

URGENT REQUEST

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Dear RWG,

As part of the GTF literature review the RWG and Board agreed to ask Larry Kier (former Monsanto expert and now independent consultant) to write a genotox review paper on technical glyphosate and glyphosate based Plant Protection Products. This paper would pool data from confidential Taskforce Member studies which was the reason why David Saltmiras (MON), chair to the tox-TWG, stepped down as a co-author for this paper. In addition when trying to combine both reviews (on technical glyphosate and PPPs) the manuscript turned into such a large mess of studies reporting genotoxic effects, that the story as written stretched the limits of credibility among less sophisticated audiences. For most 'stories', the approach would have been fine. But even though we feel confident that glyphosate is not genotoxic, this became a very difficult story to tell given all the complicated 'noise' out there. So David Saltmiras, Larry Kier and Bill Heydens consulted by other Monsanto tox experts thought there was a need to re-group & redesign the approach to the manuscript.

The suggested approach was to split-up the reviews in 2 papers (one on tech glyphosate and one on PPPs). In addition it was suggested that one way to help enhance credibility is to have an additional author on the papers who is a renowned specialist in the area of genotoxicity. Larry Kier did a search for possible co-authors and came up with 5. After internal discussion and some checking by David Saltmiras with fellow TWG tox folks (see extracts from TWG-meeting minutes below), Dr. David Kirkland was identified as the best candidate.

David Kirkland is an independent consultant with a history at Covance Laboratories. He is an expert in 'COMET'-assays on PPPs and is member of the editorial board for 'Mutagen Research' and member of the Environmental Mutagen Society in the UK. David Kirkland would most definitely add substantial expertise and credibility to this critical paper.

The initial cost estimate for this manuscript was 9k\$ (approved by the board).

Adding David Kirkland as a co-author to both review papers would add £14,000 (pounds Stirling) to the project, which split by 25 seems a fair investment.

Please let me know as soon as possible if we have your support to proceed with David Kirkland as a co-author. We need a decision soon since David Kirkland only has the month of August to work on the papers.

David, Bill, please let me know if I missed or misinterpreted something.