**Integrity in Science Watch**  
**Week of 2/10/06**

Don’t forget to check out our Database of Scientists and Organizations With Ties to Industry ([www.integrityinscience.org](http://www.integrityinscience.org)). Please send tips for inclusion in the Database to science@cspinet.org.

If you do not wish to receive these emails, please hit reply and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line.  
If you receive duplicate emails from Integrity Watch, please hit reply and type "duplicate" in the subject line.

**EPA Ignores Science Panel's Advice on Soot**

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee blasted EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson’s proposed rule on fine particulate matter, which ignored CASAC’s recommendations for tougher rules. A letter signed by panel chair Rogene Henderson of the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute in Albuquerque and Frank Speizer of Harvard University pointed out that "tens of thousands of lives could be saved each year" if the agency followed CASAC’s advice. Nine Senators led by Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Jim Jeffords, wrote Johnson demanding he base his decision solely on scientific evidence.

[http://jeffords.senate.gov/~jeffords/press/06/02/2006203847.html](http://jeffords.senate.gov/~jeffords/press/06/02/2006203847.html)

**New York Times Fails To Disclose Researcher's Ties to Antidepressant Makers**

A new study published this week in *The New England Journal of Medicine* showed an increased incidence of lung disease in children born from pregnant women taking antidepressants like Paxil, Prozac, Celexa and Zoloft. While the *New York Times* report quoted a Food and Drug Administration official calling the results "very worrisome," it countered with study co-author Christine Chambers of the University of California at San Diego, who downplayed the risks. "We don't know for certain that the drugs actually caused persistent pulmonary hypertension, and that if they did, the risk is still low, about one in a hundred," she said. The *Times* failed to report that Chambers and her co-authors have numerous ties to pharmaceutical firms, including Barr Laboratories, Par Pharmaceutical, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Sandoz, and GlaxoSmithKline, all of which make at least one of the drugs in the test.

Chambers CD et al, “Selective Serotonin-Reuptake Inhibitors and Risk of Persistent
http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/354/6/579 (subscription required).

**BLM Pulls Grad Student’s Grant; Rep. Inslee Calls for Investigation**

The Bureau of Land Management pulled funding from an Oregon State University graduate student whose study showed salvage logging slows renewal of forests swept by fire. After the BLM claimed Daniel Donato failed to follow the agency’s grant rules, Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA) immediately called for an investigation into BLM’s actions. Andy Stahl, head of the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, charged BLM with attempting to suppress science that contradicts White House policies favoring salvage logging. "It sends a chilling message to all researchers. If you don't get the right answer, you don't get the money," Stahl said. Last week, OSU professor John Sessions, who has close ties to the logging industry, called on *Science* to retract Donato’s paper, which the magazine has refused to do.

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420AP_OR_Logging_Study.html

**Revolving Door: Former FDA Chief Joins Medical Industry Lobbying Firm**

Former FDA commissioner Lester Crawford, who resigned last September amid financial conflict of interest allegations, has joined the pharmaceutical lobbying firm, Policy Directions Inc. The firm’s clients include the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Assn., Merck, Altria, Amgen, Genzyme, Baxter and the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology among others, according to the Center for Public Integrity. The Health and Human Services Department Inspector General Daniel Levinson is investigating the circumstances behind Crawford’s sudden resignation two months after receiving Senate confirmation for the agency’s top job.

**Minnesota Agency Pays Whistleblower to Leave**

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency former employee Fardin Oliaei accepted $325,000 to drop her charges against MPCA and resigned from the agency. However, Oliaei still claims her research on perfluorochemicals, previously made by 3M Co., was stifled by her superiors, including MPCA Commissioner Sheryl Corrigan. The chemicals, which are contained in Teflon cookware and other everyday items, persist in the environment and accumulate in human blood.
Source: Tom Meersman, "MPCA whistleblower quits agency, drops complaints,"
Cleveland Clinic Patients To Learn More About Physician Ties to Business

The Cleveland Clinic board voted to toughen its conflict of interest disclosure rules in the wake of Wall Street Journal revelations about financial ties between chief executive Delos Cosgrove and AtriCure, a Cincinnati-based heart device manufacturer. Cosgrove failed to inform patients the clinic's venture capital arm, which he partially owned, owned stock in AtriCure, whose experimental devices were being tested on those patients. A spokeswoman said the new rules will include board members, a majority of whom have ties to companies that do business with the Cleveland Clinic. Separately, heart specialist Eric Topol, a frequent critic of physician ties to industry, resigned from the Clinic to join nearby Case Western Reserve University.


24-Year-Old College Dropout Resigns Post At NASA

George C. Deutsch, White House-appointed public affairs officer for NASA, resigned this week after weblogs revealed he lied about having graduated from college. The New York Times on Jan. 29 revealed Deutsch blocked reporters from interviewing a leading climate researcher at NASA, claiming his job was “to make the President look good.” This imbroglio is just the latest instance of White House attempts to suppress science with which it disagrees, and drew widespread editorial condemnation across the country. Source: See, for instance, Washington Post Editorial, "The Politics of Science," Feb 9, 2006.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/08/AR2006020801991.html