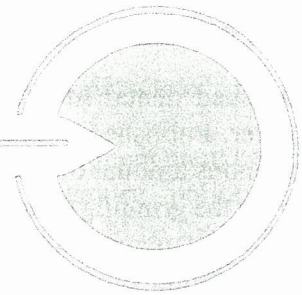


# BIO-PROBE

# NEWSLETTER



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## HEART DISEASE AND MERCURY!

A recently published study [see abstract in SCIENCE section] found tremendously elevated levels of mercury in a particular heart condition. The study was conducted by Frustaci and colleagues from the Department of Cardiology, Catholic University in Rome, Italy and was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. The authors were specifically interested in "Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy (IDCM)", based on the fact

that both myocardial trace element accumulation and deficiency have been associated with the development of heart failure indistinguishable from an idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy. They biopsied tissues, utilized neutron activation analysis, and compared the levels of Trace Elements (TE) in victims of IDCM, patients with secondary cardiac dysfunction, and controls.

In patients with IDCM, the mean mercury concentration was 22,000 times the levels in controls (178,000 nanograms/gram vs. 8 nanograms/gram). The mercury level was 30 nanograms/gram in patients with valvular heart disease, and 23 nanograms/gram in patients with ischemic heart disease. The authors stated that it was "unlikely that there would be no adverse effect" from the mercury accumulation, which pointed to myocardial cell degeneration and dysfunction.

IDCM is a condition of dilation of the heart ventricles, disturbance of the contraction of the heart and, often, congestive heart failure. It is believed to be an expression of myocardial damage caused by a variety of factors, although specific causes are ill-defined (hence, "Idiopathic"). Interestingly, athletes sometimes succumb to IDCM, which is puzzling considering the excellent physical condition of most athletes. One might question how such a very large accumulation of mercury can be explained. Even a cursory examination of

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published dental literature reveals a possible answer. Published studies have revealed that an enormous amount of mercury can be generated during the grinding of amalgam fillings (i.e., the removal of mercury fillings, adjusting the bite of existing amalgam fillings, or polishing the teeth with amalgams present), especially if GREAT care is not taken to reduce the volume generated.

The identification of these heavy metal concentrations in the heart tissue, especially mercury, is revealing. Mercury has long been proven to rapidly pass into heart tissue and to cause cardiovascular damage.

In 1991, *Bio-Probe* produced a book entitled "*The Missing Link: A Persuasive New Look at Heart Disease As It Relates To Mercury*" [Available @ \$12.00 US + \$3.00 S/H]. This book describes the role of mercury in causing cardiovascular disease - including, hypertension, damage to the inner lining of blood vessels, elevated blood cholesterol, constriction of the coronary arteries of the heart, disturbances in the electrical function of the heart, and even myocardial infarctions (heart attacks). The book also points out that, in spite of widespread public awareness of the risk factors for heart disease and the success of the medical profession in the treatment of the disease, the occurrence of heart disease continues to increase (at least up to the time that the book was written)!

In view of this unfortunate circumstance, and the tremendous amount of published research implicating mercury in cardiovascular disease, the book proposes that exposure to mercury (particularly from mercury amalgam dental fillings) is the "Missing Link" in risk factors leading to cardiovascular disease. Space in this article does not permit referencing the numerous published studies, but they are all abstracted in the book.

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## BIOLOGICAL DENTIST ON DENTAL BOARD!

A milestone has been reached! Governor Jesse Ventura of Minnesota has just appointed Ronald L. King, DDS to the State Board of Dentistry. He was not the candidate endorsed by the Minnesota Dental Association, so the Governor's decision was unexpected.

Dr. King, who is a long time member of the *International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology* (IAOMT) and the *Holistic Dental Association*, will at least be a voice for biological dentistry on the Board. Rather than confrontation on specific issues, his goals are to be an advocate for free choice when combined with adequate informed consent. He also hopes to be a voice of reason and a bridge builder between differing factions of dentistry. With help from everybody, he may even be able to get the valid scientific documentation on controversial issues on record with the Board. Congratulations Dr. King (and "Thank You" Governor Ventura)!

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## OXFORD DEBATE ON AMALGAM

On 27 May 1999, the Post-Graduate School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Oxford in England sponsored a debate on the mercury amalgam controversy. The program began with background information on dental amalgam by Dr. David Brown. Next, Fritz L. Lorscheider, Ph. D., of the Medical Faculty of the University of Calgary in Canada, spoke on the science documenting a potential hazard to amalgam mercury. He was followed by Professor B. M. Eley, of the Periodontal Department of King's College in London, speaking for the safety of amalgam derived mercury.

A spirited debate and discussion followed, first addressing four questions presented by the sponsors: 1) Does dental amalgam consist of approximately 50% mercury? [All were in