



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

April 14, 2008

Brian Hooker, Ph.D., P.E.  
503 South Young Place  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Dear Dr. Hooker:

This letter is our final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of May 3 pertaining to documents and data regarding the Verstraeten et al. study on thimerosal and neurodevelopmental disorders from January 1, 2001 through its publication in Pediatrics in November 2003.

Enclosed are documents you requested.

Under authority of 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(2) of the Act and 45 CFR 5.63 of the Department's implementing regulations, we are withholding agency conference call bridge information which relates solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of this agency.

We are withholding predecisional internal communications. Release of this type of predecisional internal material would interfere with the agency's deliberative process. This decision is based upon the Freedom of Information Act at 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5) and the Department's implementing regulation at 45 CFR 5.66(a).

Under authority of the Freedom of Information Act at 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6) and the Department's implementing regulation at 45 CFR 5.67, names and other information, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, were deleted from these documents.

CDC has established a data sharing program for external researchers to request study-specific VSD datasets to confirm work already performed by VSD investigators or to request new extracts from the VSD data files to conduct new studies of vaccine safety. You may wish to visit the CDC website located at the following address for additional information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vsd/vsdatasharing.htm>

You have the right to appeal this decision to deny you full access to agency records. Send your appeal, within 30 days from the date you receive this letter, to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (Media), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Room 17A-46, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope "FOIA Appeal."

Sincerely yours,

Lynn Armstrong  
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
(404) 639-7270  
Fax: (404) 639-7395

Enclosures  
05-0725

**Gee, Julianne (CDC/OD/OCSO)**

**From:** Gee, Julianne (CDC/OD/OCSO)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2001 10:36 AM  
**To:** 'Thomas Verstraeten (E-mail)'; 'Davis Bob (E-mail) (E-mail)'; Chen, Robert (Bob) (CDC/CCID/NCHHSTP); 'Black Steve (E-mail) (E-mail)'; Rhodes, Phillip (Phil) (CDC/CCID/NCHHSTP); 'Lieu Tracy (E-mail) (E-mail)'; Destefano, Frank (CDC/OD/OCSO); 'Shinefield Henry (E-mail) (E-mail)'  
**Cc:** Gee, Julianne (CDC/OD/OCSO)  
**Subject:** Thimerosal-paper-conference-call: 9/6/01

Dial-in details below.

-----Original Message-----

From: voice@cdc.gov [mailto:voice@cdc.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2001 10:14 AM  
To: JGEE@CDC.GOV  
Subject: CDC Conference Bridge Confirmation

MEETME RESERVATION

Host Name: PAPER THIMEROSAL

Subject:

Participants:

Conference Date: 06-SEP-01

Conference Time: 12:00 PM Eastern

11:00 AM Central

10:00 AM Mountain

09:00 AM Pacific

Conference Duration: 01:30 Hours

Conference Size: 15 Port(s)

Bridge Telephone Number: (b)(2)

Conference Code (b)(2)

=====  
Thank you using CDC Conference Bridge. Please review this confirmation for accurateness.  
If you need to make a change, please hit reply to this email or call 404-639-7550.

Alternate Bridge Telephone Numbers for NON-FEDERAL PARTICIPANTS ONLY!

If your bridge telephone number is (b)(2) dial (b)(2)  
If your bridge telephone number is (b)(2) dial (b)(2)

**Gee, Julianne (CDC/OD/OCSO)**

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**From:** Chen, Robert (Bob) (CDC/CCID/NCHHSTP)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2001 6:23 PM  
**To:** Gee, Julianne (CDC/OD/OCSO)  
**Subject:** RE: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

---

Julianne,

I've checked with Steve and both he and those of us at the RV meeting (Tom, Phil, and I) are available on Wed Sept 5 Noon - 1PM EDT, please set up call and let others know. Thx.

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Black [mailto:Steve.Black@kp.org]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2001 11:09 AM  
To: rtcl  
Subject: RE: FW: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

I will not be at the rotavirus meeting (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

steve

rtcl@cdc.gov on 08/27/2001 01:47:00 PM  
To: Steve Black  
cc: dzg2@cdc.gov@Internet  
Subject: RE: FW: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

Steve,

I presumed (perhaps erroneously) that you'll be in DC attending the RV and IS meeting with us, is this wrong?

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Gee, Julianne  
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2001 12:34 PM  
To: Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)  
Subject: FW: FW: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

Bob,

What should we do?

Julianne

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Black [mailto:Steve.Black@kp.org]  
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2001 11:42 AM  
To: dzg2  
Subject: Re: FW: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

(b)(6)

I am not available 6 pm EST  
as I has another call. On that date I am available all day except 10-12  
PDT (VSD Adult call) or the 3-4 PDT you asked about.... can you do it any  
other time.???

dzg2@cdc.gov on 08/22/2001 01:53:00 PM

To: Steve Black

cc:

Subject: FW: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

Steve,

From the email below, I have been trying to re-schedule the conference call to discuss Tom's thimerosal paper. No one has responded to whether or no they can participate on that call. Bob Chen would now like to know if specifically you and Phil Rhodes would be available at 6pm EST on 9/6/01 to provide comments regarding this paper.

Please let me know if you will be able to participate or not.

Thanks,  
Julianne

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Gee, Julianne

> Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2001 1:57 PM

> To: Thomas Verstraeten (E-mail); Davis Bob (E-mail) (E-mail); Chen,  
> Robert (Bob) (NIP); Black Steve (E-mail) (E-mail); Rhodes, Philip (Phil);  
> Lieu Tracy (E-mail) (E-mail); Destefano, Frank; Shinefield Henry (E-mail)  
> (E-mail)

> Cc: Gee, Julianne

> Subject: FW: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

>  
> Dear all,

>  
> Sorry for all of the conflicts in scheduling this call but we realized  
> that on September 6th many of the co-authors will be at the NIH rotavirus  
> and intussusception meeting. We thought that since many of the PIs will  
> be together at that meeting we could try to reschedule the call for later  
> that day. Would those who will not be at the RV & IS meeting be able to  
> participate on a conference call at 6pm (EST) on 9/6/01? Please let me  
> know your availability for this proposed time.

>  
> Thanks,  
> Julianne

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP)

> Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2001 2:04 PM

> To: Gee, Julianne

> Subject: Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

>  
> Sorry, but I forgot this was in the middle of the NIH RV and IS meeting  
> that Tom, Steve, Phil, and I will be attending. Maybe we can poll the  
> non-attendees if they are available to do it later that day (e.g., 6PM)  
> since we'll at least have several of the other principals.

> -----  
> From: Gee, Julianne

> Sent: Monday, August 13, 2001 4:10 PM

> To: Thomas Verstraeten (E-mail); Davis Bob (E-mail) (E-mail); Chen,  
> Robert (Bob) (NIP); Black Steve (E-mail) (E-mail); Rhodes, Philip (Phil);  
> Destefano, Frank; Lieu Tracy (E-mail) (E-mail); Shinefield Henry (E-mail)

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> Dear all,

> Below, please find dial-in details for the 9/6/01 conference call on which  
> comments regarding Tom's paper will be discussed.

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> Julianne

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Thanks,  
Julianne

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**Subject:** Thimerosal paper conference call: 9/6/01

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**Cc:** Gee, Julianne (CDC/OD/OCSO)  
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Julianne

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Sent: Monday, August 13, 2001 4:05 PM  
To: JGEE@CDC.GOV  
Subject: CDC Conference Bridge Confirmation

MEETME RESERVATION

Host Name: THIMEROSAL PAPER

Subject:

Participants:

Conference Date: 06-SEP-01

Conference Time: 12:00 PM Eastern

11:00 AM Central

10:00 AM Mountain

09:00 AM Pacific

Conference Duration: 01:00 Hours

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If your bridge telephone number is dial

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gee, Julianne  
**Sent:** Monday, July 02, 2001 11:59 AM  
**To:** Davis Bob (E-mail) (E-mail); Destefano, Frank; Black Steve (E-mail) (E-mail); 'Henry Shinefield' (E-mail) (E-mail); Chen, Robert (Bob) (NIP); Rhodes, Philip.(Phil)  
**Subject:** Thimerosal paper conference call

dial in details below.....J

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lynch, Vickie D  
**Sent:** Monday, July 02, 2001 10:11 AM  
**To:** Gee, Julianne  
**Subject:** RE: Conference call set-up



**We now have a new form to request conference calls please use this form in the future.**

<http://inet.cdc.gov/conference>

This is to confirm that your conference call has been scheduled.

All conference calls are scheduled on Eastern time.

Your Conference name: ***Thimerosal Paper***

Your Conference telephone bridge number for Federal participants:

Your Conference telephone bridge number for Non-Federal participants:

For security and confidentiality purposes, participants will not be connected to a conference call without a valid conference code.

CONFERENCE CODE:

Date: **03-Jul-01**

TIME: **2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

PARTICIPANTS: **8**

**If you have a problem during your conference, you may press \*0 at anytime to signal the attendant, if you have questions, about the technical operations of the teleconference equipment please call**

**As always, we look forward to providing continued support for your conference calls.**

**Vickie Lynch  
Teleconference Coordinator**