



IADR

International Association
for Dental Research

August 6, 2010

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland

via E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

**RE: Application of the International Association for Dental Research to the
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

Dear Sir or Madame:

The International Association for Dental Research (IADR) is a nonprofit organization with more than 12,000 individual members worldwide, dedicated to: (1) advancing research and increasing knowledge to improve oral health, (2) supporting the oral health research community, and (3) facilitating the communication and application of research findings for the improvement of oral health worldwide.

To achieve our Mission, IADR has members in many scientific fields, including, but not limited to, community dental public health and epidemiology, cariology (the study of dental caries or cavities), and dental restorative materials. Although the environment is not a core part of our Mission statement, we are committed to the safe use and disposal of all materials used in improving oral health, including dental amalgam which contains mercury.

Therefore, IADR is seeking to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. IADR shares the overall goal of the UNEP Partnership – “to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land”.

The IADR Board of Directors has approved a resolution to seek membership in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. IADR has also formed a Task Force of eminent scientists in dental public health and dental restorative materials to best address the issues and to provide rapid expertise to the Partnership.

IADR is one of just two oral health NGO's in official relations with the World Health Organization. We work closely with the FDI World Dental Federation, which is the other WHO NGO and already a UNEP Global Mercury Partner. IADR is already networked with the WHO Oral Health Programme and the FDI to address the mercury issues from the use and disposal of dental amalgam.

We share the view of the WHO and the FDI that the best way to reduce the use of dental amalgam is through primary and secondary prevention, so that no dental restorative material is needed. When prevention fails, IADR is committed to the safe, clinically effective, cost-effective use of dental restorative materials that can be used in any environmentally friendly manner.

We look forward to your decision regarding IADR's application to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and to providing the scientific expertise to address the mercury issues as they relate to the use of dental amalgam.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher H. Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Fox" being the most prominent parts.

Christopher H. Fox, DMD, DMSc

cc: Maria Fidela de Lima Navarro, IADR President
Stephen Bayne, Chair IADR Task Force on Amalgam

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM *

Partnership Area	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> artisanal and small scale gold mining <input type="checkbox"/> mercury cell chlor alkali production <input type="checkbox"/> mercury air transport and fate research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mercury in products <input type="checkbox"/> mercury releases from coal combustion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mercury waste management </p> <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p>
Organization Name	International Association for Dental Research
Name, Functional Title of Representative	Christopher H. Fox, DMD, DMSc Executive Director
Address of Organization	1619 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel. No	+1 (703) 299 8082
Email	cfox@iadr.org
Fax No.	+1 (703) 548 1883
Website/URL	www.iadr.org
Type of Organization	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Regional economic integration organization <input type="checkbox"/> Non-government Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific community non-profit scientific association <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____ </p>

* UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal. The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

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