

## **Public Comments from Tee L. Guidotti, MD, MPH, DABT**

As an investigator who has done my share epidemiology on air quality issues, a toxicologist concerned with inhaled hazards, a member of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, and an American Thpracic Society Fellow I take great exception to the memo prepared by Dr. Anthony Cox, chair of CASAC, impugning the science and integrity of the ISA.

The identification, characterization, and modeling of fine particulate air pollution has been one of the great achievements of environmental epidemiology. The body of knowledge stands unmatched for checks on integrity and convergent scientific evidence and correlates will with physiological evidence. Such a formidable edifice of scientific evidence can only be contradicted by matching contradictory evidence - of which there is none - to falsify the hypothesis or paradigm. It cannot be waived away by declaring it inadequate against an arbitrary standard that is essentially moving the goalposts.

Fine particulate air pollution was the anvil against which modern methods of large-scale environmental epidemiology was forged. Its studies represent the evolution of work in progress toward a body of evidence and beyond to tested reliability. CASAC has shown itself to be responsible and systematic and its evaluation of the evidence is almost universally accepted in peer scientific circles.

The "burden of proof" should not be on CASAC but on its detractors.

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