Dear Bill:

Please find enclosed the reviewed manuscript. I concurred with your corrections and format. I would recommend deletion of the transcript of the discussion; I believe it adds very little to the manuscript and most points were already addressed in the text.

I noted with some concern that the title page implies copyright. Although you may copyright the book, the article that I've prepared, as you are aware, cannot be copyrighted since I am a government employee and it was prepared on government time. If you need additional clarification of this issue, I can request our General Counsel to provide guidance.

I look forward to the publication of the Symposium Proceedings and I compliment you on the professional manner you've handled the Symposium and the subsequent proceedings.

Sincerely,



Alvin Young  
LT COL USAF, Ph.D  
Senior Policy Analyst  
for Life Sciences

Mr. William W. Lowrance  
Senior Fellow and Director  
Life Sciences and Public  
Policy Program  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10021-6399



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

5 April 1984

Alvin L. Young, Lt. Col.  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Office of Science and Technology  
Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Room 5005  
New Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Al:

In publishing the proceedings of our symposium on Public Health Risks of the Dioxins, we must make decisions on copyright for each author.

For your paper, shall we use the following, which federal officials have used on other occasions?

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Alternative copyright statement:

Approved: *Alvin L. Young*

Date: *23 Apr 84*

You may want to check with the agency's counsel. Sorry to bother you with this formality, but it is necessary. Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

William W. Lowrance  
Senior Fellow and  
Director  
Life Sciences and Public  
Policy Program  
(212/570-8679)