In a recent document [23], the Associate Committee listed areas in which there are 'gaps in knowledge' and invited proposals for research in these areas. Among the areas listed are:

"Epidemiological studies to:

1. Assess the extent of nephropathic diabetes in relation to total fluoride intake/exposure in humans.
2. Correlate effects of dietary nutritional inadequacies with fluoride intoxication.

Studies of effects of fluoride, for example:

1. As a potential cocarcinogen or comutagen.
2. In early subtle changes in fluoride intoxication, especially as related to blood plasma ionic fluoride concentrations" [23].

CONCLUSION

This study has shown the actual position to be somewhere between that stated by the pro-fluoridation forces and that stated by the anti-fluoridation forces. Referring again to the statement of the former Waterloo Medical officer of Health [5], it is *not* true that "every reputable scientific authority throughout the entire world strongly supports the addition of fluoride to the water supply". On the other hand, those authorities not supporting water fluoridation frequently support alternate means of administering fluoride.

Varying interpretations can be placed on the situation seen in several countries in which the official government position is in favour of water fluoridation but water fluoridation is not actually practised.

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